

**Mitsubishi Electric and Renato Piatti Foundation
working together for the 'TOC TOC' project,
dedicated to children with autism spectrum disorders**

*The remote rehabilitation project, born in the middle of the Covid-19 emergency, has been transformed into an on-going service.
From September 2020 to July 2021 the project has provided assistance to more than 90 children each month.*

Agrate Brianza, October 7, 2021 - The arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, and the subsequent restrictions adopted to contain the spread of infection brought a sudden change in everyday life for everyone. These difficulties have been even greater for the most fragile people and their families in particular for children with autism. This is due to certain characteristics of the disorder such as the need to maintain daily routines, but also because of the temporary closure of rehabilitation centers during the height of the pandemic.

The [Renato Piatti Foundation](#) has been active since 1999 in the planning, implementation and management of services in support of people with intellectual disabilities and neurodevelopmental disorders and their families. They immediately began looking for creative and innovative solutions to maintain the therapeutic relationship with the children and prevent them from losing progress made so far. It quickly became clear that professionals needed to continue to interact with children with autism and complex disabilities in an environment most familiar to them, such as their homes.

The “TOC TOC” remote project began in April 2020 enabling children and their families to continue with cognitive and behavioral rehabilitation activities directly from their homes using video connections via PC, tablet or smartphone. This allowed them to maintain a new but stable daily routine.

The “TOC TOC” project was born from an integrated approach of rehabilitation techniques and stimulation of social skills using specific methods and interventions led by experienced professionals.



This initiative had such a positive response that the Renato Piatti Foundation decided to transform it into a more structured activity that was integrated with face-to-face meetings, which had now restarted. Thanks to the support of Mitsubishi Electric’s Italian branch, the Foundation has developed an online platform that offers a rehabilitation "environment" with worksheets, games and symbols used by professionals together with children and parents. There are also sections on parental training which offer advice and strategies for the families.

The specialists of the Renato Piatti Foundation, worked together with some of the main training and research organizations in the sector to develop a remote rehabilitation kit. The kit will be continuously updated to ensure that families continue to play the increasingly important role in the rehabilitation process of children. In fact, strengthening the bond between parents and children in the therapeutic context has an essential role because it makes it easier to face and overcome the most problematic situations, which ensures a better emotional well-being.

From September 2020 to July 2021, the Milan Autism Centre took charge of more than 90 children each month who were offered, together with their families at least one remote rehabilitation intervention. This consisted of both direct therapies with the child, or indirect therapies (involving the child, but with particular attention to support/training with the parent or teacher). In total there were more than 3,200 interventions.

"The development and inclusion of communities in which we are located are fundamental values for Mitsubishi Electric. We strongly believe in this project, because it's aimed precisely at those who are at risk of suffering major and prolonged consequences linked to the pandemic. The Renato Piatti Foundation has succeeded in transforming an initiative created to meet a temporary need into a rehabilitation programme that uses new learning

technologies to involve the entire family unit", stated **Elena Tagliani**, Corporate Communication & Social Responsibility Manager of Mitsubishi Electric.

*"Since the inevitable announcement of the closure of the neuropsychiatric rehabilitation centres for children and adolescents in March 2020, we found we had to reinvent ourselves. We had to find a way to not leave our children and young people and their families behind, a way to continue to guarantee the therapeutic pathway - explains **Cesarina del Vecchio**, President of Fondazione Renato Piatti, a not-for-profit organisation. – Thanks to these new technologies, we have renewed much of our organisation. We have new remote therapists and new online educators, with activities conducted through video meetings in which children, young people and families have been able to find a source of continuity in an extremely difficult time. This form of remote rehabilitation and assistance has been so successful for so many children with autism and intellectual disabilities that it has now become a regular feature of the programme. Mitsubishi Electric's support, together with that of other donors, enables the TOC TOC project to continue and improve over time."*

Those who wish, can support the TOC TOC project with a donation to the Piatti Foundation: <https://sostieni.fondazionepiatti.it/campagne/porta-la-terapia-a-casa-dei-bambini-con-autismo-e-disabilita-con-la-teleriabilitazione/>

#

Mitsubishi Electric

Mitsubishi Electric, with 100 years of experience in production, sales and marketing of electrical and electronic devices, is widely recognized as a leading company at international level. Mitsubishi Electric products and components are utilized in many fields: information technology and telecommunications, space research and satellite communication, consumer electronics, technologies for industrial application, energy, transport and building. In line with the spirit of its corporate statement "Changes for the Better", Mitsubishi Electric aims at becoming a leading green company worldwide, contributing to wellness of community thanks to its technology. With over 145,000 employees in the world, Mitsubishi Electric in the past fiscal year ended on March 31st 2021 reached a total turnover of 4,191.4 billion yen (37.8 billion USD*).

In Europe it is present since 1969 with branches in 18 Countries: Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, Slovakia, Sweden, Turkey and United Kingdom. The Italian branch, established in 1985, operates through 5 commercial divisions: **Air-Conditioning**— air conditioning for residential, commercial and industrial real estate, heating, de-humidification and air treatment; **Industrial Automation and Mechatronics**—systems and appliances for industrial automation and numerical control;

Automotive—systems and components for control of car and motor vehicle devices.
Support is also provided for the sales of **Semiconductors**.

For additional information please visit website: <http://it.mitsubishielectric.com/en/>

(*rate of Exchange: 111 Yen -1 USD. Source Tokyo Exchange Market on 31.03.2021)

Media Information

Imageware | +39 02700251

Alessandra Pigoni – apigoni@imageware.it

Elena Colombo – ecolombo@imageware.it