

Mitsubishi Electric partners with schools to promote STEM education among young people, fostering innovation and employability.

Vimercate, 4th February 2025 – According to a Manpower Group report for the second quarter of 2023, 75% of companies in Italy are struggling to find talent, particularly in IT, engineering, and data management sectors. This figure seems to contradict the unemployment rate, especially among young people, which stood at 17.7% in October 2024. However, it highlights a significant mismatch between the skills companies seek and those possessed by job seekers. The talent shortage primarily affects STEM graduates (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and highly specialized professionals. Bridging this gap requires collaboration among various stakeholders, particularly between companies and the education system, to ensure that students graduate with the skills needed to successfully enter the job market.

Aligned with its mission to support youth education, Mitsubishi Electric collaborates with Italian schools and universities through various initiatives aimed at providing students with technical and technological skills, fostering a smoother transition from education to the workforce.

For several years, the company has developed the [Mentor ME](#) platform, a program designed for technical school students to help them identify the technical training field best aligned with their personal interests. The initiative offers three specialized tracks: Automation, Air Conditioning, and Corporate Social Responsibility.

Mentor ME is a comprehensive digital learning program guided by an expert tutor (teacher) that helps young people develop essential professional skills. Just as in a real corporate environment, students work from their virtual desks, engaging with study materials, tackling challenges, identifying strategies, and designing and completing projects. Launched as a pilot in September 2019 within the educational district of Monza and Brianza (MB),

home to the company's Italian branch, the initiative was expanded nationwide the following academic year, reaching 1,133 schools and 3,012 students over the past four years.

Additionally, Mitsubishi Electric has been collaborating with ITS (Higher Technical Institutes) for over a decade, conducting school activities, hosting company visits, providing internships, and helping set up training labs. This partnership aims to bridge the gap between companies and the educational sector, equipping students with practical skills and hands-on experience, offering not just theoretical training but real-world exposure to processes and operational methods.

Support for STEM education also takes shape through the sponsorship of projects and partnerships with various associations. Among these is the **UXforKids** project, which uses a methodology rooted in UX Design and Information Architecture to provide primary school students with a different approach to learning. The initiative equips students with a "toolbox" to foster collaborative and empathetic learning, promoting essential skills such as creativity, critical thinking, and teamwork — all fundamental not only for STEM careers but also for everyday life in an increasingly digital society.

A gender gap persists in STEM disciplines, where girls and women pursue these fields at significantly lower rates than their male counterparts. In Italy, only 16.5% of young women graduate in scientific fields compared to 37% of young men (Istat, 2021). To help bridge this gap, Mitsubishi Electric has joined the **Girls&Science** project, developing a specialized training program on collaborative robotics, featuring educational activities and workshops, which engaged students at ITIS A. Rossi in Vicenza.

The company also supports **Women&Tech® ETS**, an association committed to providing opportunities for women working or aspiring to work in the tech sector, fostering an inclusive community and promoting gender equality in

technology.

"In today's global landscape, STEM subjects stand as fundamental pillars of innovation and progress. These disciplines not only fuel our ability to explore new scientific frontiers but also serve as the driving force behind technological and industrial transformation. In an era where challenges are increasingly complex and interconnected, STEM knowledge and skills provide the essential tools to tackle and solve global issues such as climate change, cybersecurity, and pandemics," stated Alessandro Magrini, HR, GA & Corporate Communication General Manager. He added, *"Collaborating with the education sector to better prepare students in these fields is fundamental for us at Mitsubishi Electric to fulfill our mission of contributing to the well-being of the communities we serve. This commitment translates into enhancing youth employability, preparing them to face the technological challenges of tomorrow, and fostering innovation."*

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About Mitsubishi Electric

With more than 100 years of experience in providing reliable, high-quality products, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation is a recognized world leader in the manufacture, marketing and sales of electrical and electronic equipment used in information processing and communications, space development and satellite communications, consumer electronics, industrial technology, energy, transportation and building equipment.

In Europe it is present since 1969 with branches in 20 Countries: UK, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, The Netherlands, Sweden, Ireland, Czech, Belgium, Russia, Poland, Slovakia, Turkey, UAE, Norway, Hungary, Romania and Greece. The Italian branch, established in 1985, operates through 3 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.

Mitsubishi Electric enriches society with technology in the spirit of its “Changes for the Better.” The company recorded a revenue of 5,257.9 billion yen (U.S.\$ 34.8 billion*) in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2024.

For more information, please visit mitsubishielectric.com

**U.S. dollar amounts are translated from yen at the rate of ¥151=U.S.\$1, the approximate rate on the Tokyo Foreign Exchange Market on March 31, 2024*

Media Reference

Imageware | +39 02700251

Elena Colombo, Stefania Trazzi – mitsubishielectric@imageware.it