

axians

Technological innovation at the service of public health

The **COVID Vaccination Hub**
project at **Palazzo delle**
Scintille in Milan

VINCI 
ENERGIES

From the pandemic to the vaccine

Since the start of the pandemic approximately two years ago, **more than 5 million people have died** due to serious complications derived from **Covid-19**.

An invisible enemy has been able to bring the whole world to its knees, paralyze some markets, stretch health systems and cast fears and uncertainties about the future.

But at the beginning of 2021 a vaccine was developed and a way out became clear. Every country in the world has set to work distributing vaccines to huge numbers of people and reining in the health emergency.

Thanks to results obtained from the vaccination campaigns it was possible to **reopen borders and commercial activities**, gradually returning to a new condition of normality.

In this regard, **a project of national importance for Italy** was achieved: the setup of the largest anti-COVID vaccination center in the country.

Cisco and Axians Italia came together to bring to life **the vaccination hub at Palazzo delle Scintille in Milan** by putting offering their ICT skills for the service of public health.

Let's take a closer look...

The inauguration of the largest vaccination center in Italy

On April 25th 2021 inside *the Generali Square Garden* at **the Palazzo delle Scintille** in Milan, **the largest anti-COVID vaccination center in Italy** was inaugurated. The vaccination hub, set up in an area of about 10,000 square meters, features 72 vaccination delivery lines able to carry out 10,000 vaccine administrations per day.

Just over a year after the beginning of one of the most difficult periods in contemporary history, the opening of this vaccination center represented a symbol of recovery and restart both for the Lombardy Region – among the most affected by the pandemic – and for the entire nation.

All this was possible thanks to the economic contribution and material of some Italian companies (Generali, Moncler) who, in a very short time, committed themselves to the completion of the vaccination hub.

Among the Italian companies there is also the **Fondazione Fiera Milano** that made its spaces available and immediately supported the project.

The contribution of Cisco and Axians Italia

In addition to the companies aforementioned, the technological support of private partners such as **Cisco** and **Axians Italia** was necessary to make such a complex machine operational.

“We invested our technological infrastructure to make it possible to activate this vaccination hub in a very short time. We created a Wi-Fi and security network infrastructure to ensure the satisfaction of two needs: health, with the registration of the vaccines administered, and organization, with the verification of the people who come to the vaccination center, their entry, distancing and their safe exit”.

Gianmatteo Manghi, CEO Cisco Italy

“The race against time was an important obstacle to overcome, in addition to cooperation with a series of companies that operated in a very short time. We are talking about two very intense working weeks that ensured the opening of the hub according to the objectives that the regional administration had set. We succeeded, despite the difficulties, and we are proud to have contributed with vital infrastructure to a just cause that will help us get out of this pandemic quickly.”

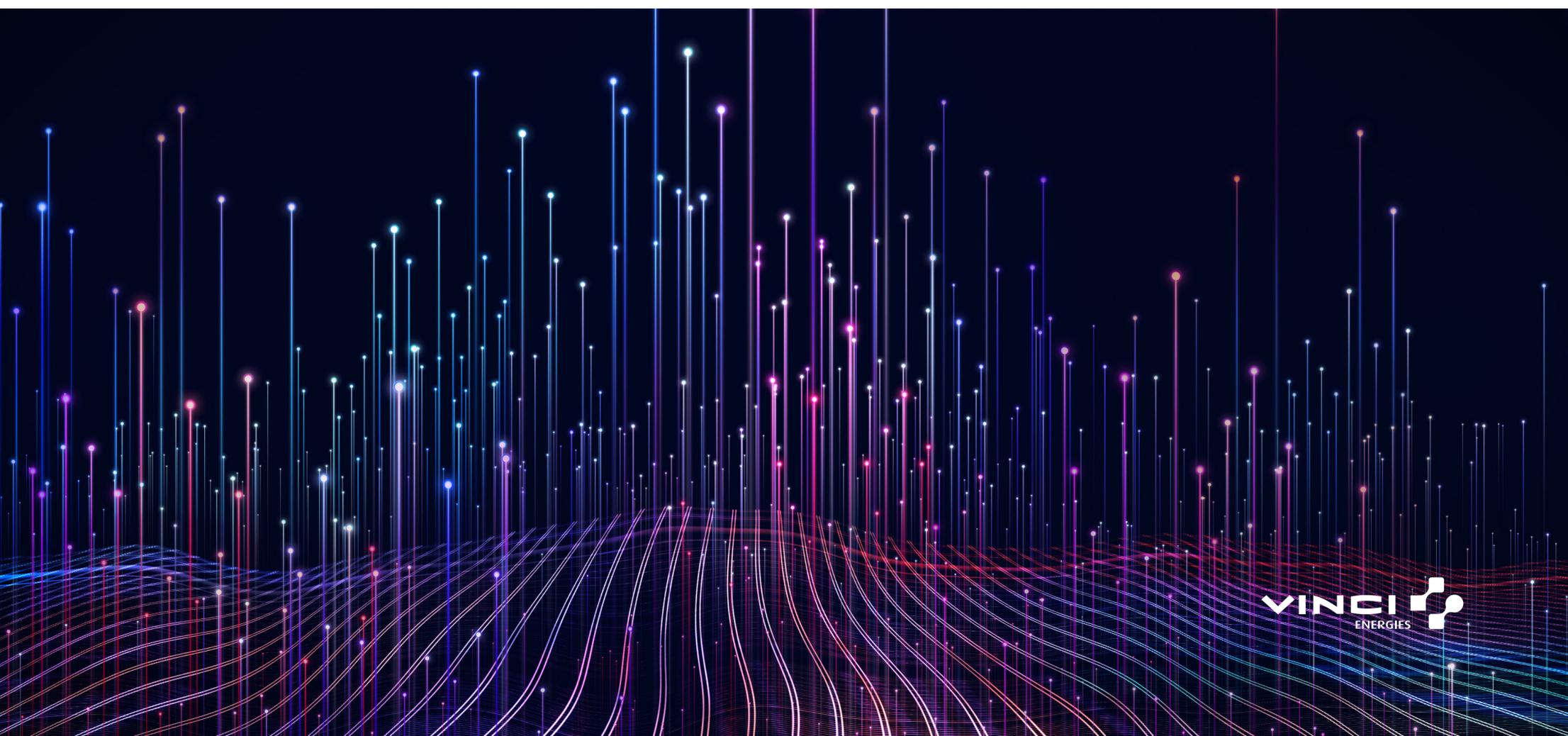
**Roberto Corrado, General Manager and Head of Sales
North West of Axians Italia**

Axians Italia oversaw the design and installation of the entire passive and active communication infrastructure that allows the provision of assistance services, proactive monitoring and on-site monitoring of the site.

For the type of services provided inside the vaccination hub, **Axians Italia** adopted **Cisco Meraki** (Equipment, Firewall and Wi-Fi) as a solution for the active communication infrastructure.

Specifically, they were:

- **approximately 16Km of copper cable and 2Km of Fiber Optics;**
- **450 network points** distributed on **9 racks;**
- **more than 80 devices** were configured **among network switches, firewalls and access points;**
- **60 Voip devices were installed** certified to the Cisco Call Manager system and **34 cameras** for the management of the flow of people, distancing and perimeter security.



The key role of data collected in the vaccination center

The technology set up at the vaccination hub of Palazzo delle Scintille in Milan not only made the center operational but allowed health institutions to take advantage of the enormous amount of data collected – obviously in full compliance with regulations and privacy – and to examine statistics and numbers in a clear and immediately usable way.

The new technology performs some tasks that are less evident, but no less important.

For example, by using data from Wi-Fi networks, Cisco and Axians Italia made it possible to **analyze the flow of people in the Palazzo delle Scintille** and therefore to **optimize the internal spaces** to streamline the vaccination process.

Where do bottlenecks form along the vaccination path? Where is it necessary to arrange more chairs for people in queues?

These are just some of the questions that are answered thanks to the analysis of data collected through innovative technologies designed and installed by Cisco and Axians Italia.

Another fundamental aspect is the possibility of having a **complete and real-time tracking of inoculated vaccines** that allows the health authorities to carry out long-term studies.

From difficulties to a repeatable model

The completion of a digital transformation project requires listening and understanding needs by all parties involved right from the preparatory phase.

The partnership of Cisco and Axians Italia is one that both technology partners sought out since the first meetings when they took charge of a project of this magnitude.

Thanks to a thorough design it was possible to overcome the first obstacle: the race against time.

Although the design activity began two months before the opening of Palazzo delle Scintille, Axians Italia had only 15 days to set up the sizeable infrastructure.

The result achieved is due to the immense effort by Cisco and Axians Italia, in coordination with other companies involved in the set-up, which guaranteed the **continuity of the vaccine administrations** in the global health emergency.

The thorough design of the infrastructure and organizational capacity applied demonstrates that the project of the vaccination hub of Palazzo delle Scintille is reproduceable and could be applied on any scale and in any context.

Initial achievements

The first recognition of what has been achieved with this project came **two months after the inauguration** with the achievement of **over 100,000 vaccines administered**.

A goal that met the expectations of the Lombardy Region and helped accelerate the anti-COVID vaccination campaign.

Where are we today?

By the end of November 2021, **the number of vaccines administered** at the Vaccination Hub of Palazzo delle Scintille had **passed one million**.

Maintaining a rate of **over 5 thousand vaccinations a day** – in some cases it even reached 10 thousand administrations in one day – the activity of the center maintained its commitment and the organization is ready to reach full capacity with the activation of all 72 vaccination lines available.

To respond to the high demand – first, second and third doses – and to face the arrival of a fourth wave, the Hub guaranteed **full operation even during the Christmas holidays**.

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