

Press Release

SAPA like Tesla: a car component into space

By financing the Abachos research project, SAPA has supported the Palmieri-Rampone Institute of Benevento, launching an aircraft 36.000 meters above sea level to measure atmospheric conditions for earthquake prevention.

Arpaia, June 5th 2018

On June 4th, thanks to SAPA's financial aid, an aircraft took off from Benevento Aeroclub, reaching stratosphere at about 36.000 meters tall.

The drone was equipped with two apparatuses: one for the purpose of detecting weather conditions, while the other was programmed to record seismic movements and prevent possible earthquakes.

Contrary to most aircrafts and launches, **this specific drone was set to land exactly where it took off**, once the balloon exploded after reaching our atmosphere (the return flight expected to take between four and six hours depending on weather conditions).

The idea came from the **Abachos Project** "Automatic Back Home System", an educational program guided by Professor Amedeo Lepore and implemented at the Vittorio Emanuele II Institute in Napoli before moving to the Palmieri-Rampone Institute of Benevento.

The project involved the launch of different smaller probes and payloads into the stratosphere. After the first attempts, enthusiasts started looking to this initiative with interest. Even professionals from the scientific community got involved.

SAPA, other than financing the project, contributed with some components for the aircraft, manufactured by its R&D engineers.

SAPA's "**Innovation Engineering**" department is a unique reality in the automotive field for what concerns the manufacturing of components. It's the birthplace of the **One-Shot Method**, the fastest method in the world for the manufacturing of car components, optimizing processes, enhancing productivity and decreasing the weight and cost of car components.

Specifically, for the Abachos project, SAPA's Technical and R&D Manager, Dr. Innocenzo Macchiarolo, described how they provided the **flaps**: two wings necessary to direct the aircraft. They were manufactured through a 3D printer, after having designed them.

The component does not endure any type of physical or mechanical deformation, despite entering stratosphere.

SAPA has always focused on innovation and has decided to support this research as it was run by a secondary school in Benevento. SAPA deeply cares for **education** and **training**: two fundamental aspects when it comes to research.

Giovanni Affinita, Chief Sales Strategist and member of SAPA's Board of Directors, has highlighted how important projects like this are to scientific technologies, and to the automotive field in which SAPA operates.

He said:

“Launching a car component into space was something I found incredibly fascinating; especially after following what Tesla had recently done. The future of the automotive field is about innovation, and the possibility of creating lighter and safer cars.

At SAPA, we have accepted this challenge and created the **One-Shot Method**, the fastest way to manufacture car components in the world, with less weight, a lower cost and enhanced productivity.

We also used this technique to create the component we have launched into space for the Abachos project. The component was not affected by stratosphere, or the lack of gravity. Furthermore, we have supported a scientific project run by young people, investing on the excellence of our territory. We have always been focused on these issues and themes, and have often collaborated with Italian and international universities. All these factors played a part in the growth of SAPA, whose revenue amounted to €180 Millions in 2017 alone, with 6 branches in Italy and Europe and over 1.000 employees. We’re expecting the numbers to grow further in 2018.”

USEFUL LINKS:

<http://www.sapagroup.net>

<https://www.abachos.it>

SAPA:

SAPA – the One-Shot Company – is Superior Auto Parts Always.

The company was first created by **Angelo Affinita**, who was born and raised in a small town in Southern Italy.

Everything started from the handmade, traditional, artisan craftsmanship, Made in Italy.

The outstanding talent and entrepreneurial skills of Angelo Affinita quickly turned a small artisan workshop into a successful industrial reality with **6 branches around Europe, over 1.000 employees and €180 Millions in revenue just in 2017.**

Today, SAPA is an automotive focused Italian group, **directly supplying some of the world’s most important Carmakers such as FCA, Volkswagen, Ferrari, CNH, and many more.**