

## **Tomato: Italtom acquires the ex Ferrara Food company**

*Thanks to the final acquisition, the Group formed by the two companies of Piacenza, Emiliana Conserve and Steriltom, becomes the first Italian private processing group, with an estimated production of 500 thousand tons. "We brought back confidence to the workers and to the Ferrara agricultural industry. Now we will keep progressing with new investments and for 2019 the goal is to produce, in Argenta, 100 thousand tons compared to 82.000 tons in this first year"*

(Piacenza, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018) - The Piacenza-based Group **Italtom** has definitively acquired, from the Court of Forlì, the **former Ferrara Food** company, which was declared bankrupt in November 2017. Thanks to the investment of the two processing companies **Emiliana Conserve** and **Steriltom**, the plant in Argenta (Ferrara) started producing once more right after a year of closure. The first private Italian tomato processing group was born, Italtom, with an estimated production of about 500,000 tons.

The two managing directors of Italtom, **Gian Mario Bosoni** (Emiliana Conserve) and **Dario Squeri** (Steriltom), expressed their satisfaction pointing out that "the news was disclosed only after having communicated it to the workers. The final acquisition strengthens a strategic industrial project of the Piacenza group, aimed at increasingly integrating the production and the processing of tomatoes, both at the local and global level in order to face in the most structured way the competition at the international level. We intend to continue along this path, strengthening Italtom's industrial plan with further investments in the 2019 crop, to reach over 100,000 tons of production".

The 2018 harvest registered 82 thousand tons of processed tomato and the employment of more than 100 workers, including seasonal and fixed ones.

This first harvest - Bosoni and Squeri said - carried out during the rental of the company has led to a good result. We have invested several million euros to restart the plant and renew some machineries. The target objectives have been achieved. Among the reasons of our satisfaction there is certainly the recovery of a great trust relationship with the agricultural industry of Ferrara and, especially with Argenta, both with the workers and with the institutions. A special thanks goes to the Regional Council member of Agriculture, Simona Caselli, and to the Mayor of Argenta, Antonio Fiorentini, for having believed from the beginning in this project".

The directors conclude: "After this acquisition, the group can strongly pursue further goals of quality improvement of tomato-based products and more and more connected to Italian production and to the Made in Italy. There is a new confidence in the agricultural world and in the induced industries, which had stopped due to the crisis of the old company".