

Società Elettrosiderurgica di Valle Camonica

Riva Acciaio
Malegno



FORNI ELETTRICI



The history

SELVA is the only company which, though fully integrated into the industrial and commercial network of the Riva group, is not owned entirely by the Riva family, who hold a 43% in-terest in the company, the majority share being in the hands of the Gheza family, who founded it when the very first industries were being set up in the Valle Camonica area.

The Valle Camonica was already the site of ironworks in pre-historic times. Over the centuries it has become a sort of prototype of an "industrialized steelmaking area".

The ore was found in the upper reaches of the valley and the forests provided coalwood for the foundries. On the valley floor, forges, drop hammers and roller mills were powered by hydraulic energy, transforming pig iron into finished products for industry and agriculture.

In the first industrialization phase of Italian history (1885-1914), various hydroelectric plants were set up to exploit the many waterfalls of the upper valley.

Most of the power was employed by the towns and industries down on the plain. In 1907 a company was formed, called Società Elettrica di Valle Camonica (ELVA), which supplied the whole valley with electric power and promoted industrial development. Lawyer Maffeo Gheza was one of Elva's principal shareholders. In 1933 he set up the Società Elettrosiderurgica di Valle Camonica (SELVA), an electric steelmaking company.

At the beginning, SELVA worked on stainless steels in the town of Sellero, and from 1937 it had an electric furnace, some drop hammers and a rolling mill installed in its Malegno facility which employed approximately 80 workers. The company was enlarged after the Second World War with the installation of two electric furnaces, a rolling mill and three hammers for forged bars, employing approximately 150 workers.

It produced something of great significance for the time, undeformable stainless carbon steel ingots weighing up to 1,400 kg, and square section billets with sides of 40 to 200 mm.

The company then formed a partnership with the Trafiliera MG in Malegno which had been founded in 1948 to meet the rising demand for steel.

The furnaces and hammers were sold in 1962 and new extruders were installed.

In 1966 Maffeo Gheza's son, Piero, set up the company called SEIL which took over the former SELVA plant and shortly afterwards began cooperating with Riva, which was eager to process the billets produced in its Caronno plant into rolled and drawn products.

Cooperation became closer in the Seventies as the Riva group gradually acquired a minority share in SEIL.

A new rolling mill was built in 1980-1981 in Cerveno, not far from Malegno, where the old hot-rolling mill was shut down so as to expand other operations such as wire drawing, peeling and polishing.

In 1986 the Cerveno works was separated from the Malegno works, which reverted to the original name of the company first founded by the Gheza family in Valle Camonica, SELVA Trafilerie.



90s

Today SELVA Trafilerie produces drawn bars in carburizing; hardening and tempering, general purpose and improved machinability steels, peeled bars in carburizing steels for surface hardening and tempering, polished bars in steels for hardening and carburizing, square drawn bars and flat drawn bars in construction steels.

The products are supplied in bars of commercial lengths and fixed lengths. The semifinished products to be processed (flat and round section merchant bars) are supplied by SEIL of Cerveno (Brescia) and AFT of Lesegno (Cuneo), both of which belong to the Riva group.



The finished products supply the domestic, European and North American markets. Most of the customers are steel merchants. The works is divided into three separate processing shops:

1. the drawing shop, whose production capacity is roughly 75,000 t/year, includes 2 reception areas for the semifinished rolled products; an automatic sandblasting, phosphate coating and lubricating plant; a water treatment plant; 3 drawing lines, two of which for flat and square-section bars and one for round section bars;

2. the peeling shop, whose production capacity is roughly 26,000 t/year, includes a reception area for the semifinished rolled products, a peeling plant, a rolling plant and a double chamfering plant;

3. the polishing shop, whose capacity is roughly 12,000 t/year, includes two polishing mills and a bundling plant.

A Foucault current surface defect detector is employed to control the quality of the finished product. The in-house laboratory carries out technological tests and micrographic analyses.

SELVA's quality assurance system has been certified by the German authority Technischer Überwachungs-Verein under the ISO 9002 standard.