

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to stand before you at the International Conference here in Ghent. Many thanks to all of you who have traveled from various corners of the world to participate in this conference.

As managing director of Merco Machines, a company engaged in designing and building high-end machinery for the new steel drum industry and the steel drum reconditioning, I am honored to welcome you all. Your presence here is a testament to the international spirit of collaboration and innovation that defines our industry.

The world of the steel drum industry is one of challenges, growth, and continuous evolution. It is an industry driven by the power of collaboration and the desire for improvement.

At Merco Machines, we have always aimed at helping in this process, not just for our company but for the entire industry. We firmly believe that progress and innovation are the cornerstones of a successful future. It is through events like these, where diverse minds come together, that we are able to push the boundaries of what is possible.

The exchange of ideas and knowledge is what drive us forward. The success of our company would not have been possible without the commitment of our customers as well as our dedicated team of employees. I want to express my gratitude to each and every one of them for their loyalty, hard work and dedication.

As a company, we have invested in advanced technology, innovated production processes, and embraced sustainability as our guiding principle. This commitment has resulted in the creation of our renowned high-end equipment, where we've seamlessly integrated new innovations such as servo-technology, advanced detection methods and robotics.

This integration has significantly enhanced the efficiency across functionality, maintenance, and operational costs. Among our notable achievements over the past decade, you'll find our high-speed and highly efficient lines, including the vertical seamer, bodyline, leaktester, dedenter, drum opener and custom palletizing line.

These innovations have not only automated the mechanical aspects of drum production but we are also taking important steps towards a new evolution in the entire production process. By incorporating advanced IT programming, Merco Machines is at the forefront of assisting our customers in achieving their automation goals with smart technologies and machine-to-machine communication, particularly in the context of Industry 4.0 and other future emerging technologies.

We take pride in the projects we have completed and the relationships we have built with our valued customers, partners, and suppliers. But let us not only look back on our successes, let us also look to the future.

The steel drum industry faces challenges and opportunities that we can seize together. We can continue to build sustainable and efficient solutions, continue to strive for innovation and growth.

Let's keep in mind that our presence at this international conference here goes beyond business. We are here to learn from each other, to inspire and be inspired. This conference is a unique opportunity to share knowledge, make new connections, and collaborate for a brighter future for our industry.

On behalf of Merco Machines, I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to the success and prosperity of our industry. Together, we have the potential to continue transforming our sector and driving it forward.

Let us enjoy this conference, strengthen our friendships, and deepen our collaboration.

If you have any enquiries on our products please do not hesitate to contact our sales engineers at the booth in the entrance hall.

Thank you for your attention and wish you all a prosperous future marked by innovation, collaboration, and success.