



press release

VICENZAORO SEPTEMBER 2026 HAS BEEN INAUGURATED, THE EXPO'S NEW HALL 2 UNVEILED. IEG PRESIDENT ERMETI: A PROMISE KEPT

- IEG's B2B trade show opened today until Tuesday 8th at Vicenza Expo Centre with 1,300 exhibiting brands from 40 countries
- Greetings from Adolph Urso, the Minister for Enterprise and Made in Italy
- Record number of hosted buyers: over 900 from 73 countries. 80% in partnership with the Italian Trade Agency
- The new 23,000 m², two-storey hall designed by Volkwin Marg's GMP studio inaugurated
- T.Gold's first September edition inside the Expo Centre
- VO Vintage, ongoing until Monday 7th for vintage jewellery and watch enthusiasts and collectors

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Vicenza, 4th September 2026 – **Italian Exhibition Group** has given the international gold and jewellery community a new home: Hall 2, in the heart of Vicenza Expo Centre. A twofold inauguration event: the September edition of IEG's international trade show opened today with an overview of the sector's state of the art, **Vicenzaoro's** pivotal role for the international market and the Vicenza manufacturing district, and IEG's ability to interpret the needs of the international community of sector operators and thus help shape the future of the gold and jewellery industry. The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the **new Hall 2** coincides with the tenth anniversary of the company that manages the Rimini and Vicenza Expo Centres.

The **Minister for Enterprise and Made in Italy, Adolfo Urso**, sent a message: "In a context of elegance and excellence, the hallmarks of Made in Italy, this international B2B hub provides a platform for every segment of the sector: from fine jewellery to unbranded production, precious stones and the most innovative technologies for the industry, confirming Vicenza as the world capital of jewellery. The 2026 edition marks a particularly significant moment with the inauguration of the Expo Centre's new hall: 23,000 square metres designed to the highest sustainability standards, capable of combining innovation with care for the environment, as has always been the case in the art of Italian goldsmithing." **(NB: the complete greeting can be found in attachment).**

At the event's opening ceremony, following a welcome address by IEG President **Maurizio Ermeti**, speeches were given by **Giacomo Possamai**, mayor of Vicenza; **Andrea Nardin**, President of the Province of Vicenza; **Maria Cristina Squarcialupi**, President of Federorafi Confindustria; **Fabrizio Lobasso**, Deputy Director General for the Promotion of Italy and Economic Internationalization and Central Director for the Italian System and Investments at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; **Matteo Zoppas**, President of the Italian Trade Agency; Senator **Mara Bizzotto**, Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Enterprise and Made in Italy; and **Marco Zecchinato**, Veneto Regional Councillor for Interregional Cooperation, Regional Governance and Infrastructure.

Together with architect **Volkwin Marg**, founder of the Hamburg-based GMP studio which designed the new infrastructure, **Maurizio Ermeti**, President of Italian Exhibition Group, outlined the significance, function and potential that the new Hall 2 brings to the Expo Centre. A strategic investment that reinforces Vicenza's role as a global hub for the sector. Easier access between all the various exhibition areas; the inclusion of the **T.Gold** technology exhibition inside the Expo grounds; and a new location for jewellery manufacturing companies, which are now exhibiting in the very heart of the facility.

«It is not often that an anniversary and a promise kept fall on the same day,» began **Ermeti**, «but that is what is happening here today for IEG. Investing in Vicenza to provide the jewellery industry not only with new facility, but also with a more functional Expo Centre. That was the promise made to this community in 2024. Today we are giving the city a more competitive trade show venue, ready for new exhibitions and further events organised by our conferences division. And I would like to take the title we have chosen for this ceremony – “the future takes shape” – quite literally. Despite geopolitical and economic uncertainties, we have decided to look ahead and build the future.»

THE EXPO CENTRE'S NEW HEART

Spanning **23,000 square metres** over two levels, equipped with four escalators and new facilities for exhibitors and visitors, a restaurant and three bars, Hall 2 is now the new core of the entire complex. Completed strictly to schedule, the building directly connects Halls 1, 3, 4 and 6, optimising exhibition routes and enhancing the visitor experience. The new hall houses the communities for Italian and international jewellery manufacturing (Creation) and packaging and furnishings (Expression and Elements). Due to the new building, **T.Gold** has now moved inside the Expo Centre (Hall 4), finding a home **under the same roof** as Vicenzaoro for the first time. At previous editions and up until last January, it was held in Hall 9, outside the exhibition grounds. Particular attention has been paid to sustainability thanks to a **2 MW** photovoltaic system able to contribute to the complex's energy self-sufficiency when no events are taking place.

VICENZAORO IS INCREASINGLY INTERNATIONAL

«So, as of today until Tuesday, business for Made in Italy and international exhibitors, who account for 45% of the total, will be generated by the encounter between supply, with **1,300 brands from 40 countries**, and demand, driven by buyers hosted under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) and the Italian Trade Agency's incoming programme as well as walk-in visitors,» **announced IEG CEO, Corrado Peraboni**. The 2026 edition began with the largest ever delegation of hosted buyers: **910 hosted buyers from 73 countries**, 80% of whom in partnership with the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation** and **the Italian Trade Agency** (up **33%** compared with September 2025). The **United States** tops the list of hosted delegations, followed by the **United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia** (on equal footing), **China and Spain**.

CIBJO CELEBRATES ITS FIRST 100 YEARS

Further enriching the Vicenzaoro September programme of events is the centenary congress of CIBJO, the World Jewellery Confederation, chaired by Gaetano Cavalieri, which as of this afternoon until 7th September, will bring around **500 international delegates** to Vicenza, including key figures from manufacturing companies and the global retail sector.

VO VINTAGE OPENS TO THE PUBLIC AND VIOFF LIGHTS UP THE HISTORIC CENTRE

From today until **7th September 2026**, **VO Vintage**, the event specifically for vintage and pre-owned jewellery and watches, will also be underway and open to the public with **free admission** (on prior registration on the website). The exhibition and marketplace, with a total of **53 dealers** from Italy and abroad, confirms the Veneto city's role as a leading centre for a sector that continues to grow and attract even young and very young people. The exhibition offer is accompanied by a packed schedule of talks and events.

Until **6th September**, Vicenza and its historic centre will become a vast open-air stage with VIOFF – the Vicenzaoro off-show event. This year's theme is **Golden Road**.

EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR TOMORROW, SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER

Tomorrow, at 11.00 am in the Expo Centre's **Educational Hub**, the programme will open with *Inside TRENDVISION Jewellery + Forecasting: The Method Behind the Jewellery Trendbook*, an event presented by **Paola De Luca**, Creative Director and Co-Founder of TRENDVISION Jewellery + Forecasting, together with the Research Team. In the **afternoon**, from **2.30 pm** in the **Educational Hub**, a session entitled *Hands, Sea, Memory. Coral as a model of Italian sustainability. An encounter with Enzo Liverino*, organised by **Assogemme**. **At 3.45 pm**, again in the **Educational Hub**, the session entitled *The jewellery sector facing the challenge of 2026: economic situation, raw materials and the geography of the districts*, organised by **Confindustria Federorafi**. The debate will focus on the results of the recent survey on business sentiment, the economic data compiled by **Intesa Sanpaolo** on global jewellery production and exports, including Made in Italy products, as well as the evolutionary dynamics of precious raw materials.

For further information on programmed events: Vicenzaoro – www.vicenzaoro.com
CIBJO Congress - cibjo.org/congress-2026/

PRESS CONTACT IEG / VICENZAORO SEPTEMBER 2026:

head of media relation & corporate communication: Elisabetta Vitali; **press office manager:** Marco Forcellini, Pier Francesco Bellini; **press office coordinator:** Luca Paganin; **press office specialist:** Mirko Malgieri; **press office assistant:** Julia Andreatta media@iegexpo.it

MEDIA AGENCY VICENZAORO SEPTEMBER 2026: Adnkronos Comunicazione

Enrico Bellinelli: 334 5717790, enrico.bellinelli.professional@adnkronos.com
Enrica Marrese: 320 8074750, enrica.marrese@adnkronos.com