

**Special Olympics World Games 2023:  
Mitsubishi Electric together with Special Olympics  
athletes to support “Adopt a Champion®” initiative**

*The company has decided to support four young athletes: they will wear the blue jersey representing Italy in the most important world event dedicated to people with intellectual disabilities.*

*Yesterday, some of these athletes who will compete in the world championship, were welcomed at the Mitsubishi Electric headquarters in Vimercate, for a very special event.*

Vimercate, 7th June 2023 –Mitsubishi Electric renews its support for Special Olympics, joining the *Adotta un Campione® (Adopt a Champion®)* campaign that will allow Italian athletes, in June, to fly to Berlin and participate in the **Special Olympics World Games**, the largest inclusive sports event in the world.

[Special Olympics](#) has been offering since 1968 the opportunity for children and adults with intellectual disabilities to train and compete in a variety of Olympic sports throughout the year. A way to develop and increase one's physical well-being, but also to show courage and experience the joy of participating in an environment of constant interaction.

Dal 17 al 25 giugno 2023 agli Special Olympics World Games migliaia di atleti con e senza disabilità intellettive gareggeranno insieme a Berlino in 26 sport. **Our country will be represented by a delegation of 97 athletes** who, after their great perseverance and determination, will finally see their dream of wearing the blue jersey come true. The *Adotta un Campione®* campaign aims to support the athletes' travel costs, enabling them to develop autonomy and overcome their limits.

Mitsubishi Electric's adhesion to this initiative was a very spontaneous decision, given the commitment that the Italian branch has had to Special Olympics since 2010. The company has been supporting the association in its various initiatives in Italy and around the world, including the active

participation of its employees as volunteers during Special Olympics events.

Mitsubishi Electric will be supporting **four athletes** in different disciplines for the World Cup: **Daniele Bianco**, basketball; **Simone Bilato**, gymnastics; **Antonello Carnassale**, football; and **Martina Confalonieri**, volleyball. Young people who in recent months have worked with determination to get ready for this important event, becoming aware of their abilities and facing this journey with courage and willpower.

Mitsubishi Electric wanted to meet them on Tuesday, 30 May, at its headquarters in Vimercate, organising a special event together with some of them. **Daniele and Martina** met the company's management and all the people who have supported the Special Olympics athletes over the years, describing their experiences of participating in these games, the excitement that comes with it and the great commitment required to prove that you can go far with willpower. And as a symbol of this journey towards empowerment, Mitsubishi Electric gifted them a suitcase, to be filled with the best experiences they will live in Berlin.

“Our corporate statement says *'Changes for the better'*, a motto and a mission that is not only about technological innovation and our products, but also, and above all, about our commitment to creating a better world, caring for the well-being of both the Planet and the communities in which we operate. We believe that Special Olympics events are a great opportunity to foster the creation of societies in which everyone can be involved, and that is why we are very happy to be able to make these athletes' dream come true, while at the same time contributing to raising awareness worldwide about inclusion”, declares **Mario Poltronieri, President of Mitsubishi Electric's Italian branch.**

#### Special Olympics athletes supported by Mitsubishi Electric

##### **Daniele Bianco, basketball player**

Daniele, known as Dede, is 28 years old and has been playing basketball since he was seven. He is a member of the Special Olympics Cuore Matto team in Turin.

*"I have been playing basketball all my life, I like the sport because it has made me an adult and gives me the opportunity to participate in many national and international sport events".* He told.

### **Simone Bilato, gymnast**

Born on 31 December 2000 in Padua, Simone is an active and sociable boy. He likes going out and spending time with friends. He is proactive, especially when it comes to hanging out. He loves to do things that young people like. He loves to joke around, loves very much dancing and listening to music. He is a member of the Special Olympics ASD BLUKIPPE team, which has always been sensitive to sports integration and social issues. Simone was delighted to hear the news that he had been called up for the World Cup in Berlin.

### **Antonello Carnassale, football player**

Antonello Carnassale has a story that reads like a screenplay and his story of redemption points straight to the Special Olympics World Games in Berlin in June 2023. A six-foot-nine giant, Antonello is in love with football and his life is a never-ending chase, somewhere between Rome, where he grew up, Rieti, where he was born one day in mid-January 25 years ago, and Rocca Sinibalda, the town where he has developed the strongest ties.

*"Going to Berlin is a prize I have earned thanks to my team - he said - and it is to all my teammates that I will dedicate any effort I make. It will be wonderful to represent Italy in such a big event and above all to do it together with Leonardo, the Athlete Partner who placed me in the 2017 Special Olympics team of Real Rieti first, and Fd 18 Rieti include then. He is more than a brother to me, he is a great example in everything he does".*

### **Martina Confalonieri, volleyball player**

Martina Confalonieri has just turned twenty-seven, lives in Vimercate (Monza Brianza) and plays with Agrate Volleyball. At the end of August, the announcement of the call-up for the Berlin Games arrived to light up all her hopes, because being at the centre of the world has always been a desire of hers. *"I have always dreamed of participating in a world championship- Martina explains - I have been playing volleyball for seven years and since I have been in my team I have learnt to be with others. For me this is very important. Sport and Special Olympics have taught me to put my all into*

*everything I do. With Agrate Volleyball I have participated in many events, even winning a gold medal at the last National Games in Turin”.*

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### **About Mitsubishi Electric**

With more than 100 years of experience in providing reliable, high-quality products, Mitsubishi Electric is a recognized world leader in the manufacture, marketing and sales of electrical and electronic equipment used in information processing and communications, space development and satellite communications, consumer electronics, industrial technology, energy, transportation and building equipment. In Europe it is present since 1969 with branches in 21 Countries: UK, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, The Netherlands, Sweden, Ireland, Czech, Belgium, Russia, Poland, Slovakia, Turkey, UAE, South Africa, Norway, Hungary, Romania and Greece. The Italian branch, established in 1985, operates through 3 commercial divisions: **Air-Conditioning** – air-conditioning for residential, commercial and industrial real estate, heating, de-humidification and air treatment; **Industrial Automation and Mechatronics** – systems and appliances for industrial automation and numerical control; **Automotive** – systems and components for control of car and motor vehicle devices. Support is also provided for the sales of **Semiconductors**. Mitsubishi Electric enriches society with technology in the spirit of its “Changes for the Better.”

The company recorded a revenue of 5,003.6 billion yen (U.S.\$ 37.3 billion\*) in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2023.

For more information, please visit [mitsubishielectric.com](https://mitsubishielectric.com).

*\*U.S. dollar amounts are translated from yen at the rate of ¥134=U.S.\$1, the approximate rate on the Tokyo Foreign Exchange Market on March 31, 2023*

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