Armis protects cement production facilities, a data center, and a major race track, providing complete visibility into IT, OT, and IoT assets deployed across multiple sites

Colacem S.p.A. has achieved complete control of vulnerabilities, threats and risks of all assets, taking its security posture to the next level

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Introduction

A forward-looking Italian company active in cement production, Colacem has always been market-oriented, making technological innovation and sustainability its strong points. All supported by significant organizational know-how.

The same is true for cybersecurity. When it realized that gaining visibility of all assets—IT, OT, and IoT—was key to maintaining a strong security posture, the company turned to Armis for broader and deeper visibility within its assets, better vulnerability management, and more effective threat detection and management. Founded by the Colaiacovo family in 1966, Colacem S.p.A. has established itself as one of the leaders in the cement industry in Italy, thanks to a modern and innovative entrepreneurial culture focused on sustainability and plants constantly updated to the best technologies. Colacem is part of the Financo Group to which several companies belong, including: Colabeton, Tracem, Inba, Tourist S.p.A. (with the Park Hotel ai Cappuccini and Poggiovalle), Umbria Televisioni, Grifo Insurance Brokers and Santa Monica S.p.A., owner of the Misano World Circuit “Marco Simoncelli.” The company manages information systems for all Group companies, domestic and international, for all units (cement, concrete and diversified).
Financo Group considers cybersecurity to be crucial to its operations, dedicating a team only to IT security management.

Prior to integrating Armis, the company already had an Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) solution, along with others, on its managed assets. With its multiple operations, there was a need to have complete visibility and monitoring of the entire environment, including the OT and IoT infrastructure, something only Armis could achieve.

A single dashboard for multiple infrastructure access points

Within Colacem S.p.A., Armis is present in all cement plants and in the Data Center, which also exchanges information and manages locations where Armis is not directly installed.

Colacem’s goal was to collect data from assets across the entire infrastructure, have a complete and single view of all managed assets and a map of their communications. For Colacem, this level of visibility is the starting point for improving the company’s security posture.

Luca Salemmi, in the role of ICT Security Manager, coordinates all activities related to cybersecurity with the Information Systems and Telematics Direction team from the Gubbio headquarters and all other company locations. He approached Armis to gain complete visibility of all Colacem’s assets—from IT systems to production tools.

“We requested Armis’ support because we realized we did not have visibility of all the assets,” comments Luca Salemmi. “What we immediately liked about the solution, and what helps us in a particular way, is the ability to also assess the level

Challenges

- Simplify and improve the management of IT, OT and IoT assets
- Determine the vulnerability levels of assets
- Find a way to identify and prioritize key cyber risks
of vulnerability of each of the assets and provide an order of priority for immediate intervention to resolve the most critical risks.”

Salemmi and his team installed Armis on the core-switches of several locations, and it was integrated with existing network and security technologies: network switches, virtual infrastructure, EDR, Active Directory, and Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) servers. These integrations were easily implemented and added value to existing tools by enabling the exchange of valuable information and data.

**Armis and the centrality of control over all systems**

Since the implementation of Armis, the team has been able to assess and ensure that all OT assets, such as Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs) and other computerized production processes, have the latest software and security updates—a critical step toward enhancing the company’s security posture. For Colacem, Armis has become a key part of managing the entire threat management component as well.

The solution continuously monitors the status and behavior of all assets on the network, looking for behavioral anomalies and potential attack indicators. Should it detect misconfigurations, policy violations, uncommon software active on the device, or improper connections, it will send an alert to the dedicated security team for them to take corrective action. Such examples might see an OT production asset connecting toward the public network or any other asset that has behavior that does not fit its defined role in the enterprise ecosystem.

The successful collaboration between Armis and Colacem already includes further developments in the near future. In
less than a year, Colacem plans to work together with the Armis team to achieve compliance with the IEC 62443 standard, which defines safety requirements for IACS (industrial automation and control systems).

**Misano World Circuit protection**

Armis was installed at Misano World Circuit, a racetrack located near Rimini on the Adriatic Sea and known for hosting two prestigious motorcycle races.

“Inside the Misano World Circuit,” comments Luca Salemmi, “the Armis solution is used to secure and monitor technologies for track services such as telemetry, CCTV (Closed Circuit Television) and race control, electronic flags, access control systems, video surveillance for public safety, and pit box services for quick vehicle repairs and refuelling. Clearly as with all the company’s other locations, Armis also protects the office equipment, VOIP (voice-over-IP) and network server including both WIFI and LAN.”

“We requested Armis’ support because we realized we did not have visibility of all the assets. What we immediately liked about the solution, and what helps us in a particular way, is the ability to also assess the level of vulnerability of each of the assets and provide an order of priority for immediate intervention to resolve the most critical risks.”

Luca Salemmi
ICT Security Manager, Colacem S.p.A.
Armis is the leading unified asset intelligence and security platform designed to address the new threat landscape that connected devices create.

Our customers trust our real-time and continuous protection to see with full context all managed, unmanaged, and IoT devices, including medical devices (IoMT), operational technology (OT) and industrial control systems (ICS).

Armis provides passive and unparalleled cybersecurity asset management, risk management, and automated enforcement.

Armis is a privately held company and headquartered in California.

1.888.452.4011