



innovation
challenge
2026



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Press release

VITICULTURE, ENOVITIS IN CAMPO: ROBOTS, SMART NETWORKS AND GREEN DEFENCE UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT OF THE INNOVATION CHALLENGE 2026

(Greve in Chianti – Florence, 29 May 2026). An intelligent protective network, a heroic tractor, increasingly efficient defence systems with a reduced impact on the environment. These are the main protagonists of the "Lucio Mastroberardino" Innovation Challenge, a competition promoted by ENOVITIS in campo that takes place every year during the dynamic exhibition organised by the Unione Italiana Vini dedicated to vineyard machinery and equipment (Tenuta di Nozzole, 17-18 June). The competition awards the best solutions for technical progress, efficiency and functionality, sustainability, practicality, environmental impact and quality of work. The 2026 edition of the contest, evaluated by a technical-scientific committee of academics, technicians and agronomic managers from user companies, highlighted a very dynamic sector in terms of phytosanitary protection and automation, with a strong focus on reducing operator workload and the efficiency of practices in the field.

The winners of the Technology Innovation Award—a recognition reserved for entries that are particularly innovative and worthy of a special mention—move precisely in this direction. Winning the award are Net Farming's solar and automated protective net system, VitiSafe365, which adapts to weather conditions, and WM Technics' VITRAC G2 implement carrier, an ultra-compact tractor designed to reduce field passes and increase efficiency on steep slopes.

This focus on the most challenging vineyards also characterises the New Technology presented by Merlo: the Cingo Autonomous Driving multi-tool tracked carrier, which is capable of managing various tools and operating both autonomously or via remote control.

In the same category (which highlights solutions featuring even partial innovations), two other interesting solutions stand out—from a cost-rationalisation perspective too: the XAG R200 Agricultural Rover by Furaito, a high-precision, remote-controlled robot for spraying and transport, and a high-productivity vineyard sprayer, the NewPort TRIO articulated electrostatic sprayer by Martignani, which treats three rows simultaneously even on hillside vineyards.

Finally, focus shifts to crop protection with the New Technology by Yara Italia, the foliar biostimulant YaraAmplix ACTISIL based on silicon, choline and calcium. This is joined by the use of the parasitoid wasp *Anagyrus vladimiri* by CBC (Europe) to target pests such as vine mealybug—a solution honoured with the Green Innovation Award, a prize dedicated to achievements that drive improvements in one or more environmental sustainability goals.

The winners will be awarded on 17 June during the inaugural ceremony (11 a.m.) of the 20th edition of Enovitis in campo, scheduled until 18 June in Tuscany, in the vineyards of the Tenuta di Nozzole (Greve in Chianti - FI) belonging to the Folonari family. In the heart of Chianti Classico, the exhibition serves as a showcase for the most compelling solutions—ranging from robotics to electrification, from correct soil and canopy management to organic farming, all the way to crop protection products, biostimulants and vineyard planting materials. The programme features live demonstrations of machinery and equipment, alongside thematic training sessions designed for wineries, oenologists, agronomists, technicians and winemakers interested in the most modern solutions for agronomic operations.

For information and the updated programme: <http://www.enovitisincampo.it/> - link to photos of the winners

COMPLETE LIST OF AWARD WINNERS AND MOTIVATIONS

TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AWARD

COMPANY	ENTRY
NET FARMING	VitiSafe365
<p><i>VitiSafe365 is a smart, sustainable and climate-adaptive infrastructure. Innovation lies in the ability to proactively prevent damage from hail, excess heat, heavy rain and climate stress, while improving operational efficiency at the same time. It integrates autonomous automation powered by solar energy, the dynamic management of protective networks and the reduction of manual and mechanical interventions in the field. The solution makes a concrete contribution to sustainable viticulture and represents an advanced model of resilient agriculture, capable of combining technological innovation, environmental protection and production quality.</i></p>	
WM TECHNICS	WM VITRAC G2
<p><i>The WM VITRAC G2 is an articulated tool carrier featuring 4-wheel hydraulic drive with electronically controlled individual radial piston motors, offering numerous first-rate technical and performance characteristics that are particularly suited for operations in vineyards planted on extreme slopes. It is equipped with a 19 kW diesel internal combustion engine at 2600 rpm and a hydraulic power take-off (PTO) delivering a flow rate of up to 46 l/min.</i></p> <p><i>In a context that is particularly critical for the stability of the tractor-implement unit, the level of comfort and operational safety of this machine is very high for vehicles in its category.</i></p> <p><i>The driver's well-being is ensured by a reversible driving position (either with a cabin or alternatively with a roll-bar) suspended on anti-vibration mounts, equipped with a pneumatic suspension seat, a multifunction joystick and a control monitor. Safety features include hydrostatic service braking, a negative parking brake with control on each wheel and, above all, officially approved ROPS."</i></p> <p><i>A wide range of attachments are available, which optimally expand usage opportunities beyond agriculture, for instance into the municipal sector too.</i></p>	

GREEN INNOVATION AWARD

COMPANY	ENTRY
CBC (Europe) Srl	Anagyrus vladimiri
<p><i>Anagyrus vladimiri is a parasitoid wasp produced by Bioplanet and used in the biological control of the vine mealybug Planococcus ficus. Recent studies have shown that its spectrum of action also includes Pseudococcus comstocki, an emerging species in Mediterranean vineyards and orchards. In no-choice, dual-choice laboratory tests and in open-field conditions, the parasitoid has demonstrated the ability to parasitise both host species without significant preference. This indicates that it can be effectively employed not only against P. ficus, but also against P. comstocki, expanding its use in the biological control of cochineals and contributing to the reduction of specific insecticides.</i></p>	

NEW TECHNOLOGY

COMPANY	ENTRY
FURAITO	XAG R200 Agricultural Rover
<p><i>Thanks to its modular structure, the XAG R200 autonomous driving rover can carry loads up to 280 kg, ensuring good autonomy when performing phytosanitary treatments, even in very narrow rows and without the presence of an operator, thereby preventing any risk of chemical exposure.</i></p> <p><i>The 6-wheel drive, powered by six brushless motors running on lithium batteries, allows this rover to move with agility in difficult environments and on challenging slopes. Satellite navigation is supported by artificial intelligence, which processes images from installed cameras and signals provided by radar sensors to detect obstacles and the possible presence of people or animals. A specific onboard inertial unit monitors the vehicle's stance, optimising forward speed on slopes and ensuring smooth stops.</i></p> <p><i>The remote connection, native to an XAG cloud platform, guarantees complete traceability of the work carried out.</i></p>	
MARTIGNANI	NEWPORT TRIO
<p><i>The 'NewPort TRIO' articulated electrostatic sprayer by Martignani is an innovative agricultural machine designed to overcome the limitations of current spraying solutions, which are often bulky, difficult to manoeuvre and expensive. The system introduces a vertically folding and laterally adjustable over-the-row structure, which significantly reduces dimensions during transport and adapts to rows with widths from 1.60 to 3.10 metres. An intelligent transfer joint keeps the distance of the spray heads from the ground constant using a lighter and more efficient system. The sprayer can treat up to three rows simultaneously thanks to independent spray heads. The new ventilation system reduces power consumption, noise and product drift.</i></p> <p><i>The sprayer also uses low-volume electrostatic spraying technology, which improves droplet adhesion to the vegetation and guarantees a more uniform coverage even in the innermost parts of the canopy. This makes it possible to reduce water and plant protection product consumption, limiting environmental drift and fostering a more sustainable management of vineyards and orchards.</i></p>	
MERLO INDUSTRIA METALMECCANICA	The Autonomous Driving Cingo
<p><i>This is a battery-powered rover equipped with rubber tracks, featuring a high level of automation that offers clear advantages in reducing labour and improving operational safety—two strategic factors for the economic and managerial sustainability of wineries.</i></p> <p><i>An element of particular interest is the integration of the vehicle with a lift equipped with a category 1 3-point hitch, which allows the rover to operate with the equipment already available on the farm and normally paired with vineyard tractors. This is an opportunity that promotes immediate interoperability with the existing machinery fleet, reducing the investments required to adopt the new technology and facilitating its practical widespread use.</i></p> <p><i>The cargo bed also expands the application possibilities of this compact implement carrier, which can also power connected electric implements directly (at 48 V) with automatic recognition. It features a series of advanced safety functions, such as environmental sensors for obstacle identification during navigation, bumpers and geofencing.</i></p>	
YARA ITALY	YaraAmplix ACTISIL
<p><i>A foliar biostimulant based on bioavailable silicon that strengthens the berry structure and activates biochemical defences. The choline-stabilised formulation ensures efficient absorption, thereby distinguishing it from common sources of agricultural silicon.</i></p>	