



Italcementi
Italcementi Group

**ITCLab: CORNERSTONE CEREMONY FOR
ITALCEMENTI'S NEW RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CENTER**

The building, designed by Richard Meier on an 11,000 m² area in the Kilometro Rosso Technology Park in Bergamo, will be a European center of excellence and a landmark building for sustainable architecture and environment friendliness

INSTITUTIONS, UNIVERSITIES, BUSINESS: THE LEVERS TO INNOVATION

Speakers at the round table organized by the Italcementi Cav. Lav. Carlo Pesenti Foundation include the Minister for State Administration Reform & Innovation Luigi Nicolais, Adriano De Maio, Andrea Moltrasio, Alberto Bombassei, Ezio Andreta.

Giampiero Pesenti: "Italy offers exceptional talents and resources to recover its ability to innovate and compete on the global market"

Bergamo, December 6, 2006 – The ITCLab - Innovation and Technology Central Laboratory, the Italcementi Group's new research and innovation center located in the Kilometro Rosso Science Park in Bergamo, will be completed in early 2009. The cornerstone ceremony for the new building was held today, attended by the Mayor of Bergamo, Roberto Bruni, the Chairman of the Provincial Authority of Bergamo, Valerio Bettoni, the Chief Environment Officer of the Regional Authority of Lombardy, Marco Pagnoncelli, the General Manager of the Kilometro Rosso Science Park, Mirano Sancin, and Dukho Yeon, representing architect Richard Meier who designed the project for the ITC Lab building.

Italcementi Chairman Giampiero Pesenti and Chief Executive Officer Carlo Pesenti stressed that the commencement of work on the new laboratory confirmed the Italcementi's commitment to research and innovation.

"The focus on sustainability in the architecture, use of materials and construction solutions adopted for this building from the very beginning of the project will make the ITCLab an expression of Italcementi's commitment to environmental issues," said Carlo Pesenti. "This is a demanding and ambitious challenge that will draw on Italcementi's expertise and capacity for innovation, previously exemplified in such major construction projects as the Pirelli tower designed by Giò Ponti in Milan or the Jubilee Church designed by Meier in Rome. The ITCLab will be the nerve center of our research operation, strengthening the network of ties between our laboratories in France, the USA and India in the near future and the university centers of excellence that already operate with the Group Technical Center."

The ITCLab project envisages construction of a building on a surface area of 11,000 square meters, of which 7,500 will be occupied exclusively by research labs. It will take approximately two years to complete. Designed by Richard Meier, the ITCLab is located in the Kilometro Rosso Science Park just outside Bergamo, flanking the Milan-Venice highway. The park will also house a variety of interdisciplinary public and private research initiatives, providing jobs for approximately 3,000 people over the next 10 years.

“The new ITCLab will not only be an iconic building expressing Italcementi’s reputation for technical expertise, it will be a benchmark in sustainable design in Europe,” said **Richard Meier**, in a message read by Dukho Yeon, an associate partner of the Meier studio. *“The entire building structure will be made of a proprietary concrete developed by Italcementi using a photocatalytic, self-cleaning and pollution-reducing cement. We hope this this new buiding will be a significant contribution to the innovative global activity of Italcementi”.*

ITCLab is intended as a standard of reference for sustainable architecture, compliant with the “Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design” (**LEED**) standards, the most important and exacting US energy and environmental ratings system for buildings, which considers six different quality parameters: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy consumption and reduction of atmospheric emissions, use of materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, design and innovation principles. Within Europe, in cooperation with the Energy Department of Milan Polytechnic, the project has been presented for approval as a “Partner” on the European Commission’s “**Green Building**” program for energy efficiency and introduction of renewable energy sources.

The laboratory will be built in **TX Aria**[®] and **TX Arca**[®] white cement, based on Italcementi’s patented **TX Active**[®] photocatalytic principle. The roof of the new center will house photovoltaic cells to generate electricity and solar panels for the heating and air-conditioning system, minimizing consumption of traditional energy sources and CO₂ emissions. A further energy saving will be achieved through the geothermal plant exploiting solar energy in the soil and subsoil.

On the occasion of the ITCLab cornerstone ceremony, the Italcementi Cav. Lav. Carlo Pesenti Foundation, established to support education and scientific research with a specific focus on sustainable corporate economic and social growth, organized a round table on the theme “**Institutions, universities, business: levers for innovation**”. The speakers were **Luigi Nicolais**, Italy’s Minister for State Administration Reform & Innovation, **Adriano De Maio**, Chief Officer for Higher Education, Research & Innovation at the Regional Authority of Lombardy, **Andrea Moltrasio**, President of the Confindustria Europe Technical Committee and President of Bergamo Scienza, **Alberto Bombassei**, Vice President of Confindustria and **Ezio Andreta**, President of the Agency for the Promotion of European Research. The debate was chaired by **Dario Di Vico**, deputy editor of the Corriere della Sera newspaper.

Opening the round table, Italcementi Chairman **Giampiero Pesenti** said: *“Personally I believe Italy offers exceptional talents and resources to recover its ability to innovate and compete, which is why the Italcementi Foundation wanted to form a panel with the expertise and resources to examine ideas with a view to drawing up constructive proposal.*

As a business man I believe that innovation is the most effective path to leadership in global competition: this is why research that generates innovation in our business organizations is the lever for the competitiveness of the entire country-System.”

Roberto Verganti, Principal of the Milan/Turin Polytechnic, presented the results of an IReR survey conducted for the Italcementi Cav. Lav. Carlo Pesenti Foundation on virtuous relationship models between institutions, universities and business to promote technological innovation based on scientific research.

The survey revealed that interaction between universities and business—such as the creation of spin-offs, the purchase of patents by companies, research contracts—are just the tip of the iceberg in what in fact is a highly complex system of ties. Beneath the surface operate a variety of more “informal” mechanisms without which cooperation would not be possible. Student internships, on-the-job training, meetings between researchers create a relational capital that lays the foundation for the more “formal” relationships.

At the same time, business needs to interact with public research centers, since innovation depends on increasingly advanced, interdisciplinary and complex levels of knowledge; equally, interaction with business is indispensable for universities and research centers, first, because it generates stimuli and highlights problems to be solved that may lead to significant discoveries, second, because it provides a means to supplement funding.

Knowledge transfer processes, however, are often complex and elaborate: a direct transfer between business organization and university in some cases, but far more intricate in others, involving different channels and intermediaries. The IReR survey indicates that large corporations play an important role in these processes, because they alone have the R&D centers and organization structures to interact with universities, whereas the role played by SMEs is of secondary importance, since they are unable to offer in-house research operations as a contribution to cooperation.



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