



Italcementi
Italcementi Group

ITALCEMENTI'S NEW RESEARCH & INNOVATION CENTER ITCLab PRESENTED TO LOMBARDY REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

- **The new Center, designed by Architect Richard Meier and approximately 11,000 m² in total area, will be the “heart” of Italcementi Group’s Research & Innovation.**
- **New photocatalytic cements combined with the use of solar panels, photovoltaic panels as well as geothermal energy will ensure the building’s compatibility with the principles of Sustainable Architecture.**

Milan, 28 March 2006 – In the presence of Roberto Formigoni, President of Regione Lombardia, Carlo Pesenti - Italcementi’s CEO – and the American architect Richard Meier formally presented today ITCLab - Innovation & Technology Central Laboratory, the new research and innovation center of Italcementi Group.

“Today, we are presenting one of the greatest European research centre on construction materials together with Roberto Formigoni, President of Regione Lombardia. Mr. Formigoni has always believed in the importance of research and innovation for the development of Lombardy Region”, Carlo Pesenti said. “It pleases us to recall that Italcementi, at the end of the fifties, intensively participated in the construction of Pirelli skyscraper by supplying an high performance cement produced in the lombardian cement plants of Calusco d’Adda, Albino and Palazzolo sull’Oglio, and by defining a special concrete mix-design developed in Bergamo research labs. Yesterday for Giò Ponti’s project, today for Richard Meier’s new ITCLab, we continue to go along our path to innovation.”

In the ITCLab building, 7,500 m² out of a total of 11,000 m² surface area will be exclusively reserved for research laboratories. ITCLab will be home to employees and researchers who are currently working at other Italcementi Group sites in Lombardy. Starting Fall 2006, construction is expected to be completed in two years’ time.

“We are still aiming at innovation. Following the launch of TX Active[®], a photocatalytic principle for cement products that contributes to pollution reduction in urban areas, we are now making another step ahead with our Group’s “Innovation Project”. We want



ITCLab to become the pole around which will rotate research activities on construction material and innovation projects on cement production processes”, Pesenti added. “Italcementi confirms that research and innovation are key values for the growth –not only economic but also cultural and social– of a Group that happens to be a global leader in its sector. The company has made a priority of pursuing a growth strategy that is compatible with sustainable development principles.”

The center designed by the American architect is set in the Kilometro Rosso Science & Technology Park, which is strategically located on the outskirts of Bergamo and parallel to the nearby Milan-Venice highway. The Park, which will be simultaneously home to multidisciplinary research activities undertaken by private enterprises and public establishments, is expected to employ an overall staff of about 3,000 over the next 10 years.

Richard Meier is one the most renowned architects working today. Some of his best-known projects include the High Museum in Atlanta (1983), the Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art (1997) and the Getty Center in Los Angeles (1997). The most remarkable architectural project accomplished in Italy is the Dives in Misericordia Church, in Rome, of which Italcementi had been the main technical sponsor. This sacred building, firmly wanted by late Pope John Paul II for the 2000 Jubilee, was visited by His Holiness Benedict XVI two days ago.

“Having worked closely together in development of a construction method for creating pure white cement curved concrete panels for the Dives in Misericordia Church in Rome, a very close collaboration developed between Italcementi and Richard Meier & Partners, with the added expertise and devotion of Gennaro Guala”, Meier said. “When Carlo Pesenti broached the idea of designing a new headquarters building in Bergamo, it was an exciting prospect to think that this close collaboration would create another outstanding work of architecture.”

ITCLab is set to be a benchmark in Sustainable Design in Europe. The design team is wholly committed to a process in which environmental performance as well as economic returns will be maximized. As a priority target, the project will strive to obtain Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (**LEED**) certification -- the most stringent and rigorous U.S. certification scheme -- with six environmental categories being evaluated: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials & resources, indoor environment, and design & innovation process.

At a European level, Milan Polytechnic’s Energetics Department will support the project so that it can qualify for becoming a **Partner** in the **GreenBuilding** program, the European Commission’s initiative recognizing the implementation of energy efficient measures combined to the use of renewable energy sources for energy supply.

The construction material chosen for executing the ITCLab project is white TXAria[®] cement based on TXActive[®], the photocatalytic principle that Meier had already used for building the Dives in Misericordia Church, one of the first applications of this innovative solution. TXActive[®] ensures that the built surfaces treated with this principle preserve their aesthetic properties over time and contributes to abating polluting substances to a significant extent.

The roof of the new Center will be fitted with photovoltaic panels for generating electricity and solar panels supplying the heating and air conditioning systems, thereby cutting consumption rates of conventional energy sources as well as atmospheric CO₂ emissions. A further contribution to non-renewable energy conservation will come from the installation of a geothermal system that generates power from the earth's thermal energy accumulating in both soil and subsoil.



Italcementi Group is the fifth largest cement producer in the world and the biggest in the Mediterranean area. With a staff of over 21,800, Italcementi Group's companies combine the expertise, know-how and cultures of 19 countries. With 2005 annual sales amounting to about 5 billion Euro, the Group boasts an industrial network of 62 cement plants (cement + clinker 56.3 Mt), 14 grinding centres, 4 stand alone terminals (one of which is also a grinding centre), 149 aggregates quarries (53.8 Mt) and 570 concrete batching units (21.0 Mm³).

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