

Italcementi and Calcestruzzi: People, Technology and Sustainable, Quality Materials for San Giorgio Bridge in Genoa

Genoa, 3rd August 2020. Seventy people, including specialized technicians, plant operators and material technologists; products that are 100% certified along the entire production chain; 6,000 laboratory tests; 67,000 cubic meters (equal to 160,000 tons) of concrete for the realization of the foundations, of the pillars that support the bridge and of the slab, which has then been covered with an asphalt layer; two international certifications for the production plants and as many as 100 vehicles employed every day for material transportation. This is the set of competencies and materials deployed by **Italcementi and Calcestruzzi** for the realization of San Giorgio Bridge in Genoa.

*“Since the architects of Renzo Piano’s studio came to visit our laboratories at Italcementi and Calcestruzzi, we have been aware of the challenge facing us – said **Giuseppe Marchese**, CEO of Calcestruzzi – we have been requested to provide a quality, sustainable concrete, which had to be quick to lay - considering the schedule, and also safe and durable. An aesthetic component has also been added to all these features. The support pillars had to be beautiful and “to embrace” to integrate in the landscape of the Polcevera urban park that will be created at the base of the bridge. The choice made by Calcestruzzi, the subsidiary of Italcementi that supplied the concrete for the construction of the bridge, was, therefore, to appoint WeBuild not only as a supplier of the material, but as a real partner in all construction stages that required huge quantities of material in a short time to meet the schedule of the works, ensuring continuous, uninterrupted assistance”.*

The whole material supply chain has been involved: from **Italcementi**’s cement plant in Calusco d’Adda (BG), where the semi-finished product (the “clinker”) is prepared, to **Italcementi**’s plant in Novi Ligure (AL) where a highly sustainable cement is ground – using material coming from the production process of steel (about 40%) and presenting a low CO₂ emissions level (about 30% less than a traditional cement) – to the last step at **Calcestruzzi**’s plant in **Genoa**, operating 24/7 to supply the construction site of the bridge.

A challenge that has been won thanks to the teamwork that has involved several departments at Italcementi and Calcestruzzi: Research for the preparation and optimization of the materials, Production for the quality controls, Logistics for the transportation of the materials to a construction site that never stopped the operations, not even during the lockdown, and Technology that controlled every single concrete mixer and every cubic meter of concrete.

Once again, Italcementi and Calcestruzzi have confirmed their leading position in the construction industry: from the historical supply for the Suez Channel in the late XIX

century, to the partnership with Giò Ponti for the Pirelli skyscraper in Milan and with Pierluigi Nervi for Nervi Hall (Paul VI Audience Hall) in Vatican City and the construction works for the Sun Motorway in the 1950s-1960s, until the recent Palazzo Italia, the building symbolizing Milan EXPO 2015, and now the San Giorgio Bridge in Genoa, symbol of the renaissance and the recovery of Italy.

Our big numbers

- 1,067m: bridge length
- 18: concrete pillars with elliptical section
- 19: spans in steel and concrete
- 45 meters: average height of the supporting pillars
- 13 meters: foundations depth
- 67,000 cubic meters: concrete used
- 160,000 tons: the weight of the concrete
- 70: people involved
- 25: the specialized technicians for the laying of the slab
- 8,000 cubic meters: concrete used for the slab
- 4: Calcestruzzi plants in Genoa operating to supply concrete
- Laboratory tests: 6,000 tests/year
- Online automatic checks: 60,000 tests/year
- 500: journeys to transport the clinker from Calusco d'Adda (BG) to Novi Ligure (AL)
- 830: journeys to transport cement from Novi Ligure (AL) to Genoa
- 15: Concrete technologists for the 100% certified model
- 8,000 consistency tests on concrete to assess quality

Profile: Italcementi and Calcestruzzi

For over 155 years, Italcementi has been leading the construction and building materials industry in Italy. Italcementi's widespread presence, rooted in the territory, and the ability of offering innovative, quality products, are at the base of integrated solutions and applications that meet the needs of the cement and concrete market. Together with Calcestruzzi, the industrial network is complete and integrated, also thanks to the remarkable presence in the concrete and aggregates industry.

Now Italcementi is part of HeidelbergCement Group, worldwide leader in the production of aggregates, second in the production of cement and third in the production of concrete, with 55,000 employees in over 3,000 production plants in 50 countries in 5 continents. Thanks to its brand and its strong industrial and cultural identity, Italcementi operates on the Italian market with its historical trademark, with a responsible, sustainable presence in the local communities.

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