

The Group Sixtieth Anniversay

Finmeccanica: “We’ve taken Italy to the world”

Guarguaglini: we’ve become leaders thanks to the people who work for us

INTERNATIONAL VOCATION

We’re starting from our roots, which are Italian, and branching out into the world

P. F. GUARGUAGLINI - Chairman and CEO of Finmeccanica

ROME. “We’re starting from our roots, from Italy, and trying to branch out into the world, through investments that allow us to grow both industrially and commercially, with a compact management team who are convinced of the achievability of our goals”. This is Finmeccanica’s strategy as summarised by its chairman and CEO Pier Francesco Guarguaglini during a presentation made to journalists of the cultural and social initiatives that will be launched to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the birth of the aerospace and defence holding company.

The initiatives themselves “**will not consist of a nostalgic look at the past, which would have little meaning**”, explained Finmeccanica’s number one, but “**will remind us of our roots so that we can face the future with greater awareness and consolidate our position**”.

On 22 March 1948, the board of directors of Finanziaria Meccanica met in Rome for the first time. The company had been established just four days earlier to manage the Italian state’s investments in the mechanical engineering and shipbuilding sectors, recalled Guarguaglini. Since then, the face of Finmeccanica has changed many times but the company has never abandoned its industrial and technological vocation.

“**Part of the merit for Italy’s success in winning back the international role it deserved after the second world war**”, added Guarguaglini, “**undoubtedly lies with industry, which contributed to reconstituting the nation’s wealth and putting forward a competitive and winning image of Italy around the world**”.

“**We are an international group**”, continued Guarguaglini, “**that wants to increase its technological and commercial presence, creating a compact management team with achievable objectives. Sixty years in business are a very important period in the industrial history of our country, which now sees Finmeccanica asserting itself in all the main international markets. The group has been able to achieve this position thanks to a focus on its human resources, the excellence of its technologies and the significant investments it has made in research and development**”. Guarguaglini also spoke about the future of Alitalia: “Personally, I hate comparisons. I look at the facts and I look at Finmeccanica, which has always placed its trust in technology and investment, even when times were hard. But sometimes, in the present, we also need to think about the future, and to

sacrifice situations and jobs in order to survive”. Talking about recent budget figures, Guarguaglini then added “so far our forecasts have been correct. We are fairly realistic in the figures we present, which predict increases”.

The celebrations for Finmeccanica’s 60th birthday will begin in Rome on 26 March, with an event at the Conciliazione Auditorium in the presence of important government representatives. “Everyone who has contributed to making Finmeccanica great has been invited and a sculpture inspired by the Finmeccanica brand has been created and will be presented to the former chairmen and managing directors of the group”, the company has announced. A film about the history of the company will be shown during the presentation and the ceremony will end with a unique concert featuring Carl Orff’s *Carmina Burana*, sung by the choir of the National Academy of Santa Cecilia, conducted by Norbert Balatsch. This will be followed by a touring photographic exhibition involving the Ansaldo Foundation, which will illustrate the most crucial stages of Finmeccanica’s history up to the present day. A book telling the Group’s story from 1948 to the present time, written by the academic Vera Negri Zamagni, will also be presented.

Together with Banco di Napoli, Finmeccanica will also be supporting another initiative this year: the project, entitled *Le Vie Francigene del Sud* promoted by the Civita Association and aimed at promoting pilgrimage routes through southern Italy to Jerusalem and at creating conditions for the creation of a network of religious, cultural and tourist itineraries connecting the medieval “Vie Francigene” in southern Italy with the routes that exist in Europe.

On 2 July, in Piazza del Plebiscito, Naples, a concert is planned by the Orchestra and Choir of the Teatro San Carlo with the Orchestra and Choir of the *Maggio Musicale Fiorentino*, coming together for the first time under the direction of Zubin Metha. On the programme is Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony in D Minor, Op. 125. The traditional Christmas concert, an opportunity for the group’s personnel to meet and exchange good wishes, will officially conclude the celebrations of Finmeccanica’s sixtieth year.