

Global engineering for urban mobility

Giovanni Battista Furlan explains the approaches of *NET Engineering* to the complex demands of urban mobility



NET Engineering is a solid independent authoritative company which can compete as a leader in the international markets.

Mr Giovanni Battista Furlan, President of *NET Engineering SpA*, has no doubts: the company that he founded a little more than thirty years ago is now a solid reference in the field of civil engineering and infrastructure. *NET Engineering* is now among the first independent engineering private companies in Italy.

During its activity, the winning approach known as "System engineering" has been developed and improved by the company. Thanks to this methodology each project is never an end in itself, but an element to be considered in a specific territorial, environmental and transportation context.

Is it so, Mr Furlan?

Yes, it is. Our approach starts from a rigorous analysis of the existing situation up to the simulation and technical verification of the projects through the formulation of alternative scenarios for interventions. Consequently, we discuss the definition of needs, we evaluate alternatives and then we choose and implement interventions. We are therefore able to offer to our clients comprehensive solutions and turn-key projects.



Which were the experiences that particularly deal with this methodology?

Our expertise in this field is now thirty years old: from the study and design of rail systems, to interventions on highways and urban roads. Among the main projects designed by *NET Engineering* in Italy, I highlight the metropolitan rail systems in the Veneto and Campania Regions, the railway junction in Turin, the orbital motorway in Padua, the tram system in Padua and in Venice, the Tessera-Murano-Arsenale sub-lagoonal connection, the motorway junction in Eastern Padua, and recently the completion of Palermo railway link and the new cable-stayed bridge for the North-South road axis in Bari.



I would like to mention some projects we developed abroad, such as our studies for the extension of the Sofia subway and the subway system in Hyderabad (India), and also the recent award of the tender for the rehabilitation of the Rousse-Varna railway line in Bulgaria.

Therefore, this approach sounds particularly useful and effective in complex situations of urban mobility... I would rather say that our experience has taught us how system engineering is essential in addressing and resolving the complex road networks and transport interventions associated with urban transformation and requalification. For example, Italian cities

are serious tests for professional requalification interventions linked to the demands of mobility and accessibility, due to their numerous urban and artistic constraints in historical city centres. In addition, NET has a Division of Research and Development (RSV) in the transport and mobility sectors.

Which are the tasks of the R&D Division?

RSV is specialized in management and technical coordination of new European projects that aim at researching transport development and solutions on the cutting edge, making experiences spread and making project results, evaluation and drafting of policy recommendations disseminate.

Among the several projects in which *NET* is currently involved in the transport, mobility and energy sectors, I would like to mention the *Biosire Program* (Intelligent Energy-Europe-IEEA), about the use of biofuels for local public transport in areas of high impact tourist visitation; the *Snowball Program* (Intelligent Energy-Europe IEEA), for the creation or rehabilitation of urban areas and of urban main roads in accordance with the principles of sustainability, liveability, accessibility, security and economic feasibility; and the *Sugar Program* (Interreg IVC), which aims to develop a system of urban sustainable freight transport through the adoption of local and regional guidelines to promote the potentialities and the exchange of good practice and experiences between the cities involved.

Which clients do you contact?

Our company's activities widely range in any field of engineering, therefore, we can partner with both private companies and public authorities (government, national companies, regions, provinces, municipalities ...).

Recently, the results of NET Engineering met with the interest of prestigious companies such as the Generali Group.

The participation of *Assicurazioni Generali* in establishing *NET Engineering International* and sharing with *NET* a development project, showed the Group's interest in investing in the infrastructure market and expressing also confidence in our company. A synergy in investing in infrastructures has been created: infrastructures are a strategic and decisive sector which helps to overcome the

current serious international economic situation.

Which strategy has NET International adopted?

Our strategy is the natural physiological response to the European expansion towards East and to the market globalization. Today *NET Engineering International* heads a group with a total turnover of about EUR 46 million and a staff that exceeds 400 full-time units, including the Italian companies NET Engineering SpA, Sistra 2000 srl, the German Spiekermann AG, the Bulgarian NET Engineering EOOD and the Indian NET Engineering PVT LTD. All the companies are able to develop effective synergies in the transport infrastructure, planning and transport systems, planning and management, development of railways, urban transport, metro systems, design of roads and highways, construction of tunnels, bridges and complex structural works, including constructions in a submarine environment and environmental mitigation large scale projects. The German company, for example, has implemented several light rail projects (in Oberhausen, Dusseldorf, Stuttgart in Germany, Tabriz and Karaj in Iran – the latter project has just been awarded to SPIEKERMANN).

Are there other areas that NET International plans to develop?

Certainly, the one involving social and specialist building industry (such as schools, hospitals, universities, government offices), in which we can pass and use our experience in project management and in project financing.

Mr Furlan, how do you envisage the future of NET?

An engineering Group of companies capable of becoming a global player in the European market and worldwide.



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