



## **i.lab, Italcementi Group new Research & Innovation Center wins the European GreenBuilding Award 2010**

**The European Commission gives recognition to the energy efficiency of the building designed by Richard Meier and built with environmentally friendly, high-performance materials**

**Bergamo, May 6, 2010** – The European Commission's **European GreenBuilding Award 2010** was given to Italcementi and specifically to ITCLab, i.e. the project set out to build **i.lab**, the new Research Centre of Italcementi Group that is currently under construction in the area of the Kilometro Rosso Science & Technology Park, on the outskirts of Bergamo. **i.lab** was recognised as the best new building in Italy for energy efficiency in the "Best New Building" category.

The GreenBuilding Programme was initiated in 2004 by the European Commission within the framework of the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme run by the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI). The GreenBuilding programme aims at encouraging energy efficiency and expanding the integration of renewable energies in non-residential buildings. The European GreenBuilding Award is part of this programme.

The new Italcementi Group Research Centre, designed by American architect **Richard Meier**, covers a surface area of 11,000 m<sup>2</sup>, of which 7,500 m<sup>2</sup> is laboratory space, and aims to meet even the most stringent requirements in terms of energy saving and design innovation quality. Alternative energy sources and innovative, sustainable materials have been widely used. The installation of photovoltaic panels capable to generate over 54,560 kWh a year, for a total saving of 12.7 metric tons of fossil fuels, together with solar panels will allow cutting consumption of conventional energies and thus emissions of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. A further contribution to CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction will come from the geothermal power plant that exploits the heat source stored in the soil and subsoil.

«The award given to *i.lab* recognises the excellent energy performance of this building – explained **Lorenzo Pagliano**, Director of eERG, the research team with the Politecnico di Milano's Energy Department standing as the point of reference for the GreenBuilding Programme in Italy -. *Italcementi's Research Centre will be in a position to cut its energy consumption levels by up to 60 per cent compared to the statutory requirement currently in force, and this thanks to the methods and materials with which the building's envelope has been built and to the use of renewable energy sources. Another very interesting aspect is that **i.lab** is at the same time a low-energy and an artistic building featuring high-quality architectural elements*».

The innovative and sustainable materials used for building the centre included also recycled aggregates to make high performance concrete.

In particular, two types of concretes were set up, respectively containing steel processing by-products and construction & demolition waste as a partial replacement for natural aggregates.

The **i.lab** will be coated with the TX Active® 'smog-eating' cement by Italcementi, the same product that architect Meier had formerly used for the Jubilee Church in Rome and that is currently being used for new buildings as well as in a number of urban projects on account of its validated depolluting and self-cleaning properties.

The Centre, which is set to house the activities of over a hundred Italcementi Group researchers and employees daily engaged in the development of innovative construction materials, will be operational between late 2010 and early 2011.

**ITALCEMENTI GROUP ON THE INTERNET: [www.italcementigroup.com](http://www.italcementigroup.com)**

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**Italcementi Group** is the fifth largest cement producer in the world. The Group companies combine the expertise, know how and cultures of 22 countries in 4 Continents, boasting an industrial network of 63 cement plants, 13 grinding centres, 5 terminals, 614 concrete batching units and 125 aggregates quarries. In 2008 Italcementi Group had sales amounting to almost 6 billion Euro.

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