



# SIXTY YEARS OF STEEL STRUCTURES

Cimolai, the multi-million-euro family run steel construction company, is located in Pordenone, 63 kilometres from Venice. Ümit Hussein spoke to its president, Luigi Cimolai, son of its founder, Armando Cimolai.







**“MY** father, after years of working as a simple smith, started the business in 1949,” Mr Cimolai told me. In the beginning he and his wife produced steel gates and windows, but, with time, began to construct industrial buildings. In the 1960s the company expanded to building bridges and complex civil buildings, before finally branching out, in 1973, into the defence sector, where it built blast-proof enclosures in military air bases for the protection of aircraft, ammunition and missile depots. Today Cimolai employs a total of 700 staff and its annual turnover in 2009 was €285 million

When I asked him if he could pinpoint one particular moment or event in the company's history which he regards as instrumental in changing its destiny, Mr Cimolai replied that, until 1976, the company operated exclusively in Italy. The signing of a large defence contract in that year for the construction of enclosures in military airbases marked its expansion beyond national territory and the opportunity to assert its presence in the UK, Germany, France, the Middle East and Turkey. 1976 was also the point which marked Cimolai's expansion into new sectors. Today, however, owing to the fact that there are “few conflicts”, at least in the coun- >



tries that house Cimolai's markets, construction in the defence sector has diminished. Nowadays the bulk of the company's revenue comes from the construction of bridges, stadiums and civil buildings.

#### Major projects

Cimolai is currently engaged in a large number of prestigious projects, including the US Dallas Santiago Calatrava bridge project that has been underway since May 2010. This \$117 million six lane bridge will be suspended 400 feet in the air, supported by 58 steel cables. Cimolai also has a 126,000m<sup>2</sup> factory in Venezuela, which it purchased in

2007, as well as markets in the Middle East (Qatar and Abu Dhabi), France, Mexico, the Ukraine (Chernobyl) and Poland, where it is currently building a stadium in Warsaw with completion planned for 2011. Mr Cimolai told me that his next targeting point is the Brazilian market, where he would like to build stadiums.

Competition in this sector is, of course, fierce, Mr Cimolai informs me. “Our most effective means of combating it is by always being in the vanguard. This means providing first-class, innovative engineering ideas, products that are always at the forefront, both in terms of technology and of

quality, and delivering on time.” The company holds several quality control qualifications, including the ISO 9001: / UNI EN ISO 9001: 2000 for design, fabrication and erection of steel structures. As a result of this forward-thinking philosophy Cimolai ranks at the top of its sector in Italy and is amongst the top five in Europe.

Another of the reasons for its success is the high priority it gives to research and development. Cimolai invests 1.5 per cent of its annual turnover in research, with most of it geared towards engineering. “We want our designs to be in the vanguard,” asserts Mr Cimolai, which is why >



**Savim** it is company leader in the field of **the production of industrial painting plants**. Our center is found in province of **Verona**.

The activity of **Savim** comprises the planning and the production of:

- painting oven booths
- powder and liquid coating plants
- washing and pretreatment plants
- static ovens
- automatic painting plants for sheets and profiles
- open space painting plants

**To be a partner** and not only a supplier has been the main objective towards our customers. This mentality has made us to together grow to many our customers, some of they become to you **leader in national and world-wide field**. That has tax the **improvement of our technical and logistic structure** with the obtaining of **certification ISO 9001**.

Whenever you are in need of a reliable painting machine you'll find **SAVIM is YOUR TECHNOLOGICAL PARTNER**.



INDUSTRIAL PAINTING PLANTS



SAVIM Europe srl Via Venezia, 2 - 37024 Arbizzano - Verona - Italy - Tel. 0039 045 7514099 - 7514188  
Fax 0039 045 7514205 - [www.savim-europe.com](http://www.savim-europe.com) - [info@savim-europe.com](mailto:info@savim-europe.com)



Cimolai pays such scrupulous attention to assembly and structure. Most importantly, every job is different and needs to be studied individually. "We concentrate on the choices open to us, in addition to all our other research."

#### Crowning achievement

Cimolai has received extensive recognition for its work, having won ECCS (European Convention for Constructional Steelworks) awards for several of its projects, for example, in 2001, for its du Chavanon Viaduct, in 2005, for its Athens Olympic Stadium and, most recently, in 2010, it won the ECCS award for Steel Bridges for the Ravine Fontaine Viaduct in Réunion.

While there is no shortage of projects that Cimolai can be proud of, when asked to name his greatest source of pride from the past five years, Mr Cimolai selected the 95,000 capacity football stadium in Johannesburg, built for the 2010 World Cup. It is designed to ensure that even spectators in the highest tiers get unimpeded views and it includes facilities such as a restaurant seating 300, four television studios for live broadcasts and a football museum.

#### Health and safety and the environment

In line with expectations of such a high profile company, Cimolai takes its commitment to the health and safety of its employees and the environment extremely seriously. It complies with all the European safety criteria, as well as all the quality standards. Of its three factories in Italy, one has already had photovoltaic panels installed in order to

reduce electricity consumption, and there are plans for the other two to follow suit.

It is clear that in the 61 years since it was founded Cimolai has stayed abreast of technological advancement and development and can be upheld as a model 21st century company. □

[www.cimolai.com](http://www.cimolai.com)

