

PRESS NOTE

WEBUILD: GIANT CUTTING HEAD OF TBM STEFANIA THAT EXCAVATED THE M4 IN MILAN NOW AT MUSEO NAZIONALE SCIENZA E TECNOLOGIA

EXCEPTIONAL OVERNIGHT TRANSPORT FOR TBM FEATURED IN WEBUILD TRIENNALE EXHIBITION

Milan, Oct. 31, 2023 – The TBM Stefania, one of the six mechanical excavating machines that worked on the tunnels of Milan's M4 metro line, built by the Webuild Group, after captivating the public for more than six months at the entrance to the Milan Triennale, has set off again. In fact, the giant cutting head has found a new "home" at the "Leonardo da Vinci" National Museum of Science and Technology (*Museo Nazionale Scienza e Tecnologia*) in Milan, tonight, where it will be displayed as an example of made-in-Italy engineering excellence. Yesterday evening, the municipal police escorted for two hours the exceptional transport composed of a convoy of two vehicles for the head and the saddle.

The "mechanical mole," or rather its cutting head, which alone has a diameter of 6.7 meters and weighs 58 tons, was the big star of the exhibition "*Building the Future. Infrastructure and Benefits for People and Territories*" organized by Webuild at Milan's *Triennale* last March. The exhibition, visited by thousands of people, reserved a special place to the contribution of TBMs in the construction of Milan's metro.

Stefania stands as a symbol for all TBMs currently working for the Webuild Group in our construction sites abroad and in Italy. Over 200 TBMs worked 24/7 non-stop for our Group since it was founded, completing 1,500 kilometers of tunnels in 50 years: the equivalent of one large underground tunnel linking Milan to Copenhagen.

The museum's destination was chosen precisely because of its strong connection to the world of technological and industrial development, told through stories of people, inventions, research, discoveries, and business realities that have helped transform society over the past two centuries, with particular reference to Italy. The TBM thus has now become part of its collections, a symbol of progress in the transportation and innovation sector that is transforming the mobility concept in Italian cities.

Once at its destination, the TBM head will be placed in the gardens, next to the Railway Pavilion on a special concrete base on which the steel structure supporting it has been placed. From here, all Museum visitors will be able to admire it.

TBMs are large mechanical moles that do not just excavate underground. They do so much more, like simultaneously fixing the tunnel lining, enabling the complete mechanization of tunnel excavation and construction. The largest of these giant complex machines reach almost 120 meters in length and 19 meters in diameter. The cutting head alone, like the one exhibited in Milan, can weigh between 400 and 500 tons. Each TBM needs a team of about 80 people to operate, who typically work eight-hour shifts to ensure the best efficiency and forward speed.

The overall route of the M4 will connect Milan from east to west, passing through the historic center and joining the two terminuses, Linate, and San Cristoforo, for a total length of 15 kilometers. The new line will allow this distance to be covered in only 30 minutes, crossing 21 stations. Milan with this metro line will become one of Europe's most accessible cities, its airport connecting to San Babila station in just over 12 minutes. Global projects with large TBMs currently in operation include the Snowy 2.0 hydroelectric project in Australia, where Webuild is deploying one of the most technologically advanced TBMs today, the Grand Paris Express line 16 in France, and the Naples-Bari high-speed rail line in Italy.

Webuild is a global leader in the design and construction of large, complex projects in the sectors of sustainable mobility (rail, metro, bridges, roads, ports), hydropower (dams, power plants), water (treatment and desalination plants, wastewater management, irrigation dams) and green buildings (civil and industrial buildings, airports, stadiums, hospitals). It supports clients in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established by the United Nations. The recognised leader in infrastructure for the water sector, it operates in 50 countries. It has 85,000 direct and indirect employees from 100 nationalities, and a supply chain of more than 17,500 businesses. In its 117 years of applied engineering on more than 3,200 projects, the Group has built 14,118 kilometres of rail and metro lines, 82,509 kilometres of roads and highways, 1,018 kilometres of bridges and viaducts, 3,396 kilometres of tunnels, and 313 dams and hydropower plants. Projects include the Genoa San Giorgio Bridge, the second Panama Canal, the Lake Mead Third Intake hydraulic project near Las Vegas in the United States, the Airport Line in Perth, Australia and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center in Athens. Projects under construction include the Brenner Base Tunnel, Line 4 of the Milan metro system, the Terzo Valico dei Giovi-Nodo di Genova in Italy, and the North East Link of Melbourne in Australia. As of June 30, 2023, the Group had total orders worth €61 billion, with more than 90% of the Group's construction backlog related to projects linked to the advancement of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Webuild, subject to the direction and coordination of Salini Costruttori S.p.A., is headquartered in Italy and is listed on the Milan stock exchange (WBD; WBD.MI; WBD:IM). Since 2021, it is member of the MIB ESG, the index of Italian companies with the best ESG practices.

[More information at www.webuildgroup.com](http://www.webuildgroup.com)



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