



## Launch of the TAF (High Occupancy Train) designed by Pininfarina

Monday, 27 March 2000

Double-decker, 470 seats, air conditioning

At Porta Nuova Station in Turin William Casoni, Director of Regional Transport, and Giancarlo Laguzzi, the State Railway's Regional Transport Chief, introduced the Press to Italy's first TAF, the new high occupancy train.

The first of ten cutting-edge additions to Piedmont's regional commuter train fleet, the TAF is a high density double-decker conceived for mass transport on short and medium-length journeys in big metropolitan areas.

TAF project is a joint effort by Breda Costruzioni Ferroviarie, Ansaldo and Firema Trasporti, with Pininfarina responsible for the design of the bodywork and the carriage interiors. Pininfarina also played an active part in the product engineering. The styling process involved the development of hand-crafted and computer renderings, physical models of the bodywork and carriage interior, as well as research into technologies and materials and functional mock-ups to assess technical and ergonomic aspects.

Pininfarina turned to that great railway stereotype, the steam locomotive, for inspiration designing a front that recalls the lenticular shape of the traditional shield on the glorious steam locomotives of the past.

The train is conceived as a sort of blunted parallelepiped along which the livery marks out the various functional areas: driver's cab, traction module and carriages. At the back of the train, a tilting roundish line adds dynamism while eliminating any hint of the heaviness that might otherwise have been created by the high-roof shape of the vehicle. Inside the carriages, the high quality trim has an extremely innovative look especially when compared to today's railway industry standard.

The carefully designed shape, efficient use of available space and harmonious decor create a carriage environment that is both restrained and welcoming.