



The Portuguese Automobile Engineering Centre founded with the advice of Pininfarina

Turin – Paolo Pininfarina and the Portuguese Minister of Economy and Innovation, Manuel Pinho, will inaugurate during the course of today CEIIA (Centro para a Excelência e Inovação na Indústria Automóvel), an engineering centre ordered by the Portuguese government and funded by the EU, at Moreira da Maia, 10 km from Porto. The Pininfarina Group acted as consultants for the establishment of this new facility.

CEIIA will conceive, promote and carry out engineering and product development operations for the Portuguese automotive and aircraft industry based on R & D and the transfer of technology through realisation of the full value of its human resources. "The initiative", says Paolo Pininfarina, member of the Board of the Pininfarina Group, "is designed to promote the skills and capabilities of Portuguese firms in the engineering and product development fields by creating the conditions for their participation in complete programmes comprising conception and production, and the transfer of know-how to local enterprises".

Pininfarina became involved in the CEIIA project in February 2001 when a Memorandum of Understanding with the Portuguese Government was signed for the provision by the Group's Special Projects Division at Cambiano, near Turin, of consultancy services across the board: from definition of the Centre's business model and strategy to active participation in the selection of its staff, from product and process development to corporate organisation, from quality and business continuity procedures to the training of human resources, from training on the job on a special vehicle to understanding CAD, CAE and PDM methods, reverse engineering, definition of surfaces and homologation and legislation, with the features associated with experimentation. The programme also envisaged the development and possible production of a niche vehicle with innovative and modular contents for the Portuguese market.

CEIIA's current business development activities comprise: Engineering and virtual design; CAE; Reverse Engineering; Workshop with rapid prototyping; Construction of prototypes and short production run components; Composites; Silicone dies.

"CEIIA", says Paolo Pininfarina by way of conclusion, "will play a central role in the panorama of Portuguese industry by acting as a catalyst for the formation of significant alliances between the universities and research centres".