

Cattani technology on board the Shuttle.

In the spring of 1993, Mr. Corsini, a manager at Ferrari Engineering, talked to us about the possibility of building a compressor to be installed on board the Shuttle spaceship. I was surprised, frankly I could not understand why they had come to us. I didn't think our company was up to the task: what would have happened if the compressor, for any reason, caused problems? Mr. Corsini explained that everything would have been under the control of European space agencies and of the N.A.S.A.. We just had to prepare our technological proposal. The space agencies would have evaluated it, taking also into account the reliability of the company. Evidently we were found to be suitable, as **the E.S.A. (European Space Agency) appointed Cattani to build the compressor.**

We were asked to produce a miniature compressor, which was to be stored in a limited space of a few centimetres, could not weigh more than 250 grams and needed to keep a liquid at a pressure of 30 bar.

After a few launches were completed, they informed us that the results had been achieved.

I thought I was dreaming!

Pressurization of the "Pendolino" high-speed train

This adventure was followed by many more, we will mention one as an example: **the pressurization of the cars of what was then called "Pendolino", later named "Eurostar"** and considered the most beautiful train in the world. It was one of our most impressive projects, considering also that tenders were put in by major national and international companies.

I like to recall these events, which may be partly due to coincidence and luck, but also to the fact that, thanks to our research work, we were ready to take up the challenge.

Ecologically sustainable production

Today we cannot do without research, it will have to guide us in the future as well, and not only in terms of technological advancement, but also with respect to ecologically sustainable and low-consumption production.

Up to thirty years ago our planet supplied to us all the raw materials (copper, iron, aluminium) and energy (gas and oil) we needed to reach our current state of wellbeing.

Thirty years ago our consumption of raw materials and energy exceeded our planet's ability to produce them. If we continue like this, our grandchildren will no longer be able to count on these free materials, only research can save humankind from deprivation.

Our contribution

Our research in the dental field has brought important results: **electronics and specific programmes have allowed us to enhance the professional performance of our aspirators** and to turn them into ecologically sustainable, energy-saving machines. We trust we have made an interesting contribution to the dental profession with respect for environmental sustainability.



Augusto Cattani

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