

Fraste's 60th anniversary

This year marks 60 years since the Italian drill rig manufacturer Fraste Spa was founded. Here, Elena Fracca, from the company's Commercial Department, tells *GDI* about the history of the business



The Beginning 1964 ...

When the first Fraste workshop opened in 1964 the company was a pioneer of hydraulic systems on drilling rigs

Benito Fracca, the current president of Fraste Spa, established his own company in 1964, but the story of the business began many years earlier in a very small village in the Verona province of the southern countryside named Maccaccari.

Before WWII, Benito Fracca's father was the owner of a small artisanal forge in the village of Maccaccari, and, like any good father, he taught his trade to his four sons, of whom Benito was the youngest. He kept them at work with him and tried to transmit all his experience and knowledge to them.

MODERN TIMES

Times became "modern times", and after WWII, the oldest son, Leonida, started his own mechanical workshop with the construction of oleodynamic excavators. He was joined in this new venture by his youngest sibling, Benito, who inherited his understanding of mechanics and hydraulics and made it his own specialism.

When Benito was 26, he decided it was time to walk alone, and he started thinking about a new company, a new company that would be his very own.

He found a partner, a young boy like him who was also a mechanic,

and they embarked together on a new adventure in mechanical construction. Together, they established the company now known as Fraste. The name Fraste is taken from the conjunction of the boys' names, Fracca and Stefanini, their two family names. The starting point for Fraste was familiar, too, as it was the little family workshop in Maccaccari.

They were both young, strong, capable and willing to work very hard to achieve their goal. They began with the construction of some small agricultural machinery, with hydraulic operation – when hydraulics was still a very "unknown world".

DIGGING DEEP

After some time in operation time, they were asked by a common friend to find something to dig the earth "deep enough" to find water for irrigation and drinking water for the houses... and that was the beginning of the manufacturing of drilling rigs for water wells that Fraste is so well-known for today.

Sometimes life is strange, but everyone is free to dream about what his future should be. Benito was just dreaming about a special mechanical workshop, and so it happened. In 1964, the company Fraste was officially registered in the Verona Chamber of Commerce, where it is still a member today.

At that time, in 1964, the drilling field was still very traditional and mainly involved with mechanical transmissions. However, using hydraulics on its drilling units, Fraste was undoubtedly among the Italian pioneers of modern drilling techniques.

ACQUIRING KNOWLEDGE

Benito started to go deeper inside the "Drilling Universe" and sought further information about it from a

very important source in Italy: the library of Piacenza University.

Piacenza is still today the 'Italian Texas' for the country's oil and drilling sectors, but in the past, it was really the only place to learn about these matters because it was in that area that the first Italian oil drilling and research was done.

In that library, there were many books and documentation about the American drilling rigs and drilling systems, and Benito learned as much as he could from these specialist sources.

After completing that first drilling rig for his friend, Benito made his second and third ones and then relocated the Fraste workshop to Nogara in 1967. At that time, drilling was still a relatively "small world", and news of Fraste rigs quickly spread through the industry, opening the French market to Fraste rigs. From there, other European countries quickly followed, and so did orders from countries overseas and worldwide, and that widespread coverage continues today.

FAMILY BUSINESS

Today, Fraste is still a family-owned company (Benito is no longer in partnership with his historical partner). Benito is the president, and the management is entirely made up of the children of Benito and his wife Laura: Serena and Vittorio, who have inherited the enthusiasm and the passion of their parents and made the generational shift that has taken an additional improvement of the company.

The above simply explains that the family is the structural base of the company, where the essential values are respect for people, honesty, seriousness, and professionalism, which are

"Fraste was undoubtedly among the Italian pioneers of modern drilling techniques"

values that the family passes on to future generations.

That consideration of values and knowledge of its origins informs the present-day operations. It can be seen in the industrial reality that underlines the continuous growth, and that dedicates that a lot of the company's energies are put into research and development programmes to ensure the supply of high quality, fresh-tech drilling rigs for many different purposes and users, as Fraste as a business is very aware of the demands coming from the drilling industry, without losing of sight the respect of individual customers and the wider environment.

Speaking about the environment, the present Fraste factory is a modern and certified operation, and its buildings, infrastructures, systems and plants have been designed with maximum care to create an eco-friendly, low carbon footprint production facility; all the

necessary foresight has been adopted to finally obtain a place where the manufacturing industry, people and the environment can live in harmony.

Experience, quality, professionalism, performance, reliability, low maintenance systems and high customer care are the main features included in each Fraste unit, of which Fraste is very proud.

The current production includes many high-quality drilling machines and services in many models and versions with different sizes, performances and drilling methods to face the great demand of the modern drilling industry, whether that be water wells, geothermal drilling, foundations, geotechnical drilling or mineral exploration.

The whole Fraste team is made up of dynamic, open-minded people, and they all have a unique focus: the "Global Quality Concept" that involves every stage of the manufacturing process up to



the final user, keeping in mind that the human factor has always to be the propelling heart of the matter.

Today, Fraste boasts an international network of dealers worldwide; business is continuously expanding, especially in foreign markets, testifying how dedication to ideals can lead to great success.

In six decades of activity, Fraste has shown how much can be realised when someone believes in his ideals, works with dedication and transmits his experience and know-how. ♥

Today, the Fraste product range has expanded beyond water wells and now includes units like the Mito 10 for the installation of micro piles, tie bars, and reinforced columns by jet grouting technique

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