

Fraste: 60 years innovating

A 2024 snapshot of the Fraste workshop.



“The Manipulator excels in its category, ensuring expedited and safe operations while substantially lowering the risk during rod handling.”

Fraste's
Cristiano Marchioro

In the verdant plains of Italy's Veneto region, where the whispers of antiquity blend with the buzz of contemporary industry, sits the town of Nogara. Here, in a place where heritage sites such as the Chapel of St. Peter date back to the 9th century, the timeless Italian spirit of preserving the old while welcoming the new thrives. It is against this historic backdrop, amidst the renowned architectural wonders and the vibrant hum of the Coca-Cola HBC plant, one of Europe's most expansive, that Fraste, an esteemed rig OEM and ADIA member supplier, has taken root.

January 2024 marked a milestone for Fraste as the company celebrated 60 years of innovative prowess, an anniversary that not only honours its historic beginnings but also its progressive outlook. The MX Series, a product of Fraste's rich heritage of craftsmanship and innovation, is a perfect embodiment of this ethos. These drilling rigs, hailing from the

legacy of Nogara's historical and industrial strength, represent more than mere machinery; they stand as luminaries of innovation on the global drilling stage.

Armed with trailblazing systems like the 'Manipulator', an automatic rod handling mechanism, and the advanced 'autonomous recovery system', the MX Series enhances operational efficiency and safety while conscientiously addressing ecological concerns. Fraste's unwavering commitment to excellence ensures that as the drilling industry evolves, the MX Series is ever prepared to tackle forthcoming challenges with steadfast quality and innovation.

The MX Series' integration into daily drilling operations is a testament to Fraste's dedication to advancement, yielding real-world benefits. Since its inception in 1992, the 'Manipulator' has been celebrated for its hydraulic chuck, typifying Fraste's unique blend of safety and efficiency by enabling swift, secure rod handling and mitigating the risks of manual labor.



2024 Fraste's current life in the workshop.

1964: Fraste's humble beginnings in the town of Nogara in Italy's Veneto region.

1964: Construction of Fraste's first factory.



Cristiano Marchioro of Fraste confirms, "The Manipulator is a leader in its class, guaranteeing faster and safer operations while significantly lowering the risk during rod handling. This device isn't just about labour savings; it notably elevates safety by minimising the need for direct interaction with potentially dangerous equipment."

Further strides toward operational excellence within the MX Series are evidenced by the GT ROBOT, the newest model achieving full autonomy in the extraction of drill pipes and casings. Operated by precise software, it lessens manual intervention, thereby reducing human error. "It's completely software-driven, which eliminates mistakes," Cristiano



1967: Fraste's new home in Nogara.

1979 was time for expansion at Fraste.



explained to Australasian Drilling, highlighting the system's effectiveness in decreasing the risks associated with repetitive tasks, a significant safety focus in drilling operations.

Remote control revolution

The implementation of comprehensive radio remote control, enabling all drilling operations and rod handling to be conducted safely at a distance, represents another leap forward. "Since we introduced radio remote control in Australia in 2006, we've consistently pursued innovation," says Cristiano.

The latest model includes a thorough remote-control panel featuring a large digital display, providing drillers the ability to monitor drilling parameters, log data, and communicate information wirelessly.

The versatility of the MX Series is foundational, adeptly supporting various drilling methods like wireline diamond coring, Down-The-Hole Hammer Reverse Circulation (DTHH RC), and air core. This flexibility is crucial for exploration projects, allowing for a swift and efficient transition between methods.

"Our high-performance rotary heads are engineered for fast and effortless switching, which is key in field operations," Cristiano emphasises.

Environmental considerations are intrinsic to the MX Series ethos. Outfitted with Stage 5 diesel engines, the rigs boast reduced fuel consumption and lower emissions.

"We are also set to offer electrically powered machines, reducing the ecological footprint of job sites," says Cristiano.



2013: Fraste worldwide.

The versatile Fraste MX Series rigs, customisable as true multipurpose rigs, come equipped with the renowned 'Manipulator' for swift and safe drill pipe handling and an automatic core barrel handler for effortless core barrel maneuvering.



“The GT ROBOT achieves full autonomy, driven by precise software, eliminating mistakes and minimising human error”

Fraste's
Cristiano Marchioro



A Fraste MX 300 in action. Fraste MX Series rigs are versatile enough to be configured for diamond coring, reverse circulation, and air core drilling, capable of operating from vertical to a 45° angle to meet diverse drilling requirements.

Fraste's integration of full radio remote control revolutionises drilling, enabling safe, distant operation and real-time data monitoring through an advanced digital panel.



Safety features

Foremost safety features, crucial for extreme condition operations, are integrated into the MX Series. "The 'safety cage' and the hands-free operations enabled by the Manipulator significantly increase the safety of our rigs," Cristiano remarks, underscoring the commitment to safeguarding drillers from occupational hazards.

The construction quality of the MX Series rigs is paramount, reflecting Fraste's allegiance to durability and dependability. "Our API Q1 certification extends beyond ISO 9001 standards, assuring that every material, component, and production phase meets the most stringent criteria," Cristiano states.

The flexibility in mounting options, whether on crawler carriers or trucks, caters to the diverse logistical needs of the mining industry, allowing for customisation to suit the

distinct requirements of each project.

Electrical rigs symbolise the future of mining exploration, and Fraste is at the vanguard of this transition. "We've already implemented electrification in some models across various sectors and are poised to introduce this innovation to the mining industry," Cristiano discloses, gesturing toward a horizon marked by sustainability and efficiency.



For more, Fraste invites you to visit www.fraste.com or their Youtube Channel.

About Fraste

The legacy of Fraste began in 1964 with Benito Fracca at the helm, marking a trajectory of innovation and growth within the drilling industry. Starting with mechanical constructions, Fraste swiftly pioneered the use of hydraulics in Italian drilling units. The opening of their first factory in Nogara near Verona in 1967 began a legacy of quality in the Italian drilling sector.

By 1978, Fraste expanded its premises and started participating in international fairs, laying the foundation for its foreign market penetration. The European market welcomed Fraste drill rigs between 1979 and 1984, climaxing with the company securing its first international tender in Bangladesh for 13 waterwell drilling units.

The 1980s ushered in further expansion and technological advances, with the launch of a line of small geotechnical/soil investigation drill rigs in 1985, which later became the Multidrill line. In 1990, a network of foreign distributors was established, bolstering construction and design technologies.

The introduction of the "Manipulator" in 1992 marked the first automatic drill pipe loading system, underscoring continuous innovation. The subsequent years were dedicated to catering to the burgeoning foreign market demand, bolstering Fraste's international reputation.

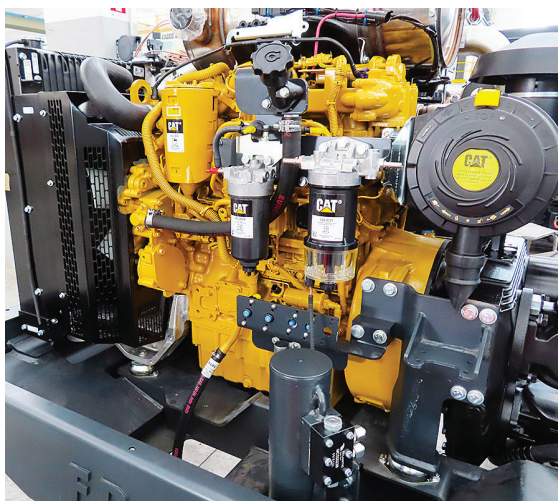
The new millennium saw Fraste prioritising safety and R&D, upholding lofty international manufacturing standards. The company heralded its 40th anniversary in 2004 with a new headquarters and the introduction of the "Mito" foundation drilling rig series. Between 2004 and 2008, Fraste broadened its global reach, unveiled the first drilling rig with a double rotary head, and initiated the "Multipurpose" exploration rigs line.

In 2008, a second manufacturing facility was constructed to boost production. The year 2011 saw the establishment of Fraste Australia, specialising in the sale of multipurpose exploration rigs. A groundbreaking approach was adopted with international dealers in 2012 to enhance their grasp of Fraste's offerings and ethos.

Commemorating its 60th anniversary in January 2024, Fraste remains anchored in its Nogara origins while eyeing the horizon, persistently innovating, and extending its worldwide influence in the drilling industry.

The saga of Fraste, inaugurated in the 1960s with a vision of innovation and expansion, has paved the way for its status as a beacon of industry in Nogara and the broader Veneto region. From pioneering hydraulic drilling rigs to branching into international markets and developing the forward-thinking MX Series, Fraste has continually epitomised the Italian art of melding tradition with avant-garde technology, a hallmark of the region's industrial fabric. This evolution from a local entity to an international industry titan epitomises how Fraste has become a symbol of the synthesis between tradition and cutting-edge innovation that characterises the region's industrial vista. ▲

JAMIE WADE



Fraste's FS 500 drilling rig features advanced radio remote controls, streamlining operations from a safe distance and boosting productivity.

Fraste Stage V diesel engine.

Fraste MD XL-E electric rig Green Deal.