

ITALIAN ENGINEERING IN GUYANA FOR THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST INFRASTRUCTURE POLITECNICA AS CONSTRUCTION MANAGER FOR THE NEW DEMERARA RIVER BRIDGE IN THE CAPITAL CITY OF GEORGETOWN

Modena, October 23, 2024 - It is the team of the Italian company Politecnica Building for Humans that is leading the work on **Guyana's** largest strategic infrastructure project: the **New Demerara River Bridge will reunite the two banks of the river of the same name that crosses and bisects the capital of Georgetown and the South American nation.** The new work, the construction of which is underway, will replace the outdated floating bridge, the Demerara Harbour Bridge (DHB), dating back to the 1970s, which connects the two banks of the river at the mouth and is now badly deteriorated.

With its total length of 2,798 metres and a central cable-stayed section with a large span, the new bridge over the Demerara River will become the country's largest transport infrastructure project and the capital's new landmark, fostering economic growth and connectivity.

The New Demerara Bridge will be a four-lane fixed structure with a large cable-stayed section over the Demerara River, with a roadway width of approximately 23.6 metres. It will be an imposing structure with a 570-metre central section, divided into three spans so that even large cargo vessels can navigate the river: the central, cable-stayed section, 300 m long at an elevation of 50 m above river level, and two side spans, each 135 m long.

The new infrastructure will be located approximately 460 metres south of the existing bridge and will accommodate two carriageways and a cycle lane in each direction.

The estimated service life of the bridge is 100 years, and the design meets LRFD-AASHTO standards, among others.

With an allocation of USD 260 million, it is the largest transport infrastructure project ever funded by the Guyana government. It is a high priority project for the local government because it will significantly improve transport connectivity and efficiency in the region, with a focus on environmental impact and integration with the urban fabric. This project will help improve mobility between the country's key regions, Demerara-Mahaica and Essequibo Islands-West Demerara. The aim is to support future economic development and to ensure a reliable and safe connection between the two sides of the river.

It will also improve the mobility of citizens, stimulating economic development and consolidating Georgetown as a key hub in Guyana's transport network.

The executive design and construction (design & build) contract was awarded to China Railway Construction (International) Limited (CRCCL) in 2022.

Politecnica has been appointed as 'FIDIC Engineer' by the Ministry of Public Works of Guyana: a 'Construction Manager' role for the Ministry of Public Works that ensures that all phases of the construction of the new bridge meet the highest standards in terms of quality, safety, and environmental sustainability. The role includes the review of the executive design prepared by the contractor, direct supervision of civil works and overall project management on behalf of the Ministry, ensuring that technical specifications, local regulations, and international standards are met during all phases of construction.

A strategic role, that of FIDIC Engineer, as it involves reviewing and approving the technical drawings provided by the construction company and verifying their compliance with current regulations. It monitors the quality of the materials used and the construction techniques, ensuring that every detail meets the technical requirements set out in the contract. In addition, Politecnica implements a rigorous quality control plan, including laboratory tests and field checks to ensure the perfect execution of the works. This includes the continuous monitoring of operations to minimize impacts on the river and surrounding ecosystem, as well as the management of any environmental safety risks.

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Politecnica's team consists of local and international professionals. A multidisciplinary team that works closely with the Ministry of Public Works to provide technical assistance at every stage. Completion is estimated in 2025.

"The completion of the new bridge will have a profound impact on the country," explains Enea Sermasi, Head of International Business Development in Politecnica. "We are proud to bring Italian commitment and talent to the realization of such a decisive work for the future of the country and its citizens. For over 10 years Politecnica has been working with governments in developing countries, and international donors, to bring its integrated expertise to the world. We are proud to represent at the highest level the Italian civil engineering and design capacity that is recognised worldwide. We are in fact carrying out the project management or design of over 10 projects outside Italy.



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Politecnica 'Building for Humans' is one of Italy's largest integrated design companies - architecture, engineering, and urban planning. Independent, it is headed by 47 partners, engineers, and architects, who have performed and signed assignments in over 60 countries worldwide, with an annual turnover of about 29 million euro (2023). It has four offices in Italy (Modena, Milan, Florence, Rome), operates internationally in 10 countries over 3 continents (Angola, Belize, Denmark, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Guyana, Kenya, Romania, Sierra Leone, Equatorial Guinea). Politecnica develops projects in the public and private sectors, in education and health, industry, services, infrastructure and – through its international division - has carried out civil and infrastructural works in several developing countries as part of projects financed by international donors.

With more than 300 people including designers, planners, engineers, consultants, and specialised technicians Politecnica integrates diverse skills - from plant engineering to town planning, from structural to architectural design - thanks to teamwork and complementary professionalism.

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Politecnica places the wellbeing of communities and people at the centre of its interventions, to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals - SDGs – in the UN 2030 Agenda, ratified by 193 countries worldwide. Politecnica is committed to building infrastructures for easier connection of peoples and communities, enabling exchanges and relationships, inclusive and safe public buildings promoting social interaction, technologically innovative healthcare facilities for patients, and buildings for education and teaching that foster sociability and interchange.

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