

COSMOS NORMAN FOSTER FOUNDATION & TECNO

A NEW COLLABORATION PRESENTED AT MAISON-OZENFANT IN PARIS

Madrid, 22 June 2023

The Norman Foster Foundation is pleased to present Cosmos, a new collaboration between Tecno and the Norman Foster Foundation which shows the first stage in development of a system for a wide range of applications.

The Cosmos table and furniture system, produced by Tecno, has evolved from a materials research programme by the Norman Foster Foundation. The first prototypes in carbon fibre were inspired by the frames of light weight racing cycles and developed with a materials consultant to the aeronautical industries. Working with FIDAMC, the Norman Foster Foundation team used state-of-the-art 3D modelling, structural software and five axis CNC machines. The outcome was a table of ultra slim profiles with a high strength-to-weight ratio. The elegantly pared down frame weighed only five kilograms but could support loads of up to 400 kilos. Since then, further research and studies by a joint team from the Foundation and Tecno has shown that a similar performance and appearance can be achieved from a composite of aluminium and steel components.

The first prototype to show this evolution is a rectangular table composed of nine elements. This is the basis for a later family of components which will allow the table spine to grow, creating clusters and linear grouping for the workspace. The second prototype is a round table, often diagrammed by Norman Foster as being symbolic of different disciplines coming together as a creative team. This is the spirit behind the Cosmos project and its first presentation.

Norman Foster, President of Norman Foster Foundation, Founder and Executive Chairman of Foster + Partners, stated: 'Cosmos explores the potential for state-of-the-art fabrication and materials to create an elegant and flexible skeleton system for the home and workplace'.

Giuliano Mosconi, Chairman of Tecno S.p.A., 'The collaboration with Norman began in the 1970s with Nomos, which is still one of our company's long sellers. By developing this new product, Tecno confirms its vision linked to experimentation and creativity while continuing to promote the values of design, excellence and innovation'.

The collaboration will be presented in an exclusive preview on June 22, 2023 at Maison-Ozenfant, designed by Le Corbusier (1922), Tecno's Parisian headquarters, to a select audience of journalists, architects, designers and specialists in the field. The developed Cosmos system will be launched in April 2024.

With the participation of:

- Norman Foster, President of Norman Foster Foundation, Founder and Executive Chairman of Foster + Partners
- Giuliano Mosconi, Chairman of Tecno S.p.A.
- Francesco Dal Co, Architectural Historian, University Lecturer and Editorial Curator.

Norman Foster Foundation

The Norman Foster Foundation promotes interdisciplinary thinking and research to help new generations anticipate the future. The first mission of the Norman Foster Foundation is to make visible the centrality of architecture, infrastructure, and urbanism for the betterment of society. To this end, the second mission is to encourage new thinking and research across traditional boundaries in order to help younger generations anticipate the challenges of future change. In particular, the foundation speaks to those professionals who are concerned with the environment: architects, engineers, designers, urbanists, civic leaders, planners, and artists. The foundation's educational initiatives are structured around research, workshops, fellowships and forums.

The Norman Foster Foundation operates from the United Kingdom, the United States and Spain with its headquarters based in Madrid.

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Tecno

Tecno has been involved in design since 1953, a name that reveals the origins of the company designing and producing technically advanced furnishing, partition and seating solutions for the workplace, community, hospitality and travel. Tecno has fine-tuned craftsmanship culture with industrial logistics, in-depth knowledge of materials with innovation, design with technology, working on every scale: from product collections to interior architecture realizations, boasting 47 industrial patents, completed projects in 45 countries and multiple awards. It has been in this business for seventy years, offering unique and distinctive products and solutions, which translate its lucid view of contemporary life. A leading company disseminating Italian Design all over the world, via its branches and thanks to a world-wide network of partners, always at the side of managers, architects and designers, but first of all alongside of people.

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