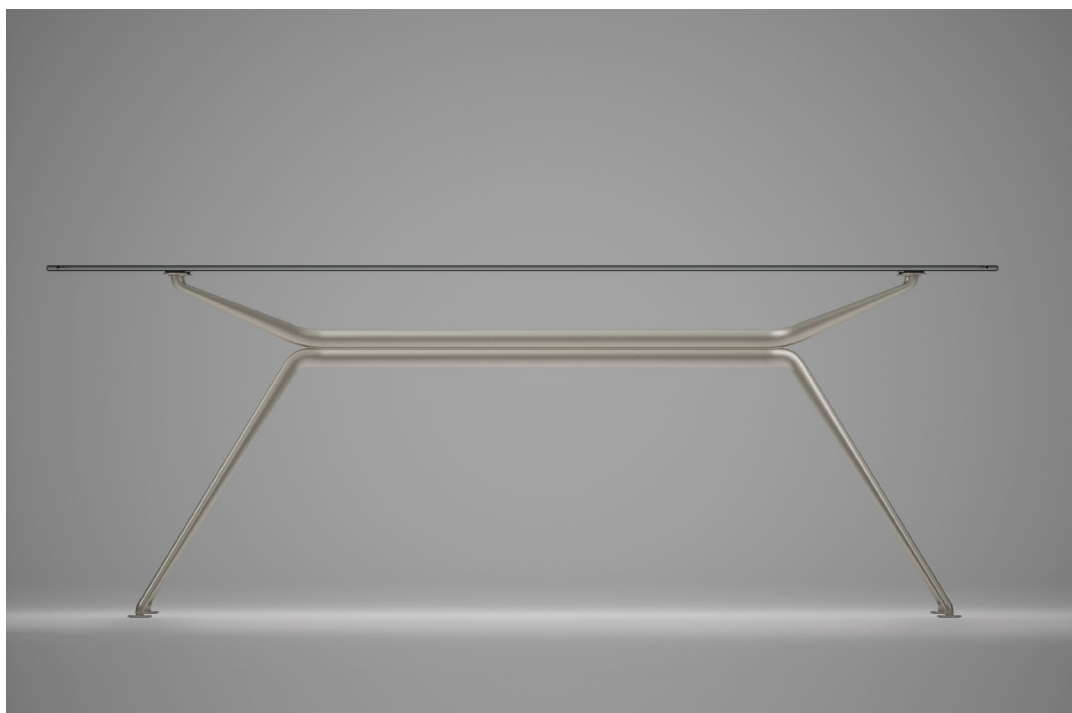


For Immediate Release

THE NORMAN FOSTER FOUNDATION AND TECNO PRESENT COSMOS AT MILAN DESIGN WEEK 2024



Madrid, 15 April 2024

The Norman Foster Foundation and Tecno presented today in Milan, during the Design Week, Cosmos, the Furniture System infinitely expanding in space.

The Cosmos Table and Furniture System, an initiative of the Design and Innovation Unit of the Norman Foster Foundation, has been created with the ambition of exploring the limits of materials in the field of furniture and product design. The Norman Foster Foundation has been advancing research on the design of this system since 2019, now produced in collaboration with Tecno.

Cosmos is a modular furniture system that opens up to endless connections and layouts: single desks, meeting tables, shared workstations and equipped bookcases, all freely configurable and combinable with one another while offering the possibility of including wiring, screens, extensions and lighting.

The design feature is the use of the least amount of material possible. For this purpose, an innovative structural concept has been developed: a slender, iconic and elegant solution accommodating all the needs of cross-functional environments which require a fluid use of the space, from executive environments, to campus and hotel settings, from libraries to lounges and public areas, to the home.

**Cosmos is Experimental.** Informed by materials research by the aviation industry and the racing frames of the cycling world, the aesthetics and structure have been refined through the use of state-of-the-art aluminium manufacturing technology and advanced 3D modelling software to achieve maximum efficiency of geometry and solidity with minimalist elegance.

**Cosmos is Slender.** The aesthetic of Cosmos grows out of the outstanding strength of the spine with its cluster of four ellipses that branch, like a tree into the legs and top supports. Following the maxim of 'doing more with less' the system is typified by the minimum number of components; each one of which is honed to its most slender profile.

**Cosmos is Modular.** Following the systems approach to design, Cosmos is a family of interchangeable components. These allow the spine to grow and double up, providing an instinctive range of variations. At the small scale the table is ideal for domestic or executive spaces, with its wider range of elements, which are easily added or removed. The system can be tuned for large scale installations in the workplace - from office and studios to high industry.

**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 workplace and the home.'

**Giuliano Mosconi**, Chairman of Tecno S.p.A. said, '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.'

### **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. This is at the heart of the Foundation's holistic approach to design and is ever more relevant as populations shift to cities. With the implications of climate change, robotics and artificial intelligence, sustainable design is not about fashion but about survival.

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

[www.normanfosterfoundation.org](http://www.normanfosterfoundation.org)

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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 settings. 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 realisations, boasting 47 industrial patents, completed projects in 45 countries and multiple awards. Since seventy years, it offers 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 people.

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### **Additional Information**

The concept started as part of a materials research programme by the Norman Foster Foundation, shortly after its public launch in Madrid in 2017. The inspiration to stretch the structural potential of metals and composites was the slender profile of road racing bicycle frames and the attenuated forms of high performance sailplanes. The programme explored the intersection of aeronautical engineering and material innovation in furniture and product design. The first exploration of a high strength to weight ratio structure was a skeletal framed table. A first prototype, crafted in steel, supported up to 400 kilograms with the structural components weighing only 20 kilograms.

The research programme continued in collaboration with an Airbus consultancy *Fundación para la Investigación, Desarrollo y Aplicación de Materiales Compuestos* (FIDAMC) and resulted in a carbon fibre version with less weight and similar slenderness for a comparable load bearing capacity.

It was at this point in its evolution that a visitor to the Foundation from Tecno in 2022 saw the prototype frame on display and expressed interest in it as a potential product. This was followed up on the basis that any proceeds from the product would contribute to the Foundation's educational programme for scholars and that it would not compromise the ongoing production and marketing of the Nomos table, also by Norman Foster with his practice Foster + Partners. The complementary nature of the product was acknowledged by naming it Cosmos.

The technical expertise of Tecno as a manufacturing company enabled the transition from a research project to a system that could be industrialised and democratised without compromising its elegant minimalism. Through a process of 3D modelling, structural software and 5-Axis CNC machining, the concept has been refined with the final version fabricated in recyclable aluminium. The end product retains the same slenderness, load bearing capacity and lightness of the first prototypes.

What started life as a domestic scaled table has evolved into a system of interchangeable components. These can create individual pieces – round and rectangular – as well as many configurations to satisfy a wide variety of needs. The design seamlessly incorporates shelving units, enhancing the system's utility and adaptability across different environments and uses.