



POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863



DANIELE ROCCHI

Vice Rector for Technology
Transfer and Corporate Relations
at the Politecnico di Milano

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Daniele Rocchi is Vice Rector for Technology Transfer and Corporate Relations at the Politecnico di Milano, where he is also a Full Professor of Applied Mechanics in the Department of Mechanical Engineering (DMEC).

Having graduated and earned a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the Politecnico, he has held numerous institutional positions that have helped develop his vision and management skills in the fields of research and education.

He previously served as member of the Scientific Board of the Wind Tunnel at the Politecnico di Milano and as Coordinator of the PhD Programme in Mechanical Engineering. He is currently Dean of the PhD School and Elected Member of the Academic Senate.

Internationally recognized in the field of wind engineering and train aerodynamics, his particular focus lies on the aeroelasticity of long-span bridges and the interaction of vehicles with crosswinds. Rocchi was also part of the CEN working group to define European standards on railway aerodynamics, and is currently involved in international working groups focused on defining standards in numerical modelling related to the aeroelastic response of long-span bridges.

He has contributed to over 160 publications, disseminating the results of numerous national and international projects, as well as research conducted with major industrial partners in his areas of expertise.



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Vision

“Challenges have to be faced and overcome together”. Amid today’s rapidly evolving technological, social and cultural changes, it is crucial for universities, corporations and public and private institutions to work together and join efforts to address present and future challenges.

The Politecnico di Milano has always played a crucial role in Italian and European development and growth, contributing to scientific progress through research and personal training, in constant synergy with the surrounding socioeconomic environment. If we consider the worldwide nature of the challenges of ongoing transitions (energy, digital, migration and mobility), it is increasingly crucial for universities and corporates to collaborate on education, research, technology transfer and entrepreneurship. Competitiveness can only be maintained or increased by sharing goals and strategies in the medium–long term, providing the required flexibility and promptly responding to the evolving framework.

One clear example of virtuous collaboration in transferring research results from university to corporations and personal training is the high percentage (more than 50%) of PhD students from the Politecnico di Milano who continue their careers in the private sector (one performance indicator monitored annually by the the university’s 2023-2025 Strategic Sustainability Plan is reserved for the PhD programme).

Research, industry and education also form the basis of the Wind Engineering course, which Rocchi currently teaches. In this course, the knowledge collected by the Politecnico di Milano research group in over thirty years of studies and in wind tunnel tests – often in joint collaboration with the most important international industrial partners – is transferred to students.

For Rocchi, another key asset in promoting the transfer of knowledge and expertise from a leading European technical university such as the Politecnico di Milano to society is support for entrepreneurship.



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As outlined in the Strategic Plan, this commitment is reflected in supporting start-ups and innovation initiatives, which will be hosted in the near future in the new Innovation District under the Goccia Project at the Bovisa Campus, starting with the identification and development of entrepreneurial skills among the entire university community, including students.



daniele.rocchi@polimi.it



[https://www.linkedin.com/in/
daniele-rocchi-69090650](https://www.linkedin.com/in/daniele-rocchi-69090650)