

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

# Europe

Contracts buoy optimism.

## Maspero Elevatori Handling VT Portion of UN European HQ



Maspero

Maspero Elevatori has been awarded a more-than-EUR2.8-million (US\$3.4-million) contract for the vertical-transportation (VT) portion of renovation of the historic Palais des Nations, the United Nations (UN) European headquarters (HQ) in Geneva, Switzerland, the Italian OEM announced in May. VT work is scheduled to start in October. The first step will be replacing doors and gears and installing new-

generation electrical panels to maximize safety and energy efficiency on 25 elevators. The first modernized lifts are due to be complete in the first quarter of 2022. Maspero is also designing 11 new lifts, with construction set to start in 2022 and installation by the end of 2023. All elevators will be connected to a monitoring system that sends data to a control room, allowing supervision, monitoring and management of access and movement to ensure safety and security. Cloud-based software and a series of sensors will monitor functioning, allowing automatic detection of faults and activating or deactivating access to certain floors, if necessary. Maspero Elevator CEO Andrea Maspero said this is a “fundamental function for the security of the HQ and diplomatic representations operating in or hosted by the Palais.”

After the NYC HQ, the 100,000-m<sup>2</sup> Palais des Nations, situated on 46 ha in Ariana Park overlooking Lake Geneva, is the UN’s most important international operations center. Built between 1929 and 1936, it is one of the busiest diplomatic centers in the world, with 34 conference rooms hosting approximately 12,000 meetings each year with more than 75,000 delegates and

100,000 visitors. Webuild-CMB-Italiana Construzioni joint venture is handling the renovation with a focus on protection of historical heritage, work safety and accessibility. Observing his company has collaborated previously with Webuild-CMB-Italiana, Andrea Maspero said:

*“We are very happy to be involved in this prestigious and articulated restructuring as it recognizes our competence in the construction of innovative systems. ... The most demanding challenge will be to maintain the functionality of the offices during all phases of the restructuring, which we will certainly be able to face thanks to great teamwork among all players involved.”*



Overlooking Lake Geneva, the Palais des Nations was constructed between 1929 and 1936; photo © figurniy.