

ACEA'S HISTORY

On **20 September 1909** a public referendum, called by the municipal Council, responded with a unanimous “yes” in favour of the municipalisation of Rome’s electricity services. A major step forward in the capital’s modernisation. **Thus, under the guidance of the mayor, Ernesto Nathan, and Technology councillor Giovanni Montemartini, the AEM (Municipal Electricity Company) was created.** In 1911 construction work began on the Montemartini, the first public electricity generating power plant which, approximately thirty years after the Porta Pia Breach, changed the image of Rome. Between 1915 and 1918 the *Aem* suffered a slowdown in operations, due to the call to arms of many employees; however, during the twenties it initiated a period of major transformations. In 1926, the company’s name was changed to *AEG* (Electrical Company for the Governorship of Rome), whilst in 1937, following the municipality’s assignment of the water network management, it became *AGEA* (Municipal Electricity and Water Company), the company which, three years later, would build the Peschiera Aqueduct, one of the largest in Europe.

After the second world war, with the formation of the Republic, the company changed its acronym yet again. This led to the birth of ***ACEA - Azienda Comunale Elettricità e Acque*** (Electricity and Water Municipal Utility), which during the post-war reconstruction phase expanded the Peschiera Aqueduct with a view to ensuring the capital’s water supply. During the Fifties and Sixties, Acea pursued the city’s urban evolution. In 1974, the municipality entrusted it with the reclamation of Rome’s 82 outer suburbs. Water and sewage networks were built, the installation began of sodium lamps, more luminous yet with lower consumption, and the Tor di Valle power plant was constructed to produce electricity and, using exhaust fumes, hot water for district heating.

At the beginning of the Eighties, the Campidoglio assigned to the company the sewage treatment plant network and public lighting. In 1989, whilst maintaining the same acronym, it took the new name of *Azienda Comunale Energia e Ambiente* (Municipal Energy and Environment Company) to highlight its greater focus on environmental issues and the sustainable development of local communities. In the 1990s, the public services regulatory framework underwent a profound modification, following which in 1999 Acea was admitted to listing on the Italian Stock Exchange, via the sale of a 49% equity stake on the part of the Rome Municipality. In the same year the company won international tenders pertaining to the water sector in some of the Latin American countries.

In 2001, thanks to the Bersani decree, Acea acquired the electricity distribution branch previously managed by Enel in Rome, comprising around 50% of the network. In 2002, the joint venture Acea-Electrabel was set up for the generation, trading and sale of electricity. It then complemented its management of the water network in 112 municipalities within the province of Rome and began acquiring interests in the water sector companies of other regions. **In 2006 it also entered the Environment sector** by acquiring the company Tad Energia e Ambiente, a growth strategy which would take Acea to treat up to 1.8 million tons of waste per year and become one of the most important operators in Central Italy.

Acea today is one of the largest Italian industrial groups, managing water services, electricity distribution, public and artistic lighting, electricity and gas sales, power generation from renewable sources, waste treatment and valorisation. It is the leading national water sector operator, serving around 10 million residents in six regions of Central and Southern Italy, in addition to 10 million inhabitants in South America.