Committee against Expansion of Ampugnano Airport - Siena



www.comitatoampugnano.it



Ampugnano airport is in Sovicille municipality, Siena Province, Tuscany, Italy, about 5 km from the town of Siena. It has a traffic of about 5 passengers per day and a runway 1400 m long. In the last ten years it has lost 14 million euro. The airport company was mainly public until last year with local government as the public shareholders and a bank controlled by a public foundation as the private shareholder (MPS Bank and MPS foundation).

The idea of expanding the airport is not new



In 2005 a study by experts suggested that the airport would always lose money.

schi di Siena,

Giuseppe Mus

la Repubblica

La pista sarà di guasi 4.000 metri. Obiettivo: il mercato del low cost e voli per dirigenti. Sfida a Pisa e in parte a Firenze



conil60% in mano ai privati, il 20%

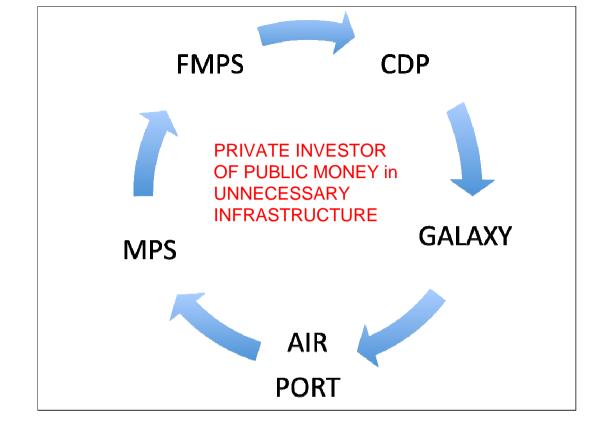
Completely out of the blue, in July 2007, an article appeared in La Repubblica. Ampugnano would become the biggest airport in Tuscany, with an investment of 400 million euro. There would be 4 million passengers per year and 4000 m of runway!

cietà di Ampugnano, compresi i

cializzato in porti e aeroporti. Ga-



The investor was GALAXY FUND of Luxembourg, which would become majority shareholder. One of the core investors in Galaxy is the Italian Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP). MPS Foundation owns a 3% share in CDP and the Chairman of MPS was also the Chairman of the CDP steering committee.



MPS bank is a shareholder in the airport; MPS foundation has a share in CDP and chaired its steering committee. CDP invested 100 million in Galaxy and Galaxy *invested* in Siena airport. Some of the money disappeared in strange contracts to a facilitator and a legal firm.

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INVESTMENT?
400 MILLION 80 MILLION? 20 MILLION?
ONLY 1 MILLION ACTUALLY PAID
PASSENGERS?
4 MILLION/YEAR? HALF A MILLION? ONLY 100,000?
CURRENTLY ONLY 2000/YEAR
RUNWAY?
3800 M? 2500 M? 1750 M? 1500M?
ACTUALLY 1398 M
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It is still not clear what is planned for our tiny airport. No business plan has been produced. A sort of project was made public in Sept 2007, though IL SOLE 24 ORE observed that the real numbers had been hidden so the local population would not panic. In this so-called project, the investment had been reduced from 400 million to 80 million and then 20 million. The traffic had been reduced from 4 million px/y to half a million and then only 100,000. The runway would no longer be 4000 m but only 1500.



An airport operates in deficit with less than a million passengers per year. So how is Galaxy intending to make the 15% it promised its investors?

Miss Galaxy spiega l'aeroporto "Da oggi tutti possono visionare il progetto: voglio il confronto"

Sonia Maggi

A - E' una donna l'artefice sviluppo dell'aeroporto di ugnano, e dunque di quel etto che divide l'opinione olica. Fa infuriare gli abitanti zona e una fetta di partiti ici, da una parte. Mentre dall' trova sponda e ottimismo nelituzioni e nella maggioranza. sarà miss Galaxy alla fine a are il contratto che farà prendefinitivamente il volo alla tura aeroportuale di Ampu o. Del resto se ne parla da nni. Sono state spese dozzine iliardi di vecchie lire per azare un decollo e per di più ro pubblico. Ora la sviluppo ortata di mano. Ma non tutti convinti della sua bontà. C'è zionismo, convinzione che il etto di Galaxy sia sovradimento rispetto a quanto propone ritorio. C'è diffidenza, paura gare a caro prezzo, in termini alità della vita, questo poten-



Miss Galaxy Corinne Namblard accanto al direttore operativo Valerio Bellamoli

riamento. B c'è anche la convinzione di un salto nel vuoto per un bocino d'utenzi niesistente ed un carico infrastrutturale che continua a penalizzare il resto della rete di comunicazione. Insomma, il contrasto è noto. Galaxy ha avaszato un progetto che la comunissione ha ritenuto idoneo. Comune di Sovicille e amministrazione provinciale hanno già approvato lo sviluppo di Ampugnano. Resta da firmare quel contratto e dare inizio ai lavori. 'Non sarà una forzatura - ammette Corinne Namblard, amministratore delegato di Galaxy, manager dal cipiglio de terminato, givinta a Siena ieri nel

primo pomeriggio insieme al direttore operativo della stessa societito, Valerio Bellamoli. L'ad di Galaxy, che ha sede a Parigi e che ne è anche il presidente, incontra i giornalisti prima di dedicarsi al lungo summi con associazioni di categoria, industriali e sindacati nelle sanze di piazza del Duomo. Si

capisce subito che miss Galaxy ha forza e carattere sufficienti per convincere sul suo progetto. Lo si deduce dalla premessa. "Questo piano l'ho sviluppato da sola - sot-tolinea - quando sono venuta a Siena sono rimasta impressionata dalla bellezza di questa territorio. E ho capito subito che lo sviluppo di questo aeroporto doveva essere assolutamente in sintonia con la qualità del paesaggio, anzi al suo servizio. Ho preso l'iniziativa, sempre da sola, di commissionare degli studi di fattibilità per misurare il potenziale più adatto a questa struttura. Noi non vogliamo realizzare un aeroporto grande come Los Angeles. La realtà aeroportuale è cambiata in questi ultimi anni. Le grandi strutture non servono più, c'è bisogno dei piccoli scali, strutture di nicchia. Obiettivi di qualità per un turismo di qualità, compatibile con il territorio". E per offrire ancora maggiore cre-dibilità aggiunge: "Sono specializzata sul modello pubblico-privato.

Ci lavoro da più di dieci vanto una buona esperie che in seno alla commissi ropea. Credo che queste si le credenziali importanti c to al servizio di Siena, in: tutta la mia esperienza". Insomma, l'impatto con Namblard è inatteso, and più ostici. Punta dritta sul to acuto di chi sa dove a parare e ce la mette tutta j giungere un obiettivo di cu lutamente convinta. "Ma farò senza concertazione. tenzione di confrontarmi e ti. Come mi è già successo sato, in molte altre situazi loghe. Sono pronta a dime come si arriva allo studio di lità. E da domani (oggi n sito dell'aeroporto trovere sto integrale del nostro p Verrà aperto un forum pe servazioni e i chiarimenti d dini". Chiunque può parte Invia il tuo comme corrsiena@corr.it

Il fondo Galaxy collabora con la Commissione europea Fa capo ad alcune delle principali istituzioni finanziarie come le Casse depositi e prestiti

Once Galaxy was in Siena, the airport shareholders realized they couldn't simply hand the airport over. There had to be a public competition. Of course, Galaxy was the only contender, the competition was a farce, and the Italian Ministry for Transport and the Treasury subsequently found many irregularities in the procedure. The privatization has not yet been approved by the Ministry.

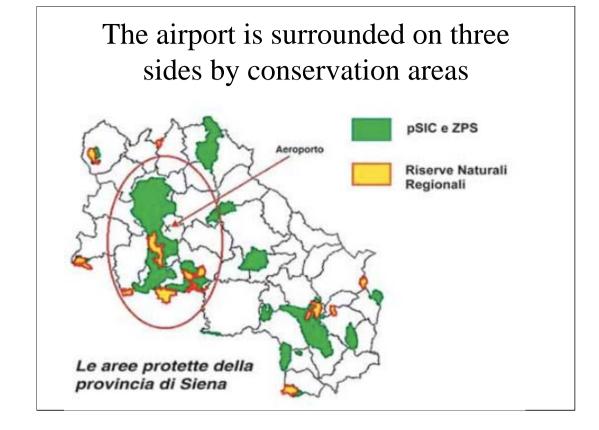
Who wants this?

The public shareholders: •Siena and Sovicille councils •Siena Province •Chamber of Commerce MPS bank [(Private shareholder) Monti-Riffeser press magnate [(COC) Local political and economic lobbies (hotels, PD, freemasons) Novartis? [(COC)

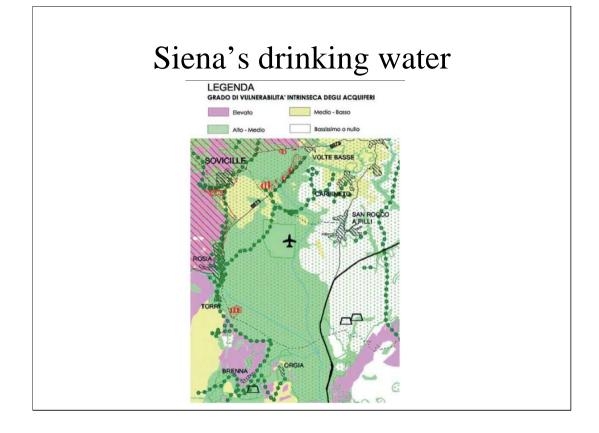
These are the forces that want airport expansion because it will bring prestige, GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT, and an end to ISOLATION! As you can see, our opponents are very rich and powerful. The local newspapers are puppets of this power group, and have done their best to make the committee look ridiculous or completely ignore it. LA NAZIONE ignored our demonstration attended by 4000 people! Instead they reported that a man fell out of an olive tree.



Expansion of the airport does not make sense economically: if the airport is kept small, as they now claim, it will be a financial disaster; if a big airport is made, it will be an environmental disaster.



This is the Province of Siena. The cross is the airport. The green areas are SITES OF COMMUNITY IMPORTANCE under the HABITATS directive. The yellow areas are Regional Nature Reserves.



The airport is in the recharge area of one of the biggest aquifers in Tuscany and surrounded by nine medieval towns and villages, Orgia, Brenna, Stigliano, Torri, Rosia, Sovicille, Volte Basse, Ampugnano, San Rocco. The southern corner of Siena can be seen in the top RH corner of the map. This map shows the vulnerability of ground water to pollution. Green means medium to high vulnerability, pink means very high vulnerability.



Expansion of the airport does not make sense from the point of view of transport. Siena is close to many other airports. Ampugnano is the red circle. Florence airport is only 80 km away, Pisa 114 km, Rome 250 km. Italy already has too many airports: officially there are 101 and 45 are open to commercial traffic. Only 21 have more than a million passengers per year. Only 5 can be reached by train! What Siena needs is simply train and bus connections!



Now for OUR CAMPAIGN



Our public meetings are attended by hundreds of people.



The committee has published two issues of its newspaper.



We plastered Siena and Sovicille with posters.



We organized cultural events: Luca Mercalli, ...



John Stewart ... WE took legal action against the privatization. We featured in the New York Times and the Herald Tribune



We organized a giant demonstration attended by 4000 people

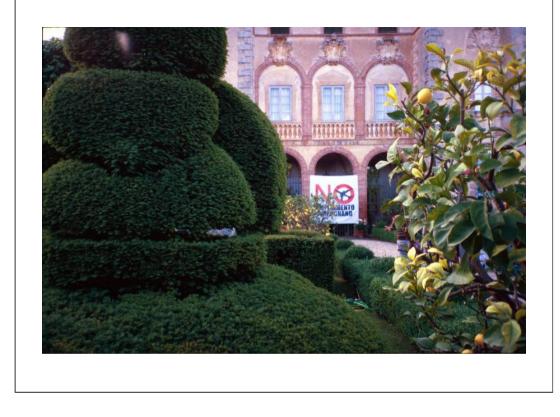




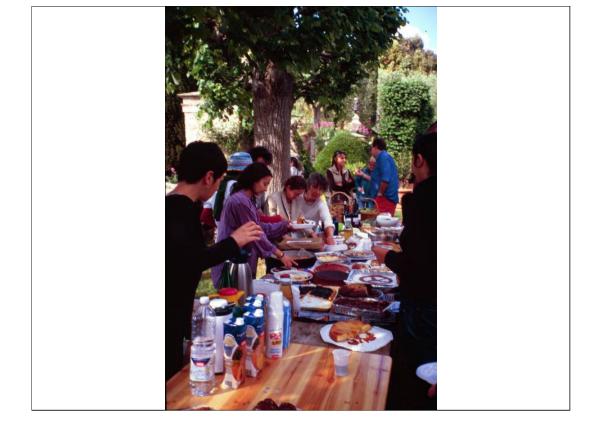
Another even bigger demonstration is planned in November. You are all invited!



We put pressure on the Democratic Party. We appeared on national television. We organized a protest outside the National Gallery in London.



We organized fund raising, handed out leaflets and manned banquettes,









With this poster we obtained the resignation of the CEO of the airport company. We pointed out that his salary was four times the maximum permitted by law. Later the **president** of the airport resigned too. He was a very important freemason.



[] We applied to the regional government for a participation procedure and were awarded S0,000 to discuss HOW to expand the airport, not WHETHER to expand it. So we refused the money.



A poster for an election campaign: DO NOT VOTE FOR PARTIES THAT WANT AIRPORT EXPANSION! We also stood for council elections and won33% of the votes.



HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

We are trying to pressure the Ministries and aviation authority NOT to approve the privatization. Galaxy's next step would be to obtain a 20-year aviation permit for the airport. Since Galaxy Fund closes in 2013, once it obtains this permit it will presumably sell its majority shareholding to another private company, and disappear. We know that if Galaxy doesn't obtain this permit by the end of next year, it will withdraw from the airport company. Of course we hope win our court cases. And we hope the public shareholders will realize their mistake! ... Thank you for your attention.