

From Romania to the Global Stage of International Infrastructure Projects

By securing the BSI Kitemark™ for BIM as a regional first, Leviatan Group is redefining what international clients can expect from infrastructure delivery in Romania and across Central and Eastern Europe.

| By Matias Godoy |

Founded in 2012 with the establishment of Leviatan Design as its first company, Leviatan Group has since evolved into an integrated architecture, engineering, and construction ecosystem capable of managing highly complex projects, across defense, health care, and public infrastructure.

Today, the group's trajectory has reached a defining moment with the achievement of a BSI Kitemark™ triple certification for Building Information Modeling (BIM) at the group level, covering both design and construction, as well as security-minded information management and positioning Leviatan among a very small circle of globally benchmarked delivery organizations.

● Building Through Crisis, Scaling Through Integration

Leviatan Group's foundations were laid during the global financial crisis, a period that forced discipline, resilience, and operational rigor from day one. Established when capital was scarce and market conditions unforgiving, the company learned to grow without external funding while maintaining long-term ambition.

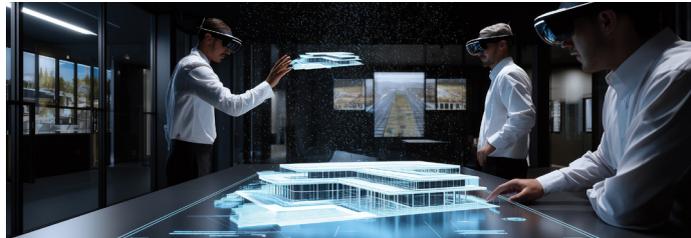
"We were born in the middle of the crisis, and that harsh period became the best entrepreneurial school," said founder and CEO Cătălin Podaru. "I started from scratch. I didn't raise money—I wanted to build something different."

Initially focused on architecture and engineering, the group quickly identified a structural weakness in the construction industry: the separation between design and construction. "Clients often want the lowest-cost design," Podaru said. "The real question was how to deliver better quality without simply asking them to pay more."

The answer was integration. By gradually expanding into construction and later into research and development, Leviatan built a group structure in which each company operates at the specialist level, while projects are delivered through a single, coordinated and integrated process. That approach has allowed the group to scale without losing control over quality, ultimately establishing Leviatan as Romania's market leader in architecture for the past two consecutive years.

● Delivering Where Complexity Is the Norm

Leviatan Group's credibility has been forged in environments where complexity, security, and compliance are non-negotiable. Defense infrastructure, in particular, has played a central role in the group's development, requiring alignment with national regulations, NATO standards, and strict delivery timelines.



"One of our strongest performances over the years has been in military infrastructure," Podaru said. "Not because we specialize only in defense, but because these projects test every part of the organization."

Among the group's flagship projects is the 71st Air Base at Câmpia Turzii, a NATO-compatible facility designed to support F-16 and F-35 operations, with a value exceeding 100 million euros and delivery achieved roughly 25 percent ahead of schedule. Additional projects include the Mihail Kogălniceanu Air Base, the largest NATO base in Southeast Europe, and the Borcea Air Base, the first European F-16 Training Center.

Similar delivery discipline has been applied to civilian infrastructure. In health care, Leviatan has been involved in the Cluj Regional Emergency Hospital project, the largest health care investment in Transylvania. "Hospitals are similar to military projects in one key way," Podaru said. "They are complex, highly regulated, and they must be delivered at a very high-quality level in a short time."

● A Triple Certification That Changes the Conversation

The most significant recent milestone in Leviatan Group's evolution is the achievement of the BSI Kitemark™ triple certification for BIM, covering design, construction delivery, and security-minded information management in accordance with ISO 19650 standards. Awarded by the British Standards Institution, the certification is widely regarded as one of the most demanding validations of BIM implementation in the world.

"This was not a certification focused on procedures alone," Podaru said. "The auditors reviewed how we actually work—on real projects, with real teams, and real data."

Leviatan Group is the first organization in Eastern Europe to obtain this triple certification, placing it in a category shared with international contractors such as Skanska, Balfour Beatty, and BAM—companies with annual turnovers measured in billions of euros.

For clients, the relevance is practical rather than symbolic. "This level of certification is a guarantee of quality in execution," Podaru said. "It shows that our processes can be measured, verified, and trusted at a global level."

From an independent perspective, BSI emphasized the depth of the evaluation process. "BSI has been proud to support the Leviatan and Ubitech teams in leveraging the benefits that proper utilization of BIM brings," said Gary Pattison, Certification Team Manager at BSI Group. "I would like to thank Leviatan and Ubitech for their teams' active engagement during the audits conducted by BSI, where they demonstrated a strong commitment to continual improvement in their approach to Building Information Modelling."

● Turning Certification into Client Value

For both public and private sector clients, the impact of Leviatan Group's triple certification extends well beyond compliance. By standardizing workflows and information management across the entire project lifecycle, the group has achieved measurable operational benefits.

"For our clients, this certification means transparent processes, secure information, and the certainty of working with an internationally validated partner capable of delivering complex projects to the highest standards," explained Maria Văsi, Head of Operational and Transformation at Leviatan Group.

In practical terms, the approach translates into tangible results: up to a 30 percent reduction in delivery time, the elimination of costly on-site errors through early clash detection, and significantly increased control over costs and deadlines. "The client doesn't want parts of a build," Podaru said. "The client wants the entire building—the full experience—delivered transparently."

The benefits extend into the operational phase of a building's life. Structured data handover enables efficient maintenance, future retrofitting, and informed decision-making. "After construction, the building should not be a mystery," Podaru added. "You should be able to see what is where, not guess where the pipes or cables are."

● Technology as a Long-Term Strategy

Leviatan Group's digital maturity is underpinned by sustained investment in technology and skills. The group's R&D arm, eConfaire Immersive Design, devel-



CĂTĂLIN PODARU, FOUNDER AND CEO OF LEVIATAN GROUP



MARIA VĂSI, OPERATIONAL AND TRANSFORMATION DIRECTOR OF LEVIATAN GROUP

ops solutions in computer vision, machine learning, IoT, and artificial intelligence, supporting advanced capabilities such as digital twins and real-time site monitoring.

"Technology for us was never about trends," Podaru said. "We adopted these tools because they allowed us to work better, faster, and with fewer errors."

Recognition from Microsoft as a customer success story for early adoption of Copilot, as well as a 2025 Founders' Honors Award for Innovation from Bentley Systems, further reinforces the group's positioning at the intersection of construction and digital transformation.

● Looking Ahead

With a contracted portfolio exceeding over 200 million euros and continued investment in people and technology, Leviatan Group is positioning itself as a regional partner for international clients seeking certainty, accountability, and long-term value.

"The future belongs to companies that can deliver faster, safer, and with full transparency," Podaru said. "This certification shows that we are ready to compete at that level." ■



