

PRESS NOTE

TERZO VALICO DEI GIOVI: DOUBLE BREAKTHROUGH LEADS TO 17 KM LINE EXCAVATIONS PASS HALF-WAY MARK FOR GENOA-MILAN HIGH-SPEED RAIL

MILAN, September 24, 2020 – Webuild Group celebrated a double breakthrough for the Terzo Valico dei Giovi high-speed/high-capacity railway it is building between Genoa and Milan to improve the port's links with the rail network in northern Italy and the rest of Europe.

The breakthroughs are the latest milestones achieved along the two most important underground sections of the railway: the Valico Tunnel (Galleria di Valico) and the Serravalle Tunnel (Galleria dei Serravalle). Once completed, the Valico will be the longest railway tunnel in Italy.

The milestones were celebrated at an event held at the municipality of Serravalle Scrivia. In attendance were Italian Infrastructure and Transport Minister Paola De Micheli; Extraordinary Commissioner for Terzo Valico dei Giovi and Nodo di Genova Projects Calogero Mauceri; Webuild Chief Executive Pietro Salini; Ferrovie dello Stato Chief Executive and General Director Gianfranco Battisti; Rete Ferroviaria Italiana Chief Executive and General Director Maurizio Gentile.

“We are proudly here today for a double breakthrough, and the opening of these two tunnels serve as an example of the extraordinary expertise of so many people, whom I thank for all the hard work that they have done,” said Salini. “There are many families who are worried about their future, and the government has to confront this emergency by giving a concrete response to jump start employment and relaunch public works. This is the only way for us to give our country strategic projects like what Terzo Valico is for northern Italy.”

The double breakthrough will allow for all the work sites to be connected to one another along a section of 17 kilometres. The first breakthrough done by the traditional excavation method occurred along the Valico Tunnel. It was the first of a number of breakthroughs that will occur along the planned tunnel's entire length of 27 kilometres. It hosts the Camerone di Valico Nord, an underground cathedral of sorts covering 540 square metres, and measuring 30 metres wide and 22 metres high.

The second breakthrough was along the Serravalle Tunnel, with 6.4 kilometres of its 7 kilometres in total length already excavated by tunnel-boring machine. At work was a TBM baptised “Giovanna”, 115 metres long with a diameter of nearly 10 metres. Its underground journey saw it cross complicated terrain near the Serravalle Designer Outlet and the old Genoa-Turin railway that required the use of an innovative monitoring system above and below ground.

With a total length of 53 kilometres, 36 kilometres of which underground, the Terzo Valico dei Giovi will reduce the time it takes to travel train between Genoa and Milan to 50 minutes from one hour and 39 minutes. The railway will become part of the Rhine-Alpine corridor of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T). In addition to the construction of the main line, the project includes four connections among Voltri, Genova Parco Campasso, Novi Ligure and Tortona in order to link the new railway to the existing ones. Within the near €6.9 billion project, Webuild is also working on the Nodo Ferroviario (Railway Hub) in Genoa, another strategic project alongside Terzo Valico dei Giovi.

Webuild is working on a number of other railway projects for the TEN-T. They include the Verona-Bivio di Vicenza section of the Verona-Padua high-speed/high-capacity line; the Naples-Cancello and Apice-Hirpinia sections of the Naples-Bari high-speed railway; as well as the Bicocca-Catanova section of the regular Palermo-Catania railway in Sicily.

Webuild, the new group born in 2020 from Salini Impregilo, is a leading global player in the construction of large, complex projects for sustainable mobility, clean hydro energy, clean water, green buildings, supporting clients in achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs). The Group is the expression of 114 years of engineering experience applied in 50 countries on five continents with 50,000 direct and indirect employees from more than 100 nationalities. Recognized for five years by Engineering News-Record (ENR) as the world leader in water infrastructure (such as dams, hydraulic tunnels, water and wastewater management, and water treatment and desalination plants), it ranks since 2018 among the top 10 in the environment sector and it is also leader in sustainable mobility (especially metro and rail lines, in addition to roads and bridges). A signatory of the United Nations Global Compact, the Group's expertise is displayed in projects such as the M4 metro line in Milan, Grand Paris Express, Cityringen in Copenhagen, Sydney Metro Northwest, Red Line North Underground in Doha, Line 3 of the Riyadh Metro and the high-speed railways in Italy. Other projects include the new Genoa Bridge and the new Gerald Desmond Bridge in Long Beach, California, the expansion of the Panama Canal, the Snowy 2.0 hydroelectric power station in Australia, the Rogun hydroelectric dam in Tajikistan, the Anacostia River and Northeast Boundary tunnels in Washington, D.C. and the Al Bayt 2022 World Cup stadium in Qatar. In 2019, new orders totalled €8.1 billion, with a total backlog reaching €36.2 billion. Some 85% of the backlog for construction orders involves projects tied to the sustainable development goals of the United Nations (SDGs), while 60% concerns the reduction of greenhouse emissions. Webuild, subject to direction and coordination by Salini Costruttori SpA, is headquartered in Italy and is listed on the Milan Stock Exchange (Borsa Italiana: WBD; Reuters: WBD.MI; Bloomberg: WBD:IM).

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