

PRESS NOTE

WEBUILD CEO PIETRO SALINI ON RAI RADIO 1: ITALY MUST ANTICIPATE RECOVERY FUNDS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS TO CREATE JOBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

MEGA TEXAS PROJECT AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ITALIAN SUPPLY CHAIN

MILAN, June 17, 2021 – “In the PNRR (Italy’s National Plan of Recovery and Resilience), there are about 23 billion (euros) worth of investments for railway infrastructure. Then there are more than 13 billion in a supplementary fund. These are big sums for projects to be done in six years. In a situation like this one, it is important that we inject liquidity into the system and do it quickly. We need to find a way to finance as soon as possible this effort to create jobs and bring forward the positive impact that the European programme will have on growth and employment. We do not have the time to wait for the established timetable for the disbursement of funds under the PNRR to play itself out. Today, our real priority is to build trust, and with this trust create jobs. Because every additional day of work that can be had is a ray of hope for many families and businesses,” said Pietro Salini, Chief Executive of Webuild, during an interview on the Sportello Italia programme of state broadcaster Rai Radio 1.

As for the management of the PNRR’s funds, Salini said it would be best to apply a model that has “big contracts awarded to leaders in the field who know how to coordinate small businesses and have them work together on the construction of large projects. It would be better than having the state try to manage thousands of small operations. The challenge, in a country with a slow bureaucracy, is to be able to translate the plan into real work for small- and medium-sized businesses, into salaries for people, into something concrete. We all have to make a big effort because this means work also for young people with investments in universities and vocational training.”

Salini also spoke of the mega contract worth \$16 billion that was recently signed by the Group to build a high-speed railway between Dallas and Houston. He said it would benefit the Italian sector in terms of business and employment as well as the supply chain that has been working alongside Webuild under the spirit of Progetto Italia, the industrial operation launched in 2019. “This contract means growth. It means exporting to the United States the expertise acquired by our Group along with the entire supply chain and Ferrovie dello Stato in the development of high-speed rail. It also gives a boost to the development of new Italian technologies. It means giving work to young people and offering an opportunity to the 7,000 businesses that have already worked with us on major projects in Italy. When you have a company that is of a big enough size, it can take the lead and bring with it into big projects like the one in Texas this enormous heritage of know-how held by small- and medium-sized businesses in Italy. It is a model that is proving to be competitive and successful. We are still growing. The United States represents 35% of our construction order backlog at a time in which the country offers so many opportunities. And this is coming at a time when President Biden is proposing an infrastructure investment program to drive growth and create employment in the post-COVID recovery,” he said.

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 115 years of engineering experience applied in 50 countries on five continents with 70,000 direct and indirect employees from more than 100 nationalities. Recognised 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 Gerald Desmond replacement 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 2020, the Group's total order backlog reached €41.7 billion, with 89% of the backlog of construction orders involving projects that support the SDGs set by the United Nations. 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).

[More information at www.webuildgroup.com](https://www.webuildgroup.com)



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