

## STATEMENT

### **WEBUILD CEO PIETRO SALINI: ITALY MUST INVEST IN YOUTH, INNOVATION**

#### **4,000 YOUNG HIRED EVERY YEAR WORLDWIDE TO DESIGN, BUILD INFRASTRUCTURE IN SAFETY, VALUING THE SECTOR'S EXPERTISE AND SUPPLY CHAIN'S EXCELLENCE**

*MILAN, November 8, 2021* – “Every year we hire throughout the world, on average, 4,000 people under the age of 30. Of the 25,000 to be hired by 2024, we foresee half of them will in fact be young people. For the next five years we expect to add 800 young people every year to the Italian workforce considering all the investments planned for Italy. Today, Webuild already has 43% of its staff under the age of 35, and we plan to bolster our investment in young talent in order to continue to pursue innovation and to become more competitive,” Webuild Chief Executive Pietro Salini said during the presentation of the “Premio Alberto Giovannini. Innovation and Digitalisation in Infrastructure”, an initiative promoted by the Group in memory of the former chairman of Webuild. It is designed to support graduates and researchers interested in studying innovation and digitalisation in infrastructure. It is a decisive gesture to encourage research and employment in the sector, favouring the entry of talented young people into the labour market and subsequently the implementation of the recovery plan for Italy.

“Our strength will increasingly derive from the combination of experience on the one hand with the creativity of young people, innovation and digitalization on the other. For the 2021-2022 period, we have set aside more than €1.2 million for young people. It is a commitment that we are relaunching with the “Premio Alberto Giovannini” today which is part of our comprehensive plan that also includes partnerships with 18 universities, Italian and foreign, STEM scholarships for women, as well as a research and innovation laboratory with the University of Genoa. In addition to these initiatives, we are launching a Trade School for young people, to build up a specialized trained work force which for us is essential and that in turn will train a new generation of specialized workers,” Salini continued.

“The infrastructure sector urgently needs trained and educated people. We are talking about some 100,000 resources needed for the public works under the PNRR. A lot of planning and preparation goes into our profession to guarantee the highest standards of quality and safety in what we do. There is no room for improvisation in our job” he said. “There is an urgent need to invest in training and reskilling particularly of unemployed resources. Collaboration between the public and private sectors must be simplified to facilitate the training of the resources required to rebuild Italy. We are ready and available to collaborate with all the involved players, educational institutions, public institutions and banks to carry out a National Plan.”

“The role of infrastructure is central to the post-pandemic recovery. In Italy, the PNRR has activated many resources, but it is necessary to guarantee that the projects are done within the timeframe allotted to them. Construction sites must be opened and activated immediately so as not to delay the national system. Many steps forward are being taken. But an acceleration in the assigning and starting of project is required. As a company, we are ready and willing to contribute to a wider reflection on a long term growth strategy, a 2050 Vision for Italy.”

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*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](http://www.webuildgroup.com)



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