



PRESS NOTE

WEBUILD: GIANT GREEN TBM READY TO DEPART FOR SICILY TBM TO EXCAVATE TUNNEL FOR MESSINA-CATANIA HIGH-CAPACITY RAILWAY AS GLOBAL LEADER IN TUNNELLING, GROUP INVESTS IN INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

MILAN, September 17, 2023 – The second giant tunnel-boring machine (TBM) that Webuild will use for the development of the high-capacity railway between Messina and Catania in Sicily, Italy has been unveiled after it passed the Factory Acceptance Test (FAT). The TBM, fitted with the latest technology to make it operate in the most environmentally sustainable way possible, has a diameter of 9.36 metres and a weight of nearly 900 tonnes. It will contribute to the construction of a section of the Palermo-Messina-Catania line commissioned by Rete Ferroviaria Italiana (RFI), the infrastructure arm of state rail operator Gruppo FS Italiane, as part of an infrastructure plan for the sustainable development of the island and make the transport of people and goods faster and more efficient.

The TBM will be dismantled at the factory in the coming days and shipped to Webuild's construction site in Sicily. It is expected to arrive in January. A team of technicians will reassemble it there.

The TBM not only excavates a tunnel with a rotating shield at the front, but also lines the walls with pre-cast concrete segment. As it passes, it leaves behind a nearly complete tunnel. In the last 50 years, Webuild has put into operation nearly 200 TBMs to excavate more than 1,500 kilometres of tunnels.

The innovation that Webuild is bringing to the project in Sicily is making its execution more sustainable, as the Group works closely with the local supply chain. At Belpasso near Catania, it has set up a factory whose production of pre-cast concrete segments is completely automated. It will have robots make the segments for the tunnels along the two sections, or lots, assigned to the Group between Catania and Messina. A first in Italy, the factory will be able to produce a segment every seven minutes – instead of the usual 10 when done by humans.

Along the planned Palermo-Catania-Messina railway, Webuild is working on seven sections, or lots, along with other Italian companies. In addition to Fiumetorto-Lercara Junction for Palermo-Catania, there is also the Bicocca-Catenanuova and Nuova Enna-Dittaino. More recently, there has been added the Caltanissetta Xirbi-Nuova Enna and Lercara-Caltanissetta Xirbi. Between Messina and Catania, the Group is doing Taormina-Giampileri and Fiumefreddo-Taormina/Letojanni. Work on the seven sections is creating 7,300 jobs directly and indirectly with the involvement of approximately 800 businesses.

Webuild is a global leader in the design and construction of large, complex projects in the sectors of sustainable mobility (rail, metro, bridges, roads, ports), hydropower (dams, power plants), water (treatment and desalination plants, wastewater management, irrigation dams) and green buildings (civil and industrial buildings, airports, stadiums, hospitals). It supports clients in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established by the United Nations. The recognised leader in infrastructure for the water sector, it operates in 50 countries. It has 85,000 direct and indirect employees from 100 nationalities, and a supply chain of more than 17,500 businesses. In its 117 years of applied engineering on more than 3,200 projects, the Group has built 14,118 kilometres of rail and metro lines, 82,509



kilometres of roads and highways, 1,018 kilometres of bridges and viaducts, 3,396 kilometres of tunnels, and 313 dams and hydropower plants. Projects include the Genoa San Giorgio Bridge, the second Panama Canal, the Lake Mead Third Intake hydraulic project near Las Vegas in the United States, the Airport Line in Perth, Australia and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center in Athens. Projects under construction include the Brenner Base Tunnel, Line 4 of the Milan metro system, the Terzo Valico dei Giovi-Nodo di Genova in Italy, and the North East Link of Melbourne in Australia. As of June 30, 2023, the Group had total orders worth €61 billion, with more than 90% of the Group's construction backlog related to projects linked to the advancement of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Webuild, subject to the direction and coordination of Salini Costruttori S.p.A., is headquartered in Italy and is listed on the Milan stock exchange (WBD; WBD:MI; WBD:IM). Since 2021, it is member of the MIB ESG, the index of Italian companies with the best ESG practices.

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



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