

## PRESS NOTE

### **WEBUILD AND GENOA AQUARIUM: TOGETHER TO SAFEGUARD THE MARINE ECOSYSTEM WHILE BUILDING THE NEW BREAKWATER**

#### **SEA SPECIES MOVED TEMPORARILY TO GENOA AQUARIUM AS WORKS PROCEED IN THE CONSTRUCTION SITE**

*Genoa, March 25, 2024* – Safeguarding the marine ecosystem in the underwater construction site of the New Genoa Breakwater while promoting an eco-responsible approach in the infrastructure sector: this is why the Webuild-led consortium promoted a partnership with the Genoa Aquarium (Acquario di Genova), to safeguard the sea life taken from the seabed where works are being carried out, moving all species to the structure so that they can subsequently be moved back to their original location, off the Genoa shore, when works are completed.

The Webuild-Genoa Aquarium (*Acquario di Genova*) collaboration was promoted and authorized by the Italian Ministry of the Environment and Energy Safety. It includes temporarily moving the sea life found and registered during the underwater analyses carried out along the entire seabed of the new breakwater, coordinating with expert scientific operators and sea biologists. Keeping the surrounding eco-system as it was before works began is a fundamental part of the project, as the latter is strategic for the Italian port system. The new breakwater will be built by the Webuild-led consortium, with Fincantieri Infrastruttura Opere Marittime, Fincosit and Sidra, on behalf of the Western Ligurian Sea Port Authority.

Some gorgoniae specimens, colonial invertebrates that belong to the *Leptogorgia sarmentosa* species, have already been taken from the seabed where the new breakwater will be located and moved to the Aquarium, where they are cared for by a team of biologists as they get used to the new environment and during the monitoring phase. Gorgoniae live up to a 200 metre-depth. Despite being shaped like a plant, they are actually marine animals (colonial invertebrates). Just like corals, they are made from very small animals, polyps, which act as a sole organism.

As of date, along the seabed where the new breakwater will be built, the technical activities on the area where the new work will be built are concomitantly being carried out: i.e. building more than 2,400 submerged gravel columns, laying about 1.2 million tonnes of material, and searching for underwater unexploded ordnances, all of which are expected, as of date, to be completed by the end of this summer.

The New Genoa Breakwater has been built to improve access to the port of Genoa even to modern "Ultra Large" ships, therefore consolidating Genoa's port system's growth and its role within Europe. The work belongs to the Rhine-Alps Corridor of the TEN-T Trans-European transport network to which the Terzo Valico dei Giovi-Genoa Junction One Project also belongs, which has also been built by Webuild.

The agreement with Genoa Aquarium highlights Webuild Group's commitment to promoting sustainable construction practices and partnerships serving environmental safeguarding activities, globally: i.e., from Australia's Snowy Project 2.0 to the massive interventions to strengthen high-speed and high-capacity rail in the South of Italy.

The Genoa Aquarium is managed by Costa Edutainment. It has been always committed to safeguarding and safeguarding sea life species through many projects: i.e. from recovery, care and release activities relating to sea turtle specimens, with the authorization of the Italian Ministry, to the reproduction of species that risk extinction, to taking in specimens sent from the authorities and caring for animals to safeguard for the time needed to recreate in nature the appropriate situation for them.

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*Webuild is a global leader in the design and construction of large, complex projects in the sectors of sustainable mobility, hydropower, water management and production, and green buildings. For many years, the recognized leader in the water sector, also ranking among the Top 10 international players in Australia, Europe and the US, the Group has consolidated experience in 50 countries. In almost 120 years of applied engineering on more than 3,200 projects, the Webuild Group has built 14,140 kilometres of rail and metro lines, 82,533 kilometres of roads and highways, 1,020 kilometres of bridges and viaducts, 3,408 kilometres of tunnels, and 313 dams and hydropower plants. Projects include the Bridge over the Danube River in Braila in Romania, and the Genoa Long Beach International Gateway in California; the expansion of the Panama Canal and the Third Bosphorus Bridge in Turkey; the Kingdom Centre skyscraper in Riyadh in Saudi Arabia, and metro lines in Copenhagen, Paris, Rome, Milan, Doha and Riyadh. Projects under construction include the New Genoa Breakwater, the Brenner Base Tunnel, Line 4 of Milan's metro, and Line C of Rome's metro, the Genoa-Milan high-capacity railway line, the Snowy 2.0 hydroelectric project in Australia, and the Trojena project for NEOM in Saudi Arabia. As of December 31, 2023, the Webuild Group with 87,000 people, achieved €10 billion in total revenues, and a total backlog of €64 billion, with over 90% of its construction backlog related to projects linked to the advancement of the United Nations 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.*

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