

PRESS NOTE

**WEBUILD: DELIVERED FIRST SECTION OF THE DOUBLING OF THE PALERMO-CATANIA RAILWAY
BETWEEN BICOCCA AND CATENANUOVA BUILT IN SICILY ON BEHALF OF RFI**

OVERALL PROJECT, NOW AT 83%, WILL ENSURE SUSTAINABLE AND SAFE RAIL TRANSPORT



Milan, June 13, 2024 – The first section of the railway doubling between the stations of Catania Bicocca and Catenanuova, built in Sicily by Webuild on behalf of RFI, the leading company of *Polo Infrastrutture* of Gruppo FS, has been delivered. The overall project, which has now reached 83% of the total, will allow safely increase the number of transiting trains, while also reducing the travel times, and promoting better sustainable mobility compared to tyre transport. The line's capacity will be increased, when works are completed, and trains will be able to reach a maximum speed of 160km/h, against the current 100km/h that in some sections is lowered to 80-90km/h. Travel times will improve from 25 to 17 minutes.

The 11.5-km-long section was completed respecting the accelerated work plan signed in June 2023 with RFI, which aims at anticipating the completed activation of the railway doubling from February 2026 to February 2025. The activation of the section, the first one along the Palermo-Catania-Messina route, will allow completely using the double track in the approximately 38 km, connecting Catenanuova station, in the province of Enna, to the Catania "Bicocca" station.

The delivered section is enriched with complex works, with 9 of the total 17 railway viaducts along the entire lot. And all level crossings were also removed to ensure safer road mobility along the roads crossed by the line. The Master Plan adjustments regarding the Catania "Bicocca" station and the "Catenanuova" one were also concomitantly completed, in line with the accelerated plan timings, with regard to adding the second track along the section being built in both of the existing stations. Now, works will continue with the laying of double track in the two sections between Sferro and Motta Sant'Anastasia, for approximately 16 km, and between Motta Sant'Anastasia and Bicocca, for approximately 10.5 km.

In Sicily, the Webuild Group is engaged in building 8 projects, with 7 railway sections along the Palermo-Catania-Messina high-speed route and a lot for the Ragusana motorway that will connect Ragusa to Catania. These works that are part of the Scandinavian-Mediterranean Corridor of the TEN-T network will contribute to providing Sicily with modern transport infrastructure. They will also ensure growth and specialized employment from the moment construction works began. As of today, 1,700 people are already working on the projects (directly and indirectly), also with the involvement of 1,150 supply chain companies since works started.

These Sicilian construction sites are places of innovation and advanced research on processes, products, and materials. They contribute to the sector's technological advancement and to the Group's competitiveness. The green TBMs used to bore the tunnels are environmentally friendly, making use of cutting-edge technology in terms of environmental sustainability. In Belpasso, in the province of Catania, Webuild has built a robotized factory named Roboplant that produces pre-cast concreted segments that line the tunnels of the two lots that the Group is currently building along the Catania-Messina route. A second factory will also soon be opened in Dittaino, near Enna, Sicily. The first of its kind in Italy, the Belpasso factory will produce a segment every 7 minutes (against the 10 minutes required without total automation). And, in fact, with the purpose of ensuring specialized workmanship in the Italian island's construction sites, the Group has created a training and employment programme called *Cantiere Lavoro Italia*, with the aim of hiring 2,500 new people in 2024, in Italy, of which 80% from the South.

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 Ryadh. 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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