

## PRESS NOTE

### **WEBUILD: TBM EXCAVATION STARTS ON NORTH EAST LINK TUNNELS, THE LARGEST MOTORWAY JUNCTION PROJECT EVER REALISED IN AUSTRALIA**

#### **GROUP IS GLOBAL TUNNELLING LEADER WITH 58 TBM FLEET**

MILAN, August 20, 2024 – Two giant tunnel-boring machines (TBMs) are starting on their underground journey to excavate the North East Link (NEL) motorway project that will improve the transport network in Melbourne, Australia. The Webuild Group, under the Spark joint venture, is involved in designing and building about 6.5 km of twin, three-lane tunnels and related works in the city's northeast.

With the assembly of the TBMs complete, excavation will begin at an average speed of approximately 10 metres per day, reaching a depth of up to 45 metres. With a cutterhead of 15.6 metres in diameter, one of the largest in the world, and more than 90 metres, these giant machines exceed 4,000 tonnes each.

NEL is the biggest investment in a road project in Victoria's history, and once complete, the tunnels will be the longest of their kind in the state. The project will provide the missing link to the city's road network, connecting the Eastern Freeway and the M80 Ring Road. It will contribute to reducing traffic congestion and travel times, as well as improve road safety. It is creating thousands of jobs and guaranteeing economic growth and development along the entire supply chain.

Australia is Webuild's biggest market outside Italy. With its Clough subsidiary, the Group is developing a number of strategic projects across the country and entering new segments that can contribute to its energy transition. It is developing Snowy 2.0, the most complex project under construction and the largest one dedicated to renewable energy in the country. It has three TBMs creating the vast network of tunnels. One of them, named Kirsten, is among the first in the world to be able to excavate from a decline of 9 percent to an upward angle of 47 percent.

Webuild is a global leader in tunnelling, with a fleet of 58 TBMs that are being assembled, have been ordered or are to be ordered for upcoming projects. It has 15 of them in operation on work sites across the globe at the moment, led by tunnelling experts from dozens of nationalities.

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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 expansion of the Panama Canal, the Long Beach International Gateway in California, the Third Bosphorus Bridge in Turkey, the skytrain bridge of the metropolitan train line north-west of Sydney, 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, and railway lines on the HS Naples-Bari and HC Palermo-Catania-Messina railway routes, the Snowy 2.0 hydroelectric project in Australia, and the Trojena project for NEOM in Saudi Arabia. As of June 30, 2024, the Webuild Group with*



approximately 90,000 people, achieved a total backlog of €65 billion, with over 90% of its construction backlog related to projects linked to the advancement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As of December 31, 2023, the Group achieved €10 billion in total revenues. 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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