

PRESS NOTE

WEBUILD STARTS WORK ON KEY VIADUCT FOR RAGUSA-CATANIA MOTORWAY IN SICILY

GROUP INVOLVED IN 8 STRATEGIC PROJECTS TO MODERNIZE THE ISLAND'S INFRASTRUCTURE, WITH 19 LARGE TBMs AND 7,000 JOBS EXPECTED

Milan, 16 May 2025 – A new step forward for modern and efficient mobility in Sicily: Webuild has begun construction on the most significant section of the Ragusa–Catania motorway, a key corridor for road transport along the island's eastern coast. This road project, commissioned by ANAS (FS Italiane Group), joins seven others for the doubling of the Palermo–Catania–Messina high-capacity railway line. This railway infrastructure initiative, carried out on behalf of RFI (FS Italiane Group), aims to drastically reduce travel times between Sicily's main cities. It includes 200 kilometres of new railway line for which Webuild will deploy 19 large tunnel boring machines. Webuild is helping drive this transformation of Sicily's transport network by focusing on innovation, sustainability, and local employment, with a total of 7,000 direct and indirect jobs expected across the eight projects.

On Lot 1 of the Ragusa–Catania motorway, work is underway on the foundations and vertical structures of the Vallone delle Coste Viaduct. This reinforced concrete viaduct is the most significant structure along the route and will connect the provinces of Ragusa, Catania, and Syracuse. The project will improve travel times for both people and goods, while also enhancing road safety and overall service quality.

Work is also progressing on the Palermo–Catania–Messina route, part of the broader development of the TEN-T European rail corridor. Once complete, the new line will cut travel times significantly: just 2 hours between Palermo and Catania, and 45 minutes between Messina and Catania. On Lot 4B, Nuova Enna–Dittaino, two tunnel boring machines (TBMs) are being assembled: TBM Atena, nearly ready to begin excavation on one of the two Sicani tunnels, and TBM Demetra, currently being assembled for the second tunnel.

A few kilometres away, on Lot 4A, Caltanissetta Xirbi–Nuova Enna, parts of a new TBM have arrived at the construction site for the Trinacria tunnel after being shipped to the Port of Augusta. This massive machine will begin excavation from the Catania-side portal, driving one of the tunnels along the Palermo–Catania route.

Lot 6 Bicocca–Catenanuova is nearing completion: following the installation of the tracks, work is now underway to electrify the line. The lot covers the doubling of approximately 38 kilometres of railway, partly alongside the existing single-track line and partly through the construction of a new double track.

The ongoing projects are having a direct impact not only on the island's infrastructure development but also on its economy, involving a supply chain of around 1,700 companies since work began. This approach is also fostering the growth of technical and professional skills, leaving a lasting legacy for future generations. A clear example of this is the two high-tech factories already operating in Belpasso, in the province of Catania, for the production of precast segments used in railway tunnels. A third factory will soon be added in Dittaino, in the province of Enna.

This industrial commitment goes hand in hand with Webuild's focus on training and hiring new personnel. At the heart of the Group's training efforts is the practical training centre in Belpasso, an innovative space that combines theoretical and hands-on learning. With the support of experienced in-house instructors,

specialized external trainers, and the use of equipment and TBM simulators, the centre helps develop the skills needed to operate according to the highest standards of quality and safety.

Webuild is a global leader in the design and construction of large, complex infrastructure projects in sustainable mobility, hydropower, water treatment, and green buildings. A recognized leader in the water sector, it works in approximately 50 countries with over 92,000 people of 125 different nationalities. The Group boasts nearly 120 years of applied engineering on more than 3,700 completed projects, with a track record of 13,648 kilometres of railways, 891 kilometres of metro lines, 82,577 kilometres of roads and highways, 1,022 kilometres of bridges and viaducts, 3,462 kilometres of tunnels, and 318 dams and hydropower plants. Among its most famous projects: the expansion of the Panama Canal, the Long Beach International Gateway bridge in California, the Third Bosphorus Bridge in Turkey, the Sydney Metro Northwest skytrain viaduct and bridge, the Kingdom Centre skyscraper in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and numerous metro lines in Copenhagen, Paris, Rome, Milan, Naples, Doha, Thessaloniki, and Riyadh. Among the main ongoing projects, the following stand out: the New Genoa Breakwater, the Brenner Base Tunnel, the Pedemontana Lombarda Highway, Line C of Rome's metro network, the high-capacity railways between Genoa and Milan, the high-speed railway between Naples and Bari, the Palermo-Catania-Messina high-capacity railway, the Snowy 2.0 hydropower scheme in Australia, and the Trojena dam network in Saudi Arabia. As of December 31, 2024, the Webuild Group registered total revenues for €12 billion and a total backlog of €63 billion, with more than 90% of its construction backlog related to projects linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Webuild, subject to the direction and coordination of Salini Costruttori S.p.A., is headquartered in Italy, is listed on the Milan Stock Exchange, Borsa Italiana (WBD; WBD.MI; WBD:IM), and since 2021, it is included in the MIB ESG index of the Italian blue-chip companies with the best ESG practices.

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