

PRESS NOTE

**WEBUILD: GRAND ETHIOPIAN RENAISSANCE DAM (GERD) INAUGURATED
BIGGEST HYDROPOWER PROJECT EVER BUILT IN AFRICA**

**GERD TO DOUBLE ETHIOPIA'S ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION
INSTALLED PRODUCTION OF CLEAN ENERGY EQUAL TO THREE NUCLEAR REACTORS
PROJECT SUPPORTS ENERGY TRANSITION IN AFRICA**



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- *For its extraordinary scale and engineering complexity, the mega project is one of the biggest and most advanced infrastructure projects to be built in years*
- *The main dam, 170 metres high and 1,800 metres long, is the largest gravity dam in RCC ever built in Africa*
- *More than 25,000 people involved in its construction, with a positive and long-lasting social and infrastructural impact on the region*

MILAN, September 9, 2025 – Ethiopia made history today with the inauguration of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), the largest hydropower project ever built in Africa. A monumental infrastructure designed and constructed by Webuild, the GERD marks the beginning of a new era for the country, placing it at the heart of the continent's green transition. The official ceremony was attended by Pietro Salini, Chief



Executive of Webuild, alongside Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali and the Heads of State of African countries that share with Ethiopia a common goal of growth and unity.

Given its extraordinary scale and unprecedented engineering complexity, the GERD — commissioned by Ethiopian Electric Power — stands as one of the world's most ambitious and advanced infrastructure projects in recent years. With an installed production capacity of more than 5,000 MW and an expected annual output of 15,700 GWh, the GERD can generate energy equivalent to three medium-sized nuclear power plants. Its reservoir stretches 172 kilometers, able to hold up to 74 billion cubic meters of water, making the GERD the largest hydropower project in Africa.

The main dam stands 170 meters tall and spans 1,800 meters at the crest, with a volume of 10.7 million cubic meters of concrete — earning it the record as the largest roller-compacted concrete (RCC) gravity dam ever built in Africa by volume. On December 28, 2014, the construction site set a world record by laying 23,000 cubic meters of RCC in just 24 hours, an achievement that highlights the project's engineering and organizational excellence.

The GERD has transformed the surrounding area, generating a positive economic and social impact: a new town has emerged around the site, complete with a hospital, two equipped medical clinics, a school, sports facilities, a bakery producing injera (a traditional Ethiopian flatbread), and road infrastructure that will remain as a legacy of the project for local communities. Over 25,000 people — mostly Ethiopians — worked on the project, gaining skills and expertise that can be applied to future projects.

The hydropower project embodies a long-term vision and serves as a tool for national growth, aligning itself with the goals of Italy's Mattei Plan under the Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's government, which aims to involve Italian companies in major projects that support the development of African nations.

The GERD is part of a broader journey in which Webuild has played a leading role in Ethiopia for over 70 years, completing 30 projects, particularly in the hydroelectric sector. These include the Beles Multipurpose Project, featuring an underground power station — the largest in the country at the time of its inauguration — and the Gibe III dam on the Omo River, standing 250 meters tall and, at the time of its opening, the tallest RCC dam in the world. Currently under construction is the Koysha dam, Ethiopia's second-largest hydroelectric project after the GERD, which will further contribute to the country's energy transition.

With GERD, Webuild reaffirms its global leadership and its ability to deliver large-scale, complex, and sustainable infrastructure. Its track record includes the construction of 318 dams and hydroelectric plants worldwide, with a total capacity of 53,659 MW. The Group is working on other projects that will provide 14,000 MW of installed capacity and deliver clean, affordable energy to millions of people globally, helping to avoid 13 million tons of CO₂ emissions annually.

The inauguration of the GERD marks a new milestone in Webuild's journey of progress and project completion. Since the beginning of the year, the Group has finalised over 10 major projects, confirming its solid delivery capabilities. These include a strategic section of Interstate 275 in Florida (United States), the Monopoli-Fasano Hospital in Italy, and the Riachuelo environmental remediation project in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Webuild is a global leader in the construction of large, complex infrastructure projects, with a focus on sustainable mobility, hydropower, water treatment, and green buildings. A recognized leader in the water sector and active in about 50 countries, the Group employs approximately 95,000 people of over 125 nationalities. It boasts nearly 120 years of experience with over 3,700 completed projects. Its track record includes 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 iconic projects are the expansion of the Panama Canal, the Long Beach International Gateway bridge in California (USA), the Second Bosphorus Bridge (Turkey), the Sydney Metro Northwest skytrain viaduct and bridge (Australia), the Kingdom Centre skyscraper in Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), and metro lines in cities such as Copenhagen, Paris, Rome, Milan, Naples, Doha, Thessaloniki, and Riyadh. Ongoing projects include the New Genoa Breakwater, the Brenner Base Tunnel, the Pedemontana Lombarda Highway, Metro di Roma's Line C, the Genoa-Milan and Naples-Bari high-speed/high-capacity railways, the Palermo-Catania-Messina high-capacity railway, the Snowy 2.0 hydropower scheme in Australian and the Trojena dams in Saudi Arabia. As of December 31, 2024, revenues totalled €12 billion. As of June 30, 2025, its total order backlog stands at approximately €59 billion, with over 90% of its construction backlog related to projects linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Listed on the Borsa Italiana stock exchange in Milan (WBD; WBD.MI; WBD:IM), it is member of the MIB ESG index of Italian companies with best ESG practices. Headquartered in Italy, it is subject to the management and coordination of Salini Costruttori S.p.A.

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