

## STATEMENT

### **WEBUILD CEO SALINI: “THE FIRST SECTION OF THE HIGH-CAPACITY RAILWAY IN SICILY MARKS A CLEAR START TO A HISTORIC INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT IN THE ISLAND”**

#### **THE GROUP IS A DRIVING INDUSTRIAL FORCE IN SICILY WITH CONSTRUCTION SITES, TECHNOLOGY AND QUALIFIED JOBS ACROSS THE ISLAND**

MILAN, October 29, 2025 – “The inauguration of the Bicocca–Catenanuova section marks a decisive step in the infrastructure investment plan for Sicily. It is the first high-capacity railway section to be built on the island, and it represents a clear start to the construction of a modern, efficient and sustainable network that will radically transform how Sicily connects with the rest of Italy and Europe,” said Pietro Salini, Chief Executive of Webuild.

“This infrastructure is part of the most significant investment in public works since the unification of Italy: over €20 billion allocated by the FS Italiane Group, through RFI, for the island’s railway network. It represents a historic turning point for mobility, logistics and competitiveness in southern Italy. The new network, part of the TEN-T Scandinavian-Mediterranean Corridor, is designed to connect Sicily with the rest of Europe, strengthening the island’s role as a strategic hub in the Mediterranean.”

A key element of this plan is the Strait of Messina Bridge, which will connect the high-speed rail network up to Reggio Calabria with the high-capacity network in Sicily. “The Strait of Messina Bridge will give meaning and continuity to this historic infrastructure plan, enabling a fast and direct connection between northern Italy and Sicily. It will unite what is currently divided and integrate what is now fragmented,” Salini added.

Webuild is working along the Palermo-Catania-Messina corridor with 19 Tunnel-Boring Machines (TBMs) – each over 100 metres long – to excavate 175 kilometres of tunnel. “The high-capacity rail sections being built by Webuild in Sicily involve thousands of people and local businesses, with targeted investments in training, safety and skills development. It is a widespread construction effort that generates qualified employment and innovation. To ensure a skilled workforce, Webuild established an advanced training centre in Belpasso (Catania) in 2023 in collaboration with the Region of Sicily. Equipped with TBM simulators and cutting-edge machinery, the Centre is a national hub for mechanised tunnelling training, with both in-house instructors and external experts. It is part of the national ‘Cantiere Lavoro Italia’ programme, which has already trained around 1,700 workers and employees, aiming to create jobs and enhance local human capital. In parallel, automated facilities such as the one in Belpasso – equipped with advanced robotic technologies for producing tunnel lining segments – are the result of an industrial system focused on innovation and development opportunities for the entire supply chain.”

“Our work continues with commitment on six additional sections of the Palermo–Catania–Messina corridor which, together with the Bicocca–Catenanuova section, represent true engines of development, with an estimated total of around 7,000 jobs between direct and third-party personnel,” Salini concluded.

\*\*\*

*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 319 dams and hydropower plants. Among its most iconic projects are the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam in Ethiopia, 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 Australia and the Dams System in Trojena in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. As of December 31, 2024, the Group registered total revenues for €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.

[More information at www.webuildgroup.com](http://www.webuildgroup.com)



**Contacts:**

**Francesca Romana Chiarano**  
Senior Manager – Media Relations  
Tel. +39 338 247 4827  
email: [f.chiarano@webuildgroup.com](mailto:f.chiarano@webuildgroup.com)

**Umberto Lucentini**  
Communications Manager for Sicily  
Tel. +39 339.2039050  
email: [u.lucentini@kassar.it](mailto:u.lucentini@kassar.it)