

PRESS NOTE

**WEBUILD: EXCAVATION BEGINS ON THREE TUNNELS
FOR SALERNO-REGGIO CALABRIA HS/HC RAILWAY**

**LAUNCH OF RECORD-SETTING TBM AT ONE OF WEBUILD'S STRATEGIC PROJECTS
FOR SOUTHERN ITALY, WITH MORE THAN 1,000 PEOPLE EMPLOYED
AND 430 SUPPLIERS INVOLVED**



Credits: Consorzio Xenia

- *All four TBMs planned for Lot 1A Battipaglia–Romagnano section are operational with launch of latest three*
- *Joining TBM Partenope, already active, are Leucosia and Ligea, whose names were chosen by public contest: together, they are Webuild's three largest TBMs in Europe*
- *Mireille also launched, the first TBM refurbished at Webuild's innovative factory in Terni*

MILAN, December 10, 2025 – A new decisive step for infrastructure development in Southern Italy: mechanised excavation has begun on three tunnels on Lot 1A of the Salerno-Reggio Calabria high-speed/high-capacity railway, a project under development by Webuild on behalf of RFI (FS Italiane Group). The railway will be part of the Scandinavian-Mediterranean Corridor of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T), representing one of the most strategic projects to connect Southern Italy to Northern Italy and Europe.

With the start of three new tunnel-boring machines (TBMs), all four of the machines planned for the excavation of eight natural tunnels on Lot 1A are now operational. This section will connect Battipaglia to Romagnano. Following the launch in recent months of the giant TBM Partenope, which is excavating the



Saginara tunnel, these three other TBMs – Leucosia, Ligea and Mireille – have started work, involving more than 300 specialised technicians to run and maintain them.

With a cutterhead of more than 13 metres in diameter, Leucosia and Ligea are, together with Partenope, the three largest TBMS being operated by Webuild in Europe. Their names were chosen in a public contest, evoking the myth of the Sirens living in the Gulf of Salerno.

Leucosia has started on the Serra Lunga tunnel, which will be over 800 metres long, a single-tube with double track. Once the excavation and lining of the walls are complete, the TBM will proceed with the Acerra and Petrolla tunnels, separated by line viaducts. Ligea will excavate the Piano Grasso tunnel, more than 2.2 kilometres long single-tube with a double track, and later the Contursi tunnel.

Also launched is Mireille, which after working on the Grand Paris Express, is now excavating the Caterina tunnel, over one kilometre long, a single-tube with a single track. With a cutterhead diameter of over 10 metres, Mireille is the first TBM refurbished at Webuild's Terni factory, a new high-specialisation facility dedicated to TBM refurbishment, created to enable their reuse on new projects, in line with circular economy principles. Once the excavation and lining of the Caterina tunnel are complete, Mireille will move on to the Sicignano tunnel.

On Lot 1A, work continues on artificial tunnels, while excavation of the Cerreta natural tunnel using the traditional method will begin in the coming weeks. Construction is also underway on line viaducts, including the longest of the planned trajectory, which will cross the A2 Salerno–Reggio Calabria motorway. This viaduct will feature more than 100 spans, including a 120-metre-long railway arch bridge – the longest of its kind in Italy.

Lot 1A, awarded to the Consorzio Xenia led by Webuild (with partners Pizzarotti, Ghella and Tunnel Pro), covers the province of Salerno and involves building 35 kilometres of high-speed railway between Battipaglia and Romagnano, including 20 tunnels and 19 viaducts. More than 1,000 people are directly and indirectly employed. Since the start of works, some 430 direct suppliers are also involved. On the Salerno-Reggio Calabria line, Webuild recently won the Cosenza–Paola/San Lucido project, which will add over 22 kilometres of line, including the Santomarco tunnel – the main work of the project – stretching 15 kilometres.

The two lots of the Salerno-Reggio Calabria line are among a number of projects Webuild is delivering in Southern Italy for a total awarded value of approximately €15 billion. These projects employ 8,700 people (including direct and third-party personnel, as of June 30, 2025) and involve 7,600 direct suppliers since work began.

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 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, the Second Bosphorus Bridge in Turkey, the Sydney Metro Northwest skytrain viaduct and bridge, the Kingdom Centre skyscraper in Riyadh, 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 Saudi Arabia. As of December 31, 2024, the Group registered total revenues of €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. 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

Francesco Squitieri
Regional Communications Manager (Campania, Calabria, Puglia)
Tel. +39 335.5494594
email: f.squitieri@webuildgroup.com