



PRESS RELEASE

**Unitirreno and Fastweb sign a strategic partnership agreement concerning the submarine digital infrastructure connecting Mazara del Vallo, Genoa, Rome and Olbia**

**As part of the partnership, Fastweb buys a section of the submarine fiber network to use for its own infrastructure and to sell it through its own sales channels**

**Roma, 19 December 2024 – Unitirreno** - joint venture established by Unidata S.p.A. and the Fund Infrastructure for Growth - ESG (IPC) managed by Azimut Libera Impresa SGR S.p.A - signed a partnership agreement with Fastweb S.p.A. relating to the underwater digital infrastructure of approximately 890 kilometers which will be built in the Tyrrhenian Sea and which will connect Mazara del Vallo with Genoa, with branches towards Rome and Olbia.

The partnership establishes the purchase by Fastweb of a section of the submarine fiber network, with the option to extend the purchase to further strategic sections of the route in the near future. The participation of an important partner like Fastweb underlines the relevance of the project developed by Unitirreno and its key role in strengthening the country's connectivity infrastructure with the rest of Europe and the Mediterranean.

The prospect of the collaboration is even broader, thanks to a commercial partnership agreement, under which Fastweb will support Unitirreno in the sale of submarine fibers through its own sales channels. The partnership is also part of Fastweb's broader project - already present in the Open Hub Med consortium, the first carrier-independent and neutral technology hub in the Southern Mediterranean, and in Ge-DIX, Genoa's Internet Exchange - to connect Sicily, the natural landing point for cables from the Middle East, with the Ligurian capital, a new strategic node for access to the main European routes.

Following the obtaining of all necessary authorisations, the Unitirreno project is currently in the phase of building the Landing Stations at the landing points in Mazara del Vallo, Rome and Olbia. These facilities, designed to support low-latency applications, will be crucial in enhancing connectivity and meeting the growing needs of the market.

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The laying of the submarine cable will begin in January 2025, with the goal of having the network 'ready for service' in June 2025. It will be the first system designed with a state-of-the-art open cable architecture, capable of guaranteeing on the Genoa - Mazara del Vallo route a total capacity of 480 Tbps distributed in 24 fiber pairs. Once completed, this project will further strengthen Italy's role as a strategic hub in the Mediterranean, with a state-of-the-art infrastructure capable of supporting the country's digital future.

*"The agreement signed with Unitirreno represents a further consolidation of our strategy, aimed at expanding the availability and quality of services and infrastructures offered to all markets: this important step in the development of our network will allow us to implement new high-performance diversification solutions for all our customers. Furthermore, with the agreement with Unitirreno, we acquire a unique asset in the development of new interconnection routes between European and non-European routes, promoting the realisation of strategic digital connections and creating new economic development opportunities for the country" - said Fabrizio Casati, Fastweb's Chief Wholesale Officer.*

*"The goal we have set ourselves with Unitirreno is to transform Italy into a truly strategic connectivity hub in the Mediterranean, and the collaboration with a major partner like Fastweb, which shares our vision and commitment to the development of the country's digital infrastructure, is an important step towards that goal. Unitirreno Submarine Cable System is not only an answer to the need for advanced connectivity, but an investment in Italy's digital future, aimed at guaranteeing a cutting-edge network capable of creating new economic and technological opportunities at national level" - commented Andrea Cornetti, Chairman of Unitirreno and Managing Director Real Estate and Infrastructures of Azimut Libera Impresa SGR.*

**Renato Brunetti, CEO of Unitirreno and Chairman and CEO of Unidata, commented on the operation:**

*"The agreement with Fastweb represents an important step for the Unitirreno project. It is a strategic collaboration that ensures the use of our infrastructure by a market leader such as Fastweb, and opens the door to a significant commercial relationship that will strengthen our offering in the wholesale market. This project confirms our commitment to transform Italy into a digital hub of the Mediterranean, thanks to a state-of-the-art connectivity network that we can define as a real digital corridor to Africa, the Middle East and the Far East. We are confident that the market understands the efforts undertaken in recent years and the substantial value of this submarine digital infrastructure".*

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This press release is available on Borsa Italiana, on the "1info" storage mechanism ([www.1info.it](http://www.1info.it)) and on the Company's website [investors.unidata.it](http://investors.unidata.it) in the "Investors/Financial Press Releases" section.

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### About Unitirreno

*Unitirreno is a partnership between the Fondo Infrastrutture per la Crescita - Esg, established and managed by Azimut Libera Impresa Sgr, Unidata and industry experts to improve Italy's digital infrastructure through the construction of a new submarine cable system in the Tyrrhenian Sea. The system, approximately 1,030 kilometres long, will connect Mazara del Vallo with Genoa and a junction point near Rome-Fiumicino. Unitirreno will offer a safe and low-latency alternative to Marseille as a cable landing hub in the Mediterranean Sea and provide strategic landing points for intercontinental cables from Asia, the Middle East and Africa, as well as a new route to major digital infrastructure hubs in Europe. [www.unitirreno.com](http://www.unitirreno.com)*

### About Fastweb

*With 3,3 million wireline and 3,8 million mobile customers, Fastweb is one of Italy's leading telecommunications operators. The company promotes the digital transformation of the society to build an increasingly connected, inclusive and eco sustainable future. Since its establishment in 1999, the company has focused on innovation and network infrastructure to guarantee the highest quality in the provision of ultra-broadband services and to promote the digitalisation of citizens and the country. To help everyone build their future with confidence, the company continuously invests in high-performance Gigabit-speed networks and innovative services, encourages the widest possible development of digital skills among the population, promotes an inclusive culture, is committed to the growth of talents, and supports the fight against climate change. Using the same approach adopted for core services, from 2024 Fastweb enters the electricity market to provide even more value to its customers with increasingly comprehensive services and solutions based on the principles of simplicity and transparency. Since 2015, the company has acquired 100% of its energy from renewable sources and has set ambitious emission reduction targets in 2020 endorsed by Science Based Targets initiatives. Fastweb has set the ambitious goal of becoming Net Zero Carbon by 2035. Awarded for the fourth consecutive year in the Europe's Climate Leaders ranking, Fastweb has received the "EE+" (Very Strong) sustainability rating from Standard Ethics. Fastweb has become a Benefit company since January 2022.*

### About Fondo Infrastrutture per la Crescita - ESG

*Azimut Libera Impresa SGR's (Azimut Group) Infrastrutture per la Crescita ESG fund (IPC fund), which successfully closed its fundraising period at EUR 755 million, is an unlisted Italian Alternative Infrastructure Investment Fund reserved for professional investors. The IPC fund invests in social infrastructure with the aim of generating positive growth in the economy, environment and society with an ESG approach, supporting people's social well-being and economic growth, and achieving long-term returns for investors. The IPC fund is among the top funds in terms of investment volume and first in terms of number of transactions carried out in Italy among funds operating in the same sector over the same time period (last three years, Source: Mergermarket). Moreover, the IPC Fund is the largest Italian alternative investment fund ex Art 8 SFDR, managed by an independent SGR not participated by public stakeholders.*

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### About Unidata

*Unidata S.p.A., a Telecommunications, Cloud and IoT Operator, was founded in 1985 by three partners still in the Company. With a fiber optic network of about 7,400 km in continuous expansion, a wireless network and a proprietary data center, the Unidata Group supplies over 26,400 business, wholesale and residential customers with ultra-broadband connectivity services with FTTH (Fiber to the Home) network architectures, wireless connectivity, VoIP services, Cloud services and other dedicated solutions, with a high level of reliability and security. The company is also active in the Internet of Things (IoT), with the development and supply of solutions for the home automation and Smart City market.*

*Unidata S.p.A. ISIN CODE: IT0005573065 (Reuters UD MI - Bloomberg UD IM) is listed on Euronext Milan – STAR segment of Borsa Italiana.*

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