



PRESS RELEASE

**UNIDATA AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND FOR ESG GROWTH OF AZIMUT LIBERA IMPRESA SGR  
ANNOUNCE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW UNDERMARINE FIBER OPTIC CABLE IN THE TYRRHENIAN  
SEA WHICH WILL CONNECT MAZARA DEL VALLO WITH GENOA**

**Fulfilled the conditions precedent communicated to the market on 29 September 2022 and signed the binding agreements for the establishment of Unitirreno Submarine Network S.p.A.**

Rome, Milan 27 December 2022 – Following what was already communicated to the market on 29 September 2022, **Unidata S.p.A.** (EGM: UD, Unidata), operator of Telecommunications, Cloud and IoT services, listed on the Euronext Growth Milan market of Borsa Italiana, and the **Fondo Infrastrutture per la Crescita ESG (IPC Fund) of Azimut Libera Impresa SGR**, whose investment activity is focused on social infrastructures capable of generating positive growth in the economy while respecting ESG principles, announce the successful signing of binding agreements for the construction – through a special purpose company (SPV) – called Unitirreno Submarine Network S.p.A. – of a new system of submarine optical fibers in the Tyrrhenian Sea of approximately 900 kilometers which will connect Mazara del Vallo to Genoa with a junction point near Rome-Fiumicino.

The construction of the new network will be entrusted to Alcatel Submarine Networks and Elettra Tlc S.p.A. and will be the first Open Cable system with 24 pairs of optical fibers, in the Mediterranean region with state-of-the-art submarine technologies aimed at meeting the ever-increasing broadband needs both nationally and internationally. A speed of 20 Tbps (terabytes per second) per pair of fibers is envisaged, which translates into a total system capacity of 480 Tbps on the main section and 320 Tbps on the 16-pair fiber branch towards Fiumicino. The new network will also include stubbed branch units to facilitate future landings in Sardinia and/or Palermo.

The market for submarine optical fibers is booming with a global investment forecast of 2.5 billion dollars in the period 2022-2024. To date, almost all of the world's Internet traffic (over 95%) is transported through a global network of over 400 fiber optic backbones which, overall, extend for 1.3 million kilometres. Investments are needed to support the growing volumes of data and their transmission and connection speeds (5G development, iCloud, cybersecurity, audio/visual content, metaverse, augmented reality, telemedicine, smart cities, etc.).

**Unitirreno will be 96% owned by a HoldCo** – in turn owned 66.67% by the IPC Fund and 33.33% by Unidata, with the possibility for the latter to hold a majority stake once that the implementation will be completed, – **and 4% by some promoter managers of the initiative with proven experience in the telecommunications sector.**



**Unitirreno will make a total investment estimated at approximately €80 million**, financed by equity for €36 million (in particular Unidata will invest between €12 million and €18 million), and for the remaining approximately €44 million, by the banking system and from self-financing generated by the operation.

**Renato Brunetti, President and CEO of Unidata**, declared: *"We are very satisfied to collaborate again with Azimut Libera Impresa SGR, thus consolidating our partnership, for the realization of this grandiose project which will strengthen the development of the Italian digital infrastructure, allowing us to be an alternative to the current hub of Marseilles and to provide strategic landing points for intercontinental cables from Asia and Africa. Unitirreno, connecting Sicily with the capital and Northern Italy by sea, will provide solid sea routes and allow the development of important synergies between the Rome-Fiumicino hub and the green data center that we will build on site together with Azimut Libera Impresa SGR starting in the next few months"*.

**Andrea Cornetti, Chief Executive Officer of Infrastructures and Real Estate Azimut Libera Impresa Sgr**, commented: *"The active and valuable collaboration with Unidata allows us to add to the portfolio of the IPC Fund another investment in an infrastructure that is crucial for the country's digital transition and for its economy, which perfectly combines the return in economic and financial terms with positive impacts on the community. Our attention to the dimensions of Sustainability is maximum and is confirmed by the assessment made by the Technical Committee of the Fund according to which the investment will contribute to the achievement of 8 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations"*.

The legal aspects of the transaction were handled by Chiomenti for Unidata and by Gianni & Origoni for Azimut Libera Impresa.

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

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**For further information:**

**Azimut Holding S.p.A.**

**Media Relations:**

Maria Laura Sisti (Esclapon & Co.)  
Tel. +39 347 42 82 170  
Email: [marialaura.sisti@esclapon.it](mailto:marialaura.sisti@esclapon.it)

Viviana Merotto  
Tel. +39 338 74 96 248  
Email: [viviana.merotto@azimut.it](mailto:viviana.merotto@azimut.it)

**UNIDATA S.p.A.**

Roberto GIACOMETTI  
CFO & Investor Relations Officer  
Tel. +39 329 2478696  
[r.giacometti@unidata.it](mailto:r.giacometti@unidata.it)

Paolo BIANCHI  
Board Member & IR Assistant  
Tel. +39 393 8230638  
[p.bianchi@unidata.it](mailto:p.bianchi@unidata.it)

**Investor Relations Advisor**

CDR COMMUNICATION

Silvia DI ROSA

Tel. +39 335 78 64 209

[silvia.dirosa@cdr-communication.it](mailto:silvia.dirosa@cdr-communication.it)

Eleonora NICOLINI

Tel. +39 333 97 73 749

[eleonora.nicolini@cdr-communication.it](mailto:eleonora.nicolini@cdr-communication.it)**Media Relations**

CDR COMMUNICATION

Angelo BRUNELLO

Tel. +39 329 21 17 752

[angelo.brunello@cdr-communication.it](mailto:angelo.brunello@cdr-communication.it)

Stefania TREVISOL

Tel +347 87 82 490

[Stefania.trevisol@cdr-communication.it](mailto:Stefania.trevisol@cdr-communication.it)**Euronext Growth Advisor**

ENVENT CAPITAL MARKETS

Giancarlo D'ALESSIO

EnVent Capital Markets Ltd

Londra, Berkeley Square 42, W1J54W

Tel. +39 06 896841 - [gdalessio@enventcapitalmarkets.uk](mailto:gdalessio@enventcapitalmarkets.uk)**Specialist**

BANCA FINNAT EURAMERICA SPA

Palazzo Altieri, Piazza del Gesù 4906.699331