

PRESS RELEASE

***THE DIGITAL FUTURE PASSES THROUGH MAZARA DEL VALLO: TODAY ON THE COAST,
THE LAYING OF THE UNITIRRENO SUBMARINE OPTICAL FIBER CABLE***

*An opportunity for Sicily and a strategic infrastructure that strengthens Italy's connectivity and its centrality in
the Mediterranean sea*

Roma, 29 April 2025 – On today's date, in Mazara del Vallo, **the laying of the fiber optic cable of the Unitirreno submarine system**, a digital infrastructure of strategic importance that will connect Sicily to Liguria (Genoa) passing through Olbia and Rome-Fiumicino, making these locations crucial hubs of the Mediterranean sea, took place.

The section of the cable just laid in Mazara del Vallo, carried from the beach towards the open sea, represents a crucial piece of a broad process of digital transformation and evolution. Built by Unitirreno – a joint venture composed by Unidata S.p.A. and the ESG Growth Infrastructure Fund (IPC) managed by Azimut Libera Impresa SGR S.p.A. – the project aims to **position Italy at the center of global telecommunications networks**.

The submarine cable, which will extend for over 1,030 kilometers, represents the **first Open Cable system in the Mediterranean basin with 24 pairs of optical fibers**; it will guarantee cutting-edge, reliable and secure technology, capable of guaranteeing high-level performance and offering a new secure and low-latency route for data transit between Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

A strategic opportunity for Sicily

The choice of Mazara del Vallo as the cable's landing point reflects a broader vision: that of **Sicily as a protagonist of the country's digital transition**. The island is indeed consolidating its role as a technological and connective hub in the Mediterranean, also thanks to infrastructural investments and a growing focus on the digital development of the territory. **Sicily Region** has activated **over 350 digital facilitation points** to improve citizens' skills, is promoting the **digitalization of public administration** and has launched **programs to strengthen the adoption of cloud and BIM** (Building Information Modeling) in **public works**. Initiatives that are supported by a regional strategy of smart specialization (S3) oriented towards innovation, ecological transition and the valorization of human capital.

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In this context, the **Unitirreno system** fits in as an **enabling infrastructure to attract investments** in the cloud, data center and digital services sectors, making Sicily an advanced interconnection platform.

*“The creation of the Unitirreno network allows Mazara del Vallo to become and in some ways to confirm itself as a digital hub of primary importance. We look at this project with optimism and in the hope that it can translate into ever greater economic and technological development for our companies and our community, while strengthening the role that Mazara del Vallo already plays in the Euro-Mediterranean context thanks to its strategic position – commented **Salvatore Quinci, Mayor of Mazara del Vallo**. “We hope that being a hub of a digital network with a direct connection to Rome, Olbia and Genoa, on the one hand can guarantee greater autonomy and security in the country in terms of data management and on the other improve connectivity for companies and providers. For Mazara del Vallo and for the South it is a great opportunity. With this collaborative spirit we are happy to participate in the creation of this strategic infrastructure for the Mediterranean and the entire country”.*

*“With Unitirreno we are laying the foundations for an increasingly integrated, sustainable and strategic digital future,” said **Renato Brunetti, CEO of Unidata and Unitirreno**. “It is an important step for the country system, which will allow us to improve connectivity on a national and international scale, while at the same time enhancing territories like Sicily, rich in potential yet to be expressed in the digital sector”.*

A strategic infrastructure for Italy and Europe

The Unitirreno system aims to connect the north and south of Italy, offering an innovative alternative to the traditional data transit routes that pass through Marseille. In addition to meeting national needs, the project is proposed as a new digital bridge between Europe and Africa, responding to the growing demand for connectivity also from the African continent.

In an ever-changing geopolitical context, this infrastructure marks a key moment in the consolidation of Italy as a reference point for telecommunications in the Mediterranean sea, strengthening its presence in global digital dynamics. This investment not only enhances Italian technological innovation, but contributes to building an increasingly connected, resilient and competitive future.

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About UNIDATA

Unidata S.p.A., active as a Telecommunications, Cloud and IoT Operator, is today the main Italian-controlled Internet Service Provider (ISP) active in all sectors: Private, Business, Public Administration and Wholesale. Founded in 1985 by three partners who are still in the company, Unidata is listed on the Euronext Milan Market – STAR Segment of the Italian Stock Exchange (ISIN CODE: IT0005338840 - Reuters UD MI-Bloomberg UD IM). With a continuously expanding fiber optic network of approximately 7,600 km, a wireless network and a proprietary data center, it provides over 27,500 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, guaranteeing reliability and security. In line with its constant commitment to R&D, Unidata is also active in the Internet of Things (IoT) sector - which it has transformed into one of its assets - with the development and supply of solutions for the home automation market, Smart Water Metering and Smart Cities. Furthermore, as a Benefit Company, in the exercise of its business activity it also pursues ESG (Environment, Social and Governance) objectives in the belief that it is possible to reconcile economic growth and the generation of shared value for the community and the environment.

About UNITIRRENO SUBMARINE NETWORK S.P.A (UNITIRRENO)

Unitirreno is a partnership between the "ESG Growth Infrastructure Fund, established and managed by Azimut Libera Impresa Sgr, Unidata and industry experts to improve Italian digital infrastructure through the construction of a new submarine cable system in the Tyrrhenian Sea. The system, approximately 1,030 kilometers long, will connect Mazara del Vallo with Genoa and a hub near Rome-Fiumicino. Unitirreno will offer a secure, low-latency alternative to the Marseille hub in the Mediterranean and will 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

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