



MEDIA RELEASE

Unitirreno Submarine Network Completes Successful Marine Survey, Paving the Way for Enhanced Connectivity

This milestone marks a crucial step towards the development of new infrastructure, strengthening Italy's influence as a prominent network gateway into Europe

ROME, 19 September 2023 – Unitirreno Submarine Network S.p.A. ("Unitirreno") today announced the successful completion of the marine survey for its new subsea cable network system. The comprehensive marine survey carried out by **Elettra TLC S.p.A.** ("Elettra") marks a significant milestone in the company's plan to deliver the first repeatered 24-pair fiber optic Open Cable system in the Mediterranean region.

The project will now enter into its next phase, commencing the manufacturing process for the cable, repeaters and branching units by **Alcatel Submarine Networks** ("ASN"). Additionally, Unitirreno is in final stages of preparations for landings in Genoa, Fiumicino (near Rome), Mazara del Vallo (Sicily) and Olbia (Sardinia). The Unitirreno network's Ready for Service (RFS) date is on schedule for Q2 2025.

This subsea cable project aims to enhance connectivity and provide robust telecommunications infrastructure, catering to a growing demand for reliable high-speed data transmission. Unitirreno will offer an alternative route into Europe through the Mediterranean by establishing a vital link between Genoa to Italy's main data center hub in Milan with express subsea routes into Rome, Sicily and Sardinia bolstering communication networks and supporting the digital development of Italy as a major gateway into Europe.

Renato Brunetti, CEO of Unitirreno said, *"We would like to express our gratitude to the dedicated team of experts and technicians from Elettra TIC, S.p.A. who diligently carried out the marine survey. Their expertise and commitment to excellence have been instrumental in the successful completion of this crucial phase of the project. We are now equipped with invaluable data and insights that will guide the subsequent stages of our cable deployment."*

Didier Dillard, President and CEO of Elettra said, *"We are grateful for the opportunity to work with Unitirreno on this strategic subsea cable project. Through utilization of state-of-the-art technology and equipment, we conducted comprehensive geophysical and geotechnical investigations. This meticulous approach ensures that the subsea cable will be designed and implemented with the highest standards of quality and reliability."*

Paul Gabla, Chief Sales and Marketing Officer of ASN said, *"ASN is delighted to embark on the next phase of Unitirreno's submarine network development, which involves the production of cables, repeaters, and branching units. We extend our gratitude to Unitirreno and its esteemed industrial and financial partners for choosing ASN to provide our cutting-edge technology for this innovative system."*

About Unitirreno Submarine Network, S.p.A (Unitirreno)

Unitirreno is a partnership between Unidata, *Fondo Infrastrutture per La Crescita – ESG*, FIA managed by Azimut Libera Impresa SGR, and industry experts to focus on enhancing Italy's digital infrastructure foundation through deployment of a new subsea cable system in the Tyrrhenian Sea. The approximately 1,030 kilometer system will connect Mazara del Vallo with Genoa and a junction point near Rome-Fiumicino. Unitirreno will offer a secure, low-latency alternative to Marseille as a cable landing hub in the Mediterranean and deliver strategic landing points for intercontinental cables from Asia, the Middle East and Africa in addition to a new route to major digital infrastructure hubs across Europe. www.unitirreno.com

About Elettra TIC S.p.A.

Elettra Tic Spa is a company dedicated to the marine survey, marine installation and repairs of telecommunication submarine cables all around the world, operating a fleet of two cable ships and one survey vessel. Elettra Tic is fully owned by Orange. Together with its sister company Orange Marine, it is a world leader in its sector of activity, representing 15% of the global cable ships fleet. It has installed almost 80 000 km of optical cables and is in charge of the maintenance of most of the submarine cables in service in the Mediterranean, Black and Red seas areas. www.elettratlc.it

About Alcatel Submarine Networks

Alcatel Submarine Networks, part of Nokia, leads the industry in terms of transmission capacity and installed base with more than 750,000 km of optical submarine systems deployed worldwide, enough to circumnavigate the globe 19 times. From traditional telecom applications to content and "over the top" service provider infrastructures, as well as to offshore oil and gas applications, ASN provides all elements of turnkey global undersea transmission systems, tailored to individual customer's needs. An extensive services portfolio completes its comprehensive offering for the submarine Mbusiness, including project management, installation, and commissioning, along with marine and maintenance operations performed by ASN's wholly owned fleet of cable ships. www.asn.com

For more information please contact:

Unidata / Unitirreno
media@unitirreno.com

Elettra Tic S.p.A.
info@elettratlc.it

Alcatel Submarine Networks
communications@asn.com

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