



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **UNIDATA SELECTS ASNAND ELETTRA Tlc TO BUILD NEW SUBSEA CABLE SYSTEM CONNECTING GENOA, SICILY AND ROME-FIUMICINO**

*New Unitirreno cable will be the first 24 fiber pair Open Cable system in the Mediterranean Region delivering cutting-edge submarine technologies to support continuously increasing national and international bandwidth requirements.*

**Rome, October 18, 2022 – Unidata S.p.A. (EGM:UD)**, an operator of Telecommunications, Cloud and IoT services today announced the appointment of Alcatel Submarine Networks (“ASN”) and Elettra Tlc S.p.A. for the construction of the Unitirreno submarine cable system with support from Pioneer Consulting.

Further to Unidata’s recent announcement of the signing of conditional binding agreements with an infrastructure fund and industry experts to build the new system, plans are now underway to initiate design and construction of the Unitirreno system, spanning approximately 890 kilometers in the Tyrrhenian Sea to connect Mazara del Vallo with Genoa and include a junction point near Rome.

**According to Alan Mauldin, Research Director at TeleGeography,** *“The demand for bandwidth remains insatiable around the world and requires new investment in network infrastructure. Unidata’s new submarine cable will serve a vital role in enhancing connectivity and network resiliency between Sicily and Genoa. The cable’s 24-fiber pair design proves the scale to meet surging demand requirements.”*

The Unitirreno cable system will consist of a 24 fiber pair trunk between Genoa and Marzara del Vallo in Sicily and a 16 fiber pair branch to Fiumicino near Rome where Unidata is currently building a green data center hub. At 20Tbps per fiber pair, the system’s total capacity will be 480 Tbps on the trunk route and 320Tbps on the branch to Fiumicino. It will also include stubbed branching units to facilitate future landings in Sardinia and/or Palermo. Unitirreno will feature state-of-the-art subsea fiber optic technology in an open cable system structure which will enable customers to select their preferred technology solution for individual fiber pairs.

**Renato Brunetti, President and CEO of Unidata S.p.A.** said, *“We are optimistic that the timing of this project will be well aligned with the anticipated increase in bandwidth demands for the region. Digital transformation is scaling new heights as video, new technology and business models continue to drive more applications into the cloud. Unitirreno will strengthen the*

*development of Italy's digital infrastructure and provide robust direct subsea routes between Genoa, Sicily and Rome. The system will deliver strategic landing points for intercontinental cables from Asia and Africa while providing a new route to major digital infrastructure hubs in Europe, including London, Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Milan. We are also looking forward to creating new synergies between the Rome-Fiumicino hub and our planned on-site green data center hub."*

**Vendor quotes:**

**Paul Gabla, Chief Sales and Marketing Officer of ASN said,** *"We are pleased to have been selected for the supply of this system, which will be connected to other initiatives in the region, boosting traffic demand. ASN will design, manufacture, and deliver the Unotirreno system with the state-of-the-art technology that has made ASN a leader in the telecommunications submarine industry."*

**Didier Dillard, President and CEO of Elettra said,** *"We are very honored to have been chosen by Unidata S.p.A. for this special project, that will contribute to strengthen Italian long haul strategic submarine infrastructure. Elettra Tic is an Italian company, one of the few in the world capable to deploy or repair submarine cables in all oceans and seas, and everyone within the company is proud and happy to use his or her skills this time for a project developed in the home country."*

**Bertrand Clesca, Director of Client Solutions, Pioneer Consulting said,** *"We are pleased to contribute to the development of digital backhaul infrastructure in Europe, which will lead to greater network capacity and resilience in the western part of the Mediterranean Basin. Many submarine cables that connect Europe to Africa, the ME and Asia land in the west Mediterranean Sea, making Unotirreno an important project that will strengthen worldwide connectivity. We are proud to support Unidata in commercial, technical and market capacities."*

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**About Unidata, S.p.A**

Unidata S.p.A. Telecommunications, Cloud and IoT Operator. The Company was founded in 1985 by 3 partners still in the Company. With a fiber optic network of 4,920 km in continuous expansion, a wireless network and a proprietary data center, provides over 14,500 business, wholesale and residential customers with ultra-wideband 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. Other activities in the operational start-up phase concern the Internet of Things (IoT), with the development and supply of solutions for the home automation market and Smart City. [www.unidata.it](http://www.unidata.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 700,000 km of optical submarine systems deployed worldwide, enough to circumnavigate the globe 17 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 business, 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](http://www.asn.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 more than 75 000 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.elettratic.it](http://www.elettratic.it)

**About Pioneer Consulting**

Drawing on decades of experience, Pioneer Consulting empowers clients to take their vision for a submarine fiber optic telecommunications system and make it a reality. The company provides expert counsel to guide clients through the full subsea cable installation process, while also providing valuable technical and commercial insight about the submarine telecom industry. From comprehensive project management to system design to shipboard representation, Pioneer has the expertise and resources to support clients through each stage of their venture. Pioneer has completed 150+ projects, spanning every ocean across six continents. [www.pioneerconsulting.com](http://www.pioneerconsulting.com)

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