

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

Rome, 30th May 2012. As already announced in various venues, also institutional, F2i (Fondi italiani per le infrastrutture) and FSI (Fondo Strategico Italiano) are preparing to launch a significant ultra broadband network development project in 30 of the main Italian cities, also relying on the skills of the subsidiary Metroweb SpA. This is an important initiative - as is confirmed by the approval of the project by Cassa Depositi e Prestiti through Fondo Strategico Italiano - aimed at providing the country with an advanced fibre optic network access infrastructure (NGN), in line with the objectives of the Digital Agenda established by the EU.

The Project is based on using fibre optic cables for the access network, connected directly to the user's location (homes and offices) with the FTTH (Fibre-To-The-Home) system, a unique technology able to guarantee transmission speeds definitely higher than 100 Mbit/s (as set forth by the Digital Agenda, for 50% of households by 2020), which is expected to arrive to speeds of Gbit/s due to the development of the technologies and ultra broadband services that operators are able to provide. Only in this manner can an infrastructure ready for the future be certainly and promptly ensured, putting Italy in step with the other developed countries which for some time have decided to leverage the development of ICTs to recover from the crisis and to generate and support stable and lasting economic growth.

As a result of its intrinsic mission, to provide competitive leverage to the economy, the F2i (Metroweb)-FSI project will be organised in all phases so as to take advantage of all possible synergies with infrastructures already available, avoiding the needless duplication of investments and ensuring that the project complements other initiatives (first of all, naturally, those of Telecom Italia). For this purpose, all opportune and necessary initiatives for coordination and collaboration will be activated in all phases. Besides, it could not be otherwise, given that the objective is to create a "neutral" network which is available to the entire system of TLC operators, who will have the task of providing the service to end customers.

F2i and FSI are sure that with this Project, they will be able to trigger a boost and modernisation of our country's TLC infrastructures, to overcome the delays accumulated in recent years - due to both a lack of financial resources on the part of operators and widespread gaps and uncertainties in relation to project planning and decisions, which to date have been evident - contributing without further delay towards aligning Italy with EU objectives and with the actual standards of more developed countries.

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