

AUTOSTRADA PER L'ITALIA AND OPEN FIBER: STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TO DIGITALISE CITIES AND ROADS NEW COMPANY FORMED TO WIRE THE COUNTRY

- *Parties sign MoU on sustainable and innovative mobility*
- *Open Fiber Network Solutions created, a new consortium formed with Amplia Infrastructures and CIEL to recruit and train workforce to deploy ultra-fast fiber network across the country.*
- *Autostrade per l'Italia CEO Roberto Tomasi: "This partnership represents a new paradigm: the synergies between the country's major players are the turning point on the road towards digital transition and the mobility of the future".*
- *Open Fiber CEO Mario Rossetti: "This agreement is the fruit of a shared idea of the mobility of the future. The Consortium we have put in place is also a response to a lack of manpower in the sector and to complete coverage of the areas most heavily penalised by the lack of connectivity".*

Rome, 22 April 2022 - A joint venture in consortium form for the implementation of ultra-fast fiber in Italy and a strategic partnership for the country. A leap into the future of mobility and digital transition, opening up a chapter of new and deeper synergies between the major players. **Open Fiber** and **Autostrade per l'Italia Group (ASPI)** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the aim of **accelerating Italy's digitalisation** and collaborating on projects and initiatives to make its cities and roads smarter.

As a concrete response to the shortage of skilled labour, **Open Fiber**, the Aspi Group through its construction subsidiary **Amplia Infrastructures** and **CIEL**, a company specialised in tech systems, have formed a **Consortium to work on completing the fiber optic network** that Open Fiber is building across Italy. The Consortium, named **Open Fiber Network Solutions**, will **recruit and train specialists** to work in the construction of fiber optic telecommunications infrastructure. The Consortium's teams of technicians will be operational from June. When fully up to speed, the Consortium will employ around 1,000 people.

The MoU between Autostrade per l'Italia and Open Fiber aims to **boost road and network infrastructure digitalisation projects** through smart cities, ITS (Intelligent Transport Systems), smart roads, e-mobility and **sustainable and innovative mobility** generally.

In this area, the Aspi Group and Open Fiber are best placed to play a leading role in Italy. Open Fiber has expertise in the design, construction and operation of the networks and IT systems to transport and process large volumes of data (including video) in real time. Autostrade per l'Italia has the know-how to develop technological solutions to acquire and process traffic management and access control data and video analytics algorithms, as

well as the ability to deliver innovative sustainable mobility services, analysis and the digital development of processes for mobility and logistics. For ASPI, the partnership with OF is part of the **Mercury Programme**, a technological innovation hub involving the Group's five subsidiaries (Amplia Infrastructures, Tecne, Movyon, Free to X and Elgea).

*"This partnership affirms a new paradigm", said Autostrade per l'Italia CEO **Roberto Tomasi**. "The synergies between the country's major players are the turning point towards the digital transition and the mobility of the future. A step that confirms Autostrade per l'Italia's central role in the strategic relaunch of national development. It is a role we have acquired thanks to a robust business transformation built around a strategic vision that aims to establish the Group as an increasingly integrated mobility manager. The 21.5 billion euro modernisation plan already underway and ASPI's recent Mercury Programme are pointers towards a future of interconnected and sustainable mobility, starting with more modern and secure infrastructures. Today's partnership strengthens our strategy even more."*

*"This agreement is fruit of a shared idea of the mobility of the future, to make smarter processes and applications not only in cities and towns, but also on roads, motorways and ports. All part of Open Fiber's strategy that goes beyond connecting homes and industrial districts to affect the country's entire digital infrastructure," commented **Mario Rossetti**, CEO of Open Fiber. "The Consortium we have put in place is also a response to the labour shortage in the telecommunications sector, and aims to complete coverage of those areas of Italy most heavily penalised thus far by the lack of connectivity".*

OPEN FIBER

Open Fiber was created to build an ultra-broadband network entirely in FTTH (Fiber To The Home) optic fiber across the whole of Italy. The goal is to guarantee coverage of the major Italian cities and the connection of rural areas through a UBB fiber network, providing increasingly advanced services and functionality for citizens, businesses and the PA. Open Fiber is a wholesale-only operator. It does not sell fiber optic services directly to the end customer, but makes its infrastructure available to all interested operators on equal terms. With over 13.9 million ultra-broadband Uls already connected, Open Fiber is Italy's leading FTTH operator and one of the biggest in Europe.

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Autostrade per l'Italia

An integrated mobility operator, Autostrade per l'Italia Group today employs almost 9,000 people. ASPI is one of the largest toll motorway concessionaires in Europe and the world, with around 3,000 km of managed network. The Group also operates in Italy through its subsidiaries, with a view to increasingly sustainable mobility: Movyon, Tecne, Amplia Infrastructures, Free To X and Elgea. A recruitment programme is currently underway for approximately 2,900 people, a key part of a business plan that

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envisages more than €21.5 billion in investments, including new works and modernisation of the motorway network.

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