



Ghella in JV to build Lot 1+2 Fiumetorto - Lercara: 30 kilometres of new railway, part of Palermo-Catania High-Capacity Rail in Sicily

Rome, 6 June 2023 – **Ghella** and its consortium partner have won a €1.32-billion contract to build **Lot 1+2 Fiumetorto-Lercara part of the high-capacity railway under construction between Palermo and Catania in Sicily**. Works entail the development of **30 kilometres** of new railway.

Commissioned by **Rete Ferroviaria Italiana (RFI)** (Gruppo FS Italiane), the project will support the **development of Sicily's infrastructure** and **reduce the travel times** between the island's main cities, **making rail transport more competitive**.

The JV composed by Ghella with a 25% stake (including 10% owned by its subsidiary TunnelPro) and Webuild with a 75% stake (including 5% held by its Seli Overseas subsidiary) **will use four tunnel boring machines (TBMs)** and **advanced technologies and construction methods** to ensure maximum **sustainability** of the project.

Lot 1+2 will include **20 kilometres** of **parallel tunnels** to accommodate travel in both directions, more than **2 kilometres** of **road and rail viaducts**, more than **7 kilometres of roads**, and **3 stations**. One of the stations – Valle del Torto – will be built and the other two – Cerda and Lercara – will be upgraded. Ghella and Webuild **will apply systems to recover and reuse** both rainwater and that used for industrial processes. The stations will come equipped with systems to ensure a more efficient use of water and the capture of rain.

As part of the development of the **high-capacity railway** along the Palermo-Catania axis Ghella has also recently been awarded **Lot 4A Caltanissetta Xirbi - Nuova Enna** and **Lot 3 Lercara - Caltanissetta Xirbi**.

The new railway to connect Palermo, Catania and Messina is **a strategic project for Sicily and Italy**. It will make the transport of people and freight faster and more effective across the island, **reducing travel times** between Palermo and Catania by one hour, to two hours.

The Palermo-Catania-Messina axis is **part of the Scandinavian-Mediterranean Corridor of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)**, promoting the connection with the rest of Italy and Europe.

Founded in 1894, we are a global reality of primary importance in the construction of large public projects. Specialized in underground excavation and tunneling works, we realize important infrastructures such as subways, railways, highways, and hydraulic projects. Over the course of 150 years, we have built over 130 tunnels and connected more than 1,000 km of highways, railways, and subways. We believe in a business model focused on leaving a better world to the next generations. We build to the highest quality, innovation and sustainability standards, utilizing advanced technologies and state-of-the-art construction methods, supported by a continuous process of staff training. We aid economic growth and social development in all the territories in which we operate.