

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Retelit joins the Open Hub Med consortium**

*Company announces entry into the Open Hub Med project, the new telecommunications hub in Sicily - perfectly complementing the AAE-1 cable in Bari*

Milan, February 17, 2017 - Retelit confirms its interest in the Mediterranean, joining the "Open Hub Med" (OHM) project, with an investment of Euro 100,000.00 for acquisition of 9.52% of the consortium share capital.

Open Hub Med, the Sicilian Consortium comprising, in addition to Retelit, Interoute Italia, Italtel, Eolo, MIX, Supernap Italia, Equinix Italia, Fastweb, In-Site, Vuetel Italia and the Sicilian consortium XMED, is the largest neutral and open data exchange hub in Italy and the main landing point for submarine cables in the Mediterranean.

The investment is part of the strategy to maximise the industrial and commercial potential of the AAE-1 submarine cable, perfectly complementing it. Retelit in fact, in addition to the AAE-1 submarine landing point in Bari, from today may utilise an additional hub for data exchange in Southern Italy - addressing Internet traffic, through OHM hub submarine cables, to Milan and the major European hubs using its fiber optic backbone.

According to recent estimates, traffic from Asia to Europe will increase nearly 60% by 2019. Most of this traffic currently converges in the French hub (Marseilles), at present the main independent submarine data traffic junction. Through agreements between its Palermo Data Center and the other submarine cable landing stations, in addition to the construction of an open transport platform to Europe, OHM establishes Sicily, located strategically in the centre of the Mediterranean, as a privileged landing point for traffic to and from the Middle East, Africa and the Far East.

Federico Protto, Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of Retelit and from today also a Director, stated of "Open Hub Med": *"Joining the OHM confirms the company's desire to invest in strategic technological and digital hubs. In addition to the Puglia route, with the AAE-1 system submarine network, thanks to the presence in Sicily with OHM we can offer international operators a range of routes and more competitive infrastructural solutions, contributing, in addition, to a new international telecommunications set up which confirms the central role of Italy and the Mediterranean. Retelit has chosen to invest in the Open Hub Med Consortium in order to be involved in the development of a successful and cutting-edge high quality technological hub in Southern Italy and in a pivotally located city such as Palermo"*.

## **Retelit Group**

*Retelit is a major Italian provider of data and infrastructure services to the telecommunications market and has been listed on the Milan Stock Exchange since 2000, joining the STAR segment on September 26, 2016. The company's fiber optic infrastructure covers over 9,700 kilometers (equivalent to approx. 200,000 km of fiber-optic cables, of which 60,000 located in MAN), connecting 9 Urban Networks and 15 Data Centers across Italy. It has over 2,700 On-Net sites, of which 1,656 customer sites, 584 telecommunication towers, 447 cabinets and 35 Data Centers, the Retelit network also extends beyond Italy through a pan-European ring with PoP's in Frankfurt and London. Retelit is member of AAE-1 (Africa-Asia-Europe-1), the submarine cable system connecting Europe to Asia through the Middle East, reaching 19 Countries, from Marseille to Hong Kong, owning a landing station in Bari. These valuable assets make Retelit a perfect technological partner for TLC and ICT operators and businesses, providing on demand a complete range of high-quality, reliable and safe solutions. Services range from ultra-broadband fiber optic internet connection to the Cloud and network and VPN services to colocation solutions, with approx. 10,400 square meters of equipped and secure fiber optic connected spaces, for the outsourcing of Data Center services and the satisfaction of disaster recovery and business continuity needs. Retelit's Carrier Ethernet services are in addition Metro Ethernet Forum (MEF) certified.*

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