





## PRESS RELEASE

## CIRCLE GROUP enhances its commitment within the RAISE - Spoke 4 Ecosystem dedicated to Automation and Optimal Management of Port Traffic Flows with over €50,000 additional contribution

Milan, December 17, 2024

**Circle S.p.A.** ("**CIRCLE**" or "**the Company**") - Innovative SME listed on the Euronext Growth Milan market at the head of the Group of the same name specializing in the process, analysis and the development of solutions for the digitalization of the port and intermodal logistics sectors and in international consultancy on the Green Deal and energy transition issues – announces the expansion of its participation in the 'Automated Systems and AI Tools for **Optimal Management of Port Traffic Flows**' Project of the RAISE - *Robotics and AI for Socioeconomic Empowerment* ecosystem, in particular within Spoke 4, of which it was already a member, developing activities within the '*Smart and Sustainable Ports*' projects. With its established experience in numerous port contexts, Circle thus reconfirms its commitment to improving the efficiency and sustainability of ports.

With an additional funding of more than €50,000, Circle will be primarily involved in activities that include the development of platforms for collecting and processing data from ports, crucial nodes for managing traffic flows between the port and surrounding areas. Circle, with its expertise in IoT technologies and automation, will extend its involvement through its MILOS Tracking Federative Platform (TFP), which is already operational in advanced logistics contexts.

Specifically, Circle will integrate road transport planning and monitoring services into its platform, focusing on customs corridors, shuttling activities between port and interport areas, and pickups, deliveries of freight and empty containers within port areas. In addition, Circle will have the ability to develop new features to collect some real-time data, such as road traffic information.

"Circle once again confirms itself as a strategic partner for innovation and automation in the port sector," says Luca Abatello, **CEO of Circle Group**, "actively contributing to a more efficient and sustainable management of the development of port operations and traffic flows. Participation in the RAISE ecosystem, with the aim of developing an innovative ecosystem









within Ligurian port areas while reducing the environmental impact of operations, fits perfectly with the purposes highlighted in our industrial plan "Connect 4 Agile Growth" aimed at the continuous development of technological solutions for a more digital and sustainable maritime environment."

RAISE (raiseliguria.it) aims to develop and commercialize technological solutions based on robotic systems and artificial intelligence that respond to the real productive and social needs of the Ligurian territory. The project aims to enhance and strengthen research and development in these technologies for several areas of interest, including healthcare, environmental sustainability, smart ports, and accessible and inclusive smart cities. RAISE's approach focuses on the needs of people and the local area by fostering the transfer of innovative technologies from research to market, providing resources, knowledge and support to generate sustainable, inclusive and resilient innovation. In addition, the project aims to create a highly attractive ecosystem for companies, investors and researchers, both nationally and internationally.

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*This press release is available in the Investor Relations section of the website <u>www.circlegroup.eu</u> and at <u>www.1info.it</u>.* 

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Founded in Genoa in 2012, **Circle S.p.A.** is the Innovative SME at the head of the <u>CIRCLE Group</u>, the Group specialising in the analysis and development of products for the **innovation** and **digitalisation of the port** and intermodal logistics sectors and in the international consultancy on topics concerning the Green Deal and energy transition.

In addition to Circle, the Group includes the software houses **Info.era**, **NEXT Freight** (formerly 'Adele Project') and **Cargo Start**, acquired at the end of 2017, July 2019 and December 2022 respectively, the consulting companies **Magellan Circle** and **Magellan Circle Italy**, the **NewCo NEXT Customs**, as well as the subsidiary **ACCUDIRE**.

The synergies between the individual components of the CIRCLE Group have made it possible to expand the portfolio of solutions offered in the areas of IoT, Optimisation, Digital Twin, Big Data and Process Automation, and to strengthen the software products: **Milos**<sup>®</sup> - a suite aimed at all players in intermodal logistics such as inland terminals, port terminals, ports, MTOs and maritime agencies -, the Extended Port Community System, the **Master SPED**<sup>®</sup> and **Milos**<sup>®</sup> **Global Supply Chain Visibility** solutions, dedicated respectively to freight forwarding and logistics and to trade and industry, as well as **Star Tracking**<sup>®</sup>, an airport-to-airport tracking solution.

To complete the offer in the Supply Chain area, the so-called **'Federative Services'** able to make the migration of customers towards a digital business model more efficient and offered in cloud mode.

Through **Magellan Circle** (with offices in Porto and Brussels) and **Magellan Circle Italy**, Circle operates in the field of advocacy at European Institutions, supporting Public Bodies and Companies by identifying their positioning at a European level (**Strategic Communication and Advocacy**) and funding opportunities (**Eu Funding Accelerator**), with a vertical focus on Green Deal and energy transition issues.





The acquisition of the 51% of shares of **Cargo Start** in December 2022, a company specialising in the development and sale of innovative technological products and services for air cargo, allowed Circle to strengthen its offering in a rapidly expanding segment that is strategic to the **Connect 4 Agile Growth** industrial path.

*Circle owns 92% of eXyond, formerly Log@Sea business network, active in offering advanced Gate Automation* solutions aimed at port and intermodal nodes.

In December 2023, Circle subscribed to a capital increase equal to 21% of the share capital of ACCUDIRE, an Innovative Startup from Veneto that provides a **Collaborative Digital Platform** capable of helping players along global Supply Chains in the exchange of information and in the management of document flows accompanying goods shipments, starting first and foremost with the **e-CMR** (or electronic waybill, part of an international standard and transposition law just approved by the Italian Parliament).

Finally, in February 2024 Circle established the NewCo **NEXT Customs**, dedicated to digital customs optimisation services and functional to the continuation of initiatives aimed at the harmonisation of customs processes, a highly strategic area for the evolution of the **Connect 4 Agile Growth path**.

*Circle S.p.A. has been listed on the Euronext Growth Milan* market of Borsa Italiana since October 26, 2018 (alphanumeric code: CIRC; ISIN code ordinary shares: IT. 0005344996).

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