

PRESS RELEASE

CIRCLE Group announces a new 'Transport Federative Port & Inland Services' solution as part of the 'e-Bridge' Project:

An Innovative Model for Port and Intermodal Logistics

Milan, February 12, 2025

<u>CIRCLE S.p.A.</u> ("CIRCLE" or the "Company") - an Innovative SME listed on the Euronext Growth Milan market, heading the Group specialized in the process analysis and the development of solutions for the digitalization of the port and intermodal logistics sectors, as well as in the international consultancy on Green Deal and energy transition topics – announces a further development of its federative solutions, implemented within the **'e-Bridge' Project**, which significantly contributes to the innovation of port logistics (primarily in Liguria). The new 'Transport Federative Port & Inland Services' solution provides digital and integrated management of the information exchange between inland nodes and port terminals. This new approach aims to optimise the flow of goods in the port, adjacent inland terminals and transport players, improving efficiency and reducing waiting times for trucks.

The interoperability management module between the actors involved aimed to develop, implement and validate a digital connection between the Western Ligurian Sea Port System (Ports of Genoa) and a series of inland actors and terminals equipped with advanced technology.

An important phase of the project involved the operational pilot between the transport company LCT SPA, its inland terminal in Castelguelfo and the Terminal San Giorgio, located in the Port of Genoa. This pilot phase aims to make the operational systems of the main actors involved, maritime carriers, land carriers (LCT with the SIMA system) and the extended PCS system of the Ports of Genoa (ADSP MLOc) interoperable. Thanks to the integration of information systems, the project enabled the digitalisation and automation of bookings, reducing waiting times and improving the efficiency of port operations.

Benefits resulting from the implementation of the system include the digitalisation of bookings in the shipowner's system, the automation of pre-arrival message management, the automatic updating of container tracking data at terminals, and the elimination of errors resulting from manual data entry. In addition, traffic flow management is now smoother, significantly reducing waiting times for truck drivers and optimising the export and import cargo cycle.



'The new 'Transport Federative Port & Inland Services' module,' said Luca Abatello, CEO of Circle **Group**, 'represents an important step towards the optimisation of port and intermodal operations, with a solid foundation of digital innovation and advanced technologies. With the involvement of key players such as Terminal san Giorgio S.p.A. and LCT SPA, and partner SIMA of the Zucchetti Group, the project is charting a course towards smarter, safer and more sustainable port and multimodal logistics for the future, in line with the objectives of the 'Connect for Agile Growth' business plan.

The project was co-funded by the EU within the CEF programme and saw the participation of Circle, the Ministry of Transport, RAM and Hub Telematica.

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**, **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**[®] - 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**[®] and **Milos**[®] **Global Supply Chain Visibility** solutions, dedicated respectively to freight forwarding and logistics and to trade and industry, as well as **Star Tracking**[®], an airport-to-airport tracking solution.

To complete the offer in the Supply Chain area, the so-called **'Federative Services'** are 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. On December 27th, 2024, **eXyond** acquired the business unit owned by Telepass Innova S.p.A. (a subsidiary of Telepass S.p.A.). The Business Unit includes the Infomobility Business Unit (resulting from the merger by incorporation of the company InfoBlu S.p.A. into Telepass Innova) active in advanced traffic monitoring and management services on the Italian road and motorway network, and the Telematics Business Unit (resulting from the merger by incorporation of the company KMaster S.r.l. into Telepass Innova) active in the provision of telematics services, based on proprietary technology platforms, to companies operating in the logistics, transport and insurance sectors.

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 **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



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