

PRESS RELEASE

PRYSMIAN GROUP STEPS UP INNOVATION IN THE AREAS OF ULTRA-RAPID TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS AND SMARTER, MORE SUSTAINABLE POWER GRIDS

R&D FINANCING OF €110 MILLION FROM THE EIB (EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK)

"CABLE TECHNOLOGY IS PROVING THAT IT CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHALLENGE OF DIGITALISATION AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY," EXPLAINS V. BATTISTA, PRYSMIAN GROUP CEO

14 November 2017 – The European Investment Bank (EIB) and Prysmian Group, world leader in the energy and telecom cable systems industry, announce that they have finalised financing of €110 million intended to support the Group's 2017-2020 R&D plans in Europe.

Specifically, the EIB financing will be put towards:

- **Industrial research:** research on innovative materials involving the use of nanotechnology, systems for monitoring and managing land and submarine networks, optimisation of cable design to reduce power loss and increase transmission capacity, new cables and materials for more sustainable solutions and hybrid energy and telecom cables;
- **Innovation and experimentation:** the use of alternative materials for cable design and product project optimisation;
- **New product development:** land and submarine cables and systems for energy transmission, HV P-Laser cables, cables for the renewable energy sector, high-performance optical fibres, cables for FTTH and FTTA applications, connectivity and development of smart cables and systems for sensing, monitoring and management.

"Our Group's growth strategy revolves around our commitment to R&D, an area where we intend to increase our investments further, also thanks to the funding from the EIB," explained Prysmian Group CEO Valerio Battista. "In particular, cable technology is proving that it can contribute decisively to the challenge of digitalisation and the development of more efficient and environmentally sustainable power grids. Innovative optical fibres, cables with a reduced environmental impact and higher capacity and voltage rating, and technologies for monitoring network conditions are just a few of the areas on which we are focusing."

"The development of electrical and digital networks is one of the pillars of the EIB's financing programme, as faster, more efficient interconnections support economic recovery and contribute to improving competitiveness and reducing social disparities. We at the EIB are very satisfied to be supporting Prysmian's investment plans also because they concern R&D laboratories located in six different European countries," commented Dario Scannapico, Vice-President of the EIB.

The financing represents approximately 50% of the investments planned in Europe during the period concerned. Overall, at the global level, Prysmian Group planned to allocate a total of approximately €300 million to research and development over the four-year period. This financing follows that provided by the EIB to the Group in 2013, also in support of R&D in Europe, a sign of the trust and excellent credit profile that the company enjoys with the Bank.

The EIB financing is specifically intended to support projects to be developed at R&D centres in six European countries: France, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Spain, Germany and Italy. A significant share of the resources is intended for Italy, which is home to Prysmian Group's headquarters, R&D offices and several plants that are centres of excellence in manufacturing optical fibres and submarine cables and systems for energy transmission. At the global level, Prysmian Group has 17 R&D centres located in Europe, North and South America and Asia, with a team of over 700 professional researchers, technicians and operators, and an extensive portfolio of more than 4,600 patents.

Noteworthy among the most recent innovations developed by Prysmian Group are: the new Flextube fibre-optic cable, which has set a world record for fibre density; the P-Laser 600kV cable, the world's first fully recyclable high-voltage cable; and the 700kV submarine cable with MI insulation that has set the world voltage record.

Prysmian Group

Prysmian Group is world leader in the energy and telecom cable systems industry. With nearly 140 years of experience, sales of over €7.5 billion in 2016, 21,000 employees across 50 countries and 82 plants, the Group is strongly positioned in high-tech markets and offers the widest possible range of products, services, technologies and know-how. It operates in the businesses of underground and submarine cables and systems for power transmission and distribution, of special cables for applications in many different industries and of medium and low voltage cables for the construction and infrastructure sectors. For the telecommunications industry, the Group manufactures cables and accessories for voice, video and data transmission, offering a comprehensive range of optical fibres, optical and copper cables and connectivity systems. Prysmian is a public company, listed on the Italian Stock Exchange in the FTSE MIB index.

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