



## **JOINT PRESS RELEASE**

### **STRAITS BRIDGE: IMPREGILO AND STRETTO DI MESSINA CLOSE CONTRACT**

The Stretto di Messina company and Impregilo, the lead company and agent for the temporary group of companies, today signed the contract assigning final and executive project planning and construction of the bridge over the Straits of Messina, and related rail and road links, to the General Contractor.

The contract is worth 3.9 billion euro. It envisages ten months of work on the final and executive projects and 5 years of construction work.

The other members of the temporary group of companies led by Impregilo S.p.A. with a 45% share are Spain's Sacyr S.A. (18.70%), the Italian companies Società Italiana per Condotte D'Acqua S.p.A. (15%) and Cooperativa Muratori & Cementisti-C.M.C. of Ravenna (13%), Japan's Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries Co. Ltd. (6.30%), Consorzio Stabile A.C.I. S.c.p.a (2%). The General Contractor will also be assisted by the Danish and Canadian companies Cowi A/S, Sund & Baelt A/S and Buckland & Taylor Ltd., who will be handling project engineering.

“The signature of the contract is the logical conclusion of the bid procedure after the final award decided by the Board of Directors of Stretto di Messina and the recent ruling of the regional administrative tribunal of Lazio rejecting the request for suspension,” commented Pietro Ciucci, Chief Executive Officer of Stretto di Messina. “In view of the value of the contract – more than 4 billion euro – and the unique nature of the project, this was an extremely complex operation and involved countless national and international players.”

“The first task for the General Contractor is to draw up the final project,” Ciucci added. “I am certain they will work closely with Stretto di Messina and the local authorities to take account of requirements and indications. At the same time, plans will also be drawn up for the ancillary works to be built in the area in which the bridge will be constructed, in order to optimise the social and economic effects of the bridge project for the local community. In parallel, the General Contractor will have to set up a local team and, as provided by the contract, organise the necessary professional training for local personnel. Completion of the final project, approval by Stretto di Messina and the start-up of the procedure prescribed under Italian law for final approval by the interministerial economic planning committee (CIPE) should all take place by the end of 2006.”

“We are delighted that with the closing of the contract we can begin work on project development,” said Alberto Lina, Impregilo Chief Executive Officer. “On one hand this is an important opportunity for infrastructure development and job creation in Sicily and Calabria; on the other, it provides Italian engineering and research with a unique showcase, here in Italy, for their expertise in the planning and construction of complex and technologically advanced infrastructures like the Straits of Messina bridge.”

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Contact: Vinicio Fasciani  
Impregilo  
Tel. +39 02 444 22241  
E-mail [vinicio.fasciani@impregilo.it](mailto:vinicio.fasciani@impregilo.it)

Barabino & Partners  
Luca Barabino  
Claudio Cosetti  
Tel. +39 02 7202 3535

Contact: Stretto di Messina S.p.A.  
Press Office  
Lorenzo Falciai  
Tel. + 39 06 858261  
E-mail: [press@strettodimessina.it](mailto:press@strettodimessina.it)