

PRESS RELEASE

FERALPI SIDERURGICA RECEIVES FINANCING FROM INTESA SANPAOLO, FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF STEEL THAT IS GREEN, CIRCULAR AND INNOVATIVE

- **The 40-million-euro credit line will be mainly dedicated to the financing of an innovative combination of technological solutions at the Lonato del Garda (Brescia) plant**
- **Mauro Micillo (Chief of Intesa Sanpaolo's IMI CIB Division) confirmed: "We remain committed to providing financial support for the innovative and sustainable re-design of the industrial system"**
- **Giuseppe Pasini (Chairman of Feralpi Group): "We invest to integrate sustainable growth strategies with innovative and circular technologies into the development of our business"**

Milan, 4 March 2021 - **Intesa Sanpaolo** and **Feralpi Siderurgica** - one of Europe's leading steelmakers specialising in the production of steel for the building industry - have signed a loan agreement in the amount of 40 million euro to achieve specific targets related to sustainability and the circular economy.

The credit line will be mainly used to finance the installation of a combination of technological solutions for steel products intended for the building and infrastructure markets at the Lonato del Garda (Brescia) plant.

Indeed, innovative technological solutions envisage the optimisation of the production process with a view to **lower consumption of raw materials and energy, in addition to the significant reduction of waste materials, with a direct and indirect impact on reducing the plant's environmental footprint**. The plant has been certified as EMAS (*Eco Management Audit Scheme*) compliant since 2013.

The investment also includes **strong acceleration of the implementation of artificial intelligence** through algorithms that are capable of constantly raising the total efficiency of the plant through self-learning processes.

Efficiency, circularity and digital innovation fit in the Feralpi Group's purpose, as it continues to invest in order to be among the international leaders in the steel sector,

getting a head start on the standards of excellence in the industry through technological innovation and sustainability.

The loan will enable Feralpi to continue its pursuit of **green investments** in line with its business plan and the Feralpi Group's business strategy as per six Goals (no. 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13) of the **UN 2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development which are also included in the Consolidated Non-Financial Statement (NFS).

For Intesa Sanpaolo, this marks the conclusion of an additional transaction concerning the 6-billion-euro ceiling dedicated to the circular economy as envisaged by the 2018-2021 Business Plan. Since it was launched, around 177 projects have been financed.

The transaction was concluded by the **IMI Corporate and Investment Banking Division** of Intesa Sanpaolo, headed by **Mauro Micillo** with the support of the Circular Economy Desk of **Intesa Sanpaolo Innovation Center**, a company dedicated to innovating and spreading the circular economy.

*“An operation with an international renown group such as Feralpi confirms the strength and responsiveness of the Italian manufacturing industry - commented **Mauro Micillo**, Chief of the **IMI Corporate & Investment Banking** Division of **Intesa Sanpaolo**. "The topic of environmental sustainability is and will be increasingly crucial for business development strategies as demonstrated by national and international initiatives and projects within the framework of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan - Next Generation and the European Green New Deal. The Italian manufacturing industry has long understood the importance of sustainability and was able to implement strategies and innovations that position it as the least polluting in Europe together with its German counterpart. The Intesa Sanpaolo Group is committed to supporting the Country's ESG transformation, facilitating the businesses that strive to improve their sustainability profile by supporting them in a structural change process aimed at consolidating their competitive positioning, including on global markets“.*

*"The Feralpi Group - **recalled its Chairman Giuseppe Pasini** - is oriented towards increasingly circular business models, through a development strategy that allows for continuous adaptation and mitigation of impacts. That is why we are committed to improving our environmental, social and economic performance by actively meeting the ESG criteria. We need to fulfil these conditions if we are to continue to be competitive on the markets, satisfy the demands of the supply chains we are a part of and take the opportunities offered by the energy transition to decarbonised models capable of combating climate change“.*

To boost and support the Green Economy, Intesa Sanpaolo has developed a wide and diversified range of financing and advisory products, dedicated to all types of customers, in Italy and abroad. Projects receiving Intesa Sanpaolo loans for the circular economy must meet a number of criteria, including product life extension, renewable energy, resource optimisation, recyclable products and technologies that enable and foster this economic model. This allows the Bank to disburse loans at increasingly advantageous terms for customers, subject to verifying the achievement of the circular economy objectives.

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Intesa Sanpaolo

Intesa Sanpaolo is the leading Bank in Italy and one of the soundest and most profitable banks in Europe. It offers commercial, corporate investment banking, asset management and insurance services. The Intesa Sanpaolo Group has approximately 14.7 million customers in Italy who are assisted through both digital and traditional channels. It also has 7.1 million international customers which it serves through its commercial banking subsidiaries present in 12 countries in Central-Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, and through an international network dedicated to corporate customers in 26 countries. Intesa Sanpaolo is considered one of the most sustainable banks in the world. For the Group, creating value means being a driver for growth, for the benefit of both society and the economy. As regards the environment, the Group has set up a 6-billion-euro fund for the circular economy. Intesa Sanpaolo supports major economic inclusion and poverty reduction projects, including an impact fund of 1.5 billion euro for loans available to social groups who struggle to access credit. Intesa Sanpaolo has a high level of involvement in cultural initiatives, organised by the Bank or in collaboration with other entities in Italy and further afield. These include permanent and temporary exhibitions showcasing the Bank's impressive artistic heritage at the Gallerie d'Italia, the Group's museums located in Milan, Naples, Vicenza and soon Turin.

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Feralpi Group

The Feralpi Group is one of the main steel manufacturers in Europe (1.30 billion euro in turnover in 2019 and over 1,500 direct employees), specialised in the production of steel products intended for both construction and special applications. The growth path of the parent company Feralpi Siderurgica, founded in 1968 in Lonato del Garda (Brescia), led to the creation of an international Group, diversified and verticalised upstream and downstream of the production and marketing chain. The Feralpi Group is one of the leaders on the national and European markets in the production of steel reinforcing bars, smooth and ribbed wire rod, recoiled or drawn wires and welded wire mesh.

Feralpi's mission goes beyond producing the best steel for the construction industry: the group intends to do it in the most sustainable manner, by reducing consumption and emissions using the best available technologies resulting from intense internal innovation and research activities.

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