

Italy: EIB supports TIM's 5G network plan



- EUR 350m loan signed for investments in 2019-2020 aimed at 4G and 5G UBB mobile network evolution
- Access to latest generation superfast connections for individuals and businesses
- 30% of the financing will go to southern Italy

Faster, higher-capacity connections to extend the latest generation mobile phone network to virtually all Italian people and businesses – that is the aim of TIM's investment plan for mobile telephony infrastructure supported by the European Investment Bank (EIB) via a 6Y EUR 350m loan signed today in Rome by EIB Vice-President **Dario Scannapieco** and TIM CEO **Luigi Gubitosi**.

The financed project concerns both the implementation of 5G, as announced by TIM last June, and the strengthening of the existing mobile network with 4G/LTE (Long-Term Evolution). These actions will enable the completion of the outdoor 4G superfast mobile connection coverage in 2019-2020; also, they will lead to a substantial increase in the network's capacity to cope with the huge growth in traffic at 5G speeds of up to 2 Gbps (gigabits per second). At the same time, the investments will enable the dissemination of 5G and 4G/LTE UBB commercial services, including fixed wireless access solutions, to be expanded throughout Italy.

Of TIM's total planned investments, 30% will go to southern Italy.

The loan comes under the EU bank's priority sectors: supporting telecommunications network infrastructure, bridging the digital divide, meeting the targets of the Digital Agenda for Europe and helping to develop the EU's most disadvantaged regions.