

Press Release

**BOARD APPROVES GUIDELINES FOR STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2023,  
LAUNCHING COMPANY'S TRANSFORMATION**

- *€7.5bn to be spent on new investment and on maintenance, with capital expenditure to almost treble and 40% increase in maintenance expenditure compared with previous four years, in line with discussions with Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport*
- *1,000 jobs to be created, with major emphasis on skills enhancement and people development. Priority to be given to road, construction site and workplace safety*
- *Focus on research, development and sustainable mobility with aim of creating green infrastructure*
- *Work to start on digitalisation of processes and assets, with entire network to be monitored using Artificial Intelligence by 2020*

Rome, 16 January 2020 - The Board of Directors of Autostrade per l'Italia has approved Strategic Plan guidelines for the period 2020-2023, setting out key aspects of the Company's transformation. The plan is based on an innovative vision that will, through wide-ranging changes to the Company's culture and organisation and an exceptional commitment to upgrading the network, result in a radical transformation of the Company by the end of the period.

The plan focuses above all on the overall modernisation of the network, involving large-scale and growing investment in new infrastructure and a significant increase in maintenance expenditure, on a major commitment to skills enhancement and people development, on the digitalisation of assets and operational processes, on driving the development of sustainable mobility and connectivity, and on road, construction site and workplace safety.

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The new plan is worth a total of €7.5bn, covering both capital expenditure and maintenance of the network through to 2023.

The key plan guidelines are:

#### Network investment and maintenance programme

Over the life of the plan, the Company aims to invest approximately €5.4bn in the network, almost trebling the amount invested by the Company in the previous four years (amounting to approximately €2.1bn). Maintenance expenditure will rise to €1.6bn (€2bn including expenditure in 2019), marking a 40% increase on the previous four years. This investment will enable the Company to complete the modernisation of key strategic network assets, including bridges, viaducts, flyovers, tunnels, road surfaces and safety barriers within the next four years. The plan also covers the widening and upgrade of 30 km of existing network, to be opened to traffic by 2023.

#### Job creation, skills enhancement and people development. Focus on safety

The Company aims to create 1,000 jobs for engineers, technicians, operating personnel, motorway personnel and toll collectors, who will be employed in implementing the main projects included in the plan. The guidelines envisage a major emphasis on skills enhancement and people development for existing personnel through specific training and development programmes. Road, construction site and workplace safety is considered one of the key priorities in delivering the strategic plan and will result in the creation of specific initiatives, some in partnership with the highway police.

#### Digitalisation of assets and operational processes

The plan envisages the complete digitalisation of the Company's operational procedures and processes, by adopting the latest technologies available on the market. A key component of this strategy is the development, in partnership with IBM, of an Artificial Intelligence platform that will be used, by the end of 2020, to monitor the 1,943 bridges and viaducts along the network. The new platform will be used by the external companies contracted to conduct monitoring activities and will be based on a totally transparent approach to information sharing (single data infrastructure, cloud systems architecture and the use of big data).

To activate the platform, work is already underway on installing multi-functional sensors along the motorway network, making it possible to continuously monitor priority infrastructure and gather data in real time on traffic conditions and traffic controls (for example, the use of dynamic weighing systems and the tracking of exceptional loads). Drones equipped with automated flight plans will also be deployed to further improve the monitoring of bridges and

viaducts, whilst high-speed video-cameras, laser technologies and geo-radar will also be used to conduct checks on tunnels.

ASPI's total investment in the digitalisation of assets and organisational processes amounts to a further €200m, which is in addition to approximately €300m to be invested in software, hardware and other tangible and intangible assets owned by the Company.

#### Focus on research, development and sustainable mobility

There will be significant developments regarding sustainable mobility. Adopting a green infrastructure approach, action will be taken to ensure sustainable development and management of the network, including: the installation of charging points in special bays within service areas to encourage the use of electric vehicles; greater use of renewable energy, including in the provision of services to road users; and the planting of trees in order to offset carbon emissions.

#### Road users at the centre of ASPI's operations

The customer experience will see significant improvements, with the introduction of measures and solutions designed to put drivers' needs throughout their journey at the centre of what we do (for example: predictive traffic information systems across all motorway information channels, interaction with virtual agents at toll stations, reduced complaint response times, refunds in the event of serious disruption due to maintenance works, etc). Trials of 5G connectivity for the entire motorway network are to be launched and dynamic signage and smart lighting communication systems (that can be adapted to suit particular traffic and weather conditions) are to be introduced near to junctions, tunnels and parking and service areas.