



•ALERT•

1 FEBRUARY 2022

The development of new telecommunication infrastructures in Italy: a public call to boost the speed connection

On January 14, 2022, the Italian Government released a public call to finance investment projects (by way of public grants) for the construction of **new telecommunication infrastructures**, and their relative access points/equipment, capable of providing services with a capacity of 1 Gbit/s in download and 200 Mbit/s in upload. The public call is part of the intervention plan "Italia a 1 Giga" – notified to the European Commission on November 8, 2021 – which aims to fill the gap of ultra-wideband telecommunication and to ensure, by 2026, a speed of connection from fixed networks equal to 1 Gbit/s on the entire Italian territory.

In order to achieve such an ambitious goal, the Italian Government allocated almost 3.8 billion of euros – with grants from the PNNR (Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza) – to develop the above-described infrastructures.

The call is entrusted to Infratel Italia – an Italian public company operating in the telecommunications industry for the Ministry of Economic Development – as a general contractor, which is entitled by the Italian Government to grant the financing.

Application

Participation to the tender is open to both **individual enterprises** and **groups of enterprises**, based in Italy or in any another country of the European Union. If a group of enterprises submits a joint application, such application must identify which of the joint applicants will be responsible for coordinating the project if awarded with the grants. Requirements for participation are outlined in detail in the tender notice. Each applicant must meet all the requirements, both of general order and of professional suitability.



In the public call there are no limits or information related to the control chain of the applicants. Therefore, the public call seems to be open to enterprises and groups controlled or participated by non-UE companies/funds, subject to the applicable regulations in the relevant jurisdiction and a further assessment on the non-participation/conditions for non-EU ultimate control entities, under the EU Recovery Plan related regulations.

The entire tender procedure will be managed by means of an online system, through access to a dedicated portal. The application must be submitted through the dedicated portal, available at: <https://ingate.invitalia.it/>.

At the time of submitting the application, each applicant must present an **investment project** consisting of:

- I. a **technical part**, concerning the implementation of the infrastructure, and
- II. a **business plan**, concerning the economic development of the project.

The **deadline to apply** is 16 March 2022 until 13.00 UTC. The **deadline to complete the project** is 30 June 2026.

Tender procedure

In order to provide the entire Italian territory with ultra-wideband telecommunication, **the funding project is divided into batches**. Each batch corresponds to a portion of the entire public granting and will be awarded for the implementation of the relevant infrastructures in a specific Italian region.

Specifically, the batches are divided as follows:

Num.	Name	Number of civil buildings	Max funding
1	Sardegna	663.784	356.268.499
2	Puglia	644.257	346.012.899
3	Abruzzo Molise Marche Umbria	609.520	305.867.016
4	Piemonte Liguria Val d'Aosta	495.133	290.724.367
5	Calabria Sud	538.740	289.179.441
6	Toscana	549.188	277.728.579
7	Lazio	481.248	275.790.199
8	Sicilia	479.726	245.775.016
9	Emilia-Romagna	450.010	241.370.090
10	Campania	488.573	231.872.558
11	Calabria Nord (Cs)	428.671	230.077.817
12	Friuli-Venezia Giulia Veneto	444.904	227.816.919
13	Lombardia	397.008	209.934.821
14	Basilicata	162.956	90.699.499
15	PA Trento e PA Bolzano	62.732	34.478.312
TOTALE		6.896.450	3.653.596.032

Each applicant can apply for one or more (even all) batches. However, each applicant can be awarded with a maximum of 8 batches, unless the submitted offers are insufficient to cover all of the remaining batches.

The projects submitted by the applicants will be evaluated by a **technical committee**, appointed by Infratel. The committee will evaluate the projects on the basis of the selection criteria set out in the tender notice.

Awarding of the grants

At the end of the selection process, for each of the batches awarded the parties (awarded enterprise and Infratel) will sign an agreement, in order to regulate the disbursement of the public grants, which will cover **up to a maximum of**

70% of the expenses necessary for the implementation of the Project. The remaining 30% of the expenses will be borne by the awarded enterprise.

Relations between the awarded enterprise and Infratel will be regulated by means of an agreement that will lay down detailed operating procedures regarding the implementation of the infrastructures, technical monitoring, and the procedures for ex-post verification of the profitability of the investment.

To guarantee the fulfillment of the obligations undertaken, the awarded company must present a warranty with a duration of six years, starting from the date of stipulation of the agreement itself.

In order to submit a project that is consistent with both the public call notice and the national and European legislation, it is essential for the applicants to be supported by professionals with the necessary skills in the field of public calls, public contracts, etc.

LCA has developed a **specific expertise** in the relevant fields, providing advice to multinational companies and global investment fund, headquartered in EU and non-EU, operating in each economic sectors, in the **screening assessment** of the public calls requirements and in **each phase** of the public procedures.

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