

FINCANTIERI AND SPARKLE SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE PROTECTION AND SURVEILLANCE OF SUBMARINE CABLES

Trieste/Roma, 17 December 2024 - Fincantieri, one of the world's leading shipbuilding groups, and **Sparkle**, the first international service provider in Italy and among the top global operators, have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** to collaborate on the development of innovative technological solutions for the surveillance and protection of submarine telecommunications cables.

The agreement is part of a strategic vision for Italy's technological development and international competitiveness, in which two excellences collaborate to ensure the resilience of infrastructures which are fundamental for digital connectivity and for the country's technological growth.

Through shared and specialized work teams, Fincantieri and Sparkle will analyse the requirements for improving the security of undersea telecommunications infrastructures, identifying innovative technologies and solutions to ensure their operational resilience.

Fincantieri, with its expertise in the underwater domain, is developing advanced solutions for surveillance and protection of subsea infrastructure, combining its established know-how in the shipbuilding industry with cutting-edge technologies. The company considers the underwater sector as a key dimension for sustainable economic development, given the current geopolitical tensions and the increasing dependence on these strategic infrastructures. This collaboration strengthens Fincantieri's position as a key player in the global market for underwater technological innovation.

With a proprietary fiber-optic network stretching more than 600,000 km across Europe, Africa, the Middle East, the Americas and Asia, of which 90% is laid on submarine cables, Sparkle has always been committed to the protection of these strategic infrastructures - fundamental to the country's socioeconomic development and security - through their constant monitoring and the introduction of the most advanced physical and digital security systems. The agreement with Fincantieri is part of collaborations with major players in the sector, including the Italian Navy, with which Sparkle has been working since 2022 to protect its proprietary submarine cables and neighbouring areas, and the Polo Nazionale della dimensione Subacquea (PNS, Italian national hub of the underwater dimension) which brings together the national public and private excellences operating in the sector.

Pierroberto Folgiero, CEO and General Director of Fincantieri, commented: *“The agreement with Sparkle marks an important step in our technological development path in the protection of critical submarine infrastructure. We are ready to deploy our Group's know-how to develop cutting-edge solutions that combine reliability and innovation. Thanks to this collaboration, in addition to strengthening our commitment to digital security, we concretize the development of civilian submarine alongside the military one, and project the role of Fincantieri and Italy as an industrial leader on an international scale, through synergies between national excellences.”*

Enrico Maria Bagnasco, CEO of Sparkle, said: “*The agreement with Fincantieri represents a fundamental step in our mission to protect subsea infrastructures, which are pillars of global connectivity and national security. Our collaboration will combine outstanding expertise in the shipbuilding and telecommunications sectors to develop advanced technological solutions able to address the increasingly complex challenges of an interconnected world. Together, we will help strengthen the resilience of the country system and consolidate Italy's position as an international leader in digital innovation and sustainability.*”

Fincantieri

Fincantieri is one of the world's largest shipbuilding groups, the only one active in all high-tech marine industry sectors. It is leader in the construction and transformation of cruise, naval and oil & gas and wind offshore vessels, as well as in the production of systems and component equipment, after-sales services and marine interiors solutions. Thanks to the expertise developed in the management of complex projects, the Group boasts first-class references in infrastructures and is a reference player in digital technologies and cybersecurity, electronics and advanced systems. With over 230 years of history and more than 7,000 ships built, Fincantieri maintains its know-how, expertise and management centres in Italy, here employing over 11,000 workers and creating around 90,000 jobs, which double worldwide thanks to a production network of 18 shipyards operating worldwide and with over 22,000 employees.

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About Sparkle

Sparkle is TIM Group's Global Operator, first international service provider in Italy and among the top worldwide, offering a full range of infrastructure and global connectivity services – capacity, IP, SD-WAN, colocation, IoT connectivity, roaming and voice - to national and international Carriers, OTTs, ISPs, Media/Content Providers, and multinational enterprises. A major player in the submarine cable industry, Sparkle owns and manages a network of more than 600,000 km of fiber spanning from Europe to Africa and the Middle East, the Americas and Asia. Its sales force is active worldwide and distributed over 33 countries.

Find out more about Sparkle following its [X](#) and [LinkedIn](#) profiles or visiting the website tisparkle.com

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