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Press Release

EDF, Edison, Federacciai, Ansaldo Energia and Ansaldo Nucleare signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the use of nuclear energy to boost the competitiveness and decarbonisation of the Italian steel industry

The purpose of the agreement is twofold – to explore and consider in the medium term co-investment opportunities in the construction of Small Modular Reactor (SMR) nuclear power plants, partly to cover the needs of the steel industry, and to consider opportunities for the medium-long term supply of nuclear energy, primarily by means of the capacity on the interconnector already operating between Italy and France.

Genoa–Milan–Paris, 23 July 2024

EDF, Edison, Ansaldo Energia, Ansaldo Nucleare and Federacciai announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at promoting cooperation in the use of nuclear energy to boost the competitiveness and decarbonisation of the Italian steel industry. The signatories of the agreement undertake to consider co-investment opportunities in new nuclear energy and, in particular, in the construction of Small Modular Reactors in Italy over the upcoming decade, making use of the SMR technology promoted by EDF, of Edison's expertise, and of the engineering and industrial capabilities of Ansaldo Energia and Ansaldo Nucleare.

In that context, the parties undertake to explore the opportunity to establish a supply contract of nuclear energy on the medium and long term, leveraging primarily on the capacity on the interconnector already operating between Italy and France and thus contributing to the decarbonisation of steel production in Italy.

According to the five signatories, nuclear energy has a key role to play in achieving the European Union's ambitious decarbonisation targets for 2050 and in improving the competitiveness of the industry. Looking at Italy, the reopening the debate about the use of the new nuclear is considered a decisive step. The goal is to implement an energy transition that, together with the development of renewables and green gas, can rely on a baseload and flexible energy source at fixed costs, allowing decarbonisation targets to be reached while minimising the overall cost of energy.

Potential industrial cooperations will fully benefit from the competences of the signatories:

- Ansaldo Energia, as an Original Equipment Manufacturer of turbines and generators and service provider for the energy industry;
- Ansaldo Nucleare, as a system and component developer, service provider and developer of advanced technologies for nuclear plants;
- EDF, as the worldwide largest nuclear owner-operator, committed to implementing new nuclear projects based on technologies including (i) small modular reactors, (ii) EPR1200 mid-size reactors and (iii) EPR large-size reactors;



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- Edison, as one of the main players in the energy sector in Italy, with a leading role in the energy transition thanks to a highly diversified renewable energy portfolio (wind, hydroelectric, photovoltaic) and two latest-generation thermoelectric power plants among the most efficient in the world, as well as a consolidated experience in supplying energy and services to Italian industrial customers;
- Federacciai, as the representative entity of Italian steel companies, committed to protecting the interests of the sector.

«The agreement signed today is of crucial importance for the Italian steel industry and the entire production chain. The commitment of Italian steelmakers is clear: we intend to lead the transition to a fully sustainable steel industry. Thanks to agreements like this, within a few years, Italy can become the first country in the world to produce fully decarbonised steel. Nuclear power will be a strategic and much needed component in achieving such ambitious goals, providing the industry with a secure and environmentally friendly energy supply. We will work to ensure that this first important agreement can set an example for all hard-to-abate industrial sectors: this is the only viable way to meet the most ambitious decarbonisation targets», said **Antonio Gozzi, President of Federacciai**.

«This new step in French-Italian cooperation in the field of decarbonised electricity generation from nuclear sources highlights EDF's strong commitment to establishing and consolidating a long-term relationship. Our aim is clearly to support the relaunch of the nuclear option in Italy and to strengthen industrial cooperation between the two countries in Italy, in France and in Europe», said **Xavier Ursat, EDF Group Senior Executive Vice President** in charge of Strategy, Technologies, Innovation and Development. *«The interest of a key player such as Federacciai confirms and reinforces our strategy of collaborating with companies and business associations from energy-intensive industries to promote concrete actions aimed at achieving European climate targets»*, adds **Marc Benayoun, EDF Group Senior Executive Vice President**, in charge of Customers & Energy Services.

«The agreement announced today marks further progress in setting an agenda for developing new nuclear energy in Italy», said **Nicola Monti, Edison Chief Executive Officer**. *«Today, Italy imports about 15-20% of its energy from abroad. The development of a national supply chain for the production of new nuclear energy, making the most of the technological advances of recent years and investing in the improvement of local skills, represents a phenomenal opportunity to achieve not only decarbonisation targets, but also greater independence and security for the country's energy system»*.

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«The Ansaldo Energia Group has a wealth of engineering and manufacturing expertise that is fundamental to the energy transition journey», said **Fabrizio Fabbri, Ansaldo Energia Chief Executive Officer**. «Cooperation at both national and European level is crucial to be competitive and to move forward in a committed way on the path to decarbonisation». **Daniela Gentile, Ansaldo Nucleare Chief Executive Officer**, added: “We are proud of the continued cooperation and trust with key partners such as EDF, EDISON and Federacciai. This agreement allows Ansaldo Nucleare to make available its experience and capabilities as a systems integrator and developer of new nuclear technologies and represents a crucial opportunity for the country’s growth. The Italian industry recognises the importance of a European approach in the nuclear sector and, as part of the Ansaldo Energia Group, we hope that this will result in the implementation of Italian nuclear projects over the next ten years.”

Federacciai

Federacciai is the Federation of Italian Steel Enterprises, part of the sector associations of Confindustria. The main purpose of the Federation of Steel Enterprises is to represent an apolitical and non-profit organisation, with the aim to promote all initiatives beneficial to the Italian steel industry in the economic, financial, technical and scientific fields. Currently Federacciai is at the top of the national economic system, second only to Germany in the European market in terms of steel production and consumption, with 21.1 million tons production in 2023. Federacciai's primary objective is to protect, support and connect member companies (124 as of 31/12/2023, with over 72000 employees in the sector), which produce and transform 95% of Italian steel production.

Moreover, as the main representative of the sector's companies, the Federation promotes its image in Italy and abroad, among its stakeholders and the public opinion, highlighting its economic characteristics, articulations, and productive and commercial evolution. At international level, Federacciai is a member of the European Steel Association (EUROFER) and the World Steel Association.

Edison

Edison is the oldest energy company in Europe, with 140 years of record-breaking results, and one of the leading operators in Italy in the sectors of distribution, production and sale of electricity and natural gas and in the provision of energy and environmental services. The company is at the forefront of the energy transition, through the development of renewable and low-carbon generation, energy efficiency services and sustainable mobility, in line with the Italian Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan (PNIEC) and with the European Green Deal objectives. Edison has a highly flexible and efficient electricity generation fleet, comprised of 200 hydroelectric, wind, solar and natural gas combined cycle thermoelectric power plants. The Group's total net installed capacity is 6.5 GW. Today, Edison employs over 5,500 people in Italy and Europe.

About EDF

The EDF Group is a key player in the energy transition, as an integrated energy operator engaged in all aspects of the energy business: power generation, distribution, trading, energy sales and energy services. The Group is a world leader in low-carbon energy, with a low carbon output of 434TWh, a diverse generation mix based mainly on nuclear and renewable energy (including hydropower). It is also investing in new technologies to support the energy transition. EDF's *raison d'être* is to build a net zero energy future with electricity and innovative solutions and services, to help save the planet and drive well-being and economic development. The Group supplies energy and services to approximately 40.9 million customers ⁽¹⁾ and generated consolidated sales of €139.7 billion in 2023.

(1) Customers are counted per delivery site. A customer may have two delivery points.

Ansaldo Energia – Ansaldo Nucleare

Ansaldo Energia is a leading power generation company, providing engineering and components for conventional power plants in several markets through proprietary technologies and its own supply chain. Ansaldo Nucleare, wholly owned by Ansaldo Energia, has developed expertise in the engineering and testing of nuclear systems and components, contributing to various projects for new nuclear power plants, as well as PLEX and safety upgrades of operating units, and has developed innovative designs and advanced technologies in both nuclear fission and nuclear fusion.

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