

ILLIMITY AND SACE STRENGTHEN THEIR PARTNERSHIP AIMED AT SUPPORTING STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS MADE BY ITALIAN COMPANIES

Thanks to the new agreement, illimity makes SACE's new Garanzia Futuro available to businesses

Milan, 6 March 2024 – **illimity** and **SACE** announce that they have entered a new agreement to support Italian companies – and in particular SMEs – in their strategic investments, giving further momentum to the competitiveness and productivity of the country's economy, in line with the objectives of the EU's National Recovery and Resilience Plan.

In detail, the partnership enables illimity to make SACE's Garanzia Futuro available to businesses, this being designed to support the development and investments of companies in technical innovation and digitalisation processes on global markets. The Guarantee additionally provides for support for investments in infrastructure, in strategic industries and in economically disadvantaged areas, as well as in female entrepreneurship. Special emphasis will be given to projects carried out in Italy in the social, energy, hydro and digital spheres and those aiming to reduce seismic and hydrogeological risk.

Using a fully digitalised process, businesses will be able to obtain **a 70% benefit from SACE's Garanzia Futuro** and receive medium- to long-term capital loans of up to 50 million euro. It will be possible to use loans both for future expenditure and for investments already made in the 18 months prior to the loan application date.

The partnership between illimity and SACE is therefore strengthened by this new instrument, which joins SACE's Green Guarantee, already made available by illimity last December with the aim of supporting companies with investments designed to reduce environmental impact.

Stefano Ortolano, Head of Structured Finance in **illimity**, commented: *"Right from the start, illimity's mission has been to support Italian businesses with potential in their growth and development plans through the use of innovative and tailored solutions. The new agreement with SACE, which forms part of a broader partnership, goes precisely in this direction and enables us to further extend the number of instruments we put at the disposal of companies every day".*

"With Garanzia Futuro our support for the investments made by businesses, especially SMEs, and for the Italian economy, becomes structural", stated **Daniela Cataudella**, Head of Dynamic Business Solutions in **SACE**. *"Together with illimity we want to accompany Italian companies into the future, supporting them in their transition towards sustainability and innovation, so that they can optimise their processes and boost their operating profit and creditworthiness as a means of being increasingly competitive both in Italy and abroad."*

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illimity Bank S.p.A.

illimity is the high-tech banking group founded and headed by Corrado Passera that was created with the aim of responding to specific market needs by way of an innovative and specialist business model. More specifically, illimity extends financing to high-potential SMEs, purchases distressed corporate loans and services these through its platform ARECneprix and provides digital direct banking services through illimitybank.com. illimity SGR, which sets up and manages alternative investment funds, the first of which dedicated to UTP loans, is also a member of the Group. The story of the illimity Group began in January 2018 with the launch of the special purpose acquisition company SPAXS S.p.A., which ended with a record 600 million euro being raised on the market. SPAXS subsequently acquired Banca Interprovinciale S.p.A., with the resulting merger between the two giving rise to "illimity Bank S.p.A." which has been listed on the Italian Stock Exchange since 5 March 2019 (ticker "ILTY"), first on the MTA exchange and since September 2020 on the STAR segment. The banking group, headquartered in Milan, can count on 921 employees and ended 2023 with assets of around 7.3 billion euro.

SACE is an Italian insurance & finance group controlled directly by the Italian Ministry of the Economy and Finance, specialising in supporting businesses and the national economy through a wide range of tools and solutions to support competitiveness in Italy and worldwide. For more than forty-five years the SACE Group has been the reference partner for Italian companies that export and grow on international markets. Through its financial guarantees It also supports the banking system in facilitating companies' access to credit, in order to assist their liquidity and investments for competitiveness and sustainability as part of Italy's Green New Deal, starting from the domestic market. The Group is present worldwide with 13 offices in target countries for Made in Italy, whose aim is to build relations with leading local counterparts and, through dedicated financial instruments, facilitate business with Italian companies. With a portfolio of insured operations and guaranteed investments worth 164 billion euro, SACE, together with its subsidiaries - SACE FCT, which operates in the factoring sector, SACE BT, focusing on credit, surety bonds and property damage insurance, and SACE SRV, specialising in data collection and information asset management - serves over 40 thousand companies, mainly SMEs, supporting their growth in Italy and in around 200 other countries throughout the world.