



## **JOINT PRESS RELEASE**

**CIRCLE and IGNAZIO MESSINA & C.: From Genoa to Egypt containers under control with RFID eSeals.**

**First pilot project of International Fast & Secure Trade Lane between the ports of Genoa and Alexandria has been successfully managed.**

**The project - which is developed within' European project FENIX - besides Circle Group the and Italian historical shipping company Ignazio Messina & C., involves terminals IMT in the Port of Genoa and Ocean Express in the Port of Alexandria, and lays the foundation for complete digitalization and harmonization of document flow of the various players of the Corridor.**

Complete digitalization and harmonization of document flow of the various players of the logistic Corridor thanks also to IoT (Internet of Things) technologies and special eSeals with RFID technology that allow the immediate identification of containers, of their content, possible mishandlings, with the effect of reducing margins of error and fasten all the operations, firstly customs clearance: the first pilot project of International Fast & Secure Trade Lane between Italy and Egypt has been successfully managed thanks to the cooperation between Circle Group and Ignazio Messina & C. .

The test, which is developed within' European project FENIX (coordinated by ERTICO at European level and by the Ministry of infrastructure and transport as recipient through TTS Italia at a national level), involved Intermodal Marine Terminal (IMT) in Genoa and Ocean Express Terminal in Alexandria and ended on 15<sup>th</sup> November with the arrival in Alexandria of the first ship.

Among the technologies used stand out eSeals installed on containers: eSeals have inside an RFID electronic component with a numbered sequence which allows immediate identification of each container as well as the management of logistic and customs informative flows related to export/import.

A fundamental element of this project is the capacity of various system components to constantly dialogue with each other on compatible parameters: eSeals communicate with those technologies installed at the gates or mobile ones (handled or mounted on vehicles readers) thus allowing automatic detection of numbering corresponding to the seal, the verification of no break-in, and the identification of all related documents (manifest, certificates of origin and phytosanitary certificates. This helps to drastically reduce errors and to avoid any possible delay caused by inspections.

*Besides speeding up operations by providing direct access to the terminal, as **Luca Abatello, President & CEO at Circle** stated: "The project is aiming to ensure early exchange of documents at port of arrival before the departure of the ship, exploiting 'federative' services developed by CIRCLE Group and made interoperable with IT systems of Ignazio Messina & C. and of other logistic and port operators involved".*

The second phase of the pilot project provides for a further digitalization with direct involvement of



Italian and Egyptian Customs Agencies.

*“The choice of our Group - stated **Ignazio Messina, CEO of the shipping company** - is always to position our maritime services one step ahead of competitors, anticipating market demand. This project in the digitalization sector with Circle will have important operational effects, on efficiency and speed of operations, but also on security”.*

Alexandria, 2020, November 23<sup>rd</sup>

#### **CIRCLE S.P.A.**

*Established in Genoa in June 2012, **Circle S.p.A.** is the company heading the homonymous group, specialized in the **analysis and development of automation and digitalization solutions for the port and intermodal logistics sectors**. The acquisition, at the end of 2017, of 51% of Info.era guaranteed the strengthening of the related **Milos®** and **Sinfomar®** software products, focused on the intermodal logistics sector, inland terminals and port terminals, ports (Port Community System of the Port of Trieste, in example), as well as to MTOs and maritime agencies. During 2019 Circle is further strengthening the solutions portfolio, in the IOT, Optimization, Digital Twin, Big Data, Process Automation sectors and, in July 2019, Circle has acquired 100% of Progetto Adele, a software house specialized in the development of vertical software systems on the Supply Chain with the two **Master SPED** and **Master TRADE** solutions, respectively dedicated to shipping and logistics, and commerce and industry. Furthermore, through the Connecting EU Business Unit, Circle supports Public Entities and Companies by identifying their positioning at European level (**EU Branding**) and funding opportunities (**Project Anticipation**). From October 26th, 2018 Circle is listed on the AIM Italia market of Borsa Italiana (alphanumeric code: CIRC; ISIN code for ordinary shares: IT. 0005344996). Circle is an Innovative SME.*

#### **IGNAZIO MESSINA & C. S.P.A.**

*Since **1921** Ignazio Messina & C. provides **regular line services** that connect the Mediterranean to Africa, the Middle East, and the Indian subcontinent, reaching **more than 50 ports** and supplying **over 40 different countries**. Thanks to the development of an efficient ground logistic system, the Company serves more than 100 inland destinations in Africa, the Middle East and India, as well as in Europe.*

*The recently renewed property fleet is composed **by last generation ro-ro container vessels**, that are highly specialized and guarantee extreme flexibility. Indeed, they can even operate in ports which are not equipped with ship-to-shore cranes. These new vessels are characterized by advanced technology and are equipped with the most innovative anti-pollution systems: they are fitted out with a sophisticated exhaust gas cleaning system (scrubbers) that can be used at the berth as well as at the sea and have obtained the “Green Plus” RINA certification. The vessels have been entirely designed by the Company engineering specialists and fly the Italian flag.*

*The company has been the first in Europe to adopt an HSE Company Managing System (Environment and Safety) in accordance with UNI EN ISO 14001:2015 and UNI ISO 45001:2018.*

*To the company manages also **the IMT-Intermodal Marine Terminal** in Italy located in the Port of Genoa and an integrated logistic system as MTO.*



### **For further information**

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