



PRESS RELEASE

CIRCLE Group strengthens its stake in Cargo Start and accelerates the development of advanced solutions for visibility and interoperability in air cargo

Stakes in Cargo Start rise to over 86%

Milan, March 2, 2026

CIRCLE S.p.A. (“CIRCLE” or the “Company”) - an Innovative SME listed on the **Euronext Growth Milan market**, heading the Group specialized in the process analysis and the development of solutions for the digitalisation of the port and intermodal logistics sectors, as well as in the international consultancy on Green Deal and energy transition topics – announces that it has increased its stake in Cargo Start S.r.l., a company active in the development and commercialization of innovative technological products and services for the air cargo sector, reaching **86.44%** of the share capital. The transaction follows the capital increase subscribed on 29 December 2022 (see [press release](#)), through which CIRCLE acquired a 51% majority stake in Cargo Start. Following the completion of this further transaction, Cargo Start’s share capital is now held 13.56% by Pierpaolo Platania and 86.44% by CIRCLE Group.

The initiative strengthens the Group’s presence in a strategic segment of international logistics and forms part of the growth path outlined in the “**Connect 4 Agile Growth**” industrial plan, with the objective of consolidating an integrated platform of digital solutions supporting operational efficiency, data quality and medium- to long-term value creation.

Luca Abatello, **CEO of CIRCLE Group**, commented: *“Increasing our stake in Cargo Start represents a strategic step to accelerate our growth path and consolidate the Group’s positioning in a rapidly evolving market. The transaction is fully consistent with our industrial vision, promoting sustainable development based on operational efficiency, process digitalization and the enhancement of certified and shared data across the entire logistics supply chain. By further strengthening the integration between expertise and platforms, we will be able to seize market opportunities more rapidly and offer customers increasingly advanced and interoperable solutions, generating solid and lasting results for all stakeholders.”*

The transaction will enable Cargo Start to accelerate its development path, with a particular



focus on consolidating the Italian market and expanding its presence in the main European markets. At the same time, Cargo Start is working on the release of the new versions of CargoGate and ACS (Airport Cargo Community System), further expanding the Group's technological offering in the air cargo segment.

The new solutions are part of a coherent and structured vision of shipment visibility, based on a key principle: the availability of certified, measurable and shared data among the stakeholders of the logistics chain. In air cargo, there is in fact a well-established operational framework that allows for objective comparison between planned and actual performance, thanks to internationally recognized milestones. This approach represents a reliable and repeatable baseline, enabling the identification of deviations, performance analysis and evidence-based decision-making.

On these foundations, the evolution of Cargo Start's products extends this logic beyond the strictly airport perimeter, supporting shipments along the entire logistics journey through an integrated and progressive approach. In this context, when planning is structured and validated, it represents the authoritative reference source; in the absence of such conditions, analysis is based on certified operational events, avoiding interpretative ambiguities. This methodological choice prioritizes data quality and informational consistency, which are essential elements for building effective decision-making processes.

Furthermore, the further integration of Cargo Start's solutions with the interoperability platforms developed by CIRCLE Group – active in the digitalization of ports, terminals and intermodal nodes – makes it possible to overcome the fragmented perspective of individual operators, fostering the circulation of standardized and comparable information across different logistics ecosystems.

In conclusion, in a scenario characterized by increasing complexity and interconnection, data quality represents a distinctive factor: starting from certified information, extending its use along the entire shipment journey and integrating it across the various supply chain nodes means transforming visibility into a lever for coordination and process governance, to the benefit of efficiency, transparency and competitiveness.

It should be noted that the transaction is not considered significant pursuant to Article 12 of the Euronext Growth Milan Issuers' Regulation.



This press release is available in the Investor Relations section of the website www.circlegroup.eu and www.1info.it.

Cargo Start is a technology provider dedicated to the air cargo sector. The company delivers high value-added digital solutions designed to support industry operators — freight forwarders, ground handling companies, airlines and airport cargo communities — in addressing the key challenges of digitalization: **Connectivity, Visibility and Sustainability.**

With its flagship solution, the Cargo Community System **CARGO GATE**, **Cargo Start** has contributed to the digitalization of 90% of the Italian freight forwarding community. Cargo Start's offering also includes **StarTracking**, an A2A & D2D visibility platform, and **Handler Gate**, a Cargo Management System dedicated to GHAs. The company further supports airport cargo communities in the design and implementation of Air Cargo Community System platforms.

As the official technology partner of **ANAMA** (National Association of Air Cargo Agents) and **SEA Aeroporti di Milano**, Cargo Start benefits from a team with consolidated experience in the international air cargo industry and actively contributes to the sector's evolution by participating in **IATA** working groups dedicated to digitalization. Since 2022, Cargo Start has been part of Circle Group S.p.A.

Founded in Genoa in 2012, Circle S.p.A. is the Innovative SME leading Circle Group, a company listed on Euronext Growth Milan since 2018 and specialized in the analysis and development of solutions for innovation and digitalization in the port and intermodal logistics sectors, as well as in international consultancy on Green Deal and energy transition topics.

The Group includes the software houses **Info.era**, **NEXT Freight**, **eXyond**, **Cargo Start**, the consulting firms **Magellan Circle** and **Magellan Circle Italy**, **NEXT Customs**, as well as the affiliated company **ACCUDIRE**.

In the field of digital innovation, the **Milos® Intelligence** platform integrates advanced technologies such as AI, simulation, and Digital Twin to support decision-making processes and the digitalization of systems, through solutions like the **Extended Port Community System**, **MasterSPED®**, **Milos® TOS**, **Milos® MTO**, **Milos® TFP**, **Milos® Global Supply Chain Visibility**, and **StarTracking®**. Complementing the offering, **Federative Services (cloud-based)** enable a more efficient migration towards digital business models.

Through **Magellan Circle** and **Magellan Circle Italy**, the Group is active in Brussels and across Europe in **advocacy activities with the European Institutions**, supporting public bodies and companies with services in **Strategic Communication and Advocacy** and **EU Funding Accelerator**, with a focus on the Green Deal and energy transition.



With **Cargo Start**, specialized in technological solutions for air cargo, Circle has strengthened its offering in a strategic segment of the **Connect 4 Agile Growth** industrial plan. With **eXyond**, the Group operates in advanced **infomobility** services (InfoBlu NewGen) and telematics solutions for the logistics, transport, and insurance sectors (Kmaster).

Circle also holds a 22% stake in the innovative startup **ACCUDIRE**, which offers a collaborative platform for document management along global supply chains, starting from **e-CMR** and **e-DDT** (electronic consignment note). With **NEXT Customs**, the Group develops digital services for customs optimization, contributing to the harmonization of processes in line with the strategic directions of **Connect 4 Agile Growth**.

Circle S.p.A. has been listed on the Euronext Growth Milan market of Borsa Italiana since October 26, 2018 (alphanumeric code: CIRC; ISIN code ordinary shares: IT. 0005344996).

For further information

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