



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**START4.0 has awarded Circle S.p.A. two strategic contracts for open innovation in the ports, transport and logistics sectors**

***Milan, March 18, 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 the **START4.0 Competence Centre** has awarded **Circle S.p.A. two advanced consultancy contracts** for process innovation aimed at boosting corporate competitiveness in the ports, transport and logistics sectors, through the structured introduction of open innovation approaches.

The assignment is part of the activities funded by the **National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR)** – Mission 4 ‘Education and Research’, Component 2 ‘From Research to Business’, Investment 2.3, with funding from the European Union – Next Generation EU, and aims to support the beneficiary company in defining a **multi-year strategic innovation plan**, creating qualified European networks, with its ability to attract national and European funding to support business development.

The projects involve technology and design scouting, support for the establishment of international partnerships, the definition of internal processes for open innovation, and the development of strategic expertise in digitalisation, sustainability, decarbonisation and the energy transition as applied to logistics and port systems, with a particular focus on ESG issues and the use of hydrogen.

*“This assignment confirms Circle’s role as an industrial and strategic partner in open innovation initiatives for the logistics and transport sectors,”* said **Alexio Picco, Managing Director of the Circle Group**. *“Working alongside START4.0 means making a tangible contribution to technology transfer and business competitiveness, leveraging expertise, European networks and project management capabilities to transform innovation into measurable results.”*

*“Through this contract with **Circle S.p.A.**, we are strengthening **START4.0’s** role as a driver of growth and competitiveness for businesses in the port, logistics and transport sectors,”* says



**Georgia Cesarone, CTO of START4.0.** *“The structured introduction of open innovation principles represents not only an organisational evolution but a genuine economic accelerator: it enables companies to attract national and European funding, develop high-value-added projects and establish a stronger foothold in international markets. The PNRR resources, managed by START4.0 in this context, therefore generate a tangible leverage effect.”*

The consultancy service will lead to the development of an innovation plan focused on co-funded projects, international networking reports, a structured project proposal and internal monitoring procedures based on KPIs, in line with the industrial objectives of the final beneficiary company.

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**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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