

PRESS RELEASE

Acque Bresciane srl SB Benefit Company ever 'greener' and more solid

- *The additional **€55 million** line for circular economy and sustainable development projects has been made official.*
- *The transaction was made possible thanks to a pool of Banks coordinated by **Intesa Sanpaolo as Sustainability Coordinator** and made up of **BNL BNP Paribas, Banco BPM and BPER**.*
- *The financing comes in addition to the **€202 million** granted in October 2021*

*Milan/Brescia, 30 September 2024 - **Acque Bresciane**, the sole operator of Brescia's water service and a 100% publicly owned company, has agreed to an additional **€55 million** line with a pool of banks **coordinated by Intesa Sanpaolo as Sustainability Coordinator** and comprising **BNL BNP Paribas, Banco BPM and BPER Corporate & Investment Banking**.*

The loan is in addition to the **€202 million** line granted in October 2021 by Intesa Sanpaolo, CDP, BNL BNP Paribas, Banco BPM, BPER Corporate & Investment Banking and BCC Banca Iccrea.

The additional credit line, aimed at combining corporate development and environmental sustainability, is characterised by being a '**Sustainability Linked Loan**' with a pricing mechanism linked to the achievement of specific ESG targets, such as the reduction of pollutant emissions and a decrease in water losses.

In addition, the main projects of the Group's ESG strategy include the construction of plants with a positive environmental impact, the design of new works and the redemption of the value of plants and networks from ASVT S.p.A., a company that has reached the end of its concession and was 'acquired' by Acque Bresciane in May 2023.

For Intesa Sanpaolo, the transaction was structured by the **IMI Corporate & Investment Banking Division** headed by **Mauro Micillo**.

Acque Bresciane, a Benefit Company since 2022, confirms its public nature attentive to the dynamics of sustainability, as well as consolidation in the management of the integrated water service. Since its inception, the company has seen a significant increase in investments from **around €22 million in 2018** to almost **€60 million** in 2023.

*"The funding, disbursed over two years, will enable the implementation of interventions in line with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda", explained **Pierluigi Toscani, Chairman of Acque Bresciane**, "which include projects on the circular economy, environmental sustainability, and efficient use of resources and energy. These principles are matched with concrete actions such as the upgrading of waste-water collection and treatment plants. For the aqueducts segment, modernisation and new constructions are planned, with the aim of **further improving the quality of tap water, encouraging a plastic-free approach**. As regards the circular economy, **the re-use of purified water and the reduction of sludge**, thanks to innovative bio-drying techniques, are in the forefront.*

*"We are constantly close to the realities of our territory to accompany them in their development and growth projects in a sustainable manner", commented **Michele Sorrentino, Head of the Italian Network of the IMI CIB Division of Intesa Sanpaolo**. This financing renews our support for Acque Bresciane, enabling works and services to be carried out for the entire community. As a group, we support the business world by offering advice and innovative credit instruments that reward concrete actions that improve the sustainability profile".*

The Intesa Sanpaolo Group, led by **CEO Carlo Messina**, has long been at the forefront of accelerating the transition to a low-emission economy with specific financing ceiling limits for individuals and businesses and an increasingly wide range of sustainable investment products. Between 2021 and the first half of 2024, approximately €59 billion of the €76 billion of new credit available to support the green economy, circular economy and ecological transition in connection with the 2021-2026 National Recovery and Resilience Plan, was disbursed.

Within the scope of the transaction, legal assistance was provided by Studio Legance Avvocati Associati (Energy & Infrastructure Department), and technical assistance by Agenia s.r.l..

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Intesa Sanpaolo

Intesa Sanpaolo, with over €422 billion in loans and €1.35 trillion in customer financial assets at the end of June 2024, is the largest banking group in Italy, with a significant international presence. It is a European leader in wealth management, with a strong focus on digital and fintech. The Group will provide €115 billion of Impact lending by 2025 to support communities and the green transition, together with a €1.5 billion program (2023-2027) to help people in need. The Bank's network of museums, the Gallerie d'Italia, hosts its owned artistic heritage and cultural projects of recognized value.

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Acque Bresciane srl SB

Acque Bresciane is a 100% public benefit company, established in 2017 to manage the integrated water service as an in-house company of the Province of Brescia. Today it serves **113 municipalities and over 695,000 inhabitants**. The latest 'Integrated Annual Report' presented in June 2024, shows a **profit of around €11 million**. This is the best result since the company's inception: **more than 142% since 2022**. An important achievement for all members and stakeholders, employees, suppliers, public authorities, financiers. **The profit is entirely reinvested with the aim of strengthening the investment capacity of the company**, which will have to face numerous challenges, from the necessary infrastructure to the elimination of EU infringements and, last but not least, climate change.

The sustainable management of the integrated water cycle, the defence and optimisation of the resource, the quality of drinking water, and the management of purified water constitute the main mission of Acque Bresciane, which wants to guarantee universal and safe access to water in its territory, in full respect of the present and future environmental balance. Acque Bresciane's water cycle management is focused on innovation and the future, to provide citizens with quality water and reintroduce into the environment clean water while reducing waste, in the cost-effective management of the integrated water service within a regulated market.

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