

PRESS RELEASE

Prysmian Group announces the creation of a Working Group on networks convergence opportunities in Romania, reuniting decision-making authorities, regulators, major telecom and energy players

- The group was launched during the Networks Convergence Conference, held on November 26th, 2018, in Bucharest
- The Ministry of Communications and the Romanian Energy Regulatory Authority expressed full support for the initiative

Bucharest, November 27, 2018: Prysmian Group, world leader in the energy and telecom cable systems industry, in collaboration with the National Institute for Research and Development in Informatics (ICI), has launched a Working Group made of decision-making authorities, regulators, major telecom and power utilities, with the aim to discuss and identify networks convergence opportunities in Romania. The announcement was made during the conference "Networks Convergence: Romania in the era of new connectivity solutions", organized by Prysmian Group and ICI in Bucharest, on November 26th.

Mr. Alain Bertaina, Telecom Product Strategy Director, Prysmian Group and Mr. Adrian Vevera, CTO at ICI, opened the event, followed by the keynote speech of Ms. Maria Manuela Catrina, State Secretary at the Ministry of Communications and Information Society.

Alain Bertaina presented the current market trends and highlighted on the need for synergies between telecom and energy, and the positive impact it brings on innovation, development of intelligent solutions and applications, making the case for cross sector cooperation between various stakeholders, including operators, ministries, regulatory and other national authorities. *"Our main focus is about shaping the future and innovation that matters, working together with all relevant stakeholders" explained Alain Bertaina "and Romania is about to play a major strategic role in this regard, as Slatina hosts the biggest plant for optical cable within the Prysmian Group worldwide".*

Maria Manuela Catrina, State Secretary, expressed full support for the initiative, congratulating Prysmian Group for the significant investments it made in the Slatina site, which is in line with the agenda and the priorities of the Ministry of Communications in promoting home grown innovation and industrial capabilities. *"The initiative is convergent with the strategy of the Ministry to have as many R&D sites in Romania as possible, and with its present and future strategical development plans regarding 5G, that will be followed shortly by Smart City and Artificial Intelligence strategies" added Manuela Catrina.*

The conference continued with a presentation by Mr. Jan Schindler, Global Market Intelligence Manager at Prysmian Group, who shared the German experience in making convergence of networks possible, economically viable and sustainable, with the support and financing facilities made available by local and national authorities, extracting valuable lessons for the future.

The debate continued with a roundtable discussion, titled *"How to make networks convergence possible in Romania"*, and which brought together top officials of the Ministry of Communications and of the energy regulatory authority, representatives of several major telecom and energy operators, and senior energy experts. Following consistent discussions, the stakeholders present at the roundtable agreed to create a working group, with the aim to identify networks convergence opportunities in the Romanian market, and with the support of Ministry of Communications and other relevant authorities help eliminate any obstacles, legislative and/or regulatory, in support of Romania's economic development, digitalization and modernization efforts.

Over the past 5 years, Prysmian has invested almost EUR 90 million in Romania to develop new capabilities and capacities at the Slatina site, laying the groundwork that will let the country become a European hub of excellence and innovation for optical cables, as well as a top technological centre for HV and MV Energy cables.

Prysmian Group is the world's leading producer of telecom cables, with a wide range of cables enabling the transmission of voice, video and data all around the world, and the worldwide leader in the production of optical fibre. In 2017 alone, Prysmian Group produced over 40 million kilometres of optical fibre and although part of this is sold to external producers, the majority is used to make Prysmian's state-of-the-art optical cables. By producing adaptable and reliable conduits for this cutting-edge technology, from traditional loose tube cables to cutting-edge ribbon technology and leading-edge compact micro cables including the revolutionary FlexTube® cable Prysmian Group is quite literally empowering innovators worldwide to push the limits of technology. It is not only the highest fibre count cable ever manufactured by Prysmian but it also exhibits the world's highest fibre density.

Prysmian Group

Prysmian Group is world leader in the energy and telecom cable systems industry. With almost 140 years of experience, sales exceeding €11 billion (pro-forma as of 31.12.2017), about 30,000 employees in over 50 countries and 112 plants, the Group is strongly positioned in high-tech markets and offers the widest possible range of products, services, technologies and know-how. It operates in the businesses of underground and submarine cables and systems for power transmission and distribution, of special cables for applications in many different industries and of medium and low voltage cables for the construction and infrastructure sectors. For the telecommunications industry, the Group manufactures cables and accessories for voice, video and data transmission, offering a comprehensive range of optical fibres, optical and copper cables and connectivity systems. Prysmian is a public company, listed on the Italian Stock Exchange in the FTSE MIB index.