



SACE AND GKSD SIGN AGREEMENT TO EXPLORE COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES IN HIGH SOCIAL IMPACT INFRASTRUCTURES IN IRAQ WITH ITALIAN COMPANIES

New potential projects in a diversified range of high social impact sectors, including waste-to-energy management, hospitals, housing and associated facilities as well as other building projects.

SACE ready to evaluate and support with export credit facilities opportunities involving Italian supplies and services

Rome, 24 May 2023 – SACE, Italy's Export Credit Agency, and GKSD, leading global provider of planning, development and management of projects, ranging from construction works and acquisitions to medical and research activities, advisory services and consultancies, announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a potential cooperation in a number of projects across Iraq.

The Agreement - signed today at SACE premises in Rome by Alessandra Ricci, SACE Chief Executive Officer, and Khamel Ghribi, GKSD President and Paolo Rotelli, GKSD Vice President- aims to strengthen and enhance the cooperation between GKSD and SACE in a diversified range of high social impact sectors, including waste-to-energy management, hospitals, housing and associated facilities as well as other building projects and to encourage trade between Italy and Iraq as a whole. This partnership will help SACE to identify future opportunities in the region where GKSD with Italian suppliers can bring substantial benefits.

"Today we are signing an important step toward a partnership that, we are confident, will bring opportunities and long-term development for both Italian companies and Iraq, with real benefits both for the communities and the collective well-being", said **Alessandra Ricci, CEO of SACE**. "The agreement provides with the groundwork to intensify business between the two countries, it will allow Italian companies in Iraq to participate in the development of important projects in the field of infrastructure and

energy with a significant social impact and it highlights once again our role in the sustainable growth of Italian companies all over the world."

"Iraq has experienced a long season of crisis and insecurity, from which it is emerging thanks to the government, which is strongly committed to restoring stability to the country and it is in this new setting that the several opportunities for Italian companies must be evaluated. GKSD Investment Holding, with its particular know-how in the healthcare field, can actively contribute to the rebirth of the country and to the reorganization of its health system, starting first of all from the urgent need for infrastructures and new constructions, but also management and medical and scientific expertise", said **Kamel Ghribi, President of GKSD Investment Holding and Vice President of the San Donato Group.**

GKSD Investment Holding, a leading provider of strategic advisory and project management services, offers expert advice to clients from the pianification through to the execution and completion of projects, in the areas of: Healthcare with healthcare services covering all the health assistance areas; Construction with solid growth strategies that include upgrading existing infrastructure and rapidly building new ones; Professional Services with project monitoring, cost control and administrative, support both for GSD hospitals and for external customers; Business Services that include the installation of energy efficient equipment and facilities renovation services. The company has a strong presence on the local market in Italy, on the international market in North Africa and the Middle East (MENA) and on the market of the Persian Gulf Countries (GCC). With over 15 current projects in more than 12 countries around the world and counting on the professional skills of over 20.000 employees, GKSD provides high quality professional solutions.

About Gruppo San Donato (GSD), Founded in 1957, Gruppo San Donato (GSD) is one of the most important hospital groups in Europe and the leading Italian one. It consists of 56 sites, three of which are Scientific Institutes for Research (San Donato Polyclinic, San Raffaele Hospital and Galeazzi-Sant'Ambrogio Hospital). These numbers translate into a widespread presence in all the main Lombard provinces (Milan, Monza, Como, Pavia, Bergamo, Brescia), and in Bologna. It treats about 5 million patients per year, in all recognized specialties, being among the national and international leaders in Cardiac Surgery, Cardiology, Vascular Surgery, Neurosurgery, Orthopedics and Obesity Care. Gruppo San Donato invoices 1.75 € billions per year and it carries out 80% of the clinical activity, in agreement with the National Health System (SSN). It has more than 17.000 employees, of which more than 7.000 are doctors. In addition to the excellence of clinical activity, what makes GSD unique in Europe is the quality of its university teaching and scientific research activities: 225 full professors, 665 adjunct professors and about 1.200 researchers, 5.535 students, 1.314 postgraduates, 3.414 scientific publications per year with an Impact Factor of 19.142 points.

SACE is Italy's insurance and finance group controlled directly by the Ministry of the Economy and Finance, specialised in supporting businesses and the national economic fabric through a wide range of tools and solutions to support competitiveness in Italy and worldwide. For over 45 years, the SACE Group has been the reference partner for Italian companies that export and grow on foreign markets. It also supports the banking system to facilitate companies' access to credit with a role that was recently expanded by new tools to support liquidity, investments for competitiveness and sustainability as part of the Italian Green New Deal, starting from the domestic market. With a portfolio of insured operations and guaranteed investments of Euro 165 billion, SACE, together with all its subsidiaries - SACE FCT, which operates in the factoring sector, SACE BT, specialised in credit, surety bonds and insuring against damage to property, and SACE SRV, specialised in credit recovery and information asset management - serves over 37 thousand companies, especially SMEs, supporting their growth in Italy and in around 200 foreign markets.

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