

The EIB and iliad sign a new €300 million loan agreement to finance 4G and 5G network rollouts

 financial communication

The iliad Group and the European Investment Bank (EIB) have set up a new €300 million loan to help the Group finance its mobile network rollouts in France, particularly to densify its 4G network and deploy its 5G network.

Having helped to finance iliad's fixed network rollouts for over ten years now, the EIB is once again partnering the Group by providing financial support for rolling out its latest-generation mobile networks. This new loan brings iliad's total amount of EIB financing to over €1.1 billion since 2009.

At iliad, network rollouts remain an absolute priority. On average, the Group invests almost 30% of its revenues in its rollouts every year, making a total of nearly €7.5 billion over the last five years. iliad's large-scale rollout drive illustrates how deeply committed it is to the objective of giving the whole of France digital coverage, including in the most rural areas. This commitment can be clearly seen in the Group's involvement in the French government's "New Deal for Mobile" program.

Thanks to its investments, the Group now has more than 18,800 mobile sites across Metropolitan France and offers 4G coverage to 97.8% of the French population.

“We’re delighted with this partnership with the EIB, which will enable us to actively pursue the rollout and densification of our mobile networks. Providing the best connectivity to everyone, nationwide, is what we’re working together to achieve at Iliad. We intend to pursue our rollouts at a brisk pace, particularly in view of the upcoming launch of our 5G offers and entry into the B2B market”, said **Thomas Reynaud, Chief Executive Officer of the Iliad Group.**

“Supporting innovation and the deployment of new technologies is a priority for the European Investment Bank. That is why I’m delighted to announce this new loan granted to the Iliad Group”, said **Ambroise Fayolle, Vice-President of the EIB,** adding *“In the current health crisis, it is more important than ever for everyone, everywhere, to have access to reliable and high-quality connectivity. By granting this loan to Iliad we are supporting the development and appeal of France’s regions, particularly for rural and isolated areas.”*

Thanks to the EIB’s triple-A rating, the loan’s underlying financial terms are very attractive. It also has a long maturity of up to eight years, which is particularly suited to the type and duration of the Group’s capital expenditure.

About iliad

iliad is the parent company of Free, the inventor of the Freebox, the first multiservice box on ADSL. Free is behind numerous innovations in the Broadband and Ultra-Fast Broadband access segment (VoIP, IPTV, flat-rate calling plans to multiple destinations, etc.) and provides straightforward and innovative offerings at the best prices. Since January 2012, Free has brought mobile phone usage within everyone's reach with straightforward, no-commitment offerings at very attractive prices. As at September 30, 2020, Free had over 20 million subscribers in France (6.7 million Broadband and Ultra-Fast Broadband subscribers and 13.5 million mobile subscribers). On May 29, 2018, the Group launched its mobile network in Italy under the iliad brand, becoming the country's fourth operator, and had over 6.8 million subscribers at September 30, 2020.

To find out more

 www.iliad.fr/en

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Contacts

Investor Relations: ir@iliad.fr

Press Relations: presse@iliad.fr

Exchange: Euronext Paris

Market place: Eurolist A of Euronext Paris (SRD)

Ticker symbol: ILD

ISIN: FR0004035913

FTSE classification: 974 Internet

Member of Euro Stoxx, SBF 120, CAC Mid 100

About the European Investment Bank

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is the long-term lending institution of the European Union (EU), owned by the EU's Member States. It makes long-term financing available for sound investments in order to contribute towards achieving EU policy goals.

The EIB Group was very active in France in 2019, directly or indirectly granting almost €8.5 billion in financing to support projects in key domains for the French economy, such as the development of ultra-fast broadband, environmental protection and energy transition, training for young people, business and innovation support, and infrastructure upgrades.

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Contacts

Press contact

Anne-Cécile Auguin - +352 621 361948 – a.auguin@eib.org

Press Office: +352 4379-21000 – press@eib.org

