

Press release Kabul, 27/09/2016

CEREMONY FOR THE SIGNING OF THE CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SECOND PHASE OF THE HERAT BY-PASS

Today took place the ceremony for the signing of the contract for the second phase of the work of Herat By-pass at the Palace Sapedar in Kabul. At the presence of His Excellency Mr. Dr. Abdullah Abdullah C.E.O. (Chief Executive Officer) of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, His Excellency Mr. Mahmoud Baligh Minister of Public Works, His Excellency Mr. Roberto Cantone Italian Ambassador in Afghanistan and Mr. Rosario Centola Director of the I.A.D.C Kabul.



The construction of the Herat By-pass is an infrastructure project of strategic importance for the Western region of Afghanistan. The Herat By-Pass is fully funded by the Italian government through a grant to the Afghan Government of the amount of 24.6 million Euros, and a grant of 4 million Euros to UNOPS for the construction of a bridge on the



Harirod River. The road, of approximately 45 Km, will greatly reduce the heavy vehicle traffic in the downtown area, as well as facilitate the connections between Herat and neighboring countries like Iran and Turkmenistan. The construction of the first phase of Lot no. 1 of 20.4 Km is at an advanced stage of implementation; with today's ceremony was initiated the construction of the second phase of 25

Km in order to complete the entire work.

Both the tenders for Lot no. 1 and for Lot no. 2 of the competition were attended almost exclusively by Afghan companies and also the design was made by a local engineering company in compliance with the methods of intervention of the National Rural Access Program (NRAP) intending to support both the employment and the national entrepreneurship. The construction of the Herat By-Pass will bring enormous benefits not only to commercial operators, significantly reducing the costs and transit times, but also to the people of Herat, which will benefit from the re-routing of high polluting trucks outside the city. Italy is one of the principal development supporter in Afghanistan, with about 277 million Euros of funding in the infrastructure sector. From these funds, approximately 170 million Euros regard the current economic commitment.

His Excellency Mr Dr. Abdullah Abdullah C.E.O of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan expressed his deep appreciation for the work already done and for what is in progress by the Italian Government and the I.A.D.C. especially in the Herat region: with specific regard to the infrastructure sector and in general for having given a strong boost to the social and economic revitalization of the whole area. He concluded his remarks emphasizing again the critical importance of infrastructures for the growth of the country and hoped that the Italo-Afghan cooperation will continue with success.

