

Poste Italiane, Massimo Sarmi receives GEI Award in New York

*Following the **Cisco Networkers Innovation Award** and placement in Fortune's list of the **World's Most Admired Companies**, the company obtains a new prestigious international award*

New York, 6th June 2007 – **Massimo Sarmi**, CEO of Poste Italiane received the **GEI Award** today, the prestigious award from Gruppo Esponenti Italiani (GEI) – a New York-based non-profit association founded in 1974 and made up of representatives of the main Italian companies and institutions present in the United States. The GEI Award was given to Massimo Sarmi for “his **extraordinary ability for having transformed Poste Italiane into a leading infrastructure for the modernisation of Italy**, helping develop international economic relations between Italy and the United States, with considerable, positive knock-on effects on Italy’s image abroad”.

The GEI Award follows Poste Italiane’s recent placement in the American magazine **Fortune’s World’s Most Admired Companies** classification and the **Cisco Networkers Innovation Award 2007**, both awards which show how the company has now gained a consolidated reputation internationally due to its ability to become a best practice in many of its business areas in a such a short time.

“Awards like this show that the renewal and development path undertaken by Poste Italiane over recent years is a winner. The investments in technological innovation, infrastructures and advanced services have allowed the company to reach high quality standards in all the business segments and to build areas of excellence”, Massimo Sarmi said.

The **GEI Award**, a special sculpture, created by Arnaldo Pomodoro, was presented to Massimo Sarmi by Lucio Caputo, President of the GEI Awards. Over recent years the award has been given to **Gianni Agnelli, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, Guido Carli, Emilio Colombo, Mario Monti, Luciano Pavarotti and Sergio Pininfarina**, among others.

Partnerships with Microsoft, UPS, Cisco, Hewlett Packard, IBM, Visa and MoneyGram - all leading US giants in their own industries - feature among the strategic and commercial partnerships initialled by Poste Italiane in recent years.

Poste Italiane is the biggest Service Group in Italy. Thanks to its widespread presence throughout Italy, its 14,000 post offices, and the strong integration of its activities, it offers integrated communication, logistics and financial products and services.

In 2006, the Poste Italiane Group concluded a record financial year, consolidating its positive trend since 2002, after fifty years in the red. Its net profits were equal to € 675.6 million (+93.6% compared to 2005) and revenue of € 17.1 billion, due to its good performance in all the business segments. The excellent results obtained have allowed dividends to be attributed to the shareholders for the second year running (Department of the Treasury, Cassa depositi e prestiti). SDA, an operator in the Express Courier and Logistics Industry; Postel, leader in the “hybrid” email services industry; Poste Vita, which operates in life insurance; Postecom, which develops and manages online services; and BancoPosta Fondi SGR, active in managed savings, are all part of the Gruppo Poste Italiane, amongst others.