

Poste Italiane: In Cairo, Sarmi gives go ahead for plans to develop Egypt's Postal System

ICT and logistics experts are on location to plan and develop new services

Rome, 2 July 2008 – Today in Cairo, **CEO of Poste Italiane, Massimo Sarmi**, and **President and CEO of Egypt Post, Alaa Fahmy**, are scheduled to start off a cooperative program for the development of Egypt's national postal system as established by the agreement signed last March. This agreement between Poste Italiane and Egypt Post allows for the activation of joint projects aimed at improving the quality of Egypt's postal system and heightening innovation through the introduction of new services. It also specifies that Finmeccanica will be acting as technological partner which will provide the technological platforms with which the Egyptian postal system will operate.

Experts involved in the project were divided into five comparable work groups in order to study the development of products and services (with particular focus on financial services), through the optimization of the logistics network (in reference to the monitoring and control over phases of collection, sorting, shipping, and delivery), the development of ICT services and their application in the logistics network, the expansion of real estate assets, and projects involving human resource training. The work groups are overseen by a Steering Committee formed by Poste Italiane, Egypt Post and Finmeccanica. The CIO structures of Poste Italiane and Egypt Post are also working on a joint project in order to activate a secure connection (SVPN) that will allow the work groups to exchange data and information through secure and reliable lines of communication.

Upon their arrival in Cairo, the Italian delegation, led by Massimo Sarmi, will be received by the President and CEO of Egypt Post, Alaa Fahmy; Tarek Kamel of the Egyptian Communications State Department; the Secretary General of the Council of Arab Economic Unity, Ahmed Gueli; and the Italian Ambassador for Egypt, Claudio Pacifico. Sarmi and a group of experts from Poste Italiane and Elsag Datamat plan to meet with the Egyptian task force to establish project guidelines and identify the macro-areas of intervention.

As stated by the CEO of Poste Italiane, Massimo Sarmi, *“Egypt is a country of strategic importance for economic and commercial relations with the Mediterranean and Arab world. For this reason, signing the agreement to collaborate with Egypt Post constitutes a particularly significant step for Poste Italiane and its international image and reputation. In addition, through this agreement and the partnership with Finmeccanica, Poste Italiane will also be able to play a role in supporting economic, technological, and social development in this area.”*

Poste Italiane and Finmeccanica know-how will allow them to provide Egypt Post with solutions for optimal organization in postal services, automation and distribution of mailing and delivery, security systems, hybrid mail, applications for the peripheral network of Egyptian post offices, innovation in the ICT sector, and human resource training.

According to the document signed, the cooperative work between Poste Italiane and Egypt Post shall be carried out through periodic, bilateral consultation and specialized work groups that will share technical info and spread highly advanced solutions throughout Egypt, in applying these improvements to their postal system. Poste Italiane will be offering its expertise and experience in order to help update and develop mechanized postal systems, with the goal of providing Egypt with innovative technology and technical support in optimizing logistic processes.