

VODAFONE ITALIA: ALBERTO RIPEPI APPOINTED NEW CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

Milan, 12 January 2007 – On 1 December 2006 **Alberto Ripepi took over as Vodafone Italia's new Chief Technology Officer**. The Technology Department designs, builds and manages the Company's Network and Information Technology infrastructure and solutions, based on quality standards aimed at achieving excellence and maximising customer satisfaction.

Alberto Ripepi, who will report directly to the CEO, Pietro Guindani, replaces Didier Lebrat, who has left the Vodafone Group. Ripepi has been with Vodafone Italia since June 2001. He was head of IT Delivery until 2004, before taking charge of IT Solutions & Delivery until December 2006, when he moved to his new position.

He began his career with Olivetti, where he held different roles before being appointed head of the OIS Competence Centre. He then went on to work for Infostrada and Fiat Auto, where he was Chief Technology Officer, overseeing the design of new IT systems, the management of Technology Architectures and the development of several innovative IT projects (ranging from logistics to human resources, CRM, budget management and e-commerce).

Ripepi graduated from the University of Naples with a degree in Electronic Engineering in 1985.

He was born in Messina on 4 June 1960 and is married with one child.