



TELECOM ITALIA WIRELINE AND OMNITEL VODAFONE OPTICAL FIBRE AGREEMENT

The mobile leader will use 7,800 km of Telecom Italia Wireline network

Rome, August 31, 2001 - Telecom Italia Wireline, the Business Unit of Telecom Italia for fixed line telephones and Internet for businesses, and Omnitel Vodafone have signed an agreement permitting the mobile phone operator to use a vast optical fibre fixed network with a high transmission capacity.

According to the terms of the agreement Telecom Italia Wireline will sell Omnitel Vodafone the right to use, for 15 years, 3 optical fibre links (North-East, South and Adriatic) to constitute a backbone network of around 7,800 km altogether, covering most of the country.

Thanks to this agreement Omnitel Vodafone will be able to take advantage of the enormous potential offered by Telecom Italia Wireline's optical fibre network, and in so doing prepare itself for new development opportunities in the mobile phone sector. It will also ensure, with a potentially almost limitless conveyance capacity, the ability to meet the growing market demand for broadband services.