

Press Release

## **UniCredit granted €1m “futuro sostenibile” - 'sustainable future' - loan to aleph S.r.l., guaranteed by MCC's SME Fund**

- The funding will help support aleph's investments in energy efficiency and business sustainability
- "Futuro sostenibile" is UniCredit's new support plan for companies that want to improve the sustainability reach of their business, in line with Italy's PNRR – the Italian Recovery and Resilience Plan
- The low-interest loan is conditional on the achievement of pre-established sustainability and energy efficiency targets.

**Lurate Caccivio (Co)** – aleph S.r.l., an Italian manufacturer of sublimation and direct-to-fabric inkjet printers for textile and visual communication industries, was granted five-year loan from international banking group, UniCredit, in amount of EUR 1 million. Backed by a guarantee from Mediocredito Centrale, the loan was granted through the SME Guarantee Fund, managed on behalf of Ministero dello Sviluppo economico (Ministry of Economic Development). Disbursed by UniCredit in Lombardy, it is part of “future sostenibile” – “Sustainable future” – loan programme, an innovative range of products for businesses designed to help companies improve their sustainability profile, and is aimed at supporting investments in energy efficiency and business sustainability that aleph has been pursuing since its foundation.

Established in Como in 1999, aleph has grown to become a leading international player in the development of digital printing solutions for the textile and for the visual communication industries. Specialising in the design and manufacture of direct-to-textile and direct-to-paper industrial printing systems, the company provides the market with cutting-edge and highly sustainable integrated solutions. The launch of brand-new LAFORTE series of industrial textile printers in 2015 led the

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company to drive to the adoption of digital technology in the textile printing industry. In 2017, Italian private equity, WISE sgr entered the capital of aleph, becoming the majority shareholders; the move enabled the company's management to further accelerate the development of LAFORTE series, as well as to strengthen the company's brand and the international growth, with a strong ESG approach.

The subsidised loan is subject to the achievement of pre-established sustainability and energy efficiency objectives. It is aimed at supporting aleph' sustainable growth strategy in terms of energy efficiency, through initiatives engineered to save or offset direct/indirect CO<sup>2</sup>/greenhouse gas emissions for the internal production processes, as well as the introduction of internal training programmes on the concept of sustainability at work and at home.

"We are extremely pleased to support aleph's growth through our "sustainable future" financing programme. A young and innovative company, aleph shares the same sustainable- and digital-oriented approach as our group," says Marco Bortoletti, Regional Manager Lombardia at UniCredit. "This agreement demonstrates UniCredit's commitment to promoting and supporting the sustainable development in Lombardy region, which is key to our main objective of providing local communities with the levers and tools to progress."

"Achieving UniCredit's 'sustainable future' financing programme is an important milestone for aleph, as it confirms the validity of our long-term strategy focused on sustainability and social responsibility. - claims Roberto Frigerio, GM and CFO at ale – In addition, it represents a new, exciting starting point that sees aleph even more committed to the reduction of the environmental impact in every production process in order to increase the overall environmental and social sustainability of the company. With the aim of contributing to improving the green reputation of our customers – through the continue development of increasingly innovative and sustainable technologies and solutions".

Launched by UniCredit in July 2021, Finanziamento Futuro Sostenibile (Sustainable Future Financing) is an innovative loan programme designed to support companies engaged in improving their sustainability profile, in line with the action plan launched by the bank in support of PNRR (Italy's Recovery and Resilience Plan) promoting the country's recovery by leveraging a return to consumption and an acceleration of digital and ecological transformation. At the time of

disbursement, the bank directly recognises a reduction in the rate compared to the standard conditions for these operations, with subsequent verification of the achievement of at least two ESG improvement objectives, set at the time the loan is agreed. In line with the ESG paradigm, UniCredit establishes three categories of objectives related to Sustainable Future Financing: environmental protection, improvement of social responsibilities in the community and ethical business management. The bank is also in charge of monitoring the performance of the company and communicating this through self-certification or a dedicated statement in the notes to the client company's financial statements.

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