

Megamark takes loan of €15 million from the Cassa Centrale Group for energy transition and the reduction of environmental impact

- The initiative is aimed at implementing the Megamark Group sales network's third energy efficiency project and involves 6 sales points located in Apulia and Campania, for a total area of approximately 14,000 m², which will be redeveloped between 2023 and 2024. The total investment is 21 million euros.
- Estimated total energy savings of approximately 2.5 GWh/year equal to 34%, which corresponds to a reduction of approximately 470 toe/year of primary energy and roughly 737 tons of CO₂/year.
- The pool loan sees the participation, alongside Cassa Centrale Banca, of 5 Apulia-based BCCs [Cooperative Credit Bank]: BCC San Marzano di SG, BCC Locorotondo, BCC Cassano delle Murge and Tolve, BCC Conversano and BCC Alta Murgia.

Trani, 05.10.2023 – Cassa Centrale Banca, together with 5 affiliated Apulia-based BCCs (BCC San Marzano as proposing entity, BCC Locorotondo, BCC Cassano delle Murge e Tolve, BCC Conversano and BCC Alta Murgia), is providing €15 million for the Megamark Group sales network's energy transition, for a total investment of €21 million. This is the third project of this type by the leading company in Southern Italy for organised distribution, with over 500 direct and affiliated supermarkets present in Apulia, Campania, Molise, Basilicata and Calabria under the Famila, Dok, Sole 365 and A&O brands. There are 6 stores involved, located between Apulia and Campania (Mottola, Molfetta, Gallipoli, Vitulazio, Squinzano, Piedimonte Matese).

The growing attention to energy efficiency in relation to the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and the relevance assumed by ESG issues, especially in the services sector, has also prompted retail purchasing consortiums (GDO) - in particular in the food sector, which is more energy-intensive than average due to cold chain consumption for food preservation - to consider, in a structured manner, the opportunity of implementing energy efficiency measures for its sales and logistics networks.

In this context, the Megamark Group, which has been a pioneer in Southern Italy in commercial development since the mid-1980s, has launched an energy transition plan for its sales network in 2019, in conjunction with the periodic renovations of supermarkets throughout their life cycle. The plan already includes the redevelopment of 22 stores, in addition to the 6 that will be renovated between 2023 and 2024. The restyling project involves the use of "top of the market" technologies for the cold chain, air conditioning, lighting, electrical and automation and control systems in each individual store.

Thanks to the renovation of each superstore, efficiency improvements will affect all energy-intensive systems used in commercial activities, for a total surface area of approximately 14,000 m². The estimated total saving is approximately 2.5 GWh/year, equal to 34%, which corresponds to a reduction of approximately 470 toe/year of primary energy and roughly 737 tons of CO₂/year.

This initiative falls within the scope of the Cassa Centrale Group's commitment to support companies' investments into ecological transition, in line with the objectives set by the PNRR (National Recovery and Resilience Plan). Environmental protection is one of the founding elements that unites the mission of the Cassa Centrale Group and the Megamark Group, aimed at promoting eco-compatible actions and investing along a development path which is increasingly inspired by sustainability criteria.

"We are very satisfied to be able to support the Megamark Group's effective energy efficiency plan", – underlines **Sandro Bolognesi, CEO of Cassa Centrale Banca**. – "Support for the ecological transition of companies is one of the priorities we have set in our path of sustainable growth, in line with the sense of responsibility to the communities in which we operate. This operation is certainly among the most significant that has been financed as a Group in Apulia, which is an extremely important region for us".

"The idea of being able to make a green change in harmony with Europe" – declares the **Cavaliere del Lavoro Giovanni Pomarico, President of the Megamark Group** – "fills us with pride. Leaving the planet we found to future generations is the challenge that institutions, businesses and the public should pursue on a daily basis. Thanks to the support of Cassa Centrale Banca and the mutual banks that took part in the operation, we want to complete this third project within the next few months, which once again saw the contribution of the La Sapienza University of Rome and Studio Santi; at present, we have already made changes to 22 stores and other projects will follow to make our business as sustainable as possible".

Cassa Centrale Banca and the **Megamark Group** are supported by the NCTM law firm as legal advisor, which acted as transaction counsel.

The Cassa Centrale - Credito Cooperativo Italiano Group includes 67 BCCs - Rural Banks - Raiffeisenkassen and 1,478 branches across Italy, more than 11,900 employees and over 470 thousand Cooperative Partners. With balance sheet assets of 91.1 billion as at 30 June 2023, the Group is ranked among the top 10 domestically. Solid and efficient, it offers a wide range of banking, insurance and financial services (thanks to the Assicura Group companies, Claris Leasing and Rent, Neam Asset Management and Prestipay), with particular attention to ESG objectives, in order to guarantee inclusive and sustainable development in line with the founding values of Cooperative Credit. In Apulia, there are 7 BCCs belonging to the Group (BCC of Alta Murgia, BCC of Alberobello Sannicciolo and Monopoli, BCC of Cassano delle Murge and Tolve, BCC of Conversano, BCC of Locorotondo, BCC of San Giovanni Rotondo, BCC of San Marzano of San Giuseppe) which together have 67 branches and 558 employees. Direct collection exceeds €3.6 billion, overall collection exceeds €4.3 billion and loans exceed €2.6 billion. Assets stand at €506.1 million.

The Megamark Group is the leader in Southern Italy in organised distribution thanks to over 500 direct and affiliated supermarkets present in Apulia, Campania, Molise, Basilicata and Calabria. The Group includes the Famila Superstores, the Dok Supermarkets, the Sole 365 Supermarkets and the A&O chain of nearby stores. The Megamark Group has been in partnership with Selex since 1996, one of the most important Italian purchasing centres associated with ESD, which in turn is partnered with EMD, the largest international purchasing centre in Europe, based in Berlin.