

B-ILTY ENTERS A NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH MICROSOFT ITALIA AND INFORMATION WORKERS GROUP TO SUPPORT SMES IN THEIR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Milan, 20 September 2022 – b-ilty, the Digital Business Store created by illimity for SMEs, is enriching its offer by way of a new partnership with Microsoft Italia and Information Workers Group (IWG).

Thanks to a latest generation open platform, b-ilty provides not only banking, financial and credit services but also the products and services of partners selected from among the market leaders and designed to support the growth of its business customers. The collaboration with Microsoft Italia and with IWG, a company specialising in IT consulting and a Microsoft Gold Partner, has been created with the aim of incentivising and supporting the digital transformation of Italian SMEs.

By way of this partnership, b-ilty's customers will have Microsoft services at their disposal that are geared to fostering sharing, collaboration and the improvement of business and staff productivity, making the work environment increasingly smart and safe, and will have the support of IWG in the integration of these services in their business processes. Microsoft is making available the solutions of its Microsoft 365 platform – Basic, Standard and Premium – and additional digital transformation services designed to foster new means of hybrid working, create co-working and cloud sharing spaces, activate advanced electronic mail settings and increase business security.

IWG additionally provides a free of charge customised consulting service, both remotely and face to face, for drawing up a digital growth plan in line with business needs. This service is envisaged not only during the pre-purchase phase but also post-sales, and translates for example into support in the implementation of services and free of charge training.

Carlo Panella, Head of Direct Banking in **illimity**, commented: *“Thanks to a common vocation for innovation, the illimity Group has always assisted Microsoft as a strategic partner for optimising its processes, gaining access to latest generation services. From today we are pleased to be able to provide b-ilty customers with a new value proposition for growth in the name of digital transformation, through IWG as a Microsoft Gold Partner. The new agreement represents an addition to the services provided by b-ilty in the financial sphere and those already operational with our partners on the insurance, digital, training and sustainability front. As always, our aim is to work alongside businesses, proposing the best solutions for tackling the challenges of the present and the future”*.

Luba Manolova, Head of the Microsoft 365 Division in **Microsoft Italia** stated: *“To assist Italian Small and Medium Enterprises to reap the full benefits of technology, starting from communication and collaboration scenarios, their strengths must be united with the key structures in this country to speed up the digital transformation process and react to the many global challenges. We are pleased to strengthen our collaboration with the illimity Group, which together with our partner IWG will make a technological offer available to b-ilty's customers that is focused on fostering collaboration and business productivity together with dedicated consulting services, tailored to the specific needs of the SMEs in support of their growth and development”*.

Angelo Malaspina, Chief Executive Officer of **Information Workers Group**, remarked: *“We are enthusiastic about collaborating together with Microsoft with an innovative business such as illimity and to be able to provide our contribution to the digital transformation of SMEs. Fostering connections between people and communication in full safety in modern working environments*

currently forms an integral part of the strategies of any kind of organisation. The Microsoft productivity and collaboration platform, which we've been working with for over 15 years, has turned out to be the best solution for our customers as support for the hybrid work models and the new interaction and information-sharing needs. We will provide SMEs that contact us through b-ilty with our expertise and free of charge advice as to which is the most suitable Microsoft 365 Business solution for them and the direction they should take to obtain the best results”.

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illimity Bank S.p.A.

illimity is the high-tech banking group founded and headed by Corrado Passera that was created with the aim of responding to specific market needs by way of an innovative and specialist business model. More specifically, illimity extends financing to high-potential SMEs, purchases distressed corporate loans and services these through its platform neprix, and provides digital direct banking services through *illimitybank.com*. illimity SGR, which sets up and manages alternative investment funds, the first of which dedicated to UTP loans, is also a member of the Group. The story of the illimity Group began in January 2018 with the launch of the special purpose acquisition company SPAXS S.p.A., which ended with a record 600 million euro being raised on the market. SPAXS subsequently acquired Banca Interprovinciale S.p.A., with the resulting merger between the two giving rise to “illimity Bank S.p.A.” which has been listed on the Italian Stock Exchange since 5 March 2019 (ticker “ILTY”), first on the MTA exchange and since September 2020 on the Star segment. The banking group, headquartered in Milan, can already count on over 830 employees and ended the first half of 2022 with assets of around 5.1 billion euro.

Microsoft

Microsoft enables organisations to carry out their digital transformation projects by way of new innovation scenarios such as Cloud Computing and Artificial Intelligence. The company’s mission is to support people and organisations throughout the world to obtain more, thanks to technology and a digital approach. Further information about Microsoft can be found on the website <https://www.microsoft.com/it-it/>.

Information Workers Group (IWG)

Information Workers Group (IWG) is an IT consultancy that is a partner of Microsoft and a member of the Altea Federation: a federation consisting of 19 businesses which under a single brand name unleash professionalism and a high level of specialisation. Diverse and complementary worlds to satisfy even the most complex digitalisation needs. The Group has a staff of 1,500 people and revenues of 140 million euro and works out of 13 offices. Currently at 28th position in the Italian IT Software and Services table drawn up by IDC Italy and published by Datamanager, for over 15 years Information Workers Group has been providing consulting, services and innovative solutions to private businesses, in both the enterprise and SME world, and to the public administration. It furnishes technological and organisational solutions capable of combining high levels of collaboration, connection and communication performance in modern work environments, while at the same time allowing each individual to express their own talent. An innovative human workplace model in line with the diverse cultures of its business customers.