Press Release

# SOCOTEC acquires GIMAC in Italy, strengthening its European leadership in UXO risk management

- **SOCOTEC Italia acquires GIMAC, a leading Italian UXO specialist (detection of unexploded ordnance in the ground) with 65 experts across Italy.**
- **A strategic acquisition combining UXO risk assessment, geophysical investigation and clearance for major infrastructure projects.**

**Paris/Milano, September 22, 2026 – For immediate release**

The SOCOTEC Group, a leading international player in Testing, Inspection and Certification (TIC) for the construction and infrastructure sectors, announces the acquisition by SOCOTEC Italia of GIMAC S.r.l., a leading Italian specialist in unexploded ordnance (UXO) risk assessment, detection and clearance, mostly dating from the First and Second World Wars.

**With this acquisition, SOCOTEC takes a significant step in the UXO business.**
While UXO risk management represents a new specialist activity for SOCOTEC Italia, it is already a well-established expertise within the Group: SOCOTEC is the market leader in UXO services in Germany. Bringing together these two national leaders creates the foundations for a broader European centre of expertise, combining local market knowledge, specialist teams, technologies and operational know-how.

**Founded in 2011, GIMAC is now #1 in Italy in the UXO business. The company operates throughout Italy with 65 specialised professionals and holds the highest level of qualification available in the country for terrestrial UXO clearance.**
Its expertise spans the entire risk-management process, from historical analysis and preliminary UXO risk assessment to magnetometric and geophysical investigations and surface and deep clearance.
This expertise is increasingly critical to major infrastructure projects, where understanding subsurface conditions and identifying potential hazards at the earliest possible stage are key to securing works, schedules and investments. GIMAC has built a strong track record across Italy, particularly in major road and rail projects, working with infrastructure operators, concessionaires and general contractors.

**A natural extension of SOCOTEC's infrastructure strategy.**
The acquisition also fits directly into SOCOTEC's broader strategy of moving upstream in the infrastructure lifecycle and expanding its ability to identify, assess and manage risks before construction begins. GIMAC's capabilities are highly complementary to SOCOTEC Italia's 140 M€ business and 1,000 people in 21 locations, and leading expertise in geophysics, geotechnical investigation, material testing, diagnostics and monitoring for the infrastructure end-market. Together, these capabilities enable SOCOTEC Italia to provide an increasingly integrated understanding of ground and subsurface risks, from initial investigation through construction and throughout the infrastructure lifecycle. GIMAC will also benefit from SOCOTEC Italia's growing involvement in marine infrastructure projects.

**From national expertise to a European UXO platform**
At European level, combining GIMAC's strong position in Italy with SOCOTEC's market-leading UXO activities in Germany will accelerate the strategy and the sharing of expertise, methodologies and technologies between teams. It will also strengthen the Group's ability to mobilise specialist capabilities for increasingly large and complex infrastructure programmes across Europe.

**Hervé Montjotin, CEO of SOCOTEC Group,** said: "The acquisition of GIMAC is more than an expansion of our Italian platform: it is a strategic step in the UXO risk management business. We are already the market leader in Germany, and GIMAC brings us its strong #1 position, recognised expertise and outstanding teams in Italy. By connecting these capabilities, we are strengthening SOCOTEC's ability to identify and manage infrastructure risks from the very earliest stages of a project."

**Massimo De Iasi, CEO of SOCOTEC Italia,** added: "GIMAC brings SOCOTEC Italia a highly specialised capability that is new to our Italian teams, but already well established within the Group. Its expertise is also a natural extension of our existing capabilities in geophysics, geotechnical investigation, surveying, diagnostics and monitoring. Together, we will be able to offer our clients an even more integrated approach to risk management in infrastructure projects. Carlo Barbagallo, founder of GIMAC, will continue to lead GIMAC as CEO and minority shareholder, ensuring managerial and entrepreneurial continuity and supporting the company's development within SOCOTEC Group."

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## ABOUT SOCOTEC

*Accompanying companies for 70 years, the SOCOTEC Group, chaired by Hervé Montjotin, has built its reputation as an independent trusted third-party in the fields of risk management, compliance, safety, health and environment in the Building, Real Estate, Infrastructure and Industry sectors.*
*As a guarantor of the integrity, sustainability and performance of built assets, SOCOTEC is developing a range of services in testing, inspection and certification, from technical control, the group's historical expertise, to technical consulting and risk management services related to construction, infrastructure and industrial facilities. Its expertise enables it to support its private and public sector clients throughout the life cycle of their buildings and equipment in order to strengthen their sustainability.*
*No. 1 in construction inspection in France, No. 1 in geotechnical services and construction quality control in the United Kingdom and Italy, the group is a major player in TIC (Testing Inspection Certification) services in the Construction and Infrastructure sectors in Europe and the United States. The SOCOTEC group has consolidated revenues of 1.850 bn Euros and 60% of international revenues (40% of revenues come from France) with 250,000 clients. With a presence in 25 countries and 15,000 employees, it has more than 250 external accreditations, enabling it to act as a trusted third-party in many projects. More information on www.socotec.com*