



THE MEDITERRANEAN NEXUS

CATALYZING THE DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM FOR EMEA'S
SOVEREIGNTY AND SUSTAINABLE BLUE INNOVATION

Genoa | 8th - 9th July 2026



Executive Summary
and Conference Agenda

PATRONAGE OF



COMUNE DI GENOVA

HOST PARTNER

Ge-DIX

PATRONAGE OF



Università
di Genova



THE MEDITERRANEAN NEXUS

CATALYZING THE DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM FOR EMEA'S SOVEREIGNTY AND SUSTAINABLE BLUE INNOVATION

Subsea Italy 2026 is the premier executive platform where the EMEA digital ecosystem converges to define the next decade of infrastructure. We are moving **"Beyond the Cable"**, positioning the Mediterranean as the strategic **Nexus**, a center of gravity where subsea, terrestrial and satellite connectivity meets the explosion of AI Data Centers, the urgency of **Sovereign Cloud**, and the sustainable power of **Blue Innovation**.

Why Subsea Italy? Our forum is the only meeting point designed to connect the seven pillars of the Mediterranean Nexus:

- **THE INTEGRATED FABRIC** (Subsea and Terrestrial Carriers, Satellite Operators, TowerCos, Data Center Providers & Equipment Vendors): Building the physical foundation of the Nexus. Bridging the gap between landing stations, fiber backbones, the wireless edge, orbital space (LEO), and Colocation Data Centers –supported by the R&D manufacturing leaders.
- **THE INTELLIGENT OVERLAY** (Internet, IX, SDN, Cloud AI Providers & Digital Tech companies): Defining the smart layer that transforms capacity into sovereign digital value. Driven by the innovation of xSPs and technology giants shaping the future of Internet, Cloud, and automated networks.
- **THE SOVEREIGN SHIELD** (Sovereignty, Security & Critical Infrastructure): A transversal theme focused on protecting the physical and digital integrity of **EMEA's** data flows against hybrid threats while ensuring compute and data sovereignty.
- **BLUE INNOVATION** (Energy, Smart Ports & Sustainable Infra): Synergizing marine engineering and Blue Energy with the development of **Smart Ports** to create the world's first carbon-neutral digital hubs. This pillar unites digital ecosystem with ports stakeholders innovators and energy leaders to solve the massive power demands of the Nexus through sustainable resources.



THE MEDITERRANEAN NEXUS

- **THE CAPITAL CATALYST** (Infrastructure Funds & M&A): The exclusive meeting point for **Investment Funds**, Private and Public Equity, and M&A leaders. This pillar focuses on the financial engine driving European digital sovereignty, covering asset valuation, project financing, and the strategic capital required to scale critical infrastructure across the region.
- **EMERGING CORRIDORS & EXPANSION** (Geopolitics & SE-ME-NA Operators): Navigating the geopolitics of subsea routing and the rise of new digital hubs across **South Europe, the Middle East, and Africa**. A dedicated focus on diversifying global data paths and scaling the Mediterranean Nexus towards the Balkans and MENA markets.
- **THE ACADEMIC CORE** (Universities & Competence Centers): Bridging the critical gap between higher education and the digital infrastructure industry. This pillar focuses on academic excellence, interdisciplinary research, and creating direct pathways to empower the next generation of engineers and business leaders. It aims to reverse the brain drain by connecting international industry leaders with the best academic talents required to build the future of the Nexus.





THE MEDITERRANEAN NEXUS

CATALYZING THE DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM FOR EMEA'S SOVEREIGNTY AND SUSTAINABLE BLUE INNOVATION

In an era of shifting geopolitics and unprecedented energy demands, infrastructure is the frontline of regional security and economic growth. Subsea Italy 2026 catalyzes this unique ecosystem, accelerating the transition of Mediterranean basin from a simple transit corridor to a **Sovereign Digital Hub**, where the "Integrated Fabric" is fueled by sustainable marine energy and strategic capital.

Where Infrastructure Meets Value. At Subsea Italy 2026, we don't just talk about connectivity and Data Centers; we talk about Data Sovereignty and **Sustainable Growth**. Whether you are scaling edge computing, deploying subsea fiber, securing national data assets, **or investing in offshore green power**, this is where the partnerships driving EMEA's digital future are forged. The event stands as the absolute convergence point between infrastructure, geopolitics, and sustainable innovation.

Where - The Mediterranean Nexus: Italy: The Sovereign Heart of the Digital Economy.

The strategic gateway connecting Africa, the Middle East, and Europe.

- The terminal for the most innovative subsea cable systems of the decade.
- Proximity to other major South European Digital Hubs.
- A historical maritime hub now driving the AI and Cloud revolution.



THE MEDITERRANEAN NEXUS

The Strategic Context: The Urgency for a New Paradigm (*The "Why"*)

Subsea Italy 2026 emerges at a moment of historical disruption. It is no longer possible to analyze the digital infrastructure market without acknowledging the "perfect storm" of global factors currently redrawing the balance of the EMEA Mediterranean region. The urgency to convene these stakeholders stems from seven interconnected macro-phenomena (compelling events):

- **The New Geopolitical Landscape:** Current international tensions—particularly the crises and conflicts in the Middle East, a critical chokepoint for subsea cables—are accelerating the decline of a hyper-globalized market. We are witnessing a clear division into distinct blocs and spheres of economic and strategic influence, dictating the need for new routes and enhanced security.
- **The Artificial Intelligence Explosion:** The AI revolution demands unprecedented compute density and data transfer capabilities, forcing a total infrastructure convergence between subsea cables, ultra-high-capacity terrestrial networks, and data centers.
- **Decentralization Toward Southern Europe:** To support Edge Computing and AI, processing intelligence is shifting away from traditional Northern European hubs down to the Mediterranean basin, driving a strategic proliferation of Data Centers across coastal and continental "Tier II" cities.
- **The Mediterranean as a "Sovereignty Area" and Digital Fortress:** The Mediterranean basin is ceasing to be a mere "transit pipe" between Asia and Europe, evolving into a truly sovereign ecosystem. The necessity to protect these critical assets from hybrid threats (both cyber and physical) dictates new security standards and regulatory frameworks ("Safe Harbors") to ensure that data is landed, processed, and protected with absolute reliability.
- **The Blue-Energy Convergence:** Digital sovereignty cannot exist without energy autonomy. Sustainability and the capacity to power highly energy-intensive infrastructures through offshore generation (Blue Energy) have become fundamental prerequisites for national and European security.



THE MEDITERRANEAN NEXUS

- **Strategic Funding & The Sovereignty Guarantee:** The financing of critical infrastructure has entered a new era. Beyond traditional Private Equity, **National Governments and the European Union** are increasingly deploying sovereign funds and strategic investment vehicles. This intervention is crucial to guarantee that the Nexus remains under sovereign control, ensuring long-term security and digital autonomy.
- **The Generational Shift and The Engineering Talent Gap:** The international digital infrastructure industry is facing an aging workforce. As the allure of pure software, digital services, and core AI software development captures the vast majority of young professionals, there is a critical shortage of fresh talent in the engineering, subsea, and physical infrastructure domains. A massive generational turnover and a renewed pipeline of specialized skills are urgently needed to physically build, manage, and secure the converged architectures of the future.

All these factors drive the absolute urgency for a structural discontinuity. Old business models, traditional investment logic, and siloed partnerships are now obsolete. Subsea Italy 2026 is the Call to Action to forge new commercial alliances, attract infrastructure capital, bridge the gap with academy to empower the next generation of talents, and shape the rules of the "Mediterranean Nexus".



THE MEDITERRANEAN NEXUS

THE EXECUTIVE AGENDA

DAY 1: JULY 8, 2026 | INTEGRATED FABRIC & SCIENTIFIC CORE

13:30 – 14:30 | Registration & Welcome Coffee

Arrival of delegates, check-in, and opening of the Networking Area.

14:30 – 15.25 | OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Abstract: Official welcome, institutional greetings, and positioning of Genoa as the ultimate digital port and Italy as strategic hub for Mediterranean digital routes.

Chair: *Giuseppe Sini (Conference Director Subsea Italy, The Mediterranean Nexus)*

Institutional Greetings: *Rita Bruzzone (City Councilor Municipality of Genoa); Paolo Barigelli Calcari (Vice Chairman Ge-DIX); Giovanni Indiveri (Centro del Mare, Università di Genova); Fabrizio Casati (Chief Wholesale Officer Fastweb+Vodafone)*

15:30 – 16:15 | PANEL: THE INTEGRATED FABRIC

Orchestrating the End-to-End Infrastructure Layer

Abstract: A deep dive into the true "Integrated Fabric" of modern digital infrastructures. Moving decisively beyond the subsea cable, this panel explores the seamless orchestration of the entire digital infrastructure chain. Industry leaders (from submarine and terrestrial backbone providers to TowerCos and Data Center providers) will discuss how to bridge the gap between deep-sea landing stations and the final user. The objective is to define the holistic infrastructure architecture required to support 5G/6G, massive AI workloads, and the decentralization of compute power across Southern Europe.

Moderator: *Alessandro Forcina (Partner Cambridge Management Consulting)*

Speakers: *Fabrizio Casati (Chief Wholesale Officer Fastweb+ Vodafone); Renato Brunetti (Chairman & CEO Unidata, CEO Unitirreno); Wilfried Dudink (Senior Director Strategy & Development Digital Realty); Stefano Mazzitelli (Chief Commercial Officer Open Fiber)*

16:15 – 16:55 | DEEP DIVE TRACKS: Engineering, Sovereignty & Infrastructure Funding

Session Host: *Antonio Prado (Network Planning Manager, Fiber Telecom)*



THE MEDITERRANEAN NEXUS

A. 16:15 – 16:35 | A cornerstone of Digital Sovereignty & Independence

Abstract: Time synchronization is a cornerstone of digital sovereignty underpinning critical sectors from finance to AI. Recent vulnerabilities in GNSS-based systems underscore the need for EU-independent infrastructures. By leveraging national atomic clocks and fiber networks, supported by neutral IXPs, the EU can establish a resilient, secure time dissemination framework that mitigates geopolitical dependencies and enhances systemic autonomy.

Speaker: Luca Cicchelli (*Interconnection Manager, TOP-IX*)

B. 16:35 – 16:55 | From Innovation to Deployment – Funding Europe's Sovereign Digital Infrastructure

Abstract: Blending public EU funding (CEF, Horizon Europe, LIFE) and private capital to de-risk and accelerate sovereign digital ecosystems, featuring maritime mobility and smart port infrastructure case studies.

Speaker: Michela Apruzzese (*Senior Consultant, PNO Innovation*)

17:00 – 18:15 | ACADEMIC SESSION & SUBSEA ITALY TALENT AWARD

Session Host: Antonio Prado (*Network Planning Manager Fiber Telecom*)

- **17:00 – 17:20 | New Academic Paths for Digital Infrastructures**

Speaker: Prof. Marco Invernizzi (*Full Professor University of Genoa/DITEN*)

- **17:20 – 17:50 | The Interdisciplinary Vision of “Centro del Mare” and the Road to the 2027 Talent Award**

Speaker: Prof. Giovanni Indiveri (*Associate Professor, ISME Director University of Genoa*)

- **17:50 – 18:15 | Underwater Robotic Intervention for Inspection and Monitoring**

Abstract: Underwater robotic intervention has become an increasingly important research area owing to the growing demand for autonomous subsea operations. This talk introduces the fundamental concepts of underwater intervention and discusses the challenges imposed by the marine environment. It subsequently reviews the principal classes of marine robotic vehicles, then focuses on the Autonomous Surface Vehicle combined with Remotely Operated Vehicle (ASV-ROV) system as an effective cooperative platform for subsea intervention.

Speaker: Juri Khanmeh (*Postdoc DIBRIS University of Genoa*)

18:15 | Day 1 Closing

19:00 – 23:00 | NETWORKING COCKTAIL & SUMMER PARTY



THE MEDITERRANEAN NEXUS

DAY 2: JULY 9, 2026 – THE MEDITERRANEAN NEXUS

8:30 – 9:30 | Registration & Welcome Coffee

Arrival of delegates, check-in, and opening of the Networking Area.

9:30 – 10:30 | OPENING SESSION & EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TALK

Forging the Sovereign Heart of the Digital & Blue Economy.

Abstract: A high-level institutional opening session defining the new role of the Mediterranean. No longer just a transit corridor, but the strategic catalyst for digital sovereignty in the EMEA region. This panel will explore the "perfect storm" of geopolitical realignment, the explosion of AI-driven compute demands, and the critical need for sustainable power (Blue Energy). Global leaders will discuss how the total convergence of subsea cables, terrestrial networks, and sovereign data centers is forging a new economic and strategic center of gravity for Europe and beyond.

Moderator: Roberto Rasia dal Polo (Journalist)

Speakers: On. Maria Grazia Frijia (Member of the Transport and Telecommunications Committee, Italian Chamber of Deputies and Deputy Mayor of La Spezia); Alessandro Magnino (Chief Strategy & Transformation Officer Fastweb+Vodafone); Federico Protto (CEO Cellnex Italia and Cluster Alpine); Luca Beltramino (Chairman IDA), Stefano Da Empoli (Chairman I-Com).

10:45 – 11:30 | PANEL 1: EMERGING CORRIDORS & GEOPOLITICS

Connecting Italy to South Europe Middle East and North Africa.

Abstract : The Mediterranean is the gateway to the world's fastest-growing digital markets. This panel analyzes the geopolitics of subsea routing and the emergence of new digital hubs across South Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa (SE-ME-NA). Featuring leaders from regional operators, we will explore the diversification of global data paths, the creation of new landing points, and the strategic expansion of the Nexus (Italy) to bridge the connectivity gap between EMEA and the global digital economy.

Moderator: Charles Orsel des Sagets (Managing Partner Cambridge Management Consulting)

Speakers: Maria Teresa Ferrigno (Chief Revenue Officer Unitirreno); Damien Bertrand (COO Medusa); Antonios Kollaras (Director Network Investment EXA Infrastructure); Milko Ilari (Head of Southern Europe & PPN RETN).



THE MEDITERRANEAN NEXUS

11:40 – 12:20 | PANEL 2: THE SOVEREIGN SHIELD

Hardening the Nexus against Hybrid and Digital Threats.

Abstract: In an era of escalating geopolitical fragmentation, the security of our critical digital infrastructure is the ultimate frontier of national and regional defense. This panel addresses the comprehensive protection of the Nexus against hybrid, physical, and cyber threats. Moving from the seabed to the cloud, discussions will cover real-time subsea monitoring, the physical security of massive AI Data Centers, and the implementation of Sovereign Cloud frameworks ("Safe Harbors"). Experts from defense, government agencies, cybersecurity and cloud services will outline coordinated protocols to guarantee the absolute integrity and autonomy of EMEA's critical data flows.

Moderator: *Brian Turnbow (Board ITNOG, Technical Director)*

Speakers: *Stefano Canarutto (Business Development Manager MacArtney); Georgia Cesarone (CTO Start 4.0); Lorenzo Ariemma (Chief Security Officer, Rocket Way); Gian Marco Biagi (Commercial Enterprise & P.A. Director Cellnex Italia).*

12:30 – 13:15 | PANEL 3: THE INTELLIGENT FRONTIER

AI-Driven Network and Data Center Automation & Cloud Connectivity

Abstract: As Generative AI reshapes global traffic patterns, xSPs (DC, Cloud, Internet and Network Providers) must evolve from "housing, hosting and pipe providers" to intelligent orchestrators. This panel focuses on the synergy between AI Data Center and Cloud providers, SDN providers, ISPs and IXPs to ensure low-latency regional routing and seamless cloud access. We will discuss the impact of AI on network and Data Center architecture and the implementation of sovereign routing protocols to protect EMEA's data integrity while maintaining high-performance, cross-border connectivity.

Moderator: *Antonio Prado (Network Planning Manager Fiber Telecom)*

Speakers: *Max Gasparroni (Chief Technology and Security Officer, Fastweb+Vodafone); Emmanuel Becker (CEO Mediterra Datacenters); Roberto Filipelli (Azure GTM Director EMEA Microsoft); Mauro Brambilla (Public Affairs Manager Aruba).*

13:15 – 13:30 | CLOSING REMARKS

The 2027 Nexus Outlook & Final Wrap-up

Abstract: A synthesis of the proceedings and a projection into the future. Delivering a strategic roadmap for the coming year, consolidating the partnerships forged during the event, and setting the ambitious goals for the 2027 edition of the Mediterranean Nexus.

Chair: *Giuseppe Sini (Conference Director Subsea Italy – The Mediterranean Nexus)*



THE MEDITERRANEAN NEXUS

HOST PARTNER

PATRONAGE OF



COMUNE DI GENOVA

PATRONAGE OF



Università
di Genova



DIAMOND SPONSOR



PLATINUM SPONSORS



GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



OFFICIAL PARTNERS



SCIENTIFIC PATRONAGES



TECHNOLOGY PARTNER

