

## **UBI BANCA AND CREDITO SPORTIVO FINANCE THE NEW ATALANTA STADIUM Over €24 million to allow the Azzurri d'Italia stadium to be acquired from the City of Bergamo and to then be modernised**

**Rome, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017** – A contract was presented in Rome today for UBI Banca and the Istituto per il Credito Sportivo (ICS) to finance the acquisition and subsequent modernisation of the new Atalanta Bergamasca Calcio football club stadium. In addition to Paolo D'Alessio, the Extraordinary Commissioner of ICS, Lorenzo Fidato, Co-Head of UBI Banca Structured Finance and Antonio and Luca Percassi, the Chairman and Managing Director respectively of Atalanta Bergamasca Calcio, Luca Lotti, the Minister for Sport, Giovanni Malagò the President of CONI (the Italian National Olympic Committee) and Michele Uva, General Manager of the FIGC (the Italian Football Federation) were also in attendance.

UBI Banca, the global coordinator and bookrunner, together with the Istituto per il Credito Sportivo, will provide finance totalling €24.5 million for the newly formed company Stadio Atalanta srl, which is wholly owned by Atalanta Bergamasca Calcio, for the acquisition of the Atleti Azzurri d'Italia Stadium sold by the City of Bergamo on conclusion of bidding opened on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 following public tender procedures. The Banking Group will provide €15.4 million, while Credito Sportivo will provide €9.1 million.

The modernisation work will be carried out in the summers of 2018, 2019 and 2020 and completion is scheduled for December 2020. The modernisation of the Bergamo Stadium follows along the lines of work already carried out in other Italian and European towns and cities such as the Allianz Stadium in Turin, and at many English Premier League clubs. The aim is to upgrade sports stadiums and at the same time to transform them into cash generating units able to finance themselves.

“Important pages have been written in Atlanta’s history in 2017. It achieved a record number of points in Serie A finishing in fourth place with an exciting return to playing in Europe”, said the President of Atalanta BC Antonio Percassi, “and on the 17<sup>th</sup> October, the day of the club’s 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the procedure for the purchase of the Bergamo Stadium was completed, which therefore officially became the property of Atalanta. A new path is now opening before us which in coming years will lead to the complete modernisation of the stadium. It’s an extremely demanding task from all aspects which Atalanta will be able to accomplish thanks to the valuable collaboration of Credito Sportivo and UBI Banca, which is already the club’s “Official Bank”. Teamwork is a key factor in the Bergamo Stadium project, an important infrastructure for Atalanta, its fans and the city.”



“Privately owned stadiums belonging to their clubs are rare in Italy and they are always supported by the existence of a company with modern management techniques attentive to the financial dimension”, said Lorenzo Fidato, Co-Head of Structured Finance at UBI Banca. “After becoming the ‘Official Bank’ this year, UBI Banca has also confirmed its support for the team and the city by assisting in the development of a new and important infrastructure”.

“It’s an important step in the creation of a new generation of stadiums in Italy”, explained Paolo D’Alessio, the Extraordinary Commissioner of the Istituto per Credito Sportivo. “For the first time a municipality is selling full ownership of a stadium and not just the leasehold. Here too the key to the success of the operation was teamwork between the football club, the city administration and financial institutions”.

The President of Coni and the Minister of Sport were also satisfied on a “sad day for Italian football”: “Thanks to Credito Sportivo, UBI Banca and Atalanta, this is still an important day for Italian football”, said Malagò, while Lotti added: “It’s no good hiding from what we saw yesterday evening, but there’s also something positive happening today, the rebirth of our sports facilities and stadiums”. Uva, the general manager of the FIGC, was also of the same opinion: “If there is no investment”, he remarked, “then there is no future”.