

FITCH RATING ASSIGNES EI TOWERS A BBB RATING (INVESTMENT GRADE) WITH STABLE OUTLOOK

- Lissone, 10th April 2013 - Fitch Ratings has assigned Italian tower company EI Towers SpA (EIT) a Long-term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) of 'BBB' with a Stable Outlook.
- The rating agency also assigned a 'BBB(EXP)' senior unsecured rating to EIT's planned bond issuance of up to EUR250m.
- Fitch Ratings has underlined the quasi-utility nature of EI Towers, with a vital role in the transmission of a significant portion of Italy's free-to-air television signals.
- The rating for EI Towers reflects the company's highly visible, non-cyclical and inflation linked revenue streams. These are underpinned by long-term contracts to rent space on its towers for radio and TV broadcast and telecoms transmission equipment. TV-related services form the bulk of EI Towers' revenue, but 4G (LTE) roll-outs are likely to provide the additional source of growth in the future. Assigning additional radio spectrum for DTT use could also boost EI Towers revenue and profitability.
- As a consequence, future profitability and cash flow generation are seen to be stable.
- The Stable Outlook for EI Towers already takes into account the pressure on the Italian TV advertising expenditure that the main broadcasting clients are facing, and the limited visibility of any recovery given the weak Italian macroeconomic environment.
- Competitive threats to EI Towers remain limited.
- More details are available on Fitch Ratings website (www.fitchratings.com).
- The rating assigned by Fitch Ratings to EI Towers and this press release are linked to the bond issuance already announced to the market on March 21st 2013.

For more information please contact:

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