



Press release

Bologna, July 22, 2005

IMA Group: industrial presence in China growing

Management remains prudent regarding the prospects for the whole of the year

The Board of Directors of IMA S.p.A., world leader in the production of automatic packaging machines for the pharmaceutical and tea industries, met today to approve the decision, in accordance with instructions from Consob and Borsa Italiana, to take advantage of the opportunity not to publish a second quarterly report and to publish just a half-year report prepared in accordance with IFRS within 90 days of the end of the first six months. **The Board meeting** to approve the **half-year report**, initially planned for August 12, has been rescheduled for **September 28, 2005**.

The Board also decided to increase the capital of the Chinese joint venture **Zibo IMA Xinhua Pharmatech Co. Ltd.**, specialized in the production of automatic machines for pharmaceutical process, by \$ 2,000,000, to which IMA S.p.A. will contribute \$ 1,640,000 and the Chinese partner Xinhua Medical Co. \$ 360,000, in proportion to the investments held in the joint venture (IMA S.p.A. 82%, Xinhua Medical Co. Ltd. 18%).

Commenting on this decision **Alberto Vacchi, IMA's Managing Director**, declared: *“The reinforcement of our industrial presence in China reflects an ongoing policy that the IMA Group has been pursuing consistently in that country for over a decade. The increase in capital approved today will allow the Zibo joint venture to expand its production volumes considerably, with sales aimed principally at China's domestic market, as well as emerging markets in South East Asia.”*

Commenting on developments in the current year Alberto Vacchi continued as follows: *“Trends in these first six months have not shown the improvement in the external scenario that we considered possible. The demand for plant and machinery on the part of the pharmaceutical industry has been weak, especially on European markets, while the pressure on prices, which was a feature of 2004, has got worse. Thanks to the superiority of our products and the IMA Group's effective and widespread sales organization, sales volumes are expected to remain at the levels previously announced, with market shares improving slightly, even if this will entail some sacrifices in terms of industrial margins. Even though the scenario is unfavorable and visibility is limited -*

concluded Alberto Vacchi - *I believe that there are enough elements for us to look forward with optimism. After all, the firm has taken steps to limit fixed and selling costs, and we are also working hard to achieve a considerable reduction in the cost of products sold. This will put us in a stronger position to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the inevitable recovery in demand for plant from the pharmaceutical industry, which continues to turn in strong rates of growth, at a time when the supply side is beginning a process of rationalization and consolidation. Moreover, in 2006, we will see that improvement in margins that the current reinforcement of the US dollar is making possible on new orders.*"

Attachments: Calendar of the Board of Directors of IMA S.p.A. for the year 2005

Established in **1961**, IMA is today the world leader in the design and manufacture of automatic machines for the packaging of pharmaceutical products and of tea in filter bags. The IMA Group closed 2004 with net revenues that have risen to 371.1 million Euro, of which 91% was realized on international markets. The Group has more than 2,600 employees, about 1,000 of whom overseas, and can count on 12 production plants: 5 are in Italy, one in Germany, one in England, one in the United States, two in India and two in **China**. IMA has an extensive sales network comprising nine branches which provide sales and service in France, UK, Germany, Austria, Spain, Portugal, USA, China and Thailand, representative offices in Central and East European countries and over 50 agencies covering a total of more than 70 countries. **IMA is also participating in three joint ventures in China for production and service.** IMA S.p.A. has been listed on the Milan Stock Exchange since 1995 and in 2001 joined the **STAR** segment. The following companies in the pharmaceutical and cosmetics sectors are part of the IMA Group: **Co.ma.di.s. S.p.A., IMA Kilian GmbH & Co. KG, Nova Packaging Systems Inc., Precision Gears Ltd., Swiftpack Automation Ltd.**

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CALENDAR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

YEAR 2005

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|------------------------|-----------|---|
| 1) February 14 | Monday | <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Approval of the budget for 2005◆ Calling of the stockholders' meeting
(Stockholders' meeting - Wednesday April 27, 2005)◆ Approval of the 4th quarterly report at 12/31/2004 |
| 2) March 23 | Wednesday | <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Approval of the financial statements at 12/31/2004 |
| 3) May 13 | Friday | <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Approval of the 1st quarterly report at 03/31/2005 |
| 4) September 28 | Wednesday | <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Approval of the half-year report at 06/30/2005 |
| 5) November 14 | Monday | <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Approval of the 3rd quarterly report at 09/30/2005 |
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