



Press release

Bologna, 24 April 2002

**IMA Shareholders' Meeting approves the annual report 2001 and rewards the Shareholders with a dividend of 0,36 euro (+55%)**

**After an excellent 2001  
(sales +14.7%, net income +34.4%),  
the Group expects 2002 to be a year of strong growth**

The Shareholders of IMA S.p.A., world leader in the production of automatic machinery for the pharmaceutical and tea industries, met today under the chairmanship of **Marco Vacchi** and approved the financial statements as of December 31, 2001.

The Shareholders approved a **dividend** of 0,36 euro per share (0,23 in 2000) which will be paid from May 16 (going ex-dividend from May 13).

**Group performance**

**Consolidated sales** in 2001 reached 336.3 million euro (+14.7% on 2000), of which over 95% were exports.

The **operating result**, before amortization of goodwill from acquisitions, rose to 49.4 million euro (+36.4% on 2000). All of the Group's main divisions contributed to this result, as did the benefits of synergies and the rapid integration of the companies acquired recently.

**Net income** of 20.4 million euro is up 34.4% on the previous year (15.2 million), after depreciation and amortization of 14.4 million euro (12.7 million in 2000).

**Net investments** during the year entailed expenses of 28 million euro (in 2000, 53.1 million), including 14 million for acquisitions (in 2000, 40.3 million).

**Net debt** at the end of the year came to 75.1 million euro (72 million at the end of 2000). After the effects relevant to the acquisitions, the net financial position improves by 15.5 million versus 2000.

**Performance of the Parent Company IMA S.p.A.**

IMA S.p.A. closed 2001 with sales of 211.2 million euro (176.4 million in 2000), an operating profit of 28.8 million (19.3 million in 2000) and net income of 15.5 million, up 24% on 2000. Net debt at the end of 2001 came to 51 million (38.8 million at the end of 2000).

## Excellent prospects for 2002

These excellent results confirm the development strategy being pursued by the Group's management with a view to expanding and innovating the range of products and services offered to customers, consolidating IMA's world-wide leadership position and growing both organically and through acquisitions. Starting from today IMA presents at **Interpack**, the most important exhibition for the packaging sector held in Düsseldorf until 30 April, many new machines for the packaging of pharmaceutical and cosmetic products.

The positive prospects of the Group are confirmed by the high level of the **order backlog**, which amounted to 198.8 million euro at the end of March, 10.4% up on the end of March 2001 (180.1 million euro). This situation, together with the high number of negotiations currently underway, makes it possible to forecast a very favourable evolution in both sales and profitability during the current year.

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The Shareholders approved some statutory modifications relevant to the participation in the Shareholders' Meeting, the convocation of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, as well as the composition of the Board of Statutory Auditors, appointing the third alternate auditor.

Lastly, the Shareholders gave their **authorization to buy or sell own shares** and resolved that this power should be exercised by the Board of Directors.