



Press release

Bologna, 14 May 2001

IMA Group: sales +32% in the 1st Qtr
Management confirms strong growth in 2001

The Board of Directors of IMA has reviewed and approved the Group results as of March 31, 2001.

There is strong growth in consolidated sales, up to 85.4 billion lire, +32% on the same period last year and there is a hefty order backlog at the same date (348.8 billion lire, +18% on the end of March 2000).

The timing of deliveries in this sector normally follows a distinct trend, with January-March traditionally seeing a modest proportion of the year's turnover. This means that the first quarter is not a particularly useful base on which to extrapolate the results that can be expected for the entire year.

The difference between value and cost of production comes to -9.9 billion (-18.5 billion as of March 31, 2000), leading to an improvement in the pre-tax result (-13.1 billion vs -22.3 billion in 1st Qtr 2000).

Strong demand in both areas of activity and the state of the order book, which showed a positive trend in April as well with 58 billion lire of new orders, suggest that this will be a very good year in terms of revenue growth and the operating result as a percentage of sales.

Net debt as of March 31, 2001 comes to 174.3 billion lire, up by 34.9 billion compared with December 31, 2000. Of this amount, 24.4 billion is due to acquisitions with the difference of 10.5 billion all attributable to the rise in inventories to cope with upcoming deliveries. Net cash flow generated by operations in April was positive for 13 billion lire.

The Board of Directors has appointed an Internal Control Committee in accordance with the recommendations of the Code of Self-Regulation on Corporate Governance.

The Board of Directors has also reviewed the procedures for IMA to join the STAR segment of Borsa Italiana S.p.A., which is expected to take place by the end of July 2001.