



Press release

Bologna, 19 May 2000

Second acquisition in 2000 for the IMA Group

Bologna group takes over GS Coating System

Following its recent acquisition of the German company Kilian & Co. GmbH, IMA S.p.A. has made yet another important acquisition of great strategic value. The announcement was made at the end of the company's Board of Directors meeting today.

IMA has taken over the activities of GS Coating System, a company specialised in systems for coating tablets for the pharmaceutical and confectionery industries.

Established in 1979 with headquarters in Castel S. Pietro, Bologna, GS forecasts a turnover for 2000 of approximately ITL 23 billion and an operating result equal to 20% of revenue. The newly acquired company's recent track record is truly outstanding, thanks to the innovative patented process it has developed.

The acquisition of GS is part of a wider expansion policy of the IMA Group in its unceasing commitment to provide its customers in the pharmaceutical sector with truly global solutions.

"This is a very strategic move for the Group", - commented IMA president Marco Vacchi - and perfectly in line with the recent acquisition of Kilian. In fact, the tablet coating process takes place immediately after tablet production on the Kilian machines. Our already vast range of equipment for the pharmaceutical industry will benefit from the considerable know-how of GS. In particular, our strengthened position in the field of automatic processing, and not only that of packaging, will be reinforced, with enormous potential for further growth. These recent acquisitions have added extra power to the IMA Group's leadership in world markets as a supplier of complete and advanced automatic systems technology for the pharmaceutical industry - Vacchi concluded. "IMA's policy of expansion is not yet finished and we will continue with further acquisitions in order to expand the Group. We have made considerable investments for the development of new products in sectors in which we are already operating successfully. The current trend in orders is very favourable. It can be confidently predicted that our results for 2000 will be better, by far, than those of 1999, notwithstanding some imbalance over the accounting period, with a concentration of turnover in the second half of the year".