



Press release

Bologna, 30 June 2006

## **IMA announces start of programme to purchase treasury shares**

IMA has announced, pursuant to the resolution adopted at the Shareholders' Meeting held on 27 April 2006, that it will start its programme to purchase treasury shares with a view to stabilising the stockmarket price of its shares.

The Stockholders' Meeting authorized the Company's Board of Directors, for a period of 12 months, to purchase in the market up to 3,610,000 ordinary shares at a price equal to their average stockmarket price over the five preceding days, as uplifted or reduced by not more than 10%, in order to help stabilize the share price or implement the Company's stock option plans.

There is a reasonable expectation that, over the period of this programme which will terminate on 26 April 2007, not more than 450 thousand shares will be purchased for a maximum of 6 million euro.

IMA currently holds 1,591,235 treasury shares, representing 4.4% of share capital.

IMA has appointed UBM, the Company's specialist, to carry out the acquisition programme.

**Established in 1961, IMA is the world leader in the design and manufacture of automatic machines for the packaging of pharmaceutical products and of tea in filter bags.** IMA closed the **first quarter of 2006** with revenues rising to 77.3 million euro (64.9 million at 31 March 2005), an **operating profit** rising to 3.3 million euro (-4.6 million at 31 March 2005) and a **consolidated order book** of 202.1 million euro (170.1 million at 31 March 2005). The Group has more than 2,700 employees, about 1,100 of whom overseas, and can count on 15 production plants in Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom, Spain, the United States, India and China. IMA has an extensive sales network comprising 9 branches which provide sales and service in France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, Spain, Portugal, the United States, 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 3 joint-ventures in China for production and service. In 2005 IMA concluded a joint-venture agreement with the **Telstar** Group (Spain) in the field of freeze-drying machinery for the pharmaceutical industry. In March 2006 IMA acquired the entire share capital of **VIMA Impianti S.r.l.**, a company that manufactures machines for dosing pharmaceutical products. 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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