



Press release

Bologna, 20 December 2007

IMA reinforces its industrial presence in China

IMA has bought the other 50% of the Edwards Tianli Pharmaceutical Systems JV

IMA, world leader in the production of automatic packaging machines for the pharmaceutical and tea industries, has reached an agreement with its Chinese partner to buy the other 50% of the **Edwards Tianli Pharmaceutical Systems Co. Ltd.** joint-venture, which is based in Beijing and operates in the production of **freeze-drying machinery for the pharmaceutical industry.**

This operation follows the recent acquisition of the freeze-drying machinery business of the **BOC Edwards Pharmaceutical Systems Group**, undisputed leader in this sector based in the USA, along with 50% of the shares in the Edwards Tianli Pharmaceutical Systems Co. Ltd. joint-venture.

The price agreed for the purchase of the other 50% of the Edwards Tianli Pharmaceutical Systems Co. Ltd. joint-venture comes to 9 million euros, which will all be paid at the closing date, expected to take place in the first few months of 2008. This figure also includes a 4-year no-competition agreement signed by the owner of the quota. At the end of this operation, IMA will own 100% of the joint venture, which in 2007 achieved a turnover of around 10 million euros and an operating profit of 1.8 million euros.

This acquisition further reinforces IMA industrial presence in China and continues the policy that the Group has been pursuing in this market with great consistency for more than a decade.

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. The Group has closed the **first nine months of 2007** with **revenues** rising to 311.1 million Euro (+14.7%) and **operating profit** rising to 41 million Euro (+71.5%). The Group has about 2,700 employees, more than 1,100 of whom overseas, and can count on 15 production plants in Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom, 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 2 joint-ventures in China for production and service. In April 2007 the Group acquired all of the shares of **Zanchetta S.r.l.**, a company that operates in the production of machines for the handling and granulation of pharmaceutical powders. 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**, **IMA Libra S.r.l.**, **Nova Packaging Systems Inc.**, **Precision Gears Pvt Ltd.**, **Swiftpack Automation Ltd.**, **VIMA Impianti S.r.l.**

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