



Press release

Bologna, 12 July 2006

IMA buys residual 9.32% of American subsidiary Packaging System Holding LLC

Remaining 9.32% bought from management for a total of 4.9 million US dollars

Under an agreement signed on 11 July 2006, IMA has acquired from the management the remaining 9.32 % of **Packaging System Holding LLC** for 4.9 million US dollars, which was paid on transfer of the shares.

Packaging Systems Holding LLC, located in Delaware, USA, 90.68% of which was acquired by IMA in September 2004, is a company that owns 100% of **Nova Packaging Systems Inc.**, an industrial group that is world leader in the manufacture of counting equipment for the bottling of capsules and tablets sold under the **Kalish, King, Lakso, Merrill** and **Swiftpack** brands. The consolidated sales of the Nova Group at the end of 2005 came to 30 million dollars, with EBITDA of 2.6 million dollars.

IMA and the management of the American Group agreed to terminate the contract stipulated between them on September 28, 2004 ahead of schedule. This contract provided a reciprocal right to purchase/sell the shares held by management, to be exercised from April 2009 onwards, at a price based on its operating results.

The current agreement, which envisages the termination of all relationships with management, including employment, was concluded by IMA as part of a reorganization of management that involves the entire structure, in the awareness that operational management of the American group is solidly in the hands of local resources with IMA's close supervision, thanks to strong production and commercial integration.

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.**

For further information:

Sergio Marzo - Investor Relator - phone +39 051 783111 - e-mail: marzos@ima.it

Maria Antonia Mantovani - Press Office - phone +39 051 783283 - e-mail: antonia.mantovani@ima.it

www.ima.it (Investor Relations section)