



**PRESS RELEASE**

***ITALIAN STOCK EXCHANGE – STAR SEGMENT***

**PRIMA INDUSTRIE**

**CONCLUDED A TRANSACTION WITH EQT, THE FINN-POWER VENDOR  
PRIMA INDUSTRIE HALVES ITS RESIDUAL DEBT,  
WITH POSITIVE CONSEQUENCES BOTH ON THE NET DEBT  
AND THE ECONOMIC RESULT**

*Collegno (TO), 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2009* – PRIMA INDUSTRIE S.p.A., a leader in high technology laser systems for industrial applications and sheet metal working systems, announces having reached a settlement with the Private Equity Fund EQT III Limited, vendor of the Finnish company Finn-Power Oy on 4/02/2008, also on behalf of the other vending minorities. Such settlement establishes a reduction of the price still due by Prima Industrie S.p.A. for that acquisition.

Within the acquisition agreement, in fact, the parties agreed that a part of the price to be paid to the Vendors, 25 million euros (not considering interests established at the conventional yearly rate of 6%), would have been paid on 4/02/2011, net of possible sums due to the Vendors as indemnification for the violation of representations and warranties within the Share Purchase Agreement.

Since from 4/02/2008 to this day Prima Industrie Group incurred several costs attributable to the previous management and not predictable at the moment of the acquisition, Prima started negotiations with the Vendors in order to assert the contractual warranties and charge back the incurred costs to the Vendors.

The negotiations ended on 30/6/2009 with a settlement that establishes the following:

- Prima Industrie S.p.A. will pay only 12,8 million euros (of which 12,2 million euros to the main Vendor EQT and the rest to the vending minorities);
- The consideration payment will take place within 30/11/2009;
- the established interests (6%) on the deferred consideration until 30/6/2009 are cancelled;
- the settlement signing will release both parties from any present and/or future obligation and claim should arise in relation to the acquisition.

With this agreement Prima Industrie achieves a remarkable benefit in terms of net debt decrease, which is reduced by an amount equal to the price that Prima will not have to pay anymore, besides interests accrued until this date (the total amount is about 14 million euros).

Furthermore the lower price due will have an improving effect also on the Profit & Loss account, considering the fact that some costs, on whose basis the price reduction was asked for, have already been incurred during the year 2008 and the first six months ended on June 30, 2009.



Following this agreement Gianfranco Carbonato, Prima Industrie Chairman and C.E.O., commented: "We recognize that EQT accepted our proposal of a well-balanced agreement instead of a long and unpredictable for both parties arbitration. The settlement represents an important step towards the Group financial structure balancing, whose process already began with the resolution of the Extraordinary Shareholders' Meeting of last June 8, that gave wide powers to the Board of Directors to carry out operations on the equity on which we will focus our attention in the next future."

**PRIMA INDUSTRIE S.p.A.**, established in 1977 and listed on the Italian stock market since 1999 (STAR segment), develops, manufactures and markets laser systems for industrial applications and sheet metal fabrication machines. PRIMA INDUSTRIE leads today a Group with about 1,600 employees and manufacturing sites in **Italy** (PRIMA INDUSTRIE S.p.A, PRIMA ELECTRONICS S.p.A, FINN-POWER Italia Srl), **Finland** (FINN-POWER Oy), **USA** (PRIMA North America Inc.) and **China** (Shanghai Unity Prima Ltd. and Wuhan OVL Convergent Laser Co. Ltd.).

Prima Industrie Group operations are based on three business segments:

**Laser Machines and Sources**: including design, production and sale of Laser Machines and Laser Sources for cutting, welding and drilling of 3D and 2D components.

2D Laser Machines are used for application in very different industries, while 3D machines are mainly used for the production of components in the automotive, aerospace and energy sectors. Laser Sources, instead, are one of the most highest technological and value-added components of the Laser Machine.

**Machines for sheet metal treatment**: it includes design, production and sale of Machines destined to the Sheet metal treatment using mechanical tools. The Group has a wide range of machines for the cutting and bending of sheet metal: Punching machines, Combined punching/shearing systems, Combined punching/laser cutting systems, Panel Benders and automation systems.

**Industrial Electronics**: it includes development and design of power and control electronics, with relevant software. Furthermore the Group designs and produces internally the Numeric Controls to be installed on its own Laser Machines.

A little over 30 year years since its establishment the Group can count on thousands of machines installed in more than 60 countries worldwide, is present with property commercial and assistance units in over 15 countries and it is among the main worldwide constructors in its own reference market.

For further information:

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