

*Torino, November 14, 2000* – The Board of Directors of Prima Industrie, a Company leader in the sector of high technology for laser machines, listed at the Nuovo Mercato of the Italian Stock Exchange, acknowledged with pleasure the excellent results reached by the Company as at September 30, 2000.

The important growth of the turnover (+56%) in respect of same period of the previous year reflects the Company internal growth (+39%) together with the deriving effect from the consolidation (as from May 1) of the newly acquired Convergent Prima Inc (USA) which, at the end of the period, counts for 17% of the turnover.

To the internal growth have contributed all the Group products (laser machines, electronics products and services) but a particular evidence should be given to the 3D laser machines delivered during the period (41) as against 23 of the previous year same date (+78.3%). In consequence it could be said that the Group further strengthened its position as world leader in this segment as a result of the technological innovation on the OPTIMO machine and the recent introduction on the market of the DOMINO.

In geographical terms it has been registered, in sales absolute values, a growth everywhere but in percentages North America and developing countries (Brazil, Iran, China) together passed from 12.4% to a share of 24.2% as a result of the work done and the investment made in these areas.

As for the Group EBIT there is an improvement of 1.1 points in percentage also thanks to the Convergent Prima turnaround which is going faster than expected having the Company already reached the accounts break-even for the period. This means that the dilution effect is quickly reducing.

Profit before taxes is positively affected by an extraordinary income of Lire 1.7 billion due to contributions re: R&D carried out in previous years.

During the period under consideration it was completed the acquisition of Convergent Prima whose payment of the last 30% of the agreed purchasing price was made through a Prima Industrie capital increase. It was also favourably concluded the take-over of the Swiss Company Atlas Copco Elesta AG which will permit to Prima Electronics to maintain at least for the next five years its important position as supplier of the Atlas Copco Group.

As at the end of September 2000 the number of the Company shares in circulation was 900,000 of Lire 20,000 each face value.

Although the larger number of shares in circulation mostly due to the capital increase (300,000 new shares) made when the Company was listed at the Nuovo Mercato, the grown profitability permits a ratio EBIT/share and profit before taxation to improve on previous year same period.

The indebtedness towards banks, during this last quarter, is grown by Lire 6.6 billion due to the acquisition of Atlas Copco Elesta AG (Lire 1.7 billion) and to the physiological increase of the working capital related with the expansion of sales.

Supposing a taxwise effect of approximately 50%, the ratio between own financial means/borrowed capitals would result equal to about 1.5.

The Board of Directors took note of Mr Gian Luca Rossignolo resignation as a director and arranged for the co-optation of Mr Rafic Y Mansour representing the new shareholder Erste Interantional Holding SA.

Commenting the very good result achieved, the managing directors ing. Gianfranco Carbonato said: *"the important performance of the period is the combined effect of the good health of the reference market and the Company power which, through R&D investments and strategically acquisition, has expanded its geographical penetration and improved its market share. Moreover, we have "in the pot" important development of new products and applications together with projects of expansion on some developing countries which makes us feel confident for the future as long as the market remains favourable."*

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