

Collegno (Turin), February 14, 2002 - The Board of Directors of Prima Industrie, a leader Company in the high-technology sector of laser systems for industrial applications, listed at the Nuovo Mercato of the Italian Stock Exchange, has announced the Group results for the fourth quarter of 2001.

The Group as a whole produced revenues for Euro 111.9 million with an increase of 24.4% on last year same period, of which 10.1% realised internally and the remaining induced by the acquisition of the Laserdyne line of products.

In terms of geographical distribution, the globalisation of the Group is still in process and it generated an increase in the United States (from Euro 14.6 million to Euro 25.1 million) due to the acquisitions, as well as in the "overseas" markets (from Euro 8.4 million to Euro 15.2 million) mostly in Brazil, China and Japan thanks also to the Joint-Ventures recently established.

The Group also showed a good growth in Europe (from Euro 36.6 million to Euro 45.7 million), particularly in Germany, and a drop of the Italian market (from Euro 30.4 million to Euro 25.8 million).

The Group produced revenues from sales and service in more than 30 countries world-wide.

In terms of sales breakdown by products a growth in all sectors has been achieved, and particularly in the after sales business (which now amount to 19% of the whole turnover), also thanks to the widened installed base led by the acquisition in the U.S..

The Group acknowledged as well a good hold in the backlog (more than Euro 30 million against some Euro 34 million of last year), so proving the vitality of its sector, in spite of the difficult economic situation.

The Group profitability, EBITDA to Euro 4.3 million (Euro 10.7 million in 2000) and EBIT to Euro 2.1 million (Euro 8.6 million in 2000), has been negatively affected by the downward trend of the US companies (Convergent Prima and Laserdyne Prima) which work in a difficult context, both in terms of geographical markets (critical phase for the U.S. economy) and of reference markets.

The costs regarding the reorganisation (mostly completed) of the U.S. companies partially carried out during the year 2001 as well as the additional reserve provided for some Euro 0.6 million, have been completely charged to Profit and Loss with a negative effect on the Group profitability for some Euro 1.5 million.

The results for 2001 pay for the relevant R&D investments (some Euro 6.1 million with an increase of 48% on Euro 4.1 million at 12/31/2000 and weighting for more than 5% of the turnover), destined to the widening of the lines of products offered to the market as well as to the developing of a laser source, which will equip the Group laser systems. The marketing of the new products and of the laser source will take place in the course of the year 2002.

The net profit will be positively affected by deferred taxes coming from the losses carried forward into U.S. companies financials, as well as by Italian tax breaks for new listed Companies. The final Group tax rate for the year will be therefore quite low.

The Board of Directors has also acknowledged the good performance realised by the holding Company Prima Industrie S.p.A. which reported sales increasing to Euro 67.5 million (+6.5% as against last year) and a satisfactory profitability (EBITDA of Euro 6.4 million, 9.5% of the turnover, and EBIT of Euro 5.5 million, 8.2% of the turnover).

Commenting the performance of the year, the C.E.O. of Prima Industrie S.p.A., Gianfranco Carbonato, said: *"In spite of the non-favourable economic situation, also negatively affected by the tragic events of September 11th which determined a severe drop in the demand for investment goods, the Group continued to grow. The strategical targets that we had pointed out since the IPO on the Nuovo Mercato (insourcing of the laser generator and growth on U.S. and Asian markets) are completely confirmed because essential for the future of the Group. We are therefore ready to seize the opportunities that the world-wide markets will express in the next future and we think that, once completed the unavoidable process of restructuring, the profitability will be again satisfactory for the shareholders "*.

The Company management will meet the financial community to discuss results and perspectives of the Group on February 21st, 2002 in Milan at UBM Office - via Tommaso Grossi, 10 - at 5.30 p.m.

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