

Collegno (Torino), August 28, 2001 – 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 six months ended June 30, 2001.

Revenues from sales and services of the period amount to 51.1 million euro (+31% on 06/30/00) as a consequence of both an internal growth (+6%) and the consolidation of Convergent Prima and Laserdyne Prima recently acquired in the United States.

The internal growth has nonetheless confirmed the good solidity of the market of laser systems with respect to those of more conventional investment goods with a lesser degree of technology, even under present macroeconomic conditions.

Within its reference markets the Group outlines an important growth in the aerospace and energy segment (due both to the acquisitions and to the upward trend of this specific market), a good hold in the metal sheet processing sector (2D systems) and a slow down in the automotive segment (3D systems).

Geographically the Group faced a strong growth in Europe (+43%), particularly in Germany, and in the United States (+213%), a drop of the Italian market (-16%) and a good hold in Asia (+7%), where its joint ventures established in China and Japan generated a strong increase in order acquisitions. Regarded as a whole, over 74% of the turnover was exported or directly produced abroad.

The business profitability on a homogeneous basis is at the same level as of June 30, 2000, while according to the consolidation process it decreases due to US acquisitions because of start-up costs and the important increase in R&D investments realised in order to improve the product range and keeping the world-wide leadership for 3D and aerospace sectors.

The EBITDA amounts to 3.2 million euro (4.2 million euro at 06/30/00), the operating profit amounts to 2.1 million euro (3.6 million euro at 06/30/00) and profit before income taxes amounts to 2.3 million euro (4.0 million euro including 0.9 million euro extraordinary items at 06/30/00).

The results noted above include 2.7 million euro of R&D expenses charged to Profit & Loss accounts (as against 1.6 million euro at 06/30/00).

In financial terms the ratio between the Net Financial Position and the Group Equity stands at the excellent level of 0.5, in spite of the growth in assets consequent to the acquisitions; thanks to both the operating cash flow and to the share capital increase totally subscribed by Helios Private Equity.

The orders backlog at 06/30/01 increases at 41.2 million euro (38.2 million euro at 06/30/00) and it allows the Group to expect a turnover increase also in the second part of the current financial year.

The parent-Company Prima Industrie S.p.A. alone produced revenues from sales and services for 31 million euro (29.9 at 06/30/00), an EBITDA of 2.4 million euro (3.3), an operating profit of 2 million euro (2.7), a profit before income taxes of 1.4 million euro (against 2.2 at 06/30/00 which excluded extraordinary items for 0.9).

Commenting the performance of the period, the C.E.O. of Prima Industrie S.p.A., Gianfranco Carbonato, said: *"In an unfavourable market situation the Company proved that it can be able to continue, also by the internal way, its growth and to bear the temporary dilution caused by the acquisitions. Such acquisitions are completing the strategic plan outlined before the IPO that included both the expansion on the U.S. market, where the Laserdyne acquisition allowed us to acquire the same 3D leadership position as we have in Europe, and the integration of the laser source (with consequent synergy with the existing production of the Group). The challenge for the next future will be to rapidly integrate the acquired structures to lead the Group to higher levels of profitability. We wish moreover that the positive results got from the market during the month of July represent a signal of the change in the market trend which will allow us to accelerate our growth in a more positive global context. Within this framework the much relevant investments in Research & Development that we are intensifying will give us a chance to dispose of a renewed and wider range of products with a consequent better profitability"*.

For additional information: Ad Hoc Communication Advisors

Giorgio Zambelletti, Marco Fraquelli
Tel. ++39-02-7606741