

Torino, March 29, 2001 – The Board of Directors of Prima Industrie S.p.A., a Company operating in the high-tech area of laser systems for industrial applications, held today March 29th, 2001 c/o the Company registered office, approved the proposed accounts for Prima Industrie S.p.A. and the Group Consolidated balance sheet for the financial year ended December 31st, 2000.

At consolidated level, the year closes with a net profit of 10,481 million lire (of which 1,061 attributable to third parties) and therefore showing a growth of 96.7% compared with 5,329 million lire of the previous year (of which 732 million attributable to third parties).

The overall turnover is 174,208 million lire (1999 = 115,264 million lire) and therefore showing a growth of 51.1%.

The operating gross profit is 20,715 million lire (11.9% of turnover) as against 13,668 million lire of previous year (11.9% on turnover). The growth is equal to 51.6% on 1999.

The operating result is 16,563 million lire (9.5% on turnover) with a growth of 50.6% on previous year (1999 = 10,995 - 9.5% on turnover).

As for the Group leader balance sheet as at December 31st, 2000, sales are 122,730 million lire (+28.5 on 1999), the operating gross profit is 15,041 million lire (+54.9%) with an operating result of 13,001 million lire (+68.6%). The net profit for the year is 8,046 million lire (+71.5% on 1999 after deduction of the cost incurred in connection with the Company listing).

Furthermore, the Board acknowledged the conclusion of the due diligence carried out during the last few weeks on the Laserdyne Division of GSI Lumonics together with the expected terms established (April 2nd, 2001) for the execution of the acquisition operation. In consequence, the Board decided to authorize the Company C.E.O. to finalize the acquisition, verifying the opportunity of partially financing the operation through a company capital increase reserved to institutional investors, in accordance with the Shareholders Extraordinary resolution of May 14th, 1999.

Referring to the above acquisition, the Board of Directors resolved to propose to next Shareholders Meeting the destination to reserve of the year profit.

The Board gave also way to an extension of the current stock option plan to the management of the Group controlled companies abroad (in particular Convergent Prima and, shortly, Laserdyne Prima). The proposal will be presented to next Extraordinary Shareholders Meeting for approval.

Asked to examine the text suggested for Prima Industrie "Corporation Governance" together with the Assembly regulations as directed by the "Committee for Corporate Governance of Listed Companies" to be effective as from January 1st, 2002, the Board expressed its favorable opinion. These documents will be proposed for approval to next Shareholders Meeting.

Such Shareholders general meeting will be held in Torino on April 27, 2001 at 10 a.m. first call and, if necessary, on a second call on May 11th, 2001 and, limitedly to the extraordinary section, on a third call as the case may be on May 16th, 2001, in order to resolve on the proposed translation of the Company capital from Lire into Euro, on a share splitting and on the updating of the stock-option plan, as published on the Official Gazette no. 68 of March 22, 2001.

"In this delicate moment, characterized by a remarkable instability of all financial markets and by many uncertainty on the economy general trend - says Mr Gianfranco Carbonato, the Company C.E.O. - Prima Industrie has so far proved a strong commitment towards the Company growth and to the globalization of its business in line with the targets announced when the Company was going to be listed on Nuovo Mercato of the Italian Stock Exchange".

For additional information: Ad Hoc Communication Advisors
Giorgio Zambelletti, Marco Fraquelli
Tel. ++39-02-7606741