

Collegno (Turin), November 9, 2001 - The Board of Directors of Prima Industrie S.p.A, a company operating in the high technology field of laser systems for industrial applications, held today, November 9, 2001, has released the Group consolidated results at 09/30/01.

Consolidated sales of the period increase at 78,753 thousand euro (+27.5% against 61,640 thousand euro at 09/30/00) so confirming the important industrial growth reached not only through the acquisition of the U.S. company Laserdyne Prima, but also through a satisfactory internal growth which weighted for 12% in spite of the non-favorable economic period.

EBITDA and EBIT for the Group decrease respectively to 3,874 thousand euro (6,772 thousand euro at 09/30/01) and 2,076 thousand euro (5,717 thousand euro at 09/30/01).

The results suffer from the recent international tensions and the economy down-turn, which caused a stronger pressure over sales prices and conditions, and mostly from the dilution induced by the consolidation of the results of Laserdyne Prima (for 6 months) and Convergent Prima in the United States.

Similar considerations influenced also the gross profit at 09/30/01, that amounts at 1,553 thousand euro (5,784 euro at 09/30/00), and suffers as well from the U.S. dollar depreciation throughout all this past quarter.

As a consequence of such a situation and considering the present American economy trend, the Group is working on the reorganization of its U.S. activities in order to reduce the break-even point, with no impact on the future perspectives of growth.

The backlog at the end of the period remains however substantial (39,541 thousand euro on 37,759 thousand euro at 06/30/00) with a visibility of almost 4 months proving the fact that the Group itself does not suffer directly from a slow-down in order acquisition, as a consequence of the fact that its area of activity is less reactive to the economic cycles in comparison with more traditional capital goods.

Commenting the period performance the Company CEO, Mr. Gianfranco Carbonato, underlined that *"both perspectives and goals pointed out at the beginning of the year 2001 and which regarded a consolidation in organizational terms of the U.S. companies, an operating break-even point in their accounts and an increase in absolute terms in the Group profitability, even though not at reach in this close of the year, are a reasonable target in a time frame already including the year 2002.*

The current investments, regarding the development of new products also in sectors of laser technology applications additional to the ones covered at present, are confirmed and, where possible, sped up.

This will allow us to seize more opportunities from the market in such a difficult period and to be ready to regain a strong rate of growth as soon as the general economic conditions should give sign of improvement".

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