

Torino, March 9, 2001 – Prima Industrie made a fundamental step towards the globalization of its business signing with GSI Lumonics the agreement for the acquisition of the GSI Lumonics Laserdyne Division located in Maple Grove (Minneapolis).

GSI Lumonics is an important worldwide company (approx. 380 million dollars sales) listed at Nasdaq (as GSLI) and at the Toronto Stock Exchange, leader in the area of components and laser systems for applications to the industry of semiconductors, microelectronics and telecommunications.

Founded in 1981, Laserdyne installed more than 500 laser systems all over the globe, of which 350 in The States and the rest in Europe, Japan and Far East. In particular, Laserdyne enjoys a dominant position in the aerospace field, holding of it a considerable market share.

The acquisition of Laserdyne assets will be made through Prima U.S., Inc. (who already holds 80% of Convergent Prima). In consequence of this set-up Prima U.S., Inc. will change its name into Laserdyne Prima, Inc.. The estimated value of this deal is around 8 million dollars of which a portion will be financed through a Prima Industrie capital increase reserved to institutional investors (as per the Extraordinary Shareholders' Meeting held on May 14, 1999) and for the remaining part through external financing. The expected dilution of the Company actual capital will be in any case limited to approx. 5%. Full execution of the transaction is expected by April 2001, after the due diligence which will be conducted during next few weeks.

Commenting the transaction, Gianfranco Carbonato declared: *"During last few years Prima Industrie pursued a constant strategy of internal and external growth, though remaining well focussed on the high technology field of industrial laser applications. The listing process to the Nuovo Mercato, concluded in October 1999, was based on a 1998 consolidated business volume of 85 billion lire. Since then we have grown up to 115 billion lire for the year 1999 and to 175 billion lire for the year 2000. With the Laserdyne acquisition, the Company is projected well beyond 200 billion lire for the current year, with a leadership position both in Europe and the United States and a balanced distribution of its sales in both continents"*.

The transaction will be explained today by Mr Carbonato to the press during a meeting which will take place in Milano, at 11.00 a.m. at Ad Hoc Communication Advisors, Piazzetta Giordano 2.

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