

PRESS RELEASE

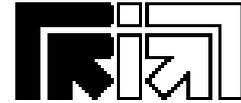
NUOVO MERCATO OF THE ITALIAN STOCK EXCHANGE

PRIMA INDUSTRIE S.p.A.

- ***THE COMPANY SHAREHOLDERS MEETING, CALLED AS PER ARTICLE 104 OF T.U.F., APPROVED, AMONG OTHER SUBJECTS, THE ACQUISITION OF A SHARE PARTICIPATION INTO A CHINESE MARKET LEADER COMPANY AND THE ADHESION TO A RESEARCH POOL LED BY C.N.R.***
- ***THE COMPANY BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVED THE PROPOSED ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST, 2002.***

Collegno (Torino), March 28, 2003 –Prima Industrie S.p.A., a leader Company in the high-technology sector of laser systems for industrial applications, listed at the *Nuovo Mercato* of the Italian Stock Exchange, held today a Shareholders Meeting as per article 104 of T.U.F. to approve all the subjects stated on the agenda of the meeting:

- The acquisition of a minority participation into a company of the People Republic of China, leader in the sector of laser systems, characterized by current and expected high rate of growth. The Company, with main offices in Shanghai, during the last two years enjoyed a substantial growth achieving, in 2002, 40% of the Chinese global market of laser systems.
Through a company capital increase, Prima Industrie will participate by investing approximately 650.000 U.S.\$ (partly cash and partly in technology and components) so achieving 27.5% of the Company share capital, the other part remaining in the hands of the present Shareholders and Company management.
- The Company adhesion to a Research Pool led by C.N.R., localized near Bari, together with a limited number of Italian firms, each one leader of a section of instrumental goods not competing among themselves.
Through such adhesion, Prima Industrie will secure to itself the continuity in the access to R&D fundamental resources for the Company competitive development.
- The Company long lease of additional premises located near to the present factory (Collegno – Torino) in order to meet with the Company plans of growth and further to create a demo area to the benefit of customers suitable to the size and image of the Company.
- The confirmation of the authorization, already guaranteed to the Board of Directors on December 4th, 2001 (for 18 months) to purchase own shares as directed by art. 2357 of Civil Code within June 3, 2003. The reason justifying the purchasing of own shares have not changed since the previous resolution and mainly consist in the attempt of stabilizing its trend in case of necessity.



The Board of Directors held this morning after the Shareholders Meeting, approved the draft of the Annual Report for the financial year end December 31st, 2002.

The consolidated accounts show the following data:

- Sales 100.528 thousand €(111.895 thousand €as at 31/12/01)
- EBITDA 124 thousand €(4.313 thousand € as at 31/12/01) which accounts R&D expenses for 7.475 thousand €and other provisions for 5.213 thousand €
- EBIT -2.523 thousand €(2.113 thousand €as at 31/12/01).
- Final net result -5.024 thousand €(245 thousand €as at 31/12/01).

The Group net financial position as at December 31st, 2002 is equal to thousand €39.254 (including *Sabatini* contracts for thousand €3.600).

In all, the consolidated results have been penalized by the negative performances of Prima North America Inc. in consequence of the difficult situation suffered by the North American market and, in particular, by the automotive and aerospace sector.

In any case, the Group closed the year with an order backlog equal to 28 million € which we consider very satisfactory due the generally negative current economic trend.

On the contrary, the results of the Italian Group of companies were positive, though the difficult market of instrumental goods. In particular, the leader company, Prima Industrie S.p.A., closed 2002 as follows:

- Sales 67.464 thousand €(stable in respect of 67.462 thousand €as at 31/12/01).
- EBITDA 3.428 thousand €(6.356 thousand €as at 31/12/01).
- EBIT 2.455 thousand €(5.526 thousand €as at 31/12/01).
- Net result -4.880 thousand €(1.134 thousand € as at 31/12/01) after depreciating participations for 7.831 thousand €(of which the most important is equal to thousand €6.863 concerning the loss of Prima North America).

In commenting the above, Gianfranco Carbonato, Prima Industrie C.E.O., said: *“The decisions made by the Shareholders Meeting allow us to give continuity to the Company process of development. In particular, the expected investment in China will consent us to efficaciously garrison the only world market at present strongly growing. As for the year 2002, characterized by the U.S.A. well-known situation, now clearly improving, I wish to remind that, under an equity point of view, the loss of the year has been substantially reduced by the capital increase made on February 11th, 2003. However, in an international scenary marked by serious uncertainties, we can count on the strong drivers of our reference market and on the remarkable human, commercial and technological capacities of the Company”.*

The Shareholders Meeting for the approval of the 2002 company accounts is called for April 30, 2003 (first call) and for May 15, 2003 (second call).

The Company will meet with the financial community on April 3, 2003 at noon c/o UBM-Unicredito Banca Mobiliare, Via Tommaso Grossi, 10 – Milano.

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