

# Bit Market Services

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Oggetto : Canson Group acquisition

*Testo del comunicato*

Vedi allegato.

## PRESS RELEASE

# **F.I.L.A. COMPLETES THE ACQUISITION OF THE CANSON GROUP, THE ICONIC FRENCH ENTERPRISE FOUNDED IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY BY THE MONTGOLFIER FAMILY THAT IS TODAY THE GLOBAL LEADER OF THE HIGH ADDED VALUE PAPER MARKET FOR THE FINE ARTS, SCHOOLS AND LEISURE SECTOR**

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**Milan, October 5, 2016** - F.I.L.A. – Fabbrica Italiana Lapis ed Affini S.p.A. (ISIN Code IT0004967292) announces the completion today of the full acquisition of the Canson Group, held by the French Group Hamelin.

Completion was subject to a disclosure and consultation process which involved the main trade unions representing the workers of the French companies, which was successfully carried out in mid-September.

The EV (*Enterprise Value*) for acquisition of the Canson Group is Euro 85 million. An additional disbursement up to Euro 15 million may be due to the vendor where the 2017 EBITDA and 2018 EBITDA of the F.I.L.A. Group reaches certain thresholds.

The deal was financed by a medium/long-term loan issued by a banking syndicate including Unicredit S.p.A. (as Global Coordinator, Mandated Lead Arranger and Bookrunner), Intesa Sanpaolo S.p.A. – Banca IMI and Mediobanca Banca di Credito Finanziario S.p.A. (both as Mandated Lead Arranger and Bookrunner), and the BNP Paribas Group (as Mandated Lead Arranger).

Massimo Candela, Chief Executive Officer of FILA stated: “Canson is the most recognised business globally involved in the production and distribution of high added value paper and we are very proud of this acquisition. Canson acquisition, together with the recent acquisitions of Daler Rowney Lukas and St Cuthberts, demonstrate our international focus. We believe that the recent deals are crucial for the growth and further development of the FILA Group which seeks to become a global leader also in the Art and Craft sector”.

The Canson Group, founded in 1557 by the Montgolfier family, has its headquarters in Annonay in France, production facilities in France and conversion and distribution centres in Italy, France, the USA, China, Australia and Brazil. Canson products are available in over 120 countries.

In 2015, Canson generated revenue of over Euro 100 million (+5.2% on 2014), relying on a workforce of more than 450 people.

As announced on May 12, 2016, Canson’s product range and the industrial project of FILA integrate perfectly and will generate both major revenue and cost benefits. FILA, thanks to recent acquisitions and future synergies, seeks to become the leading player in the Art & Craft sector.

For the operation, FILA availed of consultancy from ‘Leonardo & Co. - Houlihan Lokey’ as sole financial advisors and from Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom and Salonia Associati as legal advisors, in addition to the legal firm Orsingher Ortu for the Italian financing aspects.

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***F.I.L.A. (Fabbrica Italiana Lapis ed Affini)**, founded in Florence in 1920 and managed since 1956 by the Candela family, is a highly consolidated, dynamic and innovative Italian industrial enterprise and continues to grow market share. In November 2015, F.I.L.A. listed on the STAR segment of the Milan Stock Exchange. The company, with revenue of over Euro 275 million in 2015, has grown significantly over the last twenty years and has achieved a series of strategic acquisitions, including the Italian Adica Pongo, the US Dixon Ticonderoga, the German LYRA, the Mexican Lapiceria Mexicana, the Brazilian Lycin, the English Daler-Rowney Lukas and St. Cuthberts and the French Canson*

*F.I.L.A. is an icon of Italian creativity globally through its colouring, drawing, modelling, writing and painting tools, thanks to brands such as Giotto, Tratto, Das, Didò, Pongo, Lyra, Doms, Maimeri and Daler. Since its foundation, F.I.L.A. has chosen to focus on growth through continuous innovation, both in technological and product terms, in order to enable individuals to express their ideas and talent through tools of exceptional quality. In addition, F.I.L.A. and the Group companies work together with the Institutions to support educational and cultural projects which promote creativity and expression among individuals and make culture accessible to all.*

*F.I.L.A. operates through 21 production facilities (of which 2 in Italy) and 39 subsidiaries across the globe and employs more than 6,500.*

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#### **For further information**

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