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Diffusione presunta

Oggetto : COFIDE Group: revenues higher in 2017 at

€ 2,796.7 million (+6.7%)

Testo del comunicato

Vedi allegato.



PRESS RELEASE

Board of Directors approves results as of December 31 2017

COFIDE GROUP: REVENUES HIGHER IN 2017 AT € 2,796.7 MLN (+6.7%) EBITDA AT € 289 MLN (+12.4%) DIVIDEND OF € 0.014 PER SHARE

Highlights from results for 2017

(in millions of €)			
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	Δ%
Revenues	2,620.7	2,796.7	+6.7%
EBITDA	257.1	289	+12.4%
Net result	21.2	(3.0)	
Net debt (end of period)	166.9	303.6	

Milan, March 12 2018 - The Board of Directors of COFIDE-Gruppo De Benedetti S.p.A., which met today under the chairmanship of Rodolfo De Benedetti, has approved the proposed financial statements and the consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31 2017. The Board also approved the consolidated Non-Financial Statement (NFS) for the year 2017, in compliance with the terms of Legislative Decree no. 254/2016.

COFIDE is the controlling **shareholder** of **CIR-Compagnie Industriali Riunite S.p.A.**, the company at the head of an industrial group active mainly in the automotive components sector (*Sogefi*), in media (*GEDI Gruppo Editoriale*) and in healthcare (*KOS*). The COFIDE group also has financial investments in **Jargonnant**, the private equity fund specializing in real estate assets, and in **Three Hills Decalia**, the investment fund that supports the growth of small and medium enterprises in Europe.

Consolidated results and results of the parent company

The **revenues** of the COFIDE group for 2017 totalled € 2,796.7 million, and were up by 6.7% from € 2,620.7 million in 2016.

EBITDA came in at € **289 million** (10.3% of sales revenues), **up by 12.4%** compared to € 257.1 million (9.8% of sales) in 2016. The figure benefited from the higher EBITDA of the CIR group.

In 2017 the COFIDE group reported a **net loss of \in 3 million** compared to net income of \in 21.2 million in 2016. The result was determined by the **negative contribution of the subsidiary CIR of \in 3.3 million** (positive for \in 18.4 million in 2016) and by the **positive contribution of the parent company of the group COFIDE S.p.A. for \in 0.3 million (positive for \in 2.8 million in 2016). CIR reported a consolidated net loss of \in 5.9 million compared to earnings of \in 33.8 million in the previous year, as an effect of the tax charge of an extraordinary nature incurred by the subsidiary GEDI for the settlement of a dispute pending in the Court of Cassation for events going back to 1991. The impact of this charge pro-rata on the net result of CIR was a negative \in 65.5 million. Excluding this charge, the consolidated net result of the COFIDE group would have been a positive \in 33.3 million.**

The **consolidated net financial debt of the COFIDE group** amounted to € **303.6 million** at December 31 2017 versus € 166.9 million at December 31 2016. The difference was due mainly to the disbursement made by GEDI to settle its tax dispute (€ 140.2 million).

The **net financial debt** of the **parent company COFIDE S.p.A.** stood at € **31.1 million** at December 31 2017 (€ 23.3 million at December 31 2016). The increase was due mainly to the buyback of own shares (€ 11.4 million).

Total equity amounted to € **1,480.8 million** at December 31 2017, down from € 1,506.9 million at December 31 2016.

The **equity of the group** stood at € **524.7 million** at December 31 2017, down from € 563.4 million at December 31 2016. The change was mainly due to the loss for the year (€ 3 million), to the dilution in *GEDI* (€ 14.5 million), resulting from the merger of the *ITEDI* group, the distribution of dividends (€ 10.1 million) and the buyback of own shares (€ 11.4 million).

The **equity of the parent company of the group COFIDE S.p.A.** amounted to $\mathbf{\xi}$ **562.2 million** at December 31 2017, unchanged from the end of 2016. The equity increased with the result for the year of $\mathbf{\xi}$ 14.2 million and the change in the fair value reserve of $\mathbf{\xi}$ 7.3 million and decreased with the distribution of dividends of $\mathbf{\xi}$ 10.1 million and the buyback of own shares for $\mathbf{\xi}$ 11.4 million.

The value of the investment in the *Jargonnant* fund was € 3.6 million at December 31 2017 compared to € 6.3 million at the end of 2016, following distributions and repayments of capital. The COFIDE group has also invested in the *Three Hills Decalia* fund, which specializes in small and medium enterprises in Europe: the value of the investment at December 31 2017 was € 6.6 million (€ 5.6 million at the end of 2016).

At December 31 2017 the COFIDE group had 15,885 employees (14,329 at December 31 2016).

Outlook for the year 2018

Regarding the performance of the COFIDE group in 2018, in the components sector the process of development is expected to continue producing a higher result, despite the further increase in the cost of steel; in the media sector the evidence available today does not allow us to forecast any significantly different market evolution than that of 2017. The group will be committed to achieving all the advantages deriving from the merger with *ITEDI* with action aimed at preserving profitability in a difficult market; in healthcare there is expected to be a rise in sales revenues and profit margins and business development will continue particularly in Italy both externally (acquisitions) and internally (greenfield development projects).

Proposed dividend

The Board of Directors has decided to put before the Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders a proposed dividend of € 0.014 per share, unchanged from last year. The dividend will be paid out on June 13 2018 with detachment of coupon no. 32 on June 11 and record date June 12.

Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders

The Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders has been convened for April 26 2018 at the first call and for April 27 2018 at the second call. At today's meeting the Board resolved:

• To put before the Shareholders' Meeting a motion to cancel and renew the Board's authorization for a period of 18 months to buy back a maximum of 70 million of the Company's own shares at a unit price that cannot be more than 10% higher or lower than the benchmark price recorded by the shares on regulated markets on the trading day preceding each single buyback transaction or the date on which the price is fixed. In any case, when the shares are bought back in the regulated market, the price must not be higher than the higher of the price of the last independent transaction and the highest current independent bid price on the same market, in compliance with what is set out in EU Delegated Regulation no. 2016/1052. The main reasons why this authorization is being renewed are: to fulfil the obligations

resulting from possible stock option plans or other awards of shares of the Company to employees or members of the Board of Directors of COFIDE or its subsidiaries; to fulfil any obligations resulting from debt instruments that are convertible into or exchangeable with equity instruments; to have a portfolio of own shares to use as consideration in any possible extraordinary transactions, even those involving an exchange of equity holdings with other entities within the scope of transactions of interest to the Company (a so-called "stock of securities"); to support market liquidity of the shares; to take advantage of opportunities for creating value, as well as investing liquidity efficiently in relation to the market trend; for any other purpose qualified by the competent Authorities as admitted market practice in accordance with applicable European or domestic rules, and with the procedures established therein.

The Board of Directors also voted to submit to the Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders, in an extraordinary session:

- The proposal to amend Art. 11 of the Company Bylaws in order to eliminate the clause stating that a list filed for the election of the members of the Board of Directors by Shareholders representing less than 20% of the share capital may not contain more than three candidates;
- The proposal to renew the authorization of the Board to increase the share capital up to a maximum of €
 250 million and to issue convertible bonds within the limits prescribed by law.

For further details about the results of the subsidiary CIR, see the press release published by the company today (goo.gl/LFD1Hr).

The executive responsible for the preparation of the company's financial statements, Giuseppe Gianoglio, hereby declares, in compliance with the terms of paragraph 2 Article 154 bis of the Finance Consolidation Act (TUF), that the figures contained in this press release correspond to the results documented in the company's accounts and general ledger.

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Alternative performance indicators

Below the meaning and content are given of the "alternative performance indicators", not envisaged by IFRS accounting standards but used in this press release to provide a better evaluation of the economic and financial performance of the COFIDE group.

- **EBITDA (gross operating margin)**: an indicator of operating performance calculated by adding "amortization, depreciation and write-downs" to the "operating result";
- Consolidated net financial debt: an indicator of the financial structure of the group; it is the algebraic sum of financial receivables, securities, available-for-sale financial assets and cash and cash equivalents in current assets, of bonds and other borrowings in non-current liabilities, and of bank overdrafts, bonds and other borrowings in current liabilities.

Attached are key figures from the consolidated statement of financial position and income statement

Statement of Financial Position

(in thousands of euro)	(i	n tl	าดนร	sano	ds (of	euro
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ASSETS	31.12	.2017	31.12.2016
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	2,22	0,109	2,070,459
INTANGIBLE ASSETS	1,13	8,329	988,003
TANGIBLE ASSETS	69	1,148	671,159
INVESTMENT PROPERTY	1	9,434	20,144
INVESTMENTS CONSOLIDATED USING THE EQUITY METHOD	12	5,181	129,987
OTHER EQUITY INVESTMENTS	1	2,249	5,323
OTHER RECEIVABLES	5	6,874	79,099
of which with related parties (*)		1,644	
SECURITIES	7	9,511	85,009
DEFERRED TAX ASSETS	9	7,383	91,735
CURRENT ASSETS	1,34	7,959	1,349,077
INVENTORIES	13	9,072	137,406
CONTRACTED WORK IN PROGRESS	3	6,536	40,947
TRADE RECEIVABLES	47	2,614	414,246
of which with related parties (*)	1,677	1,542	
OTHER RECEIVABLES	10	5,207	92,863
of which with related parties (*)	105	105	
FINANCIAL RECEIVABLES	3	8,986	30,183
SECURITIES	5	7,228	66,157
AVAILABLE-FOR SALE FINANCIAL ASSETS	23	5,251	234,012
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	26	3,065	333,263
ASSETS HELD FOR DISPOSAL		3,418	3,418
TOTAL ASSETS	3,57	1,486	3,422,954
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	31.12	.2017	31.12.2016
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	1,48	0,773	1,506,896
SHARE CAPITAL	35	0,011	359,605
RESERVES	7	9,861	95,041
RETAINED EARNINGS (LOSSES)	9	7,758	87,519
NET INCOME (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	(2	2,966)	21,249
EQUITY OF THE GROUP	52	4,664	563,414
MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	95	6,109	943,482
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,03	3,504	975,300
BONDS	36	5,112	283,742
OTHER BORROWINGS	28	1,863	311,815
OTHER PAYABLES		6,829	15,175
DEFERRED TAX LIABILITIES	17	1,068	149,833
PERSONNEL PROVISIONS	13	9,735	131,058
PROVISIONS FOR RISKS AND LOSSES	6	8,897	83,677
CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,05	7,209	940,758
BANK LOANS	1	7,551	12,771
BONDS	2	0,168	20,980
OTHER BORROWINGS		3,458	201,179
TRADE PAYABLES		9,451	433,354
of which to related parties (*)	1,830	2,189	,
OTHER PAYABLES	26	5,337	199,697
PROVISIONS FOR RISKS AND LOSSES LIABILITIES HELD FOR DISPOSAL	7	1,244 	72,777
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	2.53	1,486	3,422,954

Income Statement

(in thousands of euro)

(in thousands of euro)				
		2017		2016
REVENUES		2,796,698		2,620,680
CHANGE IN INVENTORIES		(4,268)		5,460
COSTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS		(1,046,116)		(988,180)
COSTS FOR SERVICES		(674,459)		(614,406
of which from related parties (*)	(2,573)	(- ,,	(6,272)	(- ,
PERSONNEL COSTS		(732,661)		(712,409
OTHER OPERATING INCOME		30,907		26,81
of which from related parties (*)	1,949	,	1,778	-,-
OTHER OPERATING COSTS		(81,059)		(80,853
of which with related parties (*)		, , ,		, ,
AMORTIZATION, DEPRECIATION AND WRITE-DOWNS		(136,176)		(129,277
OPERATING RESULT		152,866		127,827
FINANCIAL INCOME		9,594		13,058
of which from related parties (*)	3		15	
FINANCIAL EXPENSE		(59,810)		(61,352
DIVIDENDS		5,373		11,55
GAINS FROM TRADING SECURITIES		26,391		16,58
LOSSES FROM TRADING SECURITIES		(156)		(668
PART OF INCOME (LOSS) OF INVESTMENTS CONSOLIDATED		, ,		,
USING THE EQUITY METHOD		(524)		84
ADJUSTMENTS TO THE VALUE OF FINANCIAL ASSETS		(3,998)		3,82
RESULT BEFORE TAXES		129,736		111,680
INCOME TAXES		(180,718)		(53,192
RESULT FROM OPERATIONS DESTINED TO CONTINUE		(50,982)		58,488
NET INCOME (LOSS) FROM ASSETS HELD FOR DISPOSAL		7,594		2,000
NET INCOME (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR INCLUDING MINORITY INTERESTS		(43,388)		60,488
- NET LOSS (INCOME) OF MINORITY INTERESTS		40,422		(39,239
- NET INCOME (LOSS) OF THE GROUP		(2,966)		21,249
BASIC EARNINGS (LOSS) PER SHARE (in euro)		(0.0042)		0.029
DILUTED EARNINGS (LOSS) PER SHARE (in euro)		(0.0042)		0.029

Cash Flow Statement

(in thousands of euro)

	2017	2016
OPERATING ACTIVITY		
RESULT OF OPERATIONS DESTINED TO CONTINUE	(50,982)	58,488
ADJUSTMENTS:		
AMORTIZATION, DEPRECIATION AND WRITE-DOWNS	136,176	129,277
ADJUSTMENT FOR INVESTMENTS CONSOLIDATED AT EQUITY	4,806	2,356
ACTUARIAL VALUATION OF STOCK OPTION/STOCK GRANT PLANS	3,430	4,242
CHANGE IN PERSONNEL PROVISIONS/PROVISIONS FOR RISKS AND LOSSES	(37,324)	(2,952)
ADJUSTMENTS TO THE VALUE OF FINANCIAL ASSETS	3,998	(3,827)
LOSSES (GAINS) ON SALE OF CAPITAL ASSETS	(22,877)	(20,966)
INCREASE (REDUCTION) IN NON-CURRENT RECEIVABLES/PAYABLES	(4,508)	38,417
(INCREASE) REDUCTION IN NET WORKING CAPITAL	45,502	8,041
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITY	78,221	213,076
of which:		
- interest received (paid)	(32,945)	(33,133)
- income tax payments	(30,908)	(19,320)
INVESTMENT ACTIVITY		
PRICE PAID FOR BUSINESS COMBINATIONS	(43,948)	(9,861)
NET FINANCIAL POSITION OF ACQUIRED COMPANIES	9,983	53
(PURCHASE) SALE OF MINORITY SHAREHOLDINGS		(64,330)
(PURCHASE) SALE OF SECURITIES	8,143	87,025
SALE OF CAPITAL ASSETS	14,223	23,636
PURCHASE OF CAPITAL ASSETS	(136,158)	(123,874)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITY	(147,757)	(87,351)
FINANCING ACTIVITY		
INFLOWS FROM CAPITAL INCREASES	1,546	11,487
OTHER CHANGES IN EQUITY	(443)	(212)
DRAWDOWN/(EXTINGUISHMENT) OF OTHER FINANCIAL PAYABLES/RECEIVABLES	37,319	(47,574)
PURCHASE OF THE GROUP'S OWN SHARES	(25,421)	(19,387)
DIVIDENDS PAID	(29,860)	(44,673)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITY	(16,859)	(100,359)
INCREASE (REDUCTION) IN NET CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS – CONTINUING OPERATIONS	(86,395)	25,366
CASH FLOW/NET CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT START OF YEAR – ASSETS	(60,333)	23,300
HELD FOR DISPOSAL	11,417	2,000
NET CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT START OF YEAR	320,492	293,126
NET CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR	245,514	320,492

Statement of changes in Shareholders' Equity

	Attributable to the Shareholders of the parent company								
						Net income		Minority Interests	Total
	Issued	less own	Share	Reserves	Retained earnings	(losses)	Total		
(in thousands of euro)	Capital	shares	Capital		(losses)	for the year			
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31 2015	359,605		359,605	110,571	78,901	18,687	567,764	1,005,314	1,573,078
Capital increases								11,487	11,487
Dividends to Shareholders					(10,069)		(10,069)	(34,604)	(44,673)
Retained earnings					18,687	(18,687)			
Effects of equity changes in subsidiaries				(12,258)			(12,258)	(73,323)	(85,581)
Comprehensive result for the year									
Fair value measurement of hedging instruments				486			486	1,091	1,577
Fair value measurement of securities				(274)			(274)	2,351	2,077
Securities fair value reserve released to income statement				(314)			(314)	(260)	(574)
Effects of equity changes in subsidiaries				92			92	188	280
Currency translation differences				751			751	852	1,603
Actuarial gains (losses)				(4,013)			(4,013)	(8,853)	(12,866)
Result for the year						21,249	21,249	39,239	60,488
Total comprehensive result for the year				(3,272)		21,249	17,977	34,608	52,585
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31 2016	359,605		359,605	95,041	87,519	21,249	563,414	943,482	1,506,896
Capital increases								85,198	85,198
Dividends to Shareholders					(10,069)		(10,069)	(19,791)	(29,860)
Retained earnings				941	20,308	(21,249)			
Adjustment for own-share transactions		(9,594)	(9,594)	(1,770)			(11,364)		(11,364)
Effects of equity changes in subsidiaries				(13,099)			(13,099)	1,274	(11,825)
Comprehensive result for the year									
Fair value measurement of hedging instruments				980			980	2,146	3,126
Fair value measurement of securities				6,689			6,689	(426)	6,263
Securities fair value reserve released to income statement				(852)			(852)	(685)	(1,537)
Effects of equity changes in subsidiaries				(220)			(220)	(428)	(648)
Currency translation differences				(8,450)			(8,450)	(15,458)	(23,908)
Actuarial gains (losses)				601			601	1,219	1,820
Result for the year						(2,966)	(2,966)	(40,422)	(43,388)
Total comprehensive result for the year				(1,252)		(2,966)	(4,218)	(54,054)	(58,272)
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31 2017	359,605	(9,594)	350,011	79,861	97,758	(2,966)	524,664	956,109	1,480,773

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