



# SPAFID CONNECT

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Diffusione presunta

Oggetto : APPROVED HALF YEAR FINANCIAL  
REPORT - APPOINTED CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER – CHANGED  
CORPORATE EVENTS CALENDAR 2018

*Testo del comunicato*

Vedi allegato.



## PRESS RELEASE

- **GUALA CLOSURES 1H 2018: STRONG 10.1% REVENUES GROWTH (AT CONSTANT FX) FUELLED BY OUTPERFORMANCE IN THE ASIAN AND AMERICAN MARKETS**
- **APPOINTED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
- **CHANGE IN CORPORATE EVENTS CALENDAR**

**GUALA CLOSURES S.p.A.:** approval of the condensed interim consolidated financial statements for the period ended June 30, 2018 by the Board of Directors. Here below are shown the consolidated figures of GCL Holdings S.C.A. Group (to be considered as a proforma of Guala Closures Group consolidated accounts after the group structure reorganization) for the period ended June 30, 2018:

- ***Group revenues posted constant FX growth of +10.1% to Euro 258.7 million, (+3.1% at current FX)***
- ***Growth by region particularly strong in Asia and America at +34% and +20% respectively at constant FX***
- ***Adjusted EBITDA of Euro 46.7 million up +5.2% at constant FX (-1.6% at current FX)***
- ***Net financial indebtedness increased to Euro 579.5 million as of 30 June 2018 (Euro 552.5 million as of 31 December 2017) due to seasonality and before the closing of the Business Combination with Space4, which substantially lowered the group financial leverage thanks to around Euro 146 million of fresh capital***
- ***The 1H 2018 financial performance and the outlook for the second part of the year allow to confirm the financial guidelines provided to the market on August 6 at same guidelines FX (-3-5% at current FX)***

Alessandria, September 11, 2018. The Board of Director's of Guala Closures S.p.A., the leading global player in the production and sale of plastic and aluminum closures for the beverage industry, approved the condensed consolidated interim financial statements for the period ended June 30, 2018.

*"In the first semester 2018", says Marco Giovannini, chairman of the group, "the group has delivered a strong performance with over 10% net revenue growth at constant FX as the business continues to show its ability to grow and superior resiliency in spite of heightened markets volatility.*

*A further acceleration of the group's organic and external growth strategy in the high value-added segments of the closure market is confirmed as the key goal after completion of the combination with Space4".*



#### **GCL Holdings S.C.A.:**

Unaudited consolidated management accounts figures: 1H 2018 vs 1H 2017:

- **Net revenues:** Euro 258.7 million, +10.1% at constant FX (+3.1% at current FX)
- **Adjusted EBITDA:** Euro 46.7 million, +5.2% at constant FX (-1.6% at current FX)
- **EBITDA:** Euro 44.6 million, +2.2% at constant FX (-4.6% at current FX)
- **Operating profit (EBIT):** Euro 28.3 million, -8.4%
- **Net result for the period:** loss of Euro 1.2 million, -238.2%
- **Net financial indebtedness:** Euro 579.5 million (Euro 27 million increase in 1H 2018, Euro -4.3 million vs increase in 1H 2017)

The following comments refer to the consolidated figures of GCL Holdings S.C.A.:

The consolidated **net revenues** for 1H 2018 show an increase of Euro 7.7 million to Euro 258.7 million, showing an impressive growth at constant FX of 10.1% on 1H 2017, mainly due to the increase in sale volume/mix (Euro 18.1 million), the selling price increase (Euro 3.1 million) and the effect of the integration of the acquisition of Axiom Propack Pvt Ltd and ICESA's activities (Euro 4.0 million) completed in last quarter of 2017. Organically (same perimeter and constant FX) the growth of consolidated net revenues for 1H 2018 was equal to 8.5%.

Asia and Americas regions recorded the strongest organic growth at constant FX over the period, equal to 33.6% and 20.3% respectively. Sales in Oceania were negatively impacted (-11.0% at constant FX) by contingent factors mainly due to local climate conditions affecting the domestic wine production and bottling.

Safety and Luxury closures segments recorded the highest growth at constant FX over the period, equal to 13.1% and 63.5% respectively, while growth in the wine closures segment was flat (+1.2%) as negatively impacted by the reduction in volumes in Oceania due to negative climate conditions.

At current FX the growth in consolidated revenues was 3.1% versus 1H 2017, due to the negative translation impact of Euro 17.7 million following the Euro's appreciation versus the main currencies in which the Group operates.

The consolidated **adjusted EBITDA** for 1H 2018 was Euro 46.7 million up 5.2% versus 1H 2017 at constant FX, mainly due to the sales volume/mix (Euro 2.7 million), the effect of selling



price increase (Euro 3.1 million) which exceeded the increase in raw materials (Euro 2.8 million) and to the change in perimeter which positively impacted by Euro 0.7 million. At current FX rates, 1H 2018 adjusted EBITDA shows a decrease of Euro 0.7 million or 1.6% on 1H 2017, mainly due to Euro 3.2 million negative translation impact following the Euro's appreciation versus the main currencies in which the Group operates.

The adjustment on 1H 2018 EBITDA concerns extraordinary charges of approx. Euro 2.2 million mainly including restructuring costs and extraordinary consultancy fees for the M&A process in the period.

**Net financial expenses in 1H 2018** were equal to Euro 22.4 million over the period slightly increasing versus 1H 2017 (Euro 1.8 million) mainly as a result of increase in net FX losses.

**Net result** in 1H 2018 was equal to a loss of Euro 1.2 million versus a profit of Euro 0.9 million in 1H 2017 due to the decrease in EBITDA and the rise in financial expenses versus the previous period.

**Cash flows generated by operating activities** net of the investments in the period were equal to an outflow of Euro 8.9 million substantially in line with result of the same period in 1H 2017 and consistent with the seasonality of the business which impacted working capital.

**Net financial indebtedness** was Euro 579.5 million compared to Euro 552.5 million as at December 31, 2017: the increase of Euro 27 million in 1H 2018 is mainly due to seasonality factors affecting the level of working capital of the Group during the period.

## **END 2018 OUTLOOK**

The 1H 2018 financial performance of the group and the outlook for the second part of the year allow to confirm the financial guidelines provided to the market on August 6. The impact of currencies volatility on the year-end revenues and adjusted EBITDA is expected to be in the range of a negative 3%- 5% versus the guidelines previously provided to the market.

The expected year end net financial position of the group is confirmed to be around Euro 404 million, as previously communicated to the market benefiting of the recapitalization pursuant to the business combination with Space4.



## **Subsequent events**

### **FINANCIAL INDEBTEDNESS**

On August 1, 2018 Guala Closures has fully repaid the Euro 510 million Bond issued in 2016 and the Revolving Credit Facility using the proceeds of a Euro 552.5 million intercompany loan granted by Space4 further to the execution by the latter of a Bridge Facility Agreement entered into with UniCredit Bank, as agent, and the original bridge lenders (Credit Suisse, Banca IMI, Banco BPM, Barclays Bank and UniCredit) for an amount equal to Euro 450 million, which shall be repaid within one year from its first utilization.

On July 20, 2018, Space4 also entered into with the original lenders (Credit Suisse, Banco BPM., Barclays Bank, Intesa Sanpaolo and Unicredit) a new Revolving Credit Facility Agreement, for a maximum amount of Euro 80 million. The New RCF will expire five years and six months after the first utilization of the bridge financing described above.

Following the Merger (as defined below), the intercompany loan has been set off, Euro 146 million of new capital has been contributed as effect of the Business combination with Space4, substantially recapitalizing the Group, and Guala Closures will be liable for all the obligations arising under the Bridge Facility Agreement and the New RCF. This stronger capital structure will allow Guala Closure to accelerate its organic and acquisition growth strategy and to reduce its cost of financing.

### **CLOSING OF BUSINESS COMBINATION OF GUALA CLOSURES S.P.A. WITH SPACE4 AND ADMISSION TO LISTING**

On July 31, 2018 (closing date of the Business Combination) the acquisition of the 61,200,000 ordinary shares of Guala Closures (equal to 78.13% of its share capital) has been completed with the transfer by GCL Holdings S.C.A. of the ordinary shares of Guala Closures to Space4, PII G S.à r.l. and Quaestio Capital SGR S.p.A.

On the same date Guala Closures and Space4 executed the merger deed, the effects of which have been conditioned to the approval by Consob (the Italian supervisory authority) of the prospectus for the listing of Guala Closures post-merger (the "Prospectus").

Further to the approval by Consob of the Prospectus, the merger of Guala Closures into Space4 became effective on August 6, 2018 (the "Merger"). The company resulting from the Merger adopted the corporate name of "Guala Closures S.p.A." and its ordinary shares and market warrant have been traded starting from August 6, 2018 on the Italian Stock Exchange (Mercato Telematico Azionario), within the Star Segment.



The financial statements for the period ended June 30, 2018, together with presentation slides, are available on website [www.gualaclosures.com](http://www.gualaclosures.com), section "Investor Relations".

A conference call will be held today at 04:30 p.m. CEST. The details to connect to the conference call are available on website [www.gualaclosures.com](http://www.gualaclosures.com), section "Investor Relations".

#### **APPOINTED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

The Board of Directors has appointed Marco Giovannini as Chief Executive Officer of the Company in addition to the position of Chairman.

#### **CHANGE IN CORPORATE EVENTS CALENDAR**

The Board of Directors approved the updating of the annual calendar of corporate events for the year 2018, inserting the date of 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in which the Board of Directors is expected to approve the Quarterly financial report as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

**Marco Giovannini**  
Group Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Giovannini", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Anibal Diaz**  
Group CFO

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anibal Diaz", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

#### **For information:**

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September 11, 2018



**Guala Closures S.p.A. – Unaudited condensed consolidated statement of profit or loss for the six months ended June 30, 2018**

<i>(Thousands of Euros)</i>	<b>For the six months ended June 30,</b>	
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<i>Net revenue</i>	<b>251,036</b>	<b>258,707</b>
Change in inventories of finished goods and semi-finished products	14,294	11,909
Other operating income	2,368	1,644
Work performed by the Group and capitalised	3,125	2,905
Costs for raw materials	(119,190)	(124,186)
Costs for services	(50,432)	(53,618)
Personnel expense	(48,994)	(49,018)
Other operating expense	(5,241)	(5,496)
<b>Gross operating profit (EBITDA)</b>	<b>46,965</b>	<b>42,848</b>
Amortization, depreciation and impairment losses	(15,712)	(15,981)
<b>Operating profit</b>	<b>31,253</b>	<b>26,867</b>
Financial income	3,291	5,239
Financial expense	(23,189)	(25,979)
<b>Profit before taxation</b>	<b>11,355</b>	<b>6,127</b>
Income taxes	(8,272)	(7,060)
<b>Profit (loss) for the period</b>	<b>3,083</b>	<b>(933)</b>
<b>Gross operating profit adjusted (Adjusted EBITDA)</b>	<b>47,824</b>	<b>46,562</b>
<i>% on net revenue</i>	<i>19.1%</i>	<i>18.0%</i>





**Guala Closures S.p.A. - Unaudited condensed consolidated statement of financial position as at June 30, 2018**

	December 31, 2017 (*)	June 30, 2018
<b>Thousands of Euros</b>		
Intangible assets	377,504	375,054
Property, plant and equipment	189,271	186,384
Contract costs	-	27
Non-current assets classified as held for sale	2,130	-
Net working capital	115,068	136,519
Contract assets	-	25
Net financial derivative liabilities	(213)	(51)
Employee benefits	(6,376)	(6,494)
Other assets (liabilities)	(29,238)	(27,196)
<b>Net invested capital</b>	<b>648,146</b>	<b>664,270</b>
<b>Financed by:</b>		
Net financial liabilities – third parties	577,147	587,127
Financial liabilities - non-controlling investors	16,800	16,700
Net financial assets – related parties	(65,498)	(69,597)
Cash and cash equivalents	(40,164)	(22,075)
<b>Net financial indebtedness</b>	<b>488,286</b>	<b>512,155</b>
<b>Consolidated equity</b>	<b>159,861</b>	<b>152,115</b>
<b>Sources of financing</b>	<b>648,146</b>	<b>664,270</b>

(\*) The consolidated figures as at December 31, 2017 have been restated to reflect the adjustments to provisional fair values originally recognized in the consolidated financial statements as of December 31, 2017 related to the acquisition of Axiom Propack Pvt Ltd.



## Guala Closures S.p.A. – Unaudited condensed consolidated statement of cash flows for the six months ended June 30, 2018

<i>(Thousands of Euros)</i>	For the six months ended June 30,	
	2017	2018
<b>Opening cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>53,973</b>	<b>40,164</b>
<b>A) Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Profit before taxation	11,355	6,127
Amortization, depreciation and impairment losses	15,712	15,981
Net financial expense	19,898	20,740
Change in:		
Receivables, payables and inventory	(23,244)	(22,178)
Other	(221)	(1,331)
VAT and indirect tax assets/liabilities	(2,692)	(1,437)
Income taxes paid	(10,949)	(10,462)
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>9,860</b>	<b>7,440</b>
<b>B) Cash flows used in investing activities</b>		
Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment and intangibles	(16,634)	(16,866)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment and intangibles	44	178
Proceeds from sale of assets held for sale	-	2,130
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(16,590)</b>	<b>(14,558)</b>
<b>C) Cash flows used in financing activities</b>		
Acquisition of non-controlling interest in Guala Closures Argentina	-	(57)
Interest received	2,942	1,544
Interest paid	(17,415)	(15,736)
Payment of transaction cost on Bonds and Revolving Credit Facility	(3,768)	-
Other financial items	416	(298)
Dividends paid	(4,336)	(3,443)
Proceeds from issue of share capital minority Capmetal	824	-
Proceeds from new borrowings	8,613	13,538
Repayment of borrowings	(4,407)	(5,653)
Repayment of finance leases	(1,007)	(1,109)
Change in financial assets	(5)	2
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>(18,141)</b>	<b>(11,213)</b>
<b>D) Net cash flows used in the period</b>	<b>(24,871)</b>	<b>(18,331)</b>
Effect of exchange rate fluctuations on cash held	(275)	241
<b>Closing cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>28,828</b>	<b>22,075</b>



**GCL Holdings S.C.A. – Unaudited consolidated management accounts - profit or loss for the six months ended June 30, 2018**

<i>(Thousands of Euros)</i>	<b>For the six months ended June 30,</b>	
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Net revenue</b>	<b>251,036</b>	<b>258,713</b>
Change in inventories of finished goods and semi-finished products	14,294	11,909
Other operating income	2,019	1,763
Work performed by the Group and capitalised	3,125	2,905
Costs for raw materials	(119,193)	(124,235)
Costs for services	(48,164)	(49,728)
Personnel expense	(51,133)	(50,837)
Other operating expense	(5,273)	(5,925)
<b>Gross operating profit (EBITDA)</b>	<b>46,710</b>	<b>44,566</b>
Amortization, depreciation and impairment losses	(15,803)	(16,247)
<b>Operating profit</b>	<b>30,907</b>	<b>28,319</b>
Financial income	925	2,899
Financial expense	(21,582)	(25,338)
<b>Profit before taxation</b>	<b>10,250</b>	<b>5,880</b>
Income taxes	(9,377)	(7,086)
<b>Profit (loss) for the period</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>(1,206)</b>
<b>Gross operating profit adjusted (Adjusted EBITDA)</b>	<b>47,464</b>	<b>46,727</b>
<i>% on net revenue</i>	<i>18.9%</i>	<i>18.1%</i>



**GCL Holdings S.C.A. - Unaudited consolidated management accounts - statement of financial position as at June 30, 2018**

	December 31, 2017 (*)	June 30, 2018
<b>Thousands of Euros</b>		
Intangible assets	377,623	375,185
Property, plant and equipment	190,688	187,890
Contract costs	-	27
Non-current assets classified as held for sale	2,130	-
Net working capital	113,534	134,090
Contract assets	-	25
Net financial derivative liabilities	(213)	(51)
Employee benefits	(6,376)	(6,494)
Other assets (liabilities)	(33,097)	(27,427)
<b>Net invested capital</b>	<b>644,289</b>	<b>663,246</b>
<i>Financed by:</i>		
Net financial liabilities	576,331	585,244
Financial liabilities - non-controlling investors	16,800	16,700
Cash and cash equivalents	(40,618)	(22,455)
<b>Net financial indebtedness</b>	<b>552,513</b>	<b>579,489</b>
<b>Consolidated equity</b>	<b>91,775</b>	<b>83,757</b>
<b>Sources of financing</b>	<b>644,289</b>	<b>663,246</b>

(\*) The consolidated figures as at December 31, 2017 have been restated to reflect the adjustments to provisional fair values originally recognized in the consolidated financial statements as of December 31, 2017 related to the acquisition of Axiom Propack Pvt Ltd.



## GCL Holdings S.C.A. – Unaudited consolidated management accounts - cash flows for the six months ended June 30, 2018

<i>(Thousands of Euros)</i>	<b>For the six months ended June 30,</b>	
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Opening cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>54,703</b>	<b>40,618</b>
<b>A) Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Profit before taxation	10,250	5,880
Amortization, depreciation and impairment losses	15,803	16,247
Net financial expense	20,657	22,439
Change in:		
Receivables, payables and inventory	(23,540)	(21,284)
Other	(1,007)	(4,819)
VAT and indirect tax assets/liabilities	(1,724)	(1,908)
Income taxes paid	(12,054)	(10,544)
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>8,385</b>	<b>6,010</b>
<b>B) Cash flows used in investing activities</b>		
Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment and intangibles	(17,459)	(17,171)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment and intangibles	44	173
Proceeds from sale of assets held for sale	-	2,130
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(17,415)</b>	<b>(14,868)</b>
<b>C) Cash flows used in financing activities</b>		
Acquisition of non-controlling interest in Guala Closures Argentina	-	(57)
Interest received	529	368
Interest paid	(14,698)	(15,054)
Payment of transaction cost on Bonds and Revolving Credit Facility	(3,768)	-
Other financial items	411	(297)
Dividends paid	(4,336)	(3,443)
Proceeds from issue of share capital minority Capmetal	824	-
Proceeds from new borrowings	8,613	13,538
Repayment of borrowings	(2,907)	(2,428)
Repayment of finance leases	(1,007)	(1,109)
Change in financial assets	(14)	(1,064)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>(16,352)</b>	<b>(9,546)</b>
<b>D) Net cash flows used in the period</b>	<b>(25,382)</b>	<b>(18,403)</b>
Effect of exchange rate fluctuations on cash held	(298)	241
<b>Closing cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>29,023</b>	<b>22,455</b>

Fine Comunicato n.2043-47

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