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CONNECT

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<i>Testo del comunicato</i>
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Vedi allegato.

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**NB AURORA SELLS MINORITY SHAREHOLDING IN SIRA INDUSTRIE, EMILIAN INDUSTRIAL GROUP AND LEADER IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR IN ITALY**

**The Gruppioni family holding company, whose majority shareholder is Valerio Gruppioni, Chairman and CEO of the company, buys back the stake sold in 2012**

**NB Aurora confirms its partnership approach with entrepreneurs in the medium to long term with the aim of creating value for the company**

*Luxembourg, July 19 2021*

**NB Aurora S.A. SICAF-RAIF ("NB Aurora")**, listed in Italy on the MIV market - Professional Segment with the objective of investing in unlisted small and medium-sized companies, announces - with reference to the 44.55% stake held in Fondo Italiano di Investimento ("FII") – the closing of the sale of FII's entire shareholding (approximately 40,3%) held in Sira Industrie (NB Aurora's share is approximately 18%). Sira is a company founded 60 years ago in the province of Bologna which has become an international group operating in the most important markets in the two sectors of the production of aluminium radiators for heating and aluminium die castings for the mechanical and automotive industries.

The stake in Sira Industrie Spa, sold in 2012, has been acquired by the family holding company Sira Group Spa in which Valerio Gruppioni, Chairman and CEO of the company, is the majority shareholder.

The countervalue of the transaction is Euro 15 million, of which NB Aurora's share is approximately Euro 6.75 million.

Sira Industrie is a Group founded in Italy more than 60 years ago, operating at international level with production plants, commercial units and associated companies in several countries, and is constantly expanding. The group is focused on two main sectors: it supplies full-cycle die-casting and moulds for aluminium die-casting, destined for the mechanical and automotive industries, and produces radiators for heating made with different technologies.

Since the investment in 2012, the company has grown exponentially also thanks to two important acquisitions, the Modena-based Fir (formerly Faral) in 2014, a historic brand producing aluminium radiators, and the former Almec (now Sirpress) in 2012, focused on automotive and motorbike components. The aforementioned acquisitions together with a massive investment campaign to revamp the factories themselves have enabled the company to become, with over Euro 120 million in turnover expected by 2021, one of the preferred Tier 1 suppliers in the world of components for the mechanical and automotive industry.

**Lorenzo Baraldi, Managing Director of NB Aurora, commented:** “We strongly believed in this project of aggregation and consolidation in a sector of excellence in Italian manufacturing, highlighting the enormous potential for development. It has been an incredible experience to accompany it in a project of growth and development at international level. After these years of working together, we have agreed with the entrepreneur on an exit that gives him a company with immense added value. In fact, with NB Aurora we want to create value for shareholders and investors as well as for entrepreneurs through a patient, long-term investment in partnership with the top management, providing management, governance, skills and capital for growth”.

**Valerio Gruppioni, President and CEO of Sira Industrie, added:** “We have worked for 10 years with a competent and present partner who has allowed us to grow and create value. Continuous dialogue and stimulus have enabled us to face challenges with greater serenity and to structure ourselves in a way that is adequate to compete at an international level”.

Please note that NB Aurora and FII are both managed by the same management company, Neuberger Berman AIFM S.à.r.l..

#### **NB Aurora**

NB Aurora, the first permanent capital vehicle listed in Italy on the MIV professional segment of the Italian Stock Exchange, has been created with the purpose to invest in unlisted SMEs, conveying financial resources to support their growth and

international expansion, thus helping to support the real economy. NB Aurora is promoted by Neuberger Berman, a private, independent, employee-owned investment manager, with \$402 billion AUM (as of 31 March 2021). The investment target includes top-class SMEs with a leading position in specialized niches and a strong export attitude with a turnover between €30 and €300 million. NB Aurora team operates with an active minority approach, partnering with entrepreneurs with a medium-long term horizon. After the first deal that led NB Aurora to acquire 44.55% of the shares of Fondo Italiano di Investimento (17 initial shareholdings of which it currently still holds the investments in Ligabue, DBA Group, Sira Industrie, Amut Group and Zeis Excelsa), the fund invested in 7 companies: Club del Sole (leader in the camping-village sector in Italy), Dierre Group (leader in Italy in the production of tech components for industrial automation), PHSE (Italian leader in the temperature-controlled transport of drugs and biological samples), BluVet (network of veterinary clinics), Rino Mastrotto Group (world leader in the production and marketing of leathers for fashion, automotive and furniture industries), Engineering (leader in Italy in the digital transformation of companies, public and private organizations), Veneta Cucine (Europe's leading manufacturer of fitted kitchens) and Comet Srl (leader in Italy in the development and production of tailor-made organic and silicone rubber compounds), whose closing is expected soon.

## SIRA INDUSTRIE

Sira Industrie is a Group founded in Italy over 60 years ago, with production plants, commercial units and associated companies in several countries, and is constantly expanding in the most important markets in the world. The Group operates through the Die Casting Division, which supplies full-cycle die castings and aluminium die casting moulds for the mechanical and automotive industries, and the Heating Division, which produces heating radiators using different technologies: BIMETAL in steel/aluminium; in die-cast aluminium; in extruded aluminium; electric radiators and steel thermo-furnishers.

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