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Testo del comunicato				

Vedi allegato.





SECO: 2022 nine-months results

Board of Directors has approved the consolidated results as of September 30, 2022

- Net sales at €144.8M in the first nine months of 2022, +116% compared to the same period of 2021; organic growth at +53%, like-for-like growth (including acquisitions' results starting from 01.01.2021) at +43%
- Gross margin at €68.1M in the first nine months of 2022 (47.1% of Net sales), +€36.6M (+116%) compared to the same period of 2021
- EBITDA adjusted at €32.1M in the first nine months of 2022 (22.1% of Net sales), +€18.0M (+128%) compared to the same period of 2021
- Adjusted Net income at €15.0M in the first nine months of 2022 (10.4% of Net sales), +€7.8M (+109%) compared to the same period of 2021
- €15M generated by the CLEA business (10% of sales) in the first nine months of 2022
- In Q3 2022, Net sales at €50.7M (+102% vs. Q3 2021), EBITDA Adjusted at €11.9M (23.6% of Net sales, +151% vs. Q3 2021)
- Order backlog at €169M as of 31.10.2022 vs. €114M on a like-for-like basis as of same period of 2021
- 2022 outlook: full-year revenue guidance confirmed at €200M

Arezzo, November 10, 2022 – The Board of Directors of SECO S.p.A. ("**SECO**"), which met today, has approved the consolidated results for the first nine months of 2022.





Endless ways to the future

In this period, SECO's growth trend has continued at a significant pace, with a strong increase in net sales across all the main geographical areas (\in 144.8M in the first nine months of 2022, +116.3% compared to the same period of 2021), an Adjusted EBITDA at \in 32.1M and an Adjusted Net income at \in 15.0M, growing by 128.0% and 109.0%, respectively, compared to the same period of the previous year.

Massimo Mauri, CEO of SECO, commented: "The nine-month results show a strong growth in revenue and profitability, despite the persisting components' shortage and the complex macroeconomic scenario. I am very satisfied in observing the results from the actions taken in recent months: in the third quarter of the year, the acceleration of the Edge computing and CLEA businesses, combined with the price increase actions started in the previous quarters, have positively contributed to improve our profitability generating a significant operating leverage effect. One and a half year after its launch, the evolution of the CLEA business proves the effectiveness of our evolution strategy: the increase in the number of connected devices and customers interested in the functionalities of our IoT-AI software platform, together with the growth of the order backlog and the pipeline of new opportunities, allows us to confidently look at the remaining part of the year and 2023".

SECO's consolidated results in the period

Net sales rise from €66.9M in the first nine months of 2021 to €144.8M as of September 30, 2022, growing by €77.8M (+116.3%). Organic growth amounted to 52.8%, while like-for-like growth is equal to 42.5%. Such increase derives from a significant growth of the sales volumes in the EMEA, USA and APAC regions, which has continued also in the third quarter of the year (+101.6% vs. Q3 2021).

In the first nine months of the year the edge computing revenue (€130.2M) grew by 101% compared to the same period of 2021, thanks to an expansion of edge systems sales in several sectors, including Industrial, Fitness, Vending and Medical.

The growth of the CLEA business also continued: in the first nine months of the year, revenue generated amounted to ca. €15M, growing by 548% compared to the same period of 2021.

Gross margin¹ grows from \in 31.5M (47.1% of the corresponding revenue) in the first nine months of 2021 to \in 68.1M (47.1% of the corresponding revenue) as of September 30, 2022, increasing by \in 36.6M (+116.1%). This trend is essentially linked to the significant expansion of both the edge computing and CLEA businesses, each of them growing organically and thanks to the contribution of the companies acquired in 2021. The incidence on revenue is in line with the same period of 2021: the price increase actions taken by SECO during the last quarters, as well as the higher incidence of the CLEA business on the total turnover, have contributed to balance the effects of the continuing, significant and generalized increase in prices observed on the market for the purchase of components used by SECO in its manufacturing processes.

¹ *Gross margin*: corresponds to the difference between the revenue from sales and the costs for raw materials, consumables and merchandise, net of the change in the amount of inventory occurred during the period.





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In the third quarter of the year, gross margin increased by 110.4% compared to the same period of 2021, with an incidence of 47.5% of the corresponding revenue and improving from the 46.8% observed in the first half of the year.

Adjusted EBITDA grows from €14.1M as of September 30, 2021 (21.0% of the corresponding revenue) to €32.1M as of September 30, 2022 (22.1% of the corresponding revenue), growing by €18.0M (+128.0%). This evolution is mainly due to the expansion of the business observed in the period, which led to generating an operating leverage effect, further accelerated during the third quarter (+150.9% vs. the same period of 2021). Incidence of energy costs, equal to ca. 0.5% of Net sales in the first nine months of the year, is not material.

To calculate Adjusted EBITDA, some adjustments have been made to account for the amount of some items, non-recurring or not related to the Group's operating performance: in particular, these items amount to ca. \in 2.1M overall in the first nine months of 2022, mainly including the actuarial (non-monetary) value of the three-year stock option plan attributed to some employees of the Group (ca. \in 1.7M) and some non-recurring costs linked to extraordinary transactions carried out by SECO (ca. \in 0.9M).

Gross of the above-mentioned adjustments, the EBITDA rises from €12.1M as of September 30, 2021 to €29.9M as of September 30, 2022, increasing by 148.2%.

Adjusted EBIT² changes from €9.1M (13.6% of the corresponding revenue) as of September 30, 2021 to €22.7M (15.7% of the corresponding revenue) as of September 30, 2022, with an increase of 148.8% as a result of the previously illustrated dynamics.

Gross of the above-mentioned adjustments, related to non-recurring items and items not related to the Group's operating performance, the EBIT goes from €7.1M as of September 30, 2021 to €19.6M as of September 30, 2022, increasing by 175.0%.

Adjusted Net income³ increases from €7.2M (10.7% of the corresponding revenue) in the first nine months of 2021 to €15.0M (10.4% of the corresponding revenue) as of September 30, 2022, increasing by 109.0%.

In addition to the previously illustrated dynamics, financial expenses were €2.7M higher compared to the same period of 2021, largely due to the acquisition financing of Garz & Fricke (now SECO Northern Europe).

Gross of the above-mentioned adjustments, related to non-recurring items and items not related to the Group's operating performance, as well as their estimated tax effect, the Net income goes from €5.3M as of September 30, 2021 to €12.0M as of September 30, 2022, increasing by 125.5%.

² Adjusted EBIT: corresponds to the result of the period gross of the income taxes, the financial income and expenses, the income or losses from foreign exchange transactions, the effects of non-recurring items and transactions that the directors consider as not related to the Group's operating performance.

³ Adjusted Net Income: corresponds to the result of the period gross of the effects of non-recurring items and transactions that the directors consider as not related to the Group's operating performance, considered taking into account an estimated tax effect based on a 24% tax rate (IRES tax rate).





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Adjusted net financial debt decreases from a €122.6M net debt as of June 30, 2022 to a net debt of €121.6M as of September 30, 2022, with an improvement of €1M, mainly thanks to the business expansion in the period.

Compared to the value observed as of December 31, 2021, equal to \in 97.5M, this indicator shows an increase of \in 24.1M. Such change is linked for ca. \in 28M to the significant increase of the inventory, aimed at sustaining the continued growth of the business and maximizing the quantity of components available for SECO in a context still heavily impacted by the shortage, thus ensuring the continuity of deliveries to its customers.

To calculate this indicator, adjustments have been made considering current and non-current financial liabilities deriving from leases, accounted for as a result of the application of IFRS 16 (\in 7.7M as of September 30, 2022), and the VAT credit (\in 1.6M as of September 30, 2022), which is structurally generated by SECO as a regular exporter and can be cashed in through factoring without recourse.

Gross of the above-mentioned adjustments, the net financial debt changes from a €132.4M net debt as of June 30, 2022 to a net debt of €130.9M as of September 30, 2022, improving by ca. €1.4M.

SECO outlook on the status of the business

Although the market scenario, still impacted by the persistence of the component shortages, is complicated by a difficult macroeconomic context, SECO continues to record a strong business acceleration: in fact, the positive trend in the acquisition of new customers and business opportunities, which contributed to generate a high organic growth, also continued in the first nine months of 2022.

The significant increase, compared to 2021, in order intake levels and order backlog, the design wins with new and existing customers that will enter mass production, as well as the important technological and product developments that SECO will continue to introduce in the remaining months of 2022 are expected to make the important organic growth trend generated by the Group continue also in the last quarter of the year.

It is observed, in fact, a considerable growth in demand from new and existing customers, which has generated an important increase in the order backlog, equal to €169M as of October 31, 2022 (vs. €114M observed, on a like-for-like basis, in the same period of 2021). Design wins, pipeline and order intake monitored on a monthly basis also suggest how the robust organic growth can be considered structural and lasting.

With reference to the CLEA business, we continue to observe an increase in the number of devices connected to the IoT-AI platform, as well as the number of existing or potential customers that are currently testing its functionalities. Also, by virtue of the partnerships recently signed by SECO, the portfolio of edge computing and IoT-AI applications is constantly being enriched, with a range of new solutions and functionalities that will be available on the market in the coming months.





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The generation of cost and revenue synergies deriving from the integration process of the companies acquired in 2021, which now operate as SECO Northern Europe, SECO Mind SrI and SECO Mind USA, is also continuing.

Finally, even considering a market environment heavily impacted by the trend of the key macroeconomic indicators and the persisting difficulties along the supply chain, SECO believes it can express growth rates higher than the market, thanks to its competitive positioning and the uniqueness of its edge and AI solutions offering.

The full-year revenue guidance at €200M, already communicated to the market on April 19, 2022, is therefore confirmed.

Conference call

The results as of September 30, 2022 will be illustrated on November 10, 2022, at 15.00 (CET), during a conference call with the financial community. The conference call can be attended by registering at the following link:

https://b1c-co-uk.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtcOitgTwrHtZ0DFyij HsR45Y vUAMYaX

Alternative performance indicators

In this press release, use is made of certain "alternative performance indicators" that are not envisaged in IFRS-EU accounting standards, and whose significance and content are illustrated below, in line with the ESMA/2015/1415 recommendations published on October 5, 2015.

Adjusted EBITDA: defined as the result of the period gross of the income taxes, the financial income and expenses, the depreciation and amortization, the income or losses from foreign exchange transactions, the effects of non-recurring items and transactions that the directors consider as not related to the Group's operating performance.

Adjusted Net financial debt: represents the algebraic sum between cash and cash equivalents, financial receivables, current and non-current financial debt, adjusted for the VAT credit, the current and non-current financial liabilities deriving from leases recognised as a result of the application of IFRS 16, and any put & call options subscribed.

The Manager responsible for preparing the Company's financial reports, Lorenzo Mazzini, declares, pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 154 bis of the Consolidated Law on Finance (Testo Unico della Finanza), that the accounting information contained in this press release corresponds to the documented results, accounts and bookkeeping records.





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PRESS RELEASE

Description of SECO

SECO (IOT.MI) develops and manufactures cutting-edge technological solutions, from miniaturized computers to fully customized integrated systems combining hardware and software. SECO also offers Clea, a proprietary end-to-end IoT-AI analytics software suite, that allows clients to gather insightful data from their on-field devices in real time. SECO employs almost 900 people worldwide and operates through 5 production plants, 10 R&D hubs and sales offices in 9 countries. SECO serves more than 300 blue-chip customers which are leaders in their respective fields, including Medical, Industrial Automation, Aerospace & Defense, Fitness, Vending and many other sectors. SECO R&D capabilities are further enhanced by long-lasting strategic partnerships with tech giants and collaborations with universities, research centers, and innovative start-ups. Corporate social responsibility is part of the strategy of SECO, that undertakes several actions to reduce its environmental footprint and increase its impact on its people and local communities.

For more information: https://www.seco.com/

Contacts

SECO SpA Marco Parisi Head of Investor Relations Tel. +39 0575 26979 investor.relations@seco.com COMMUNITY GROUP Marco Rubino Tel. +39 3356509552 seco@communitygroup.it





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The accounting statements of SECO Group, not subject to independent auditing, are illustrated below.

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

(in Euro thousands)	30/09/2022	31/12/2021
Property, Plants and Equipments	15.976	16.797
Intangible Assets	64.575	56.367
Right of Use	9.060	9.895
Goodwill	195.497	148.484
Non-current financial assets	11.939	1.801
Deferred tax assets	2.245	2.252
Other non-current assets	678	834
Total non-current assets	299.970	236.430
Inventories	89.960	61.685
Trade receivables	44.601	36.696
Current tax assets	4.518	6.373
Other receivables	3.579	3.491
Cash and Cash Equivalents	37.530	58.825
Total current assets	180.188	167.070
TOTAL ASSETS	480.158	403.500
Share capital	1.154	1.074
Reserves	168.587	118.981
Translation reserve	30.840	21.192
Net profit / (loss) of the year	8.899	4.149
Total Group Shareholders' Equity	209.480	145.396
Equity of Non-controlling interests	18.345	15.256
Net profit / (loss) of the year of Non-controlling interest	3.122	2.351
Minority interests	21.467	17.607
Total Shareholders' Equity	230.947	163.003
Employee Benefits	3.402	3.065
Provisions	730	729
Deferred tax liabilities	13.510	12.029
Non-current financial liabilities	130.672	138.083
Non-current lease liabilities	6.088	6.964
Other non-current liabilities	8	612
Total non-current liabilities	154.410	161.482
Current financial liabilities	18.354	11.501
Current part of N-C Financial Liabilities	11.697	10.197
Current lease liabilities	1.659	1.552
Trade payables	47.414	39.949
Other payables	9.919	12.294
Current tax liabilities	5.757	3.522
Total current liabilities	94.801	79.015
TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	480.158	403.500





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Consolidated Income Statement

(in Euro thousands)	30/09/2022	30/09/2021
Net sales	144.759	66.916
Other revenues and income	3.470	1.784
Total revenues and operating income	148.229	68.701
Costs for services, goods and other operating costs	-92.865	-43.005
Personnel costs	-25.928	-14.069
Total costs and other operating charges	-118.794	-57.074
Amortisation and depreciation	-9.861	-4.509
Provisions and write-downs	0	0
Operating profit/(loss)	19.574	7.118
Financial income and charges	-3.098	-413
Exchange gains/(losses)	489	429
Profit/(loss) before tax	16.966	7.134
Income taxes	-4.945	-1.803
Profit/(loss) for the year	12.022	5.331
Non-controlling interests profit	3.122	1.439
Group profit/(loss)	8.899	3.892
Basic earnings per share	0,08	0,06
Diluted earnings per share	0,08	0,06

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income

(in Euro thousands)	30/09/2022	30/09/2021	
Net profit for the year	12.022	5.331	
Other comprehensive income/(expense) which may be subsequently reclassified to the income statement:	10.128	863	
Translation differences	2.116	863	
Net gain/(loss) on Cash Flow Hedge	8.012	0	
Other comprehensive income/(expense) which may not be subsequently reclassified to the income statement:	0	0	
Discounting employee benefits	0	0	
Tax effect discounting employee benefits	0	0	
Total comprehensive income	10.128	863	
Non-controlling interests	4.100	1.796	
Parent company shareholders	18.049	4.397	
Total comprehensive income	22.149	6.193	





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PRESS RELEASE

Consolidated Cash Flow Statement

(in Euro thousands)	30/09/2022	30/09/2021
Net profit for the year	12.022	5.331
Income taxes	4.945	1.803
Amortization and depreciation	9.861	4.509
Provisions for risks, receivables and inventories	0	0
Change in employee benefits	337	10
Financial income/(charges)	3.098	413
Exchange gains/(losses)	-489	-429
Costs for share-based payments	1.722	1.833
Cash flow before working capital changes	31.495	13.469
Change in trade receivables	-7.549	-8.105
Change in inventories	-28.275	-7.617
Change in trade payables	7.068	3.925
Other changes in tax receivables and payables	-854	5.462
Other changes in current receivables and payables	-2.164	279
Other changes in non-current receivables and payables	-1.250	-123
Use of provisions for risks, receivables and inventories	-0	0
Interest received	15	4
Interest paid	-1.975	-417
Exchange gains/(losses) realized	388	519
Income taxes paid	0	0
Cash flow from operating activities (A)	-3.100	7.397
(Investments) /Disposals of property, plant and equipment	-1.694	-1.315
(Investments) /Disposals of intangible assets	-9.935	-7.544
(Investments) /Disposals of financial assets	-599	-59
Acquisition of business units net of cash and cash equivalents	0	-5.941
Acquisition of subsidiaries net of cash and cash equivalents	0	0
Cash flow from investing activities (B)	-12.229	-14.859
New loan drawdowns	0	676
(Repayment) of bank loans	-5.911	0
Change in current financial liabilities	6.477	500
Repayment lease financial liabilities	-1.285	-401
Dividends paid	0	0
Paid-in capital increase	-684	91.098
Acquisition of treasury shares	-5.311	0
Acquisition of shares from minorities	-230	0
Cash flows from financing activities (C)	-6.944	91.872
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents (A+B+C)	-22.273	84.411
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of the year	58.825	23.678
Translation differences	978	863
Cash & cash equivalents at end of the year	37.530	108.952





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Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity

(in Euro thousands)	01/01/2022	Share Capital increase	Allocation of profit	Dividends paid	Other changes	Comprehensive income/(loss)	30/09/2022
Share Capital	1.074	0	0	0	80	0	1.154
Legal reserve	289	0	0	0	0	0	289
Share premium reserve	118.981	0	0	0	49.606	0	168.587
Other reserves	20.962	0	4.149	0	-3.651	8.012	29.472
Translation reserve	457	0	0	0	0	1.138	1.595
FTA reserve	-371	0	0	0	0	0	-371
Discounting of employee benefits	-146	0	0	0	0	0	-146
Group profit (loss)	4.149	0	-4.149	0	0	8.899	8.899
Group Shareholders' Equity	145.395	0	0	0	46.035	18.049	209.480
Minority interests in shareholders funds	15.277	0	2.351	0	-240	977	18.366
Discounting of employee benefits	-21	0	0	0	0	0	-21
Minority interests in profit (loss)	2.351	0	-2.351	0	0	3.122	3.122
Minority interests	17.607	0	0	0	-240	4.100	21.467
Total Shareholders' Equity	163.002	0	0	0	45.796	22.149	230.947