



PRESS RELEASE

SORGENIA (CIR GROUP) STAKE IN ENERGIA ITALIANA RISES TO 78% AND BANCA MPS ACQUIRES 1.21% OF SORGENIA

Sorgenia Spa, the company controlled by the CIR Group in which the Austrian provider Verbund has a holding, has increased its control of **Energia Italiana**, acquiring 16% of the shares held by its financial stakeholders **Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena** and **BNL International Investments** for a total of 59.5 million euro.

Following this transaction, Sorgenia has increased its stake in Energia Italiana to 78% (the remaining 22% is held in equal parts by Iride and Hera) which, with Eblacea (70% Electrabel and 30% Acea), jointly controls in equal shares the power generating company **Tirreno Power**.

Tirreno Power is one of the main Italian producers of electricity and manages thermoelectric plants situated at Vado Ligure, Naples and Torrealvaldiga as well as numerous hydroelectric plants located mainly in Liguria. In 2006 the company produced 11.6 TWh, equal to 4% of gross domestic electricity production.

The repowering plan of **Tirreno Power** is proceeding according to plan, specifically with the conversion of a section of the Vado Ligure plant to a combined cycle plant with an output of 760 MW - which is scheduled to start operating by the end of 2007 – and the construction at Napoli Levante of a new combined cycle module with an output of 380 MW which will start operating in 2008.

The company has also undertaken numerous initiatives in the field of renewable energy with a view to increasing production whilst respecting the environment.

In order to maintain a presence in the **Sorgenia Group**, **Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena** has today subscribed a capital increase in **Sorgenia** for an amount of approximately 33 million euro, acquiring a stake of 1.21%. For Sorgenia this deal consolidates and further develops its important partnership with the top-tier bank.

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