



PRESS RELEASE

WITH THE AWARD OF SOCIETE FRANCAISE D'EOLIENNES, NUMBER TWO WIND OPERATOR IN FRANCE, SORGENIA (CIR GROUP) EXPANDS INTO EUROPE AND GROWS SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR

SORGENIA SpA, the company controlled by the CIR group in which the Austrian provider Verbund has a stake, has won the tender for the acquisition of approximately 80% of the capital of **Société Française d'Eoliennes (SFE)**, at a price of approximately **198 million euro**. The completion of the deal will take place by the end of the year, which is the final date for the remaining 20% of the shareholders of **SFE** to sell their shares to **SORGENIA** at the same conditions. The agreement also involves a price adjustment procedure by January 31 2008, which will take into account any changes in the net financial position on the closing of SFE, which as of today is an estimated net debt of approximately 97 million euro.

SFE, the number two wind energy operator in France, has 100 MW installed, 39 MW already authorized and close to completion, and around 1,000 MW at different stages of development. The company is also in the process of developing approximately 37 MW of photovoltaic plants located in the south of France.

With this deal, the **SORGENIA Group** has taken a decisive step forward in the renewable energy sector, in line with the company's objective of increasing its generating capacity from sources with a low impact on the environment and increasing its production of electricity with respect for the environment even in the European market, and continuing to implement its business plan which involves considerable expansion in the wind sector in particular.

After this acquisition, in the wind sector **SORGENIA** has 101.5 MW in operation, and can count on 120 MW authorized or under construction, and approximately 2,700 MW at different stages of development (for 1,100 of which the authorization process has already begun). As far as the plants authorized in Italy are concerned, work is continuing on the construction of wind farms located in the local districts of Minervino Murge (18 MW), Castelnuovo di Conza (10 MW) and San Gregorio Magno (42.5 MW).

The business plan also involves investment in the photovoltaic sector, where the **SORGENIA Group**, through its subsidiary **Soluxia**, has become the top private operator in Italy with five photovoltaic plants in operation for a total of 5 MW. 10 more plants will start operating by March 2008, bringing the total installed capacity of the photovoltaic sector to around 15 MW.

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