



PRESS RELEASE

WITH THE COMPLETION OF ITS ACQUISITION OF SOCIÉTÉ FRANÇAISE D'EOLIENNES THE SORGENIA GROUP (CIR) 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 today completed its acquisition of 99.9% of the capital of **Société Française d'Eoliennes (SFE)** at a price of 246.1 million euro. The acquisition agreement involves a price adjustment to be determined by January 31 2008 on the basis of any changes in the net financial position in regard to its total debt, estimated today at around 98 million euro.

The acquisition was financed by **Sorgenia** using available credit lines set up to fund the industrial development of the Group. In particular, as already stated in a previous press release, in March 2007 **Sorgenia** signed a loan agreement for 345 million euro with a pool of banks lead-managed by Intesa Sanpaolo and in July 2007 a new loan of 500 million euro with Monte dei Paschi di Siena as agent bank of a group of Italian and foreign banks.

Société Française d'Eoliennes, 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).

Milan, December 19 2007

CONTACTS

CIR GROUP www.cirgroup.it
EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND PRESS OFFICE
Beppe Pescetto
Francesca Sagramoso
Tel.: +39 02 722701
e-mail: info@cirgroup.it