



SOL GROUP

PRESS RELEASE

2007 FULL YEAR CONSOLIDATED RESULTS

Growing Sales, EBIT and Net Profit

Sales: € 427.1 ml (+8.5%)

EBIT: € 46 ml (+30.7%)

Net profit: € 26.7 ml (€ 16.5 in 2006)

Proposed dividend of € 0.081 per share (€ 0.068 in 2006)

The Board of Directors of SOL S.p.A. approved the 2007 consolidated results.

Consolidated sales € 427.1 ml (+8.5% vs € 393.6 ml in 2006), EBITDA € 97.1 ml (22.7% on sales, +11.1% vs 2006 EBITDA equal to € 87.2 ml), EBIT € 46 ml (10.8% on sales, + 30.7% vs 2006 EBIT equal to € 35.1 ml), consolidated net profit of € 26.7 ml, + 60.9% vs 2006 result (€16.5 ml). Cash flow of € 75.7 ml (€ 60.9 ml in 2006).

EBIT and net profit are not burdened by non recurring costs as in 2006.

These are highlights of the consolidated figures approved earlier today by the Board of Directors of SOL S.p.A., a listed company on the Italian Stock Exchange that acts as holding company to a multination group of 40 companies, with more than 1,700 employees, involved in the area of technical gases and home-care assistance, operating in 15 European countries.

At the upcoming Shareholders' meeting, called for April 29, 2008 in Monza, the company's Board of Directors will propose distribution of a dividend of € 0.081 per ordinary share (€ 0.068 in 2006), to be paid since May 15, 2008.

The increase of the sales of +5.4% in Italy and +14.6% abroad has to be considered very positive. In detail, in the technical gas business (sales equal to € 296.3 ml, +4.9% vs 2006) the growth of sales has been mainly realized through the development of new applications and new services. In the home-care business, (sales equal to € 142.7 ml, +17%), it was confirmed the strong increasing trend of the last years, achieved by a constant care for new markets and new services.

Positive growth of EBITDA to € 97.1 ml compared with € 87.2 ml of 2006 (+11.1%), despite the continuous increase of production and distribution costs.

The consolidated net profit of € 26.7 ml is affected by a tax burden of 30.6%, less than in the previous year, due to the positive effect on the deferred taxes due to the reduction of the tax rates in Italy since 2008.



The capital expenditures of the Group were € 69.2 ml (CAPEX 16.2%) and the operating consolidated cash flow amounted to € 75.7 ml, compared to € 60.9 ml in 2006, while the net financial debt is € 114.2 ml, increasing by € 9.4 ml vs 2006.

The net debt / equity ratio is equal to 40%.

With reference to subsequent relevant events after 31.12.2007, there are no relevant events to be mentioned.

“The results achieved in the year 2007 are very positive, showing a record sales growth of € 33.5 ml and good profitability despite the continuous increase of energy costs” said Marco Annoni Vice-president of SOL S.p.A. *“The strengthening of our presence in the foreign markets, which represent 36% of total turnover of the Group, is the best sign of our capability to compete with efficiency in both activities of our business in the countries where we are present.”*

“In 2008 we think to consolidate the positive trend of growth of the last years, even if we expect a further increase in the cost of energy and a difficult economic environment.” concluded Aldo Fumagalli Romario President of SOL S.p.A. *“Our target is to increase the turnover and to maintain the profitability of the Group, also with important production and distribution investments.”*

Pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 154-bis of the Unified Financial Act of February 24, 1998, the manager responsible for preparing the financial reports Marco Filippi declares that the accounting information contained in this press release corresponds to the results documented in the books, accounting and other records.

Enclosure: Consolidated Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet.

Monza, March 28, 2008



SOL Group – Profit and loss account

(Figures in Euro thousands)

	31/12/2007	%	31/12/2006	%
Net revenues	427,072	100.0%	393,573	100.0%
Other revenues	5,379	1.3%	2,899	0.7%
Internal work capitalized	9,960	2.3%	7,083	1.8%
Total revenues	442,411	103.6%	403,555	102.5%
Purchases	128,155	30.0%	122,327	31.1%
Services	128,889	30.2%	117,963	30.0%
Change in inventories	2,686	0.6%	(1,945)	-0.5%
Other costs	14,516	3.4%	12,621	3.2%
Total costs	274,246	64.2%	250,966	63.8%
Added value	168,165	39.4%	152,589	38.8%
Labour cost	71,100	16.6%	65,201	16.6%
EBITDA	97,065	22.7%	87,388	22.2%
Depreciation & amortization	47,800	11.2%	43,261	11.0%
Other provisions	3,216	0.8%	1,864	0.5%
Non recurring (Income) / Charges	-	-	7,033	1.8%
EBIT	46,049	10.8%	35,230	9.0%
Financial income	1,026	0.2%	973	0.2%
Financial charges	6,924	1.6%	5,937	1.5%
Net financial income / (charges)	(5,898)	-1.4%	(4,964)	-1.3%
PBT	40,151	9.4%	30,266	7.7%
Income taxes	12,273	2.9%	12,584	3.2%
Net profit from ongoing operations	27,878	6.5%	17,682	4.5%
Net profit from discontinuous operations	-	-	-	-
Minorities	(1,146)	-0.3%	(1,069)	-0.3%
Net profit	26,732	6.3%	16,613	4.2%
EPS	0.295		0.185	



SOL Group – Balance sheet

(Figures in Euro thousands)

	31/12/2007	31/12/2006
Tangible assets	284,338	263,585
Goodwill and differences arising from consolidation	5,166	3,622
Other intangible assets	1,772	1,848
Equity investments	546	539
Other financial assets	1,198	1,285
Deferred tax assets	3,235	4,365
NON CURRENT ASSETS	296,255	275,244
Non current assets available for sale		
Inventories	23,529	25,948
Trade receivables	185,018	177,648
Other current assets	9,356	10,951
Current financial assets	547	408
Prepayments and accrued income	1,071	1,563
Cash and banks	24,602	17,481
CURRENT ASSETS	244,123	233,999
TOTAL ASSETS	540,378	509,243
Share capital	47,164	47,164
Share premium reserve	63,335	63,335
Legal reserve	5,285	5,220
Other reserves	133,129	123,997
Net profit	26,732	16,613
Shareholders' equity	275,645	256,329
Minorities	7,946	8,142
Net income attributable to minority shareholders	1,146	1,069
Shareholders' equity to minority shareholders	9,092	9,211
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	284,737	265,540
Employee benefits	10,036	11,330
Deferred tax liabilities	19,038	22,708
Provision for liabilities and charges	714	358
Debts and other financial liabilities	105,281	86,625
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	135,069	121,021
Non current liabilities available for sale	-	-
Due to banks	12,940	13,001
Trade payables	67,212	62,944
Current financial liabilities	21,705	22,706
Taxes payable	7,213	6,022
Accrued expenses and deferred income	3,367	3,352
Other current liabilities	8,135	14,657
CURRENT LIABILITIES	120,572	122,682
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	540,378	509,243