

PRESS RELEASE

SOL SpA ACQUIRES IN GERMANY: “TYCZKA KOHLENSÄURE GmbH & Co. KG” And 50% in “CT BIOCARBONIC GmbH

SOL SpA announces an important investment completed today, acquiring 100% of the share capital in **Tyczka Kohlensäure GmbH & Co. KG (“TKS”)** and 50% of the share capital in **CT Biocarbonic GmbH (“CTB”)** from the Tyczka Group. The transaction was made at market price for similar operations.

TKS and CTB recorded a turnover of about **€ 13,5 million in 2013**.

TKS operates in the production and distribution of liquid carbon dioxide (LCO₂) in Germany, owning a production plant for natural CO₂ in Burgbrohl. TKS is the third player in the Liquid CO₂ German market with a market share of about **11%**. Its activity is characterised by the highest level of competence in commercial and marketing and in the capability to develop innovative product applications.

CTB carries out sustainable production of biogenic liquid carbon dioxide through a modern and highly efficient plant in Zeitz and sells its whole production to TKS. 50% of CTB is controlled by CropEnergies AG, one of the leading European manufacturers of bioethanol for the fuel sector.

The purchase of TKS and CTB will expand **SOL Group presence** in Germany, already valued more than **€ 80 million with 350 employees**. SOL SpA will bring technical and financial resources into TKS and CTB, in order to further improve the quality of the service offered to existing and new customers and to create constructive synergies with SOL's existing German businesses.

“We are truly pleased by the opportunity that the acquisition of the TKS and CTB CO₂ business will create for our Group, and we welcome the employees of the two acquired companies to SOL's family. Germany is the leading economy in the EU always increasing and innovating its industrial production infrastructure. SOL is glad to take part in this development. This acquisition is the key to improving our business in the growing German gas market and will provide benefits to new and existing customers throughout the area. This acquisition allows us to leverage our market knowledge and illustrates our strategy of focusing on geographic expansion in key leading growth regions in Europe.” Stated **Mr. Marco Annoni, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of SOL**.

“We are glad to become part of a growing industrial gases leader. This provides new opportunities for our employees and expands our customers offering to the full range of products and services in the industrial gases area, which allows for the continued growth and success of TKS.” Stated **Mr. Andreas Schön, Managing Director of TKS**.

“We congratulate the management of SOL for the constructive and successful sales process. With the sale of the liquid carbon dioxide companies Tyczka concentrates its activities to the core business divisions LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) and industrial gases. The sales proceeds will be used for the further expansion of industrial gases activities in Germany and Austria.” Stated **Dr. Frank Götzelmann, Managing Director of Tyczka Group**.



B&P
Barabino & Partners

for



The SOL Group:

Founded in 1927 in Monza - Italy, expanded rapidly since the 1960s, to become the **10th largest player in the world and the 6th largest in Europe** in the Technical Gases and Home Care market.

SOL along the last 20 years expanded its activities over the national boundaries. Today SOL has commercial activity in 23 countries (Germany, Holland, Belgium, UK, France, Spain, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia, Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, Turkey and India).

The Group's production activities are carried out at **34 primary production plants** and **54 secondary transformation plants** (plants which produce pure and ultra pure mixtures and fill and stock cylinders and dewars).

SOL has been one among the first gas companies in Europe that picked up the recent market opportunities. In the **Home Care** market, especially, SOL managed to develop, earlier than many other competitors, the use of new technologies in the therapies and in the usage of oxygen in medicine. Today SOL Group **through the VIVISOL brand is the third European player in the Home Care market.**

The SOL Group accounts today **€ 596 million** revenues (2013 consolidated figures), more than **2,700 employees**, about **50,000 industrial and medicinal gases customers** and **250,000 home care patients** served on a daily base.

Website: www.sol.it

Tyczka Group:

The Tyczka Group, founded in 1924, with headquarter in Geretsried / Germany works with around 600 employees in its core business divisions "energy supply with liquefied petroleum gas (propane and butane)" and "industrial gases" and has become a market leader in sales of LPG in Germany and Europe. Since 1983 the Tyczka Group is selling technical gases in cylinders and small tanks to customers in Germany through Tyczka Industrie-Gase GmbH. With Tyczka Air Austria and the construction of an air separation unit Tyczka Group even starts the production of industrial gases by the end of 2014.

Website: www.tyczka.de

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Monza, 22nd October 2014