PRESS RELEASE

THE SOL GROUP: The Board of Directors has approved the Quarterly Report of September 30, 2000.

In the first nine months of 2000, the Group's consolidated turnover was Itl 304.9 bn, with a gross operating margin of Itl 75.3 bn.

The current forecast is for a positive performance in 2000, with a total turnover of more than Itl 400 bn.

In the first three quarters of the year 2000, the Group's consolidated turnover was Itl 304.9 bn, with a gross operating margin of Itl 75.3 bn (24.7% of the turnover), the net financial position was Itl 62.3 bn with investments booked in the period at Itl 44.8 bn.

These are the most significant results for the first nine months of 2000, as approved today by the Board of Directors of SOL S.p.A., listed on the Italian stock exchange, and the executive holding company of a multinational Group in the technical, medical gas and home-care sector.

The excellent performance in terms of turnover is the result of high demand by customers in the metalworking industry and growth in the home-care sector.

The Group has continued to grow in Italy with strategic expansion abroad sustained by domestic demand levels and by acquisitions.

The necessary licenses for the new production facility in Mantova have been obtained, and the Group has purchased the land where the plant is expected to be built in the first quarter of 2001 and to come on stream by 2002.

The slight increase in net borrowings, up from Itl 51.7 bn as at 30 June 2000 to Itl 62.3 bn is due to the investments required for the Mantova plant.

Forecasts for turnover and profitability are positive for the current year.

"The results for the first three quarters of the year, as at September 30, 2000," said SOL S.p.A. CEO Aldo Fumagalli Romario, "confirm the positive trend for the Group, with excellent growth in turnover and gross profitability, and continued consolidation of our position in Europe and development of the home-care sector."

"We believe," Mr Fumagalli Romario concluded, "that the SOL Group will finish the year with a turnover well up on the previous 12-month period, at more than Itl 400 bn, and with improved profitability compared to last year."

Monza, 13.11.2000