

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**SOL Group opens a new orthopedic center of excellence in Palermo, strengthening its presence in the orthopedic sector, part of the home care activities carried out by VIVISOL.**

**Centro Ortopedico Ferranti – Gruppo VIVITOP is born from the merger of two important and historic Sicilian orthopedic companies: ITOP Sicilia and Centro Ortopedico Ferranti.**

**With an area of 8,000 square meters, the new headquarters will be a citadel of health and sport, with a social focus on the sharing of outdoor and conference spaces and areas dedicated to Paralympic athletes.**

*Monza-Palermo, 18 October 2024* - SOL Group - a multinational group operating in the sector of technical, industrial and medicinal gases, as well as in the home care sector through the companies distinguished by the "VIVISOL" brand - announces that it has strengthened, through its subsidiary ITOP, its presence in the design and production of custom-made aids, prostheses and orthoses in Sicily with the opening in Palermo of the new headquarters of the Centro Ortopedico Ferranti (COF) - Gruppo VIVITOP, a company created from the merger of two important Sicilian companies: ITOP Sicilia and Centro Ortopedico Ferranti.

With the aim of offering more services in the health, social, sports and training sectors, the new center boasts an area of 8,000 square meters, of which 2,200 square meters are covered, with an area dedicated to the production of medical devices of approximately 400 square meters, a reception area, a 450 square meter showroom, 9 large examination rooms dedicated to technical evaluation and surveys, as well as an 80-seat conference room for the training of all healthcare professionals. A preparatory driving simulator will also be installed inside the facility for obtaining special licenses and a listening center managed by psychologists to support patients' families.

The new COF – Gruppo VIVITOP center in Palermo was conceived as a citadel of health and sport, also thanks to an area dedicated to the training of Paralympic athletes in the square in front of the center.

After the merger of the two companies, COF – Gruppo VIVITOP is today the first Sicilian company in the ortho-prosthetics sector, thanks to a network of 10 branches in the area and 75 employees including 20 healthcare professionals, and fourth in Italy. The company is divided into 4 sectors: the production of orthoses (corrective devices, limb support) and prostheses, the adaptation of aids for mobility and autonomy, analysis systems for postural assessments and the commercial area of predisposed orthoses.

Improving patient reception and care are fundamental objectives for the center which, as a priority, also aims to integrate within the community and offer free services with a social vocation. *"We have invested in this brand new location with the aim of creating a structure that is fully integrated and at the service of the community, social and health activities and the introduction to Paralympic sport. Our priority is to improve and make as complete as possible, at 360 degrees, the care of the patient"*, underlines Salvo Ferranti, President of COF – Gruppo VIVITOP who concludes: *"I thank all our 60,000 patients who have chosen our care model to improve their quality of life"*.

Francesco Mattogno, President and Managing Director of ITOP S.p.A Officine Ortopediche, declared *"COF – Gruppo VIVITOP will be able to count on the many years of experience and the productive and technological support of ITOP S.p.A, with the aim of consolidating and renewing the offer of products and services in the ortho-prosthetics sector in Sicily guaranteeing highly personalized and innovative solutions suitable for the needs of patients, even with high care complexity."*

*"We are glad to have contributed to the creation of this new facility, which was created in full respect of the SOL Group's values of inclusion and care, and which will be able to provide all those solutions essential to meet the mobility and rehabilitation needs of the citizens of Palermo and of the whole Region"* commented Giulio Fumagalli Romario, Executive Director of SOL Group and President of VIVISOL S.r.l.



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**SOL** is an Italian multinational Group that operates in Europe, Turkey, Morocco, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, China and India in two distinct main sectors: that of the production, applied research and marketing of technical, pure and medicinal gases (Technical Gases Division) and that of Home Medical Assistance (Home Care Division - VIVISOL).

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