

PRESS RELEASE

SOL Group strengthens its international presence in India in the technical gases and renewable energies businesses through a partnership with the Indian Family Agarwal SN of Bhoruka Group.

The operation - supported by SIMEST (CDP Group) – allowed the acquisition of 100% of the “Green Asu Plant” Company and of 51% of the “Bhoruka Specialty Gases” Company, a joint venture with Agarwal SN Family.

SOL S.p.A. (“SOL”) and Bhoruka Gases Limited (“BGL”) announce the conclusion, today, of a strategic partnership, with the aim to strengthen the international presence of the Italian Group, leader in the production, applied research and sale of technical and medicinal gases.

The operation has been supported by the intervention of SIMEST together with the Venture Capital Fund (FVC), managed on behalf of the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

BGL, based in Bangalore, is a company owned by the Argawal SN Family and is part of Bhoruka Group, one among the most successful and reputed family business group that has been in operation since 1958 in India. BGL operates, among others, in the technical gases and renewable energies sectors, and in those of pure, ultra-pure and specialty gases.

Through the operation of today SOL and SIMEST have completed the following transactions:

1. The acquisition of 100% of the newly formed company “Green ASU Plant Private Limited”, in which all the activities of BGL in the renewable energies have been merged, together with those of the production, marketing and distribution of industrial and medical air gases.
2. The establishment of a newly formed SOL controlled joint venture company “Bhoruka Specialty Gases Private Limited” with the Argawal SN Family, in which all the activities of BGL in the sectors of the production, marketing and supply of pure, ultra-pure and specialty gases have been merged. The Agarwal SN Family remains shareholder with 49%.

The transactions have been completed at market price, in line with similar operations in the Indian market.

The Green ASU Plant and Bhoruka Specialty Gases activities generate sales for about 14 million Euros, with a staff of 150 direct employees, and own solid assets, that include:

- an air separation unit (ASU) in Bangalore area, to produce liquid cryogenic oxygen, nitrogen and argon,
- a wind farm, with 6 GE generators of 2,3 MW each, located in the Vijayapura District, Karnataka, to meet with renewable energy the power requirements of the production plants located in Karnataka,
- two filling stations for industrial and medicinal gases cylinders filling,
- two production plants for pure, ultra-pure and specialty gases and high complexity calibration mixtures,
- five primary plants to produce pure and ultra-pure gases, among which ultra-pure methane and pure hydrocarbons, and testing centre and sales assets.

Thanks to these operations the SOL Group finalizes a strategic alliance with a distinguished Indian Family Group, active - in India - in the renewable energies, logistic and real estate sectors, and in Indonesia and Australia in the production of raw materials and in the agroindustry business; the shared objective is that to accelerate the growth of Bhoruka Specialty Gases in the specialty, pure and ultra-pure gases sectors, both in the Indian market and abroad.

SOL, in this way, consolidates its presence in the Indian market, where it is already present through the Company SOL India Private Limited, and becomes a primary player in the South-Centre of India.

Aldo Fumagalli Romario, Chairman and Managing Director of SOL group, has commented: *“This partnership with the Agarwal Group represents for the SOL Group a new important step in India, and combines the experience and the competences of our Group with those of a dynamic, successful and of a great tradition Indian Group. The objective that we share is that one of combining the SOL’s technological competences and innovative solutions in the technical and medical gases sector together with the experience of the Agarwal Group in the pure, ultra-pure and specialty gases sector, to contribute to a further development of the market both in India and in the neighbouring countries”.*

*“We are glad – Said **Marco Annoni**, Deputy Chairman and Managing Director of SOL Group. – to warmly welcome to the SOL Group the management team and all the new colleagues of the Green ASU Plant and Bhoruka Specialty Gases. This partnership is one of the most important components of our continued investment in advanced specialty and pure gases which brings along a coordinated and strong advancement in the industrial gases. We believe that the combined forces of this investment with our ongoing business in India, will facilitate our growth on the market with big satisfaction of all our employees in India and abroad. In particular, the addition of Bhoruka’s specialty gases complements our existing portfolio of gases and will help our existing and new customers globally manufacture more innovative products and be more cost effective.”.*

S.N. Agarwal, Chairman of the Bhoruka Group, has commented: *“I heartfully welcome this joining of hands between SOL family and Bhoruka family. Two reputed joint families from Italy started SOL more than 9 decades back, and grew year over year maintaining traditions and culture, very similar to ours in India. The professional and ethics driven business culture of Bhoruka will shine and its strong presence in South India since 1958 will be cemented further with this partnership. Bhoruka will have a lot to learn from SOL including the strong management practices and global technical expertise. India is set to be one of fastest growing economy in the G20 in FY22-23 as per a recent OECD report. The growth will result into requirement of high purity and speciality gases in newer sectors like solar and electronics industry and with this partnership we will capture these new opportunities.”.*

Regina Corradini D’Arienzo, Chief Executive Officer of SIMEST has commented: *“Through this investment, SIMEST is adding a new chapter to the historical partnership with SOL, started in 1992 and developed constantly until today. During the last 30 years we have supported the international growth of the SOL Group through 11 operations in 7 Countries (Albania, Croatia, Kosovo, India, Former Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia) for a total investment of 27 million €, contributing in making it one among the international global leaders.*

SOL is a multinational Group, that operates in Europe, in Turkey, in Morocco, in Brazil, in China and in India, in two different prevalent sectors: that one of the productions, applied research and sale of technical gases, pure and medicinal (Technical Gases Division) and in that one of the



B&P
Barabino & Partners

per



Home Medical Care (Home Care Division), with more than 1,100 million € of sales in 2021, and more than 5,100 employees.

SIMEST is the Company of the **CDP Group** that supports the growth and the competitiveness of the Italian Companies in the world, focusing on SMEs. SIMEST helps the Company along its whole international development cycle, starting from the first evaluation of entering a new market, until the expansion and the consolidation thanks to the direct support to the investments abroad. Among the lines of intervention, there are the following: Subsidized Financing for the Internationalization, Support to the Export Credit and Participation to the share capital.

Contacts: Barabino & Partners
Marina Riva
Tel 02 72 02 35 35
m.riva@barabino.it

Contacts: SIMEST Spa
Ufficio Stampa
Tel 0668635.777
ufficio.stampa@simest.it

Monza, 15th December 2022



Air Separation Unit (ASU)



B&P
Barabino & Partners

per



SOL



Wind Farm



Pure and Ultra Pure Gases Plant