

SOL GROUP

PRESS RELEASE

FIRST HALF 2010 RESULTS

The Board of Directors has approved the First Half 2010 results.

Consolidated sales € 255.3 ml, (+12.4% vs 1H 2009, € 227.2 ml), EBITDA € 60.4 ml (+17.1% compared with € 51.6 ml at 1H 2009), EBIT € 30.5 ml (+26.3% compared with € 24.1 ml at 1H 2009).

These are the highlights specified in the First Half 2010 results 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 49 companies, with more than 1,900 employees, involved in the area of technical gases and home-care assistance, operating in 19 European countries.

In spite of during the first half of this year there was only a moderate recovery in the industrial sectors using technical gases, SOL Group achieved a growth of 12.4 % in sales volume compared with the 1H 2009. The positive result is due to the growth of sales abroad, to the positive trend of less cyclical sectors as food, environment and health ones and to the last year acquisitions in the home care business.

The growth of EBITDA, 23.7% on sales (22.7% in 1H 2009), is due also to the increase of the efficiency in production and distribution after the start up of the new plants during 2009.

EBIT is € 30.51 ml, equal to 11.9% on sales (€ 24.1 ml 1H 2009), grows of 26.3% despite of the increase of depreciation and provision costs for € 2.5 ml.

The consolidated net profit is € 15.5 ml, increasing of 22.9% compared to the net profit of 1H 2009 (€ 12.6 ml).

In comparison to 1H 2009, the sales increased of 9.3% in Italy and of 17.2% abroad. The technical gases business increased the sales by 9.1% while the home-care business, in which the Group operates through VIVISOL, marked a growth of 18.5%.

In financial terms, operating cash flow is € 44,4 ml (€ 39.5 ml in the same period of 2009); the total net debt is € 155.1 ml, increased by € 16.1 ml vs 31/12/09, due to the investments made in the first six months of € 29.8 ml, to the payment of the dividends of € 7.6 ml and to the increase of working capital.

We inform that In July 2010 has been acquired a Scottish company acting in the home care business. This acquisition enables the SOL Group to reach the UK market directly.

"We consider positive the results achieved in the first half year of 2010" affirmed Marco Annoni, Vice-President of SOL S.p.A. "The results confirm the solidness of SOL Group in a weak and uncertain economic contest".

"In the year 2010", concluded SOL S.p.A. Chairman Aldo Fumagalli Romario, "our target is to confirm the growth of sales and profitability of the Group and to continue the investment program to sustain the development".

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 Income Statement and Statement of Financial Position.

Monza, August 27, 2010

SOL Group - Profit and loss account

(Thousands Euro)

	30/06/2010	%	30/06/2009	%
Net revenues	255.281	100,0%	227.150	100,0%
Other revenues	1.080	0,4%	1.794	0,8%
Internal work capitalized	6.881	2,7%	5.163	2,3%
Total revenues	263.242	103,1%	234.107	103,1%
Purchases	73.289	28,7%	65.116	28,7%
Services	74.694	29,3%	67.886	29,9%
Change in inventories	103	0,0%	(1.364)	-0,6%
Other costs	8.560	3,4%	8.071	3,6%
Total costs	156.646	61,4%	139.709	61,5%
Added value	106.596	41,8%	94.398	41,6%
Labour cost	46.219	18,1%	42.826	18,9%
EBITDA	60.377	23,7%	51.572	22,7%
Depreciation & amortization	28.351	11,1%	26.359	11,6%
Other provisions	1.545	0,6%	1.081	0,5%
Non recurring (Income) / Charges	-		-	
EBIT	30.481	11,9%	24.132	10,6%
Financial income	387	0,2%	686	0,3%
Financial charges	4.695	1,8%	4.431	2,0%
Net financial income / (charges)	(4.308)	-1,7%	(3.745)	-1,6%
PBT	26.173	10,3%	20.387	9,0%
Income taxes	10.118	4,0%	7.198	3,2%
Net profit from ongoing operations	16.055	6,3%	13.189	5,8%
Net profit from discontinuous operations	-		-	
Minorities	(530)	-0,2%	(555)	-0,2%
Net profit	15.525	6,1%	12.634	5,6%
EPS	0,171		0,139	

SOL Group - Statement of financial position

(Thousands Euro)

	30/06/2010	31/12/2009
Tangible assets	319.667	317.965
Goodwill and differences arising from consolidation	13.213	12.420
Other intangible assets	4.894	3.557
Equity investments	569	561
Other financial assets	1.275	1.561
Deferred tax assets	2.918	3.111
NON CURRENT ASSETS	342.536	339.175
Non current assets available for sale	-	-
Inventories	28.941	28.539
Trade receivables	223.731	200.696
Other current assets	12.703	12.063
Current financial assets	164	240
Prepayments and accrued income	3.509	1.492
Cash and banks	25.896	41.984
CURRENT ASSETS	294.944	285.014
TOTAL ASSETS	637.480	624.189
Share capital	47.164	47.164
Share premium reserve	63.335	63.335
Legal reserve	7.133	6.486
Other reserves	193.896	177.422
Retained earnings	-	-
Net profit	15.525	25.086
Shareholders' equity	327.053	319.493
Minorities	9.750	9.119
Net income attributable to minority shareholders	530	1.016
Shareholders' equity to minority shareholders	10.280	10.135
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	337.333	329.628
Employee benefits	8.845	9.265
Deferred tax liabilities	3.398	3.472
Provision for liabilities and charges	5.191	5.153
Debts and other financial liabilities	145.145	145.684
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	162.579	163.574
Non current liabilities available for sale	-	-
Due to banks	4.926	4.516
Trade payables	75.309	64.281
Current financial liabilities	31.649	30.976
Taxes payable	8.602	12.046
Accrued expenses and deferred income	7.392	7.170
Other current liabilities	9.690	11.998
CURRENT LIABILITIES	137.568	130.987
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	637.480	624.189