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PRESS RELEASE

SOL Group acquires majority of Diatheva as further step in the biotech sector

SOL SpA, industrial holding of a multinational Group operating in the production and distribution of technical and medicinal gases, has announced the acquisition of a 51% stake of Diatheva, biotech company whose major shareholder was the Urbino University.

Diatheva, founded by Prof. Mauro Magnani, is actively engaged in translating basic research results into industrial applications in the biomedical field. Relevant products are molecular diagnostics and recombinant monoclonal antibodies against rare cancers.

With this operation, SOL shall provide additional resources to Diatheva for the development of its recombinant monoclonal antibodies and for the implementation of the GMP facility for the production of recombinant proteins and antigens.

SOL, which is already engaged and experienced in the biotech cryomangement activity with hospitals and clinics, is interested in improving its knowledge of the biotech business through Diatheva, which will take advantages and synergies from SOL's spread presence in the European healthcare market.

Professor Mauro Magnani has been appointed member of the Board of Directors and Scientific Director of Diatheva while Mr. Marco Annoni, Vice President of SOL SpA, has been appointed Chairman of Diatheva.

"The investment in Diatheva – commented Mr. Marco Annoni, Vice President of SOL SpA - is aligned with the strategy to strengthen our presence in the medical sector. Biotech is very important for our development in Italy and abroad and we are proud to support it".

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

Diatheva
info@diatheva.com
www.diatheva.com

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About SOL Group

SOL Group, founded in 1927, is engaged in the production, applied research and marketing of technical, pure and medicinal gases as well as it is involved in the medical home care activity. Today, **SOL Group** is an Italian based multinational group present in 20 European countries and in India and it has over 2,350 people employed.

SOL S.p.A. today is a listed company on the Italian Stock Exchange that acts in 20 European countries and in India.

SOL Group annual revenues have been 555 million Euro (2011 consolidated figures).

Healthcare is one of the most important field in which **SOL Group** has been developing new products and services in order to become a solution provider for Hospitals and Homecare



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Patients. Biotechnologies applied to healthcare is a new challenge of SOL Group for the next years.



About Diatheva Srl

DIATHEVA is an Italian biotech company founded in 2002 with the aim of bringing research into industrial products by cooperating with firms as well as with public and private research institutions.

DIATHEVA today is focused on the development, production and marketing of new and innovative products (antibodies, recombinant proteins, immunoassays and SNPs detection kits) for diagnostics, research and therapeutic applications in the field of Cancer, Microbial Infection and Pharmacogenetics.

DIATHEVA has got a **GMP** authorized facility designed for the manufacture of APIs for pre-clinical and clinical trial studies with a special emphasis on new immunogens against HIV and other microbial pathogens. **DIATHEVA** has been the first facility in Italy authorised by Italian Medicinal Agency (AIFA) able to provides GMP service on-demand. **DIATHEVA** is ISO 9001 /UNI EN ISO 9001:2008 certified company