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**PRESS RELEASE**

**SOL Group: New strategic partnership with ITOP OFFICINE ORTOPEDICHE, as part of its activity in Home Care, in which it operates through VIVISOL.**

**Acquisition of a 51% stake in ITOP S.p.A., a leading company in Italy in the design and production of custom-made aids, prosthesis and orthosis, founded and developed thanks to the fifty-year experience of Francesco Mattogno, the true "soul" of the Company.**

**The SOL Group consolidates its specialist skills and extends them into innovative sectors to make cutting-edge technological services available to patients.**

The SOL Group - multinational operating not only in the technical, industrial and medical gases sector, but also in the home care sector through companies bearing the "VIVISOL" brand - announces that it has acquired through Airsol s.r.l., a company wholly owned by SOL S.p.A., 51% of ITOP S.p.A. Officine Ortopediche, a company that has been operating for 45 years in the design, production, research and innovation of ortho-prosthetic devices for serious orthopedic and neuromuscular pathologies.

This new operation further strengthens the SOL Group's presence in the orthopaedic technology sector, following the investment made last May by the subsidiary Il Point s.r.l. doubling the exhibition space of its point of sale and the construction of a new orthopaedic workshop in Verona.

Founded and developed thanks to the fifty years of experience of Francesco Mattogno, ITOP is the Italian leader in the sector and boasts a team of 165 professionals, including engineers, orthopaedic technicians, occupational therapists and specialized operators. Based in Palestrina (Rome), in the financial year of 2021 the ITOP Group recorded a consolidated turnover of over 20 million euros.

The acquisition was finalized at market prices in line with similar transactions.

Aldo Fumagalli Romario President and CEO of the SOL Group commented: *"The SOL Group continues its diversification strategy in sectors synergistic to those in which it already operates, those with high specialization and technological content, to expand the range of products and services to their patients in the healthcare sector. We are happy to start a new development adventure thanks to the partnership with Francesco Mattogno, a successful entrepreneur, and his team of engineers and orthopaedic technicians, with the aim of consolidating and renewing the offer of products and services in the Italian market of orthopaedics"*.

Francesco Mattogno, President and CEO of ITOP S.p.A. Officine Ortopediche, declare: *"After 52 years of experience in the ortho-prosthetic sector, 44 years from the foundation of my company and the great results obtained in the field of Research and Technological Innovation, I have decided to give continuity to what has already been achieved in recent years by entrusting myself to a reality already rooted in the healthcare sector with the perspective of continuous growth and an increasingly entrepreneurial development "*

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**SOL Group**

SOL is an Italian multinational group listed on the Milan Stock Exchange, which operates in Europe, Turkey, Morocco, India, Brazil and China in two distinct prevailing sectors: the production, applied research and marketing of technical, pure and medicinal gases (Technical Gases Area) and healthcare at home (Home Care Area), as well as in biotechnologies and in the production of energy from renewable sources.

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