The Board of Directors has approved the Third Quarter Report 2005 results

SOL GROUP: the Board of Directors has approved the Third Quarter Report 2005 results, prepared according to IAS/IFRS accounting standards. In order to obtain a correct comparison with the previous year figures, the Third Quarter 2004 has been converted into IAS/IFRS.

Consolidated sales € 258,9 ml, +8% on the same period of 2004 (€ 239,7 ml at 30/09/04) Gross Operating Margin of € 59,4 ml, (+2% compared with € 58,2 ml at 30/09/04), Cash Flow of € 42,7 ml (+4.5% compared with € 40,8 ml at 30/09/04) and capital expenditures of € 49,2 ml (€ 40,1 ml at 30/09/04)

Strong increase of consolidated sales (+8% on the same period of 2004) and good performance of gross operating profit, equal to 22,9% on sales. Due to the increase of the depreciation costs, the net operating profit of **€ 29,7 ml**, equal to 11,5% on sales (€ 30,2 ml at 30/09/04) and net profit of **€ 14,2 ml**, equal to 5.5% on sales, (€ 14,6 ml at 30/09/04) are slightly decreasing vs. Third Quarter 2004.

The strong capital expenditures for the construction of three new plants in Belgium, Slovenia and Macedonia produced a slightly increase in the net debt, equal to **€ 84,7 ml** (€ 75,2 ml at 31/12/04). Good financial position with the net debt / equity ratio equal to 0.35.

These are the highlights specified in the Third Quarter 2005 results, approved 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 multinational group of *43* companies, with *1,500* employees, involved in the area of technical gases and home-care assistance, operating in *15* European countries.

The excellent growth of sales is due to the strong development on sales abroad (**+15.3%**) and to the good trend of the activity in Italy (**+4.9%**) despite of the unfavourable macroeconomic scenario and the continuing great increase of the energy costs.

In comparison to the 30/09/04, the technical gases business increased the sales by **5.4%**, while the home-care business, in which the Group operates through VIVISOL, by **16%**.

The capital expenditures of the first nine months of 2005 equal to € **49.2** ml, which will significantly improve the SOL Group production capacity, confirm the trend to development and to the European expansion. In August 2005 went into operation the new ASU plant in Jesenice (Slovenia).

"We consider positive the results achieved in these nine months of 2005" affirmed Marco Annoni, Vice-President of SOL S.p.A. *"The results show a significant growth and good profitability, despite of the lasting uncertain climate which continue to characterize the economic contest, the increasing of the energy costs and the considerable efforts needed to the construction and the start-up of new ASU plants."*

"In the year 2005", concluded SOL Chairman Aldo Fumagalli Romario, *"we expect to consolidate the increasing trend of turnover and to confirm the profitability of the Group."*

Monza, November 11, 2005