



SIAS – SOCIETA' INIZIATIVE AUTOSTRADALI E SERVIZI S.p.A.

Turin, 14 March 2005

PRESS RELEASE

2004 ANNUAL REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS

- 2004 annual report and consolidated accounts approved today
- Annual general meeting convened for shareholder approval of financial statements and proposed dividend

The Board of Directors of SIAS S.p.A. met today to examine both the company's and the consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2004:

- "gross operating margin" (**EBITDA**) increased by EUR 33.3 million (+ **16%**)
- "income from motorway operations" (+ 19.2 million) and "production by the technology sector" (+ 14 million of EUR)
- "**net profit for the year**" increased by EUR 9.3 million (+ **16%**)

GROUP PROFIT AND LOSS

The main components of the 2004 income statement (compared with those for 2003) can be summarized as follows:

<i>(values in EUR millions)</i>	2004	2003	Changes
Revenues from motorway operations	350.0	330.8	19.2
Production of technology sector	39.0	25.0	14.0
Production of construction sector	92.9	87.1	5.8
Other revenues	13.1	12.7	0.4
Operating costs	(258.0)	(251.9)	(6.1)
Gross operating margin (EBITDA)	237.0	203.7	33.3
Depreciation/amortization and provisions	(125.7)	(122.1)	(3.6)
Use of maintenance funds	53.7	54.4	(0.7)
Operating result (EBIT)	165.0	136.0	29.0
Financial income	7.2	7.6	(0.4)
Financial expense	(14.4)	(13.3)	(1.1)
Adjustments to the value of financial assets	(0.3)	(0.2)	(0.1)
Balance of financial operations	(7.5)	(5.9)	(1.6)
Extraordinary income	2.0	10.0	(8.0)
Extraordinary expense	(0.9)	(2.8)	1.9
Pre-tax result	158.6	137.3	21.3
Income taxes	(62.4)	(55.0)	(7.4)
Net profit including minority interests	96.2	82.3	13.9
Minority interests	(28.4)	(23.8)	(4.6)
Net profit for the year	67.8	58.5	9.3

The significant **improvement** in **EBITDA** (+ EUR 33.3 million or **+16%**) reflects the positive growth trends expressed by the three sectors of Group activity in 2004; in particular:

- “*revenues from motorway operations*” (+ EUR 19.2 million, equal to + 5.8%) benefited from increases in both tolls and traffic volumes, particularly for the “heavy traffic” component. These revenues also benefited from an increase in royalties from the service areas as a result of the renegotiation of the royalties on fuel with some oil companies;
- “*production of the technology sector*” increased by EUR 14 million due to a significant increase in activity by Sinelec S.p.A. and SSAT S.p.A., as well as the consolidation of the “production” by Euroimpianti Electronic S.p.A., effective as of 2004;
- “*production of the construction sector*” increased by EUR 6 million due to increased activity by ABC S.p.A. (and by its merged subsidiary LICIS S.p.A.) on behalf of the motorway companies of the Group as their investment plans advanced;
- “*operating costs*” for the period totalled EUR 258 million; the slight increase in this item, if compared to the significant increase in income, reflects the Group's efforts to streamline operations;
- “*depreciation/amortization and allocations*” reflect, for the motorway concessionaires, the amount foreseen in the financial plans annexed to their respective concession agreements;
- “*extraordinary income/expense, net*” in the previous year benefited from a capital gain on the disposal of shareholdings equal to EUR 8.2 million.

For the above reasons, the “*net profit for the year*”, equal to **EUR 67.8 million**, increased by 9.3 million (**+15.9%**) over 2003.

GROUP FINANCIAL RESULTS

The Group net financial position at 31 December 2004 showed net indebtedness of EUR 283.7 million, which included EUR 84 million in medium/long-term loans guaranteed by the State.

The main components of the 2004 financial results (compared with those for 2003) can be summarized as follows:

(values in EUR millions)	31/12/2004	31/12/2003	Changes
Cash and cash equivalents	54.8	94.8	(40.0)
Short-term bank debt and other lenders	(96.3)	(63.3)	(33.0)
Short-term balance	(41.5)	31.5	(73.0)
Other non-current financial assets	55.4	35.5	19.9
Medium/long term bank debt and other lenders	(297.6)	(297.6)	-
Net financial position	(283.7)	(230.6)	(53.1)



The **cash flow** generated during the year, equal to **EUR 173 million**, was utilized for **capital expenditure** to expand the **motorway infrastructure** of the Group (which **increased** by **EUR 112 million**) and to **acquire equity interests** for a total value of **EUR 32.2 million**. The parent company also paid out a total of **EUR 33.2 million** in **dividends** (related to 2003 earnings) and in **advance dividends** (related to 2004 earnings).

The **debt/equity ratio** at year-end was **0.40x**.

Regarding the **parent company SIAS S.p.A.**, the **2004 income statement** shows a **net profit** of **EUR 40.7 million**, generated primarily by “income from equity investments” from its subsidiaries SALT S.p.A. and SSAT S.p.A..

The **financial position** at 31 December 2004 showed a **positive cash balance** of **EUR 1.3 million**, (left over after the distribution of the advance dividend for a total value of EUR 16.6 million, paid by the company in December 2003); additional cash will arise from **EUR 21 million** dividends payment, related to 2004 results, made by the subsidiaries.

The Board of Directors has convened the annual general meeting for 29 April 2005 (1st call) and 6 May 2005 (2nd call), in which the distribution of a **dividend of EUR 0,13 per share will be proposed**, for a total of EUR 16,6 million.

The dividend - in conformity with the directives of Borsa Italiana S.p.A. - may be made payable from 12 May 2005 (in that case the shares will be quoted ex-dividend from 9 May 2005, on presentation of coupon no. 6) if the shareholders approve the financial statements on 29 April 2005 (1st call), or from 19 May 2005 (in which case the shares will be quoted ex-dividend from 16 May 2005, on presentation of the aforesaid coupon) if the shareholders approve the financial statements on 6 May 2005 (2nd call).

The total amount of the **dividend** for 2004 – considering the advance of EUR 0.13 per share paid in December 2004 – would be equal to **EUR 0,26** per share, for a total of EUR 33,2 million.

Bruno Binasco
Chairman

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