

BIESSE S.p.A.: SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING APPROVES RESULTS FOR 2003 AND DIVIDEND DISTRIBUTION

Pesaro 29 April 2004 - Today, in Pesaro, the Ordinary Shareholders' Meeting of Biesse S.p.A., a company listed on the STAR Segment of the Italian Stock Exchange, approved the Financial Statements for 2003, there being present 60.234% of the shareholders. Specifically, the Financial Statements of the Parent Company Biesse S.p.A., closed on 31 December 2003, showed revenues down by 6.6% compared to those of 2002 (€221.3 million versus €236.9 million), which is, obviously, a consequence of the general economic slowdown in the company's own business sector.

Gross operating profit, in spite of the abundant efforts made in limiting the fixed and variable costs, dropped by 68% compared to 2002, settling at €6.3 million (2.8% of the value of production), while operating loss was €0.9 million, versus an operating profit of €13 million at 31 December 2002.

Certainly, the heaviest impact on the result for 2003 of Biesse S.p.A. was the final and total sale of the Austrian company Schelling Anlangenbau GmbH, which took place in December 2003. Overall, the effects of this operation on the accounts of Biesse S.p.A. amounted to €45.1 million of extraordinary charges which, together with other extraordinary items such as provisions to reserves and write downs of financial assets, led to a net loss after taxes of €47.4 million.

Regarding the Consolidated Financial Statements, revenues decreased to €306.7 million (-17.3% compared to 2002), with a gross operating profit that dropped to €8.2 million (2.6% on the value of production). Compared to the positive figure for 2002 (€8 million) the operating result for the year ended 31 December 2003 was a negative amount of €5.9 million. Due to the effects of the extraordinary items described above, the consolidated net loss after taxes was €41.2 million compared to a loss of €5.7 million for 2002.

As a result of the negative financial effects on ordinary operations, net financial position at 31 December 2003 was negative for €106.7, an increase of €20.7 million compared to 31 December 2002. At the end of Q1 2004, the negative net financial position improved significantly and decreased to €91.2 million. Despite the negative results for the year in question, the Shareholders' Meeting of Biesse S.p.A. has, in any case, passed a Resolution to distribute a dividend to the shareholders of €0.09 per share, gross of taxes, which will be paid as of 15 July 2004, ex coupon No. 3 of 12 July 2004. The dividend payment will be made using some available distributable reserves of the Parent Company.

The Biesse Group operates in the market of machinery and systems involved in processing wood, glass and stone.

The company offers modular solutions that range from the design of turnkey systems for large furniture manufacturers to individual automatic machines and workstations for small- and medium-sized companies, to the design and sale of individual high-tech components.

Thanks to its orientation towards innovation and research, Biesse can develop products and modular solutions that can meet the varied needs of a broad customer base.



Press Release



As a multinational with production plants in Italy and China, the Biesse Group markets its products through a network of subsidiaries and 18 branch offices located in strategic markets.

The branch offices ensure specialized after-sales service to the customers, while also developing and carrying out feasibility studies and market research aimed at developing new products.

The Biesse Group has a staff of 1,866 people distributed over its seven manufacturing sites located in Pesaro, Bergamo, Turin, Alfonsine, Anzola and Lugo (Italy), Dongguan (China) and its branch offices in Europe, North America, Asia and Oceania.

