

Press release

With reference to recent press news, G.I.M. SpA and S.M.I. SpA confirm their precedent communications about the brass activity disposal. Negotiations are still in progress and, at present, it is impossible to foresee their outcome neither referring timing nor formalities.

With reference to their merger, G.I.M. SpA and S.M.I. SpA recall that the G.I.M. Syndicate Agreement provides that its Parties will do their “best efforts” in order to deliberate and execute such a merger within 18 months from February 2005, the “effective date” of “G.I.M. Syndicate Agreement”.

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This press release is available at the Companies websites, www.gim.it and www.smi.it, where additional information may also be obtained.

Firenze, October 3rd, 2005