

## **Press Release**

## S.M.I. – Società Metallurgica Italiana S.p.A

ABI Code 107673 - www.smi.it

This press release is being issued to comply with the regular reporting requirement set forth in a Consob letter dated April 14, 2004.

At November 30, 2005, the **Group's net indebtedness** totaled  $\mathfrak{S}$ 97.5 million, or  $\mathfrak{S}$ 2.8 million more than a month earlier. A further rise in the price of copper is the main reason for this increase.

## **Consolidated Financial Position of the Group**

(in thousands of euros)	at 11/30/05	at 10/31/05	at 6/30/05	at 12/31/04
Short-term bank debt	244,194	217,731	199,999	516,482
Medium- and long-term bank debt	481,682	482,332	486,643	202,319
Loans payable to unconsolidated Group companies	16,051	16,475	16,669	6,289
Total indebtedness	741,927	716,538	703,311	725,090
Liquid assets	(143,462)	(150,820)	(168,842)	(74,443)
Loans receivable from unconsolidated Group companie	(920)	(960)	(971)	(1,539)
Total liquid assets and loans receivable	(144,382)	(151,780)	(169,813)	(75,982)
Net financial position	597,545	564,758	533,498	649,108

The above amounts are net of factoring transactions that involved the assignment without recourse of trade receivables totaling €49.1 million at the end of November 2005, €44.6 million at the end of October 2005, €7.7 million at the end of June 2005 and €46.6 at the end of December 2004.

As part of a series of financial transactions carried out to channel the funds generated by the G.I.M. S.p.A. capital increase to the operating companies, G.I.M. S.p.A. provided a €130-million subordinated stockholder loan to S.M.I. S.p.A.

The Group's bank debt includes a medium-term financing facility provided to KM Europa Metal AG by a group of banks that includes Mediobanca, whose share of the facility is €50 million. Mediobanca is a stockholder of G.I.M. S.p.A. and is a party to the G.I.M. Stockholder Agreement, with an interest equal to 2.69% of the common shares.

At the end of November 2005, about 92% of available bank facilities had been drawn down.

All social security and tax payments have been made on time.

With regard to commercial obligations, accounts payable totaled €1.7 million.

## Net Financial Position of S.M.I. S.p.A., the Group's Parent Company

(in thousands of euros)	at 11/30/05	at 10/31/05	at 6/30/05	at 12/31/04
Short-term bank debt	120	120	110	62,242
Medium- and long-term bank debt	684	684	783	<i>783</i>
Short-term loans payable to the controlling company	13,066	13,393	13,465	3,620
Total indebtedness	13,870	14,197	14,358	66,645
Liquid assets	(9,946)	(5,188)	(192)	(8,443)
Loans receivable from subsidiaries and affiliate	(14,986)	(14,928)	(14,372)	(42,437)
Total liquid assets and loans receivable	(24,932)	(20,116)	(14,564)	(50,880)
Net financial position	(11,062)	(5,919)	(206)	15,765
Subordinated stockholder loan from G.I.M. S.p.A.	130,000	130,000	130,000	0

\* \* \*

This press release is available at the Company website, <u>www.smi.it</u>, where additional information may also be obtained.

Florence, December 30, 2005

S.M.I. – Società Metallurgica Italiana S.p.A