

Biesse takes over the tool division of Diamut S.r.l.

The company specialises in designing and producing diamond tools for processing glass and natural and synthetic stones and will allow Biesse to bolster its Glass and Marble Division and expand the control of strategic technologies.

Pesaro, 21 December 2001 - Biesse, the Pesaro-based company that has been listed for trading in the Star segment of the Italian stock exchange since 22 June of this year and is the world's fourth-ranked producer of machinery and systems for working wood, glass and marble, signed an agreement late yesterday for the acquisition of the entire line of business of Diamut Srl.

Diamut Srl is a company based in Lugo di Romagna (in the province of Ravenna – Italy) that has 17 years of specialised experience in designing and producing diamond tools for processing glass and natural and synthetic stones.

The value of the takeover has been estimated at a range of L12,35 billion to L13.65 billion and will be finalised upon completion of the audit being conducted on the company.

The Diamut line of business acquired by Biesse has a staff of about 44 people. Expected results for the 2001 financial year include a L12 billion turnover and an EBIT exceeding L3 billion. A world-renowned company, Diamut is a leading operator in the market of diamond tool technology.

This acquisition will allow Biesse to bolster its Glass and Marble Division by integrating its machine tool production and its workcenters through the control of a fundamental element for its range of offers to its customers and through its direct control of a strategic technological element. The acquisition of the Mechatronics Division to support the Wood and Glass & Marble Divisions was also part of this strategy.

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

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

Thanks to its orientation towards innovation and research, over the years Biesse has perfected a highly efficient manufacturing process capable of developing products and modular solutions that can meet the varied needs of a broad customer base.

A multinational with production plants in Italy and Austria, the Biesse Group markets its products through a network of subsidiaries and 19 branch offices located in strategic markets. The branch offices ensure specialised 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 about 2,200 distributed among its six manufacturing sites located in Pesaro, Bergamo, Alfonsine (RA), Turin, Schwarzach and Altsch (Austria) and its branch offices in Europe, North and South America, Asia and Australia.

The Company's half year results

The value of production was L382.6 billion in the first half of 2001, up 22% compared with the period January to June 2000. In terms of profitability, gross operating profit was L28.9 billion, up 11.4% compared with the same period last year (L26.0 billion) and accounting for 7.6% of the value of production. Operating profit also improved, reaching L18.3 billion (4.8% of the value of production) and showing an increase of 7.8% compared with last year.

