



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Biesse: orders in the Wood Division grow by 18% in the first half 2001**

*Pesaro, 30 July 2001* – Following release of the quarterly figures (April to June 2001) published by Acimall (Builders Association) last 28 July 2001 for the wood processing machinery sector which showed 24% losses in purchase orders (and this after a 7.2% drop in the period from January to March 2001), Biesse – the Pesaro based company listed in the STAR segment of Italian Stock Exchange since 22 June and 4<sup>th</sup> leading producer in the world for wood processing machinery – has announced that it recorded positive figures, going against the current trends.

The Pesaro company has acquired more orders in the period from January to June 2001, representing a 18% increase compared with the corresponding period last year: L206 billion at 30 June 2001 against L174 billion at 30 June 2000.

The Wood Division at Biesse S.p.A represents 60% of total Group sales.

***Biesse operates in the market of machinery and systems for wood, glass and marble processing. 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.*

*As a multinational organisation with plants located in Italy and Austria, the Biesse Group sells and markets its products through a network of subsidiary companies 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 2,069 distributed among its five manufacturing sites located in Pesaro, Bergamo, Turin, Schwarzach (Austria), Altagh (Austria) and its branch offices in Europe, North and South America, and Asia.*

***Pro-forma 2000 information about the Company:***

*For the year 2000, the value of the production was L683 billion, increasing by 26.5% from 1999.*

*In terms of profitability, the gross operating profit in 2000 was L87 billion, representing 12.8% of the value of production, up compared with the previous year, when it amounted to L63 billion and accounted for 11.6% of the value of production. Also up from last year was operating profit, which increased from L44.5 billion in 1999 (8.2% of the value of the production ) to L67 billion in 2000 (9.8% of the value of the production ). Net Profit has nearly doubled, growing from L17 billion to some L32 billion in 2000.*

**For further information:**

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