



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Biesse approves the financial statements for the first half of 2001 and passes a buyback resolution**

**Biesse, one of the world's leading players in the market of machinery and systems for working wood, glass and marble, closed the first six months with a value of production of L382.6 billion (+22%) and a gross operating profit up 11.4% (from L26 to 28.9 billion). It also approved a buyback.**

*Pesaro, 27 September 2001* – The Board of Directors of Biesse, the Pesaro company that has been listed for trading in the Star segment of the Italian stock exchange since last 22 June, approved the financial statements for the first half of 2001.

At the same time, the Board also authorised Managing Director Roberto Selci to call the Shareholders' Meeting to deliberate on the buyback of the company's stock, up to a maximum of 10%. This plan will be implemented in order to minimise stock volatility, back its volume and demonstrate the management's confidence in the future prospects of the company.

The first half of 2001 showed a value of production of L382.6 billion, up 22% compared to the period of January-June 2000.

The gross operating profit came to L28.9 billion, up 11.4% compared to the same period last year (L26.0 billion), with a 7.6% incidence on the value of production.

Operating profit also rose to L18.3 billion (4.8% of the value of production), marking a 7.8% increase compared to last year, when it came to L17.1 billion.

Pre-tax results showed a loss of L1.5 billion. This performance was affected mainly by the company's decision to enter all the costs borne for listing company stock for trading on the Milan stock exchange (L12.2 billion) on the income statement during the first financial year following this operation.

The net financial position has improved compared to the figures for 31 March 2001 and 31 December 2000, due to the financial flow arising from stock-listing on the Milan exchange. This figure came to about L155 billion, net of stock-listing charges.

*"The performance of the first six months of the period underscores and confirms the growth of the Group in terms of volume,"* declared Piero Valentini, General Manager of Biesse S.p.A. He added, *"However, the slowdown in the US economy has affected the income performance of the Group, generating a slight downswing in profit – as a percentage but not in absolute terms – compared to last year. Nevertheless, we have noted encouraging signs from EU countries (30% increase in turnover), the countries in the former Soviet Union and the Far East."*

With regard to the distribution of revenue within the four divisions comprising the Group (Wood, Glass and Marble, Mechatronics, and Systems), there has been a strong increase in turnover for the Wood Division (+32%), significant development in sales also for the Glass and Marble Division (+39%), and important growth in the Mechatronics Division (+58%) thanks to the gradual opening of the "non-captive" market. Instead, the Systems Division showed a downswing (-19%), due to greater exposure to the recession in the North American economy and also when compared with the year 2000, which was marked by exponential growth.



*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 2,165 distributed among its five manufacturing sites located in Pesaro, Bergamo, Turin, Schwarzach and Altach (Austria) and its branch offices in Europe, North and South America, and Asia.*

**For additional information:**

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