

**Biesse: Draft financial statements for 2001 approved**

**The Board of Directors of the Pesaro-based company, one of the world's leading players in the market of machinery and systems for processing wood, glass and marble, approved the results for the year ended 31 December 2001.**

*Pesaro, 15 March 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 draft financial statements for 2001.

**Consolidated Financial Statements at December 31, 2001 show sales revenues of EUR 353.8 million**, up 2.8% compared to EUR 344.0 million in 2000.

**Gross operating profit was EUR 25.4 million**, down by 43.5% compared to EUR 45.0 million in the previous year, settling at **6.7% of the value of production**. **Operating profit was EUR 13.9 million (3.7% of the value of production)** compared with 34.6 million euros achieved in the previous financial year.

**Net results** in 2001 showed a **net loss of EUR 6.6 million**. This performance was affected mainly by the Company's decision to enter all the costs borne for listing company stocks for trading on the Milan Stock Exchange (EUR 7.3 million) as part of the income statement for 2001, as well as deciding to allocate EUR 3.6 million for a restructuring fund, to offset expected charges linked to the rationalisation process of Group companies, a need that arose in the light of the shifting international scenario.

With regard to the distribution of revenue within the four divisions comprising the Group (Wood, Glass and Marble, Mechatronics, and Systems), the following are to be noted:

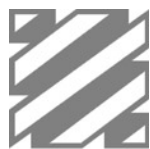
- Wood Division	EUR 229,0 million	(+ 7,1%)
- Glass and Marble Division	EUR 52,8 million	(+ 9,1%)
- Mechatronics Division	EUR 21,8 million	(+ 44,3%)
- Systems Division	EUR 64.7 million	(- 16,6%)

**Net indebtedness** at December 31, 2001 was **EUR 85.9 million**, down from EUR 93.9 million at December 31, 2000.

The Board of Directors has moreover resolved to propose to the Shareholders Meeting a dividend distribution of EUR 0.09 per share to shareholders, to be paid on 18 July 2002 (with detachment date on 15 July 2002).

*"The performance of 2001 underscores and confirms the slight growth of the Group in terms of volume,"* declared Piero Valentini, General Manager of Biesse S.p.A. He added, *"The economic slowdown, especially in the US market, has affected the income performance of the Group, generating a downswing in results compared to the previous year. the encouraging signals for 2002 we read from the US economy and other important markets, and a renewed corporate focus on structure cost reduction will enable the reference sector, and Biesse in particular, to continue its historic growth and expectation trend".*

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## Press Release



*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 20 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 eight manufacturing sites located in Pesaro, Bergamo, Turin, Alfonsine (RA), Lugo di Romagna (RA), Anzola dell'Emilia (BO), Schwarzach (Austria) and Altagh (Austria) and its branch offices in Europe, North and South America, Asia, and Oceania.*

