



Press release

2 July 2002

SABAF

Sales growth at 23% in the first half 2002

Pre-end group sales significantly increasing for the Sabaf group in the first half of 2002. The turnover has reached 52.1 mn euro, up 23.2% compared to 42.3 mn euro in the first half 2001.

The growth, completely organic, is due to higher volumes and to a higher value product mix.

“The demand for Sabaf component continued to be strong also in the second quarter of the year, and the low profile macroeconomic picture did not prevent us to reach our targets - quotes Angelo Bettinzoli, Managing Director of Sabaf S.p.A. – The growth rate far higher than the reference market trend confirm, on one side, the further competitiveness that the Group has conquered in Europe and, on the other side, the higher and higher penetration on extra European Markets”.

For the full year the group confirms the estimate of a growth in sales by around 18% and percentage profitability levels in slight increase compared to 2001. Such forecasts consider a macroeconomic scenario unchanged compared to the first half. Should the economic situation vary, actual result might differ.

SABAF was founded in the early '50s and has grown constantly to become the leading manufacturer in Italy and one of the top manufacturers world-wide of components for cookers and domestic gas-cooking appliances. Production consists of three main product lines: valves, thermostats and burners, all used in gas-cooking appliances. The Company's know-how, production flexibility and its ability to offer a wide range of components, often custom-made for individual manufacturers of cookers, hobs and built-in ovens in line with the individual specifications of the various reference markets, are fundamental points of strength for SABAF. This is a highly specialised sector, where demand is in constant evolution, increasingly geared to products that can guarantee absolute reliability and safety. The Company has around 450 employees, operating through the Parent Company SABAF S.p.A. and two subsidiaries: Faringosi Hinges, a leading manufacturer of oven and dishwasher hinges, and Sabaf do Brasil, producer of burners for the South American market. Sabaf also has a presence in China with a representative office in Shanghai.

Sabaf has been quoted on the electronic trading system of the Italian Stock Exchange since 24 March 1998 and in April 2001 it joined the STAR (Segmento Titoli con Alti Requisiti - the segment for securities with high requisites).