



PRESS RELEASE

ASCOPIAVE: AscoEnergy is the newly-created company in the field of electric energy production using photovoltaic plants.

Ascopiave's Board of Directors has given a mandate to Chairman Gildo Salton to incorporate a new company operating in the field of producing electric energy from photovoltaic sources using large-sized plants (from a few hundred kW up to several MW each).

Ascopiave will be a majority shareholder of the new company AscoEnergy, with no less than 70%, while the remaining 30% will be held by Bioenergy Italia, a company which is already active in the photovoltaic sector, with a series of plants being developed. The company is managed by Engineer Iuri Merlini. The company will be incorporated during this week.

This new operation will allow Ascopiave to strengthen its commitment to the photovoltaic sector, and therefore to the production of energy from renewable sources, pursuing the development objectives dedicated to new systems for the production and supply of energy in an efficient, energy-saving framework.

"This operation – commented Gildo Salton, the Chairman of Ascopiave – allows us to continue with our development plan in collateral sectors which are closely integrated with our core business. AscoEnergy will cover the whole of Italy: we have already identified a number of major projects to carry out in the south; as soon as the bureaucratic and approval procedures are complete, we will provide details on these projects".

The incorporation of the company comes two months after the announcement, also in the photovoltaic sector, of the partnership agreement between Ascopiave and Mitsubishi Electric to provide turnkey solutions on the domestic and industrial markets in the Veneto and Friuli Venezia Giulia regions.

Ascopiave availed itself of the assistance of Lawyer Gianfranco Veneziano from Studio Bonelli Erede Pappalardo for this transaction, while Bioenergy Italia was assisted by Lawyer Simone De Carli from NCTM Law Firm.

Ascopiave Group operates in the natural gas sector, chiefly in distribution and sale to end customers. Ascopiave directly handles distribution together with its subsidiary ASM DG. They currently hold direct consignments and licenses for providing service in 155 municipalities. Ascopiave and ASM DG own the distribution network they manage, which extends over 6,600 kilometres and serves a pool of users of more than 1 million residents. Ascotrade, a subsidiary of Ascopiave, is responsible for the sale of natural gas and serves more than 350,000 final consumers. In Q4 2007 Ascopiave acquired 49% of Estenergy, a gas-selling company of Acegas-APS Group serving about 240,000 customers, and 49% of ASM Set, a sales company of ASM Rovigo Group (24,000 customers). On 15 July 2008 Ascopiave acquired Edigas



Esercizio Distribuzione Gas, a gas distribution company, and Edigas Due, a company which sells gas in the market where Edigas Esercizio Distribuzione Gas operates. The companies hold 27 licences in as many municipalities of the Lombardia, Piemonte and Liguria regions, with more than 31,000 customers. Thanks to these recent acquisitions, Ascopiave has become one of the leading national players in the gas sector, in terms of both customer base and quantities of gas sold. Thanks to its leading role on the market, the Group has been operating as gas wholesaler and trader since 2007. Ascopiave has been listed on the STAR division of the Italian Stock Exchange since 12 December 2006.

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