



PRESS RELEASE

ASCOPIAVE: Negotiation for the acquisition of 49% of Veritas Energia S.p.A., already controlled jointly with Veritas S.p.A.

Ascopiave S.p.A., which already owns 51% of Veritas Energia S.r.l., has started a negotiation with Veritas S.p.A., owner of 49% of the shares of the subsidiary, for the acquisition of the entire share capital of Veritas Energia S.r.l..

Preliminarily, the possible operation has been announced to the Italian Anti-Trust Authority, pursuant to Law 287/90.

The Ascopiave Group operates in the natural gas sector, mainly in the distribution and sales sectors to end customers.

Thanks to its broad customer base and the quantity of gas sold, Ascopiave is currently one of the main operators in the industry at a national level.

The Group owns concession and direct assignments for the management of distribution activities in over 200 towns, supplying the service to a market segment of over 1 million residents through a distribution network which spreads over 8,600 kilometres.

The sale of natural gas is performed through different companies, some are controlled through a majority stake and others affiliated with 49% and 51% and on which the Group exercises a combined control with other members. Overall, the affiliate and subsidiary companies supply gas to more than 830,000 end clients.

Since 12 December 2006, Ascopiave has been quoted in the Star segment of the Italian Stock Exchange.

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