



PRESS RELEASE

ASCOPIAVE: Specialist agreement with IMI bank finalised.

Ascopiave today finalised the Specialist agreement with the IMI bank for the title listed in the Star segment.

The definition of the agreement follows the notice of transfer of the mandate to IMI bank on 15th December 2008, the date on which the financial institute began working as Market Maker.

With the definition of this mandate, Ascopiave looks forward to a profitable collaboration with IMI bank, one of the country's leading financial institutions.

Ascopiave Group operates in the natural gas sector, chiefly in distribution and sale to end customers. Ascopiave directly handles distribution together with some subsidiaries. They currently hold direct consignments and licenses for providing service in 182 municipalities. The Group owns the distribution network it manages, which extends over 7,350 kilometres and serves a pool of users of more than 1 million residents.

Ascotrade and Edigas Due, subsidiaries of Ascopiave, are responsible for the sale of natural gas and serve more than 380,000 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).

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 a 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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Pieve di Soligo, December 18, 2009