



For Immediate Release

SAES Getters: the Board of Directors approves first quarter 2006 results.

Quarterly consolidated sales equal to €42.8 million, up by 31.8% with respect to €32.4 million in the first quarter 2005 (+35.7% on a comparable consolidation basis¹).

Consolidated operating income up to €13.2 million from €6.9 million in the first quarter 2005.

Consolidated net income equal to €7.4 million compared with €4 million in the same quarter 2005.

(May 11, 2006, Milan - Italy) SAES Getters S.p.A. today announced that the Board of Directors approved consolidated results for the first quarter 2006 (January 1 – March 31).

For the first quarter ended March 31, 2006, **consolidated net sales** were €42.8 million compared with €32.4 million in the year-ago period, reflecting an increase by 31.8%. The rise on a comparable consolidation basis was equal to 35.7% including the effect of the sale of the subsidiary FST Consulting International, Inc. in July 2005 and the acquisition of the 35% shareholding in Nanjing SAES Huadong Getters Co. Ltd. in January 2006.

Consolidated operating income was equal to €13.2 million compared with €6.9 million in the first quarter 2005. Excluding non recurring items, consolidated operating income would have been equal to €4.2 million with respect to €7.5 million in the first quarter 2005.

Consolidated net income was €7.4 million compared with €4 million in the year-ago period. Excluding non recurring items, consolidated net income would have been equal to €8.2 million, compared with €4.4 million in the first quarter 2005. Net income per ordinary share and savings share was €0.3318 in the first quarter 2006 against €0.1804 in the year-ago period.

“We are very satisfied with quarterly revenues, achieved also thanks to particularly high sales for the semiconductor market, and with excellent results, above our expectations and really superior than the first quarter of last year that was not very brilliant” commented Dr. Massimo della Porta, Chief Executive Officer of the SAES Getters Group. “The trend of sales in all industrial markets in which we operate was positive, in particular of components used in the backlighting of liquid crystal displays. The only exception was related to the cathode ray tubes market, where the negative trend of the previous year has been continuing, requiring possible future rationalizations”, added Dr. Massimo della Porta. “Our expectations are positive for 2006, also thanks to the increase of sales of products in the advanced materials field.”

¹ It is to be recalled the sale of the subsidiary FST Consulting International, Inc. in July 2005 and the acquisition of the 35% shareholding in Nanjing SAES Huadong Getters Co. Ltd. in January 2006.

Information Displays Business Unit

Consolidated revenues of the Information Displays Business Unit were €26.8 million in the first quarter 2006, compared with €19 million in the same period one year-ago, representing an increase by 40.6% (+35.3% net of exchange rate effect).

In particular, net sales of the Cathode Ray Tubes Business Area decreased by 5.4% to €3.3 million from €3.7 million in the same period one year-ago (-11.7% on a comparable consolidation basis, including the effect of the acquisition of the 35% shareholding in Nanjing SAES Huadong Getters Co. Ltd. in January 2006). Revenues net of the exchange rate effect drop by 12.7% because of the reduction in the cathode ray tubes market. The exchange rate effect was positive by 7.3%.

Revenues of the Flat Panel Displays Business Area were €18.5 million with respect to €10.3 million in the first quarter 2005, reflecting an increase by 79.7%. The rise net of the exchange rate effect, equal to 75.3%, was due to a stronger demand of mercury dispensers for cold cathode lamps used as back-lighting of liquid crystal displays. The exchange rate effect was positive by 4.4%.

Gross profit for the Information Displays Business Unit grew to €8.8 million in the first quarter of 2006 against €1.5 million in the same period of 2005.

Operating income for the Information Displays Business Unit was equal to €4 million in the first quarter of 2006 compared with €3 million in the corresponding quarter of 2005. The growth was due to higher sales and a more favorable sales mix.

Industrial Applications Business Unit

Consolidated revenues of the Industrial Applications Business Unit grew by 17.1% to €15.6 million in the first quarter of 2006 from €13.3 million in the same period one year-ago (+11.9% net of exchange rate effect).

Revenues of the Lamps Business Area were €3.3 million with respect to €2.9 million in the first quarter 2005, reflecting an increase by 14.8%. Revenues grew because of higher sales of components for fluorescent lamps (+12.8%) and the positive exchange rate effect (+2%).

Revenues from the Electronic Devices Business Area rose by 6.2% to €3.2 million from €3 million in the first quarter 2005. The growth was due to slightly higher sales and the positive exchange rate effect.

Net sales of the Vacuum Systems and Thermal Insulation Business Area grew by 44.5% to €2.1 million with respect to €1.4 million in the same period of the previous year. The rise net of the exchange rate effect, equal to 41.7%, was due to higher sales of getter

pumps and getter products for particle accelerators and panels for thermal insulation. The exchange rate effect was positive by 2.8%.

Net sales of the Semiconductors Business Area were equal to €6.9 million compared with €5.9 million in the same period of 2005, reflecting an increase by 17.3% (+59% on a comparable consolidation basis, including the effect of the sale of the subsidiary FST Consulting International, Inc. in July 2005). The growth was due to higher sales of large gas purifiers, also thanks to an important order delivered in the quarter. The exchange rate effect was positive by 8%.

Gross profit for the Industrial Applications Business Unit was €6.4 million in the first quarter of 2006 compared with €5.4 million in the same period of 2005.

Operating income for the Industrial Applications Business Unit increased to €2.1 million in the first quarter of 2006 from €1.4 million in the corresponding quarter of 2005, mainly because of the rise of sales.

Advanced Materials Business Development Unit & Corporate Costs

Consolidated revenues of the Advanced Materials Business Development Unit were €0.4 million in the first quarter of 2006, thanks to sales of getter films for MEMS applications and crystals for laser applications. Sales were €0.1 million in the first quarter of 2005.

Operating corporate costs and operating costs for the Advanced Materials Business Development Unit in the first quarter of 2006 were €3.1 million, compared with €2.3 million in the year-ago period. To be noticed that in the first quarter 2006 some non recurring costs were charged with reference to personnel indemnities.

Consolidated gross profit was equal to €25.4 million in the first quarter 2006, compared with €16.8 million in the same quarter of 2005. Consolidated gross profit in terms of sales was 59.4% compared with 51.8% in the first quarter 2005.

Total operating expenses were €12.2 million against €10 million in the first quarter 2005.

Consolidated EBITDA was €16.3 million in the first quarter 2006 compared with €9.9 million in the same quarter of 2005. Consolidated EBITDA in terms of sales was 38.1% compared with 30.5% in the first quarter 2005.

Consolidated operating income grew to €13.2 million in the three months ended March 31, 2006 from €6.9 million in the year-ago period, mainly thanks to higher sales and a better sales mix. The R.O.S. (Return on Sales) ratio was equal to 30.8% in the first quarter 2006 compared with 21.4% in the same period of 2005.

Income taxes were €5.7 million in the three months ended March 31, 2006, compared with €5.5 million in the three months ended March 31, 2005. As a percentage of income before taxes, income taxes were 43.2% in the first quarter of 2006, compared with 46.6% in the first quarter of 2005. The decrease was mainly due to the different contribution of the economic results from the Group Companies.

Consolidated net income was €7.4 million in the first quarter 2006 compared with €4 million in the correspondent quarter of 2005.

The Group's **net financial position** increased to €88.4 million as of March 31, 2006, from €85.9 million as of December 31, 2005. Cash provided by operating activities, equal to €12.2 million, were partially used in expenditures of tangible fixed assets (€2.6 million) and the acquisition of the shareholding equal to 35% in Nanjing SAES Huadong Getters Co. Ltd. (€ million).

Business performance outlook

Expectations for 2006 are positive in particular with reference to the estimated ongoing growth in sales of components for liquid crystal displays, for which the Group timely increased its producing capacity in the Far East. On the opposite, the cathode ray tube market is expected to decrease because of the maturity of the business. The Company will evaluate possible rationalizations to face market scenarios.

Other industrial markets in which the Group operates should confirm slight growth rates.

The Group forecasts higher sales coming from the launch into the market of some products in the advanced materials field.

Pioneering the development of getter technology, the SAES Getters Group is the world leader in a variety of scientific and industrial applications where stringent vacuum conditions or ultra-pure gases are required. For 60 years its getter solutions have been supporting innovation in the information display and lamp industries, in technologies spanning from large vacuum power tubes to miniaturized silicon-based micromechanical devices, as well as in sophisticated high vacuum systems and in vacuum thermal insulation.

The Group also holds a leading position in ultra pure gas handling for the semiconductor and other hi-tech markets.

Starting in 2004, by leveraging the core competencies in special metallurgy and materials science, the SAES Getters Group has expanded its business into advanced material markets, with the introduction of new optical crystal, shape memory alloy and metalorganic precursor product lines.

A total production capacity distributed at 8 manufacturing plants across 3 continents, a worldwide-based sales & service network, over 800 employees allow the Group to combine multicultural skills and expertise to form a truly global enterprise.

SAES Getters is headquartered in the Milan area (Italy) and has been listed on the Italian Stock Exchange Market, STAR segment, since 1986.

More information is available at www.saesgetters.com

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Forward-Looking Statements

This news release contains forward-looking statements which are based upon current expectations and involve a number of risks and uncertainties. There are a number of important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in any forward-looking statements made by the Company. These factors include the Company's ability to introduce new products at planned costs and on planned schedules, the Company's ability to maintain key client relationships and the environments of the various economies in the countries the Company conducts business. The Company cautions that the foregoing list of important factors is not exclusive. The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly release the result of any revision to these forward-looking statements which may be made to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

- tables to follow -

SAES Getters S.p.A. and Subsidiaries - Consolidated Net Sales per Business Area

Thousands of euro (except %)

Business Area	2006 1 st qr.	2005 1 st qr.	Total difference (%)	Price-qty effect (%)	Exchange rate effect (%)
Cathode Ray Tubes	8,269	8,740	-5.4%	-12.7%	7.3%
Flat Panel Displays	18,497	10,294	79.7%	75.3%	4.4%
Subtotal Information Displays	26,766	19,034	40.6%	35.3%	5.3%
Lamps	3,328	2,899	14.8%	12.8%	2.0%
Electronic Devices	3,238	3,048	6.2%	2.1%	4.1%
Vacuum Systems and Thermal Insulation	2,051	1,419	44.5%	41.7%	2.8%
Semiconductors	6,943	5,918	17.3%	9.3%	8.0%
Subtotal Industrial Applications	15,560	13,284	17.1%	11.9%	5.2%
Subtotal Advanced Materials	428	110	289.1%	287.7%	1.4%
Total Net Sales	42,754	32,428	31.8%	26.6%	5.2%

Index:

Information Displays Business Unit	
Cathode Ray Tubes	Barium getters for cathode ray tubes
Flat Panel Displays	Getters and metal dispensers for flat panel displays
Industrial Applications Business Unit	
Lamps	Getters and metal dispensers used in discharge lamps and fluorescent lamps
Electronic Devices	Getters and metal dispensers for electron vacuum devices
Vacuum Systems and Thermal Insulation	Pumps for vacuum systems and products for thermal insulation
Semiconductors	Gas purifier systems for semiconductor industry and other industries and installations for the telecommunications industry
Advanced Materials Business Development Unit	
Advanced Materials	Getters for microelectronic and micromechanical systems, optical crystals, shape memory alloys and metalorganic precursors

SAES Getters S.p.A. and Subsidiaries - Consolidated Net Sales by Geographic Location of Customer

Thousands of euro

	2006 1 st qr.	2005 1 st qr.
Italy	238	140
Other EU and European countries	4,907	5,564
North America	4,089	5,470
Japan	10,123	9,030
Asia (excluding Japan)	22,361	11,632
Rest of the World	1,036	592
Total Net Sales	42,754	32,428

SAES Getters S.p.A. and Subsidiaries - Consolidated Income Statement

Thousands of euro

Three months ended March 31	2006	2005
Total net sales	42,754	32,428
Cost of sales	(17,370)	(15,629)
Gross profit	25,384	16,799
R&D expenses	(3,705)	(3,269)
Selling expenses	(4,064)	(3,456)
G&A expenses	(4,422)	(3,295)
Total operating expenses	(12,191)	(10,020)
Other income (expenses), net	(38)	166
Operating income	13,155	6,945
Interest and other financial income, net	398	317
Foreign exchange gains (losses), net	(459)	311
Income before taxes	13,094	7,573
Income taxes	(5,655)	(3,528)
Net income	7,439	4,045

SAES Getters S.p.A. and Subsidiaries - Consolidated Income Statement per Business Unit

Thousands of euro

	Information Displays		Industrial Applications		Advanced Materials & Corporate Costs	
	1 st qr. 2006	1 st qr. 2005	1 st qr. 2006	1 st qr. 2005	1 st qr. 2006	1 st qr. 2005
Total net sales	26,766	19,034	15,560	13,284	428	110
Cost of sales	(7,945)	(7,498)	(9,144)	(7,889)	(281)	(242)
Gross profit (loss)	18,821	11,536	6,416	5,395	147	(132)
Operating expenses and other income/expenses	(4,835)	(3,569)	(4,294)	(3,996)	(3,100)	(2,289)
Operating income (loss)	13,986	7,967	2,122	1,399	(2,953)	(2,421)

SAES Getters S.p.A. and Subsidiaries - Consolidated Income per Share

Euro

	2006 1 st qr.	2005 1 st qr.
Net income per ordinary share	0.3318	0.1804
Net income per savings share	0.3318	0.1804

SAES Getters S.p.A. and Subsidiaries – Consolidated Balance Sheet

Thousands of euro

	Mar 31, 2006	Dec 31, 2005
Property, plant and equipment, net	62,621	60,493
Intangible assets, net	5,306	2,695
Other non current assets	9,367	10,141
Current assets	155,702	151,069
Total Assets	232,996	224,398
Shareholders' equity	177,806	170,597
Non current liabilities	19,651	19,122
Current liabilities	35,539	34,679
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	232,996	224,398

SAES Getters S.p.A. and Subsidiaries - Consolidated Net Financial Position

Thousands of euro

	Mar 31, 2005	Dec 31, 2005
<i>Financial assets</i>		
Cash and banks	93,527	93,243
Other current assets	0	0
Total current assets	93,527	93,243
Total non current assets	0	0
Total financial assets	93,527	93,243
<i>Financial liabilities</i>		
Bank overdraft	1,074	2,798
Current portion of long term debt	257	257
Other current financial debt	369	893
Total current liabilities	1,700	3,948
Long term debt, net of current portion	3,434	3,434
Total non current liabilities	3,434	3,434
Total financial liabilities	5,134	7,382
Net financial position	88,393	85,861