



PRESS RELEASE

Board approves results of first quarter 2008

COFIDE GROUP: NET INCOME 5.4 MILLION EURO

Consolidated results as of March 31 2008

*Revenues € 1,202.8 million (+14.9%)
EBITDA € 114.4 million (113 million in first quarter 2007)
EBIT € 83 million (83.3 million in first quarter 2007)
Net income € 5.4 million (16.7million in first quarter 2007)*

*Aggregate net debt € 32 million (€ 30.5 million at December 31 2007)
Consolidated net debt € 1,567 million (€ 1,367.6 million at December 31 2007)
Total equity € 2,087.7 million (€ 2,095.2 million al December 31 2007)*

Today in Turin, under the Chairmanship of Mr Carlo De Benedetti, the Board of Directors of **COFIDE-Compagnia Finanziaria De Benedetti SpA** met to examine the results of the Group as of March 31 2008.

In the first three months of the year COFIDE reported **consolidated net income** of 5.4 million euro, down from 16.7 million in the same period of 2007.

Consolidated revenues for the first quarter of 2008 came in at 1,202.8 million euro, up by 14.9% from 1,047 million in the same period of 2007.

The **consolidated gross operating margin (EBITDA)** was 114.4 million euro, compared to 113 million in the first three months of 2007.

The **consolidated operating margin (EBIT)** in the first three months of the year was 83 million euro, in line with the result of the first three months of 2007 (83.3 million).

Consolidated net invested capital at March 31 2008 stood at 3,654.7 million euro, up from 3,462.8 million at December 31 2007.

At March 31 2008 the **consolidated net financial debt** of COFIDE amounted to 1,567 million euro (1,367.6 million at December 31 2007), resulting from aggregate net debt for COFIDE and its wholly owned financial subsidiary COFIDE International of 32 million (30.5 million at December 31 2007), a net financial surplus for CIR and CIR International of 72.8 million euro (112.3 million at December 31 2007) and total debt of the operating groups of 1,607.8 million euro (1,449.4 at December 31 2007). The change of 158.4 million was mainly due to the absorption of working capital and investments in new production capacity made by Sorgenia.

The **total shareholders' equity of the Group** at March 31 2008 stood at 2,087.7 million euro, compared to 2,095.2 million at December 31 2007. **Consolidated shareholders' equity** amounted to 678.8 million euro at March 31 2008, down from 692.7 million at December 31 2007.

At March 31 2008 the COFIDE Group had 12,821 **employees**, up from 12,450 at December 31 2007.

Regarding the evolution of the business of the COFIDE Group during the year, the economic performance of the controlled company CIR for the whole of financial year 2008 will depend on the evolution of the international financial market crisis, and how this affects the economic environment. As indicated in the comment on the operating groups active in the sectors most exposed to these negative trends, action has already been taken to combat the effects of the negative cycle.

The Board of Directors then verified to see whether the conditions existed for any of the Directors to be classified as independent, giving this qualification to Roger Abravanel, Giampaolo Brugnoli, Massimo Cremona, Joseph Oughourlian, Roberto Robotti and Paolo Riccardo Rocca.

The officer in charge of the preparation of the company's financial statements, Oliviero Maria Brega, then attested in accordance with the terms of paragraph 2 of Art.154-bis of the Finance Consolidation Act that the accounting figures given in this press release correspond to documented results and to the entries in the Company's books.

Turin, April 29 2008

CONTACTS

COFIDE SpA
EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND
PRESS OFFICE
Beppe Pescetto
Francesca Sagramoso
Tel.: +39 02 722701
www.cofide.it

COFIDE GROUP – CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

(in thousands of euro)

ASSETS	<i>31.03.2008</i>	<i>31.12.2007</i>	<i>31.03.2007</i>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	3,563,121	3,524,719	2,948,355
INTANGIBLE ASSETS	1,291,497	1,283,133	991,196
TANGIBLE ASSETS	1,489,197	1,473,973	1,124,898
INVESTMENT PROPERTY	19,966	20,109	18,714
INVESTMENTS IN COMPANIES VALUED AT EQUITY	290,130	280,554	230,812
OTHER EQUITY INVESTMENTS	11,831	11,885	9,283
OTHER RECEIVABLES	270,102	263,397	367,356
SECURITIES	96,753	97,037	98,323
DEFERRED TAXES	93,645	94,631	107,773
CURRENT ASSETS	2,911,882	2,999,031	2,893,188
INVENTORIES	191,493	203,967	205,510
CONTRACTED WORK IN PROGRESS	2,211	2,564	1,962
TRADE RECEIVABLES	1,080,373	1,070,273	906,561
OTHER RECEIVABLES	218,607	209,128	245,478
FINANCIAL RECEIVABLES	19,914	37,171	1,591
SECURITIES	370,921	328,566	695,270
AVAILABLE-FOR-SALE FINANCIAL ASSETS	358,209	420,374	430,325
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	670,154	726,988	406,491
ASSETS HELD FOR DISPOSAL	6,689	6,756	48,976
TOTAL ASSETS	6,481,692	6,530,506	5,890,519
<hr/>			
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	<i>31.03.2008</i>	<i>31.12.2007</i>	<i>31.03.2007</i>
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	2,087,677	2,095,196	2,081,718
SHARE CAPITAL	359,605	359,605	359,605
RESERVES	144,990	164,337	163,793
RETAINED EARNINGS (LOSSES)	168,749	136,397	147,941
NET INCOME FOR THE PERIOD	5,408	32,352	16,739
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY OF THE GROUP	678,752	692,691	688,078
MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	1,408,925	1,402,505	1,393,640
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	2,635,085	2,970,547	2,530,033
BONDS AND NOTES	767,262	1,189,672	1,169,860
OTHER BORROWINGS	1,519,877	1,431,060	1,003,373
OTHER PAYABLES	320	320	47
DEFERRED TAXES	145,539	146,940	153,567
PERSONNEL PROVISIONS	160,537	160,637	166,338
PROVISIONS FOR RISKS AND LOSSES	41,550	41,918	36,848
CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,758,930	1,464,763	1,243,010
BANK OVERDRAFTS	161,151	96,102	114,876
BONDS AND NOTES	387,445	--	--
OTHER BORROWINGS	115,951	116,106	113,173
TRADE PAYABLES	792,608	942,582	691,468
OTHER PAYABLES	237,140	247,145	276,318
PROVISIONS FOR RISKS AND LOSSES	64,635	62,828	47,175
LIABILITIES HELD FOR DISPOSAL	--	--	35,758
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	6,481,692	6,530,506	5,890,519

COFIDE GROUP – CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

(in thousands of euro)

	<i>01/01-31/03 2008</i>	<i>01/01-31/03 2007</i>
SALES REVENUES	1,202,788	1,047,039
CHANGE IN INVENTORIES	980	1,881
COSTS FOR PURCHASE OF GOODS	(716,325)	(597,336)
COSTS FOR SERVICES	(196,909)	(182,854)
PERSONNEL COSTS	(175,582)	(157,046)
OTHER OPERATING INCOME	13,481	15,758
OTHER OPERATING COSTS	(20,849)	(18,540)
ADJUSTMENTS TO THE VALUE OF INVESTMENTS VALUED AT EQUITY	6,784	4,144
AMORTIZATION, DEPRECIATION AND WRITE-DOWNS	(31,414)	(29,725)
INCOME BEFORE FINANCIAL ITEMS AND TAXES (E B I T)	82,954	83,321
FINANCIAL INCOME	17,646	16,836
FINANCIAL EXPENSE	(47,955)	(37,886)
DIVIDENDS	--	108
GAINS FROM TRADING SECURITIES	12,236	22,700
LOSSES FROM TRADING SECURITIES	(5,096)	(4,067)
ADJUSTMENTS TO THE VALUE OF FINANCIAL ASSETS	(1,532)	3,813
INCOME BEFORE TAXES	58,253	84,825
INCOME TAXES	(25,659)	(30,539)
NET INCOME FOR THE PERIOD INCLUDING MINORITY INTERESTS	32,594	54,286
- NET INCOME MINORITY INTERESTS	(27,186)	(37,547)
- NET INCOME OF THE GROUP	5,408	16,739

COFIDE GROUP – NET FINANCIAL POSITION

(in thousands of euro)

	31.03.2008	31.12.2007	31.03.2007
A. Cash and bank deposits	670,154	726,988	406,491
B. Other cash and cash equivalents	323,722	372,622	375,257
C. Securities held for trading	370,921	328,566	695,270
D. Cash and cash equivalents (A) + (B) + (C)	1,364,797	1,428,176	1,477,018
E. Current financial receivables	19,914	37,171	1,591
F. Current bank borrowings	(229,498)	(163,386)	(167,088)
G. Bonds and notes issued	(387,445)	--	--
H. Current part of non-current debt	(47,586)	(48,822)	(60,960)
I. Other current borrowings	(18)	--	(1)
J. Current financial debt (F) + (G) + (H) + (I)	(664,547)	(212,208)	(228,049)
K. Net current financial position (J) + (E) + (D)	720,164	1,253,139	1,250,560
L. Non-current bank borrowings	(1,244,603)	(1,204,348)	(806,402)
M. Bonds and notes issued	(767,262)	(1,189,672)	(1,169,860)
N. Other non-current payables	(275,274)	(226,712)	(196,971)
O. Non-current financial debt (L) + (M) + (N)	(2,287,139)	(2,620,732)	(2,173,233)
P. Net financial position (K) + (O)	(1,566,975)	(1,367,593)	(922,673)