



ASTM – AUTOSTRADA TORINO-MILANO S.P.A.

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PRESS RELEASE

INTERMEDIATE MANAGEMENT REPORT OF ASTM GROUP AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2008 AND INTERIM DIVIDENDS

- The “Intermediate management report” of ASTM Group as at 30 September 2008 was approved by the Board of Directors.
- The figures as at 30 September 2008 showed an increase in “motorway sector revenue”, compared to the corresponding “pro-forma” figures for the previous year, equal to EUR 4.6 million (+0.85%);
- adjusted EBITDA of the third quarter of 2008 (equal to EUR 144 million) in line with the corresponding figure for 2007;
- investments in motorway infrastructures during the period 1 January-30 September 2008, amounting to EUR 213 million;
- interim dividend approved by the Board of Directors amounting to EUR 0.20 for each of the 85,491,703 ordinary shares of the share capital, for a total value of EUR 17 million.

The consolidated gross operating margin (EBITDA) and the consolidated net financial position are summarized as follows (in comparison with the corresponding 2007 “pro-forma” figures for the period 1/1/-30/9/2007⁽¹⁾ only).

Turnover and result of the operating activity (EBITDA)

1.1-30.9-2008	1.1-30.9-2007 “pro forma”	Changes		3rd quarter 2008	3rd quarter 2007	Changes
			<i>(amount in millions of EUR)</i>			
552.8	548.2	4.6	Motorway sector revenue	202.3	202.5	(0.2)
2.6	8.7	(6.1)	Construction sector revenue	1.6	2.7	(1.1)
5.8	10.8	(5.0)	Engineering sector revenue	1.9	5.1	(3.2)
11.6	20.1	(8.5)	Technology sector revenue	4.6	4.7	(0.1)
42.9	43.9	(1.0)	Other revenues	15.6	13.8	1.8
615.7	631.7	(16.0)	Turnover (A)	226.0	228.8	(2.8)
(308.3)	(321.9)	13.6	Operating costs (B)	(103.2)	(107.2)	4.0
59.0	78.5	(19.5)	Capitalised costs on fixed assets (C)	16.8	24.3	(7.5)
366.4	388.3	(21.9)	GROSS OPERATING MARGIN - EBITDA (A-B+C)	139.6	145.9	(6.3)
8.9	3.7	5.2	Significant “non-recurring” items	4.5	-	4.5
375.3	392.0	(16.7)	Gross operating margin – Adjusted EBITDA	144.1	145.9	(1.8)

With regard to the **third quarter 2008**, “motorway sector revenue” was substantially in line with the same period of last year. More specifically, “net toll revenues” totalled EUR 191.3 million (EUR 191.7 million in the third quarter of 2007). The change from the same period last year was due to the tolls applied to the Asti-Cuneo motorway section (+EUR 1.7 million) and to the toll reduction for the other sections under management (-EUR 2.1 million), which reflects a slight reduction in traffic volumes due to the general economic trend.

⁽¹⁾ Readers will already be aware that the corporate reorganisation of the SIAS and ASTM Groups – which was completed in July 2007 – led to the takeover by SIAS Group of the motorway companies SATAP S.p.A., SAV S.p.A., ATIVA S.p.A. and its subsidiaries, with effect from the third half of 2007. In order to provide comparable figures, proper “pro-forma” statements for the first nine months of 2007 have been prepared, in which the effects of the corporate reorganisation have been shown as if it had taken place on 1 January 2007.

The “*construction*” sector showed a decrease in both the work carried out for third parties and in the activities for Group companies, as highlighted by the decrease in the item “*capitalised costs on fixed assets*”: the latest change was mainly connected with the delays in the updating process for agreements and relevant investment plans.

The “*engineering*” sector showed a decrease in the work carried out for third parties (against a slight resumption of the activities for the Group Companies).

In the quarter under analysis, the “*technology sector*” showed a turnover – that was achieved through the activities carried out for third parties – which was substantially in line with the corresponding figures for the third quarter of 2007.

The change in the item “other revenues” was mainly due to the increase in services rendered to the CAV.TO.MI. Consortium during the quarter under review.

The decrease in the activities carried out by each single sector – including the share relating to the capitalised “internal production” – affected “*operating costs*” just partially, as a consequence of higher costs incurred for both “maintenance activities of the motorway network” and the services rendered on behalf of the CAV.TO.MI. Consortium.

With regard to the above, the “*gross operating margin*” totalled EUR 139.6 million (EUR 145.9 million in the third quarter of 2007).

“*Significant non-recurring items*” refer (for EUR 3.8 million) to the “one-off” income recorded by SATAP S.p.A. and refer to toll revenues which were originally suspended in the financial years 2003 and 2004. These revenues – that are linked to the “X” component of the toll increase contained in the price cap formula – were set aside on request of the Granting Body pending realisation of the investments planned in the financial plan annexed to the previous agreement. Following the notification forwarded by ANAS concerning the effectiveness of the “new” Agreement and the constraint imposed – within available reserves – for alleged “financial benefits” resulting from delay in the implementation of the investments, such amounts were recorded as “one-off” income.

With regard to the above, the “**adjusted gross operating margin**” – equal to **EUR 144 million** – was **in line** with the 2007 corresponding figures.

As regards the period **1 January – 30 September 2008**, “*motorway sector revenue*” increased by EUR 4.7 million. More specifically, “net toll revenues” totalled EUR 523.5 million (EUR 518.6 million for the period 1 January – 30 September 2007, “pro-forma”). The increase compared to the same period last year (EUR 5 million, equal to 0.96%) was due for EUR 2.2 million to the tolls applied to the Asti-Cuneo motorway section as from 1 April 2008 and, for EUR 2.8 million, to the partial adjustment in toll rates that took effect from 1 January 2008 on some of the sections under management. In the first nine months of 2008, traffic volumes were substantially in line with the same period last year.

For the reasons set forth above, the “*construction*” sector showed a decrease in the work carried out for both third parties and Group companies.

The “*engineering*” sector showed a decrease in the work carried out for third parties, partially offset by a slight resumption of the activities for the Group Companies.

The decrease in business in the “*technology*” sector can be mainly attributed to the fact that the first nine months of 2007 benefited from the recording of revenues deriving from the completion, by SSAT S.p.A., of a significant work order on behalf of the CAV.TO.MI. Consortium (amounting to EUR 6.3 million).

As already mentioned above, the decrease in the activities carried out by each single sector – including the share relating to the capitalised “internal production” – affected “operating costs” just partially, as a consequence of both higher maintenance costs and costs originating from “winter services”, which were lower in the previous financial year, thanks to the favourable weather conditions characterizing the first few months of 2007.

For the reasons set forth above, the “gross operating margin” amounted to EUR 366.4 million. The decrease compared to the corresponding “pro-forma” figures for the first nine months of 2007, amounting to EUR 21.9 million, is attributable to the “motorway sector” for EUR 14.5 million, to the “technology sector” for EUR 4.1 million, to the “engineering” sector for EUR 2.5 million and to the “construction” sector for 0.8 EUR million.

“Significant non-recurring items” – in addition to the toll revenues for the financial years 2003 and 2004 – include EUR 5.1 million related to the extraordinary income linked to the recognition, by the CAV.TO.MI. Consortium, of the reconstruction costs for the Novara Sud service area (on the A4 section) managed by SATAP S.p.A.. This service area was relocated in order to eliminate its interference with the stretch of the “High Speed” Turin-Milan railway line.

In the previous financial year, this item referred to the one-off effect on the value of the actuarial adjustment to the staff severance indemnity, as a result of the changes introduced by Law no. 296 of 27 December 2006 and the related implementing decrees.

With regard to the above-mentioned aspects, the “adjusted gross operating margin” as at 30 September 2008 was equal to **EUR 375.3 million** (EUR 392 million as at 30 September 2007).

The main items of the **financial performance** as at 30 September 2008, compared with the ones at 30 June 2008, may be summarized as follows:

<i>(amounts in millions of EUR)</i>	30/9/2008	30/6/2008	Changes
A) Cash and cash equivalents	377.1	286.3	90.8
B) Securities held for trading	-	-	-
C) Liquidity (A) + (B)	377.1	286.3	90.8
D) Financial receivables (*)	0.2	21.5	(21.3)
E) Short-term borrowings	(68.3)	(78.3)	10.0
F) Current portion of medium/long-term borrowings	(152.8)	(215.9)	63.1
G) Other financial liabilities	(5.5)	(3.9)	(1.6)
H) Short-term borrowings (E) + (F) + (G)	(226.5)	(298.1)	71.6
I) Current net cash (indebtedness) (C) + (D) + (H)	150.8	(9.7)	141.1
J) Long-term borrowings	(1,179.8)	(1,100.6)	(79.2)
K) Bonds issued (**)	(202.6)	(201.9)	(0.7)
L) Other long-term payables	(0.7)	(0.8)	0.1
M) Long-term borrowings (J) + (K) + (L)	(1,383.1)	(1,303.3)	(79.8)
N) Net cash (indebtedness) (I) + (M)	(1,232.4)	(1,293.6)	61.2

(*) This item relates to bonds; they may be converted into cash in the in the short term, if required; as at 30 June 2008, this item referred to capital guaranteed index-linked financial instruments converted into cash during the quarter.

(**) Net of bonds “SIAS 2.625% 2005-2017” owned by the parent company ASTM S.p.A..

The Group net financial position as at 30 September 2008 – showing an improvement compared to 30 June 2008 – revealed a debit balance of EUR 1,232.4 million (EUR 1,293.6 million as at 30 June 2008); this amount – including the discounted value of the “payable due to ANAS and the Central Insurance Fund” – would be equal to EUR 1,605 million (EUR 1,661.5 million as at 30 June 2008).

With regard to the breakdown of the item “net financial indebtedness”, it should be underlined that, in the third quarter of 2008, a stand-by facility (that was reflected in the decrease in the item “*current portion of medium/long-term borrowings*”) was repaid by taking out a medium/long-term loan (which led to an increase in “*long-term financial liabilities*” with regard to the portion used).

The decrease in borrowings for the period was mainly due to the positive trend of the operating cash flow that, during the summer months, benefited from the seasonality typical of that period.

To prevent the risk from interest rate changes, the Group companies signed “hedging” agreements with major financial institutions with regard to medium/long-term loans, for a current total amount of EUR 235 million.

As regards the **events occurred after** 30 September, we point out the following:

Relationships with the Regulator

As is well known, upon approval of Law no. 101 of 4 June 2008, Standard Concession Agreements (“*Convenzione Unica*”) were approved by way of law. Such agreements were signed by **SATAP S.p.A.** on 10 October 2007 (A4 Stretch Turin-Milan and A21 Stretch Turin-Alessandria-Piacenza), by **ATIVA S.p.A.** on 7 November 2007 and by Autocamionale della **CISA S.p.A.** on 26 March 2008.

Moreover, by means of letters sent on **6 October 2008**, ANAS informed the above-mentioned Companies about the full **effectiveness** of the signed **Standard Concession Agreements** as from 8 June 2008 (the day following publication of the said Law no. 101 on the Italian Official Gazette). With regard to Autocamionale della Cisa S.p.A. – given the pending infringement procedure no. 2006/4419 started by the European Commission concerning the licensing relationship in place – the effectiveness of the Standard Concession Agreement signed is subordinate to the closure of the procedure.

With regard to the licensees that did not benefit from the approval – by way of law – of the related agreements (among which the subsidiaries Autostrada dei Fiori S.p.A., SALT S.p.A. and SAV S.p.A. are included), it is noted that specific discussions are in course with ANAS for the purpose of signing the related “Standard Agreements”.

Before the agreed deadline of 30 September 2008, the licensees of the Group notified ANAS of the toll increases required for their own motorway sections that shall take effect from 1 January 2009. These increases are mainly related to the significant investments made in previous financial years.

Similarly, before the agreed deadline of 31 October 2008, the toll increase set out in the Agreements signed by SATAP S.p.A. and ATIVA S.p.A. was also requested for the additional investments made in 2008 (the so-called “K factor”).

It should be underlined that, in the first nine months of 2008, the Group companies made **investments** in assets subject to reversion free of charge for a total amount of **EUR 213 million**.



Interim dividend

Today, the Board of Directors of ASTM S.p.A. approved – following on from the work carried out in the previous financial year – the distribution of an **interim dividend** for FY 2008 equal to EUR 0.20 for each of the 85,491,703 ordinary shares of the share capital, for a total value of **EUR 17 million**.

Pursuant to the regulations issued by Borsa Italiana S.p.A., this interim dividend shall be paid from 27 November 2008 (in such event, the shares shall be quoted ex-interim dividend from 24 November 2008, against detachment of the coupon no. 29).

The Chairman
(Mr. Riccardo Formica)

The manager in charge of drawing up the corporate accounting documents, Mr. Graziano Settime, hereby declares, pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 154 bis of the Consolidated Law on Finance, that the accounting information contained in this press release corresponds to the documented results, books and accounting records.

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