



PRESS RELEASE

ROTTAPHARM acquires BIOCHIMICI PSN

The Italian Pharmaceutical Group gains the leadership in the Personal Care market

Professor Luigi Rovati , President and Founder of the Group: "This acquisition will receive great benefits from the strength of our research and of our national and international commercial network"

Monza, 21 July 2005 – Rottapharm, multinational pharmaceutical Group based in Italy and present in more than 60 Countries worldwide, signed today an agreement with the funds Athena and Fidia Prudentia for the acquisition of Biochimici PSN - a company specialized in the development and marketing of dermatological products - strengthening its position in the Personal Care Market.

With the acquisition of Biochimici PSN Rottapharm becomes the Italian profit leader in the Personal Care market in pharmacy, where it already has the leadership thanks to the Saugella, Estromineral, Armolipid and Babygella product lines.

"The agreement has been finalised in these last weeks after months of negotiation" – says Luca Rovati, Managing Director and Vice-President of Rottapharm. "This acquisition has a particular meaning for us and for our industrial sector, as an Italian company acquires a firm of the same Country. This is a sign of vitality for Rottapharm Group, despite the negative situation the market is facing now, and it demonstrates our will to grow and the trust we have in our over 1200 collaborators."

"The Company in which we have invested is becoming now part of an Italian Group really involved in research and internationalization of its activity." states Sergio Pininfarina, President of Fidia SGR SpA.

"The care of Biochimici PSN for quality, research and information to doctors reflects our philosophy" – says Vincenzo Maglione, Chief Operating Officer and General Manager of Rottapharm. "This agreement represents the ideal enhancement of our parapharmaceutical products list and an important opportunity of growth in the sector, started in 2000 with the acquisition of Saugella and Babygella brands from Bristol-Myers Squibb."

Rottapharm, multinational pharmaceutical Group has today a strong presence in Europe through its subsidiaries in Italy, Germany, Spain, Portugal, France, Ireland, Russia, Poland, Czech Republic and Slovak Republic. The Group has distributors and licencees in the USA, Chile, Central America, and in the major countries of the Far East. Since 1985 it has a subsidiary in China, where it has gained the leadership in rheumatology thanks to Dona, the first proven disease-modifying drug for osteoarthritis, sold in more than 60 countries worldwide. The estimated turnover in 2005 is about 280 million Euro; 70% of it is realized abroad.

Rottapharm mission has always been the research. In these years Rottapharm R&D Division has synthesized over 5000 molecules and registered over 800 patents, indispensable for the production of innovative drugs in the treatment of specific diseases. In 2000, with the acquisition of Saugella and Babygella brands, the Group entered the parapharmaceutical market, gaining the leadership in the market of personal hygiene products sold in pharmacies, with a share of 56%.

Biochimici PSN, based in Bologna, is specialized in the development and marketing of body care products. With an estimated turnover of about 28 million Euros in 2005 and a range of more than 100 products, Biochimici PSN has today a solid market position (5th place in the Italian Personal Care market), thanks to products exclusively sold in pharmacies such as Biomineral, Biothymus and Affir in the hair line, Carovit and Dermalol in the sun products line, Dermafresh in the deodorant line, and Dermoflan and Noall in the body line.