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Ansaldo Energia signs two contracts with Atel worth over 500 million Euro

Ansaldo Energia, a Finmeccanica company and leader in the supply of components and services for power generation plants, has signed two contracts totalling over 500 million Euro with Progetto EnPlus and 3CB, both subsidiaries of Atel, one of the major Swiss energy production groups.

The contracts relate to the turnkey project to provide two 400-MW twin-unit combined-cycle power plants, connected in single-shaft configuration. The plants will be built in Italy at San Severo, Foggia, and in France at Bayet, Allier.

The contract to build the plants is supplemented by two additional long-term service agreements (LTSA) worth 120 million Euro.

The signing of these important agreements will enable the Atel Group to increase production capacity to market and sell electricity in the two strategic markets of Italy and France.

By joining forces with a partner such as Ansaldo Energia, both in Italy and France, the Swiss group is guaranteed product quality and compliance with construction deadlines. Ansaldo Energia thus strengthens its presence in Europe by gaining a foothold in the French market, which is predominantly made up of consolidated players.

Finmeccanica is Italy's leading high-tech company, operating in the design and manufacture of helicopters, defence electronics, civil and military aircraft, aerostructures, satellites, space infrastructures, missiles. It plays a leading role in the European aerospace and defence industry, and participates in some of the biggest international programmes in the sector through well-established alliances with European and American partners. Finmeccanica also boasts significant manufacturing assets and skills in the Transports and Energy sectors. The Group is listed on the Milan Stock Exchange, and operates in Italy and abroad through subsidiaries and joint ventures. It employs over 59,000 staff in total of which approximately 9,000 in UK, 3,500 in France and 1,600 in US. As part of its drive to maintain and build on its technological expertise, Finmeccanica spends 14% of its revenues on Research and Development.

Atel Holding Ltd (Atel Group) is Switzerland's leading energy provider, active throughout Europe. Founded in 1894, Atel focuses on the two core businesses of production-based energy trading and energy services. The group of companies, domiciled in Olten, currently employs a staff of around 9400 and generated revenue of CHF 13.5 billion in 2007. The main markets for the Energy segment are Switzerland, Italy, Germany and countries in Central and Eastern Europe. Products and services range from portfolio management and group energy supplies to energy derivatives, option contracts and the establishment of distribution concepts based on partnerships. Trading and sales are supported by a number of proprietary hydraulic and thermal power stations in Switzerland, Italy, Hungary, Norway and the Czech Republic as well as an extensive transmission grid in Switzerland. With its Energy Services segment, Atel delivers all the technical services related to energy (electricity, gas, oil, and biomass) and its applications (power, light, cooling and heating, communications and security). Atel is among the leading providers of energy services in Switzerland and Germany. Since the end of 2007 the Atel Group has also included the former Motor Columbus Group.

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