

PRESS RELEASE

FIRST QUARTER REPORT - 31ST of MARCH 2002

The Saipem S.p.A. Board of Directors has today approved the Group's unaudited financial statements related to the first quarter ended 31st of March 2002.

Revenues totalled 623 million euros (339 million in the first quarter of 2001), +84%.

Operating income amounted to 81 million euros (42 million in the first quarter of 2001), +93%.

Net income amounted to 56 million euros (25 million in the first quarter of 2001), +124%.

Cash flow (net income plus depreciation and amortisation) amounted to 121 million euros (61 million in the first quarter of 2001), +98%.

Investments for the first quarter amounted to 178 million euros (48 million in the first quarter of 2001) and mainly related to the strengthening of the Offshore Construction fleet through the acquisition of the remaining 50% stake in European Marine Contractors (139 million euros) and the upgrading of rigs for Onshore and Offshore Drilling activities in Saudi Arabia and Libya.

Net financial debt at 31st March 2002 amounted to 699 million euros, an increase of 57 million euros compared to 31st December 2001.

New orders and backlog

During the first quarter of 2002, Saipem was awarded new contracts totalling 761 million euros (514 million in the first quarter of 2001), of which 417 million euros refer to the Offshore sectors (Construction, Drilling and Floating Production). In addition, following the acquisition of the remaining 50% stake in European Marine Contractors, the backlog increased by a further 96 million euros, entirely referred to the Offshore Construction sector.

The most significant awards in the period are as follows:

Offshore Construction:

- the Trunkline Expansion System project in Australia, on behalf of Woodside Energy Ltd., for the transport, installation, and hydro-testing of a sealine;
- the Djeno project in Congo, on behalf of Elf Congo, for the laying of two pipelines;
- the Kuito Phase II project in Angola, on behalf of SBM Imodoco, for the installation of a platform;
- change orders by Elf, in relation to the Canyon Express project, in the Gulf of Mexico.

Offshore Drilling:

- the charter for one year of the semi-submersible Scarabeo 4 in Nigeria, on behalf of NAOC;
- the charter for one year of the jack up Perro Negro 5 in Nigeria, on behalf of Belbop;
- the charter for nine months of the semi-submersible Scarabeo 3 in Congo, on behalf of Agip Recherches Congo.

Onshore Drilling:

- the charter of three rigs for two years, each with an additional two years option, in Italy, on behalf of Eni Divisione Agip.

Onshore Construction:

- the ROD project in Algeria, on behalf of Sonatrach/Bhp Biliton, for the construction of an oil treatment plant and associated facilities;
- the Obiafu/Obrikom project in Nigeria, on behalf of NAOC, for the upgrade of a gas plant and the realisation of a flow station;
- change orders by KPO in relation to the Karachaganak project in Kazakhstan.

Backlog at the end of March 2002 was 3,087 million euros (2,853 million euros at 31st of December 2001).

Other information

Blue Stream project

Saipem 7000, having successfully completed the laying of the first sea-line on 17th February 2002, returned to the Russian coast and commenced laying the second line on 24th February 2002. To date approximately 250Km of the total 380Km have been laid.

Negotiations are continuing with the Client for the definition of extra costs resulting from the delayed commencement of activities on the first sea-line, caused by temporary failure to obtain construction permits.

Saipem 10000 Refurbishment

The replacement of lost equipment and the repairs to vessel arising from the accident which occurred off the Equatorial Guinea Coast in September 2001, referred to in previous press releases, were completed on 16th April 2002. The vessel, currently en route to work Offshore Angola, is expected to commence drilling activities by 15th May. The activities off the West African coast, in waters up to 1,500 metres deep will continue until October 2002. At that point, having fully restored its capacity to operate in waters up to 3,000 metres deep, the vessel is expected to be transferred to Brazil.

The insurance cover for the "loss of hire", as a consequence of the temporary non use of the vessel, enable recovery of the full contractual rate until 26th April, except for 28-day insurance exclusion period charged to the first quarter 2002.

Events subsequent to the closure of the quarter

Acquisition of SaiClo

As previously announced, on 20th April 2001, Saipem defined the condition for the acquisition, from the Australian company Clough, of the remaining 50% stake in SaiClo, a company which owns the multi-purpose vessel, Maxita. As per the agreement, the acquisition was concluded on 6th May 2002, upon completion of the Canyon Express project in the Gulf of Mexico. The purchase consideration agreed between the parties amounts to 30 million euros, approximately.

With the acquisition of the residual stake in SaiClo, Saipem has fully acquired ownership of Maxita, thereby allowing the programmed conversion and upgrading, which will commence following completion of some project-related activities offshore Norway.

As previously announced, in order to reinforce its flexibility and efficiency, a 2,300ton crane will be installed on the vessel, along with other equipment from the Pearl Marine vessel (destined to be dismantled). The dynamic positioning system of the new vessel will also be further upgraded.

The vessel – which will preserve the capability to install flexibles, umbilicals and mooring systems in deep water – will also be designed to facilitate eventual reel-lay of rigid lines in “J” and “S” mode.

As frequently mentioned, the volumes of work completed and the resultant profit levels, particularly in the Offshore and Onshore Construction sectors and, to a lesser extent, in both the Drilling and Floating Production sectors, are not linear over time as they are influenced not only by market performance but also by climatic conditions and projects schedules. Consequently, the results from any one particular period in a fiscal year can vary significantly, therefore precluding a comparison with the same period in other fiscal years and the simple extrapolation of figures from a single quarter in the entire year.

Management expectations for 2002

The positive results for the first quarter, together with the high level of backlog and the distinctive capacity of the Group to operate in particularly challenging “Frontiers” (deep

waters and remote areas) reinforce expectations for 2002 to repeat the record result of 2001, with potential for further improvement.

The Saipem S.p.A. Board of Directors has also reviewed the Group's financial flows and the profitability by business sector.

Financial flows

The increase in net financial debt of 57 million euros is the result of:

outflows

- capital expenditure in tangible and intangible assets (including acquisition of the 50% stake in European Marine Contractors Ltd.) for 178 million euros;
- a net current assets increase of 56 million euros;

inflows

- cash flow (net income plus amortisation) for 121 million euros;
- sale of tangible assets for 7 million euros;
- increase in capital and reserves attributable to third parties for 49 million euros.

Analysis by business sector

OFFSHORE CONSTRUCTION

	(millions of euros)	
	First quarter 2001	First quarter 2002
Operating revenues	192	400
Operating expenses net of cost of materials	(119)	(241)
Cost of materials	(31)	(63)
Depreciation and amortisation	(14)	(36)
Contribution from operations (*)	28	60
Orders awarded	329	373 (**)

(*) *Operating income before general and administrative expenses*

(**) *Includes 96 million euros as a consequence of the acquisition of the remaining 50% stake in European Marine Contractors*

The backlog at 31st March 2002 amounted to 1,202 million euros, of which 806 million euros is expected to be executed during the balance of 2002.

- The volume of activities expressed by the Blue Stream project, associated with the activities in the Far East and in West Africa, led to an increase in revenues of 208 million euros, with respect to the first quarter with respect to the same quarter of 2001 (+108%).
- Contribution from operations during the first quarter of 2002 amounted to 60 million euros, equal to 15% of revenues, versus 28 million euros, equal to 14.6% of revenues for the corresponding period of 2001. The improvement in profitability, notwithstanding depreciation which more than doubled with respect to the same quarter of 2001, as a consequence of investments specifically made for the Blue Stream project and the company acquisitions, is due to the increased vessel utilisation and the improvement of profitability from projects currently under execution.

FLOATING PRODUCTION

	(millions of euros)	
	First quarter 2001	First quarter 2002
Operating revenues	4	10
Operating expenses	(1)	(2)
Depreciation and amortisation	(2)	(5)
Contribution from operations (*)	1	3
Orders awarded	-	17

(*) *Operating income before general and administrative expenses*

The backlog at 31st March 2002 amounted to 191 million euros, of which 27 million euros is expected to be executed during the balance of 2002.

- Increased revenues for the first quarter of 2002 derive from the new floating production unit FPSO–Jamestown, which commenced operation late 2001. Contribution from operations for the first quarter of 2002 amounted to 3 million euros, equal to 33% of revenues, versus 1 million euros, equal to 25% of revenues for the corresponding period of 2001.
- The FPSO–Firenze and FPSO–Jamestown were fully utilised since the beginning of the year.

OFFSHORE DRILLING

	(millions of euros)	
	First quarter 2001	First quarter 2002
Operating revenues	70	82
Operating expenses	(37)	(47)
Depreciation and amortisation	(10)	(11)
Contribution from operations (*)	23	24
Orders awarded	92	123

(*) *Operating income before general and administrative expenses*

The backlog at 31st March 2002 amounted to 587 million euros, of which 237 million euros is expected to be executed during the balance of 2002.

- Revenues for the first quarter showed a 17% increase over the same period of 2001, mainly due to the activities of the semi-submersible platform Scarabeo 7, which had undergone upgrading work during the first months of the previous year.
- Contribution from operations increased by 1 million euros with respect to the first quarter of 2001, with a margin on revenues declining from 33% to 29%. The reduction in profitability is due to the 28 day loss-of-hire of Saipem 10000.
- Major equipment utilisation was as follows:

<i>Vessel type</i>	<i>Days under contract</i>	
Semi-submersible platform Scarabeo 3	90	
Semi-submersible platform Scarabeo 4	75	a
Semi-submersible platform Scarabeo 5	90	
Semi-submersible platform Scarabeo 6	90	
Semi-submersible platform Scarabeo 7	79	a
Drillship Saipem 10000	62	b
Jack up Perro Negro 2	67	c
Jack up Perro Negro 3	90	
Jack up Perro Negro 4	90	
Jack up Perro Negro 5	85	a

a = for the remaining portion of 90 days, the vessel was undergoing structural repairs.

b = the remaining 28 days relate to period not covered by the "loss of hire" insurance policy.

c = for the remaining portion of 90 days, the jack up was being prepared for new contracts.

ONSHORE DRILLING

	(millions of euros)	
	First quarter 2001	First quarter 2002
Operating revenues	33	46
Operating expenses	(24)	(35)
Depreciation and amortisation	(4)	(6)
Contribution from operations (*)	5	5
Orders awarded	78	67

(*) *Operating income before general and administrative expenses*

The backlog at 31st March 2002 amounted to 338 million euros, of which 138 million euros is expected to be executed during the balance of 2002.

- Revenues for the first quarter were 39% higher than those for the same period in 2001, mainly due to the full utilisation of the eight rigs in Saudi Arabia and those in Kazakhstan.
- Contribution from operations for the quarter, unchanged in absolute terms, decreased from 15% to 11% of revenues, with respect to the same period of the previous year. This decrease was mainly due to the commencement of operations by the final two rigs in Saudi Arabia and the higher amortisation associated with investments realised for the execution of these new contracts.
- Average utilisation of onshore rigs for the quarter was 85% (65% in the first quarter of 2001) distributed as follows: 14 in Peru, 3 in Italy, 3 in Nigeria, 3 in Algeria, 1 in Egypt, 2 in Kazakhstan and 8 in Saudi Arabia.
In addition, 8 third party rigs were operated by Saipem in Peru and 1 third party rig was operated by the joint company SaiPar in Kazakhstan.
Finally, 5 jointly owned rigs were operated: 1 in Italy, 1 in Venezuela and 3 in Kazakhstan.

ONSHORE CONSTRUCTION

	(millions of euros)	
	First quarter 2001	First quarter 2002
Operating revenues	40	85
Operating expenses net of cost of materials	(24)	(53)
Cost of materials	(9)	(18)
Depreciation and amortisation	(4)	(6)
Contribution from operations (*)	3	8
Orders awarded	15	277

(*) *Operating income before general and administrative expenses*

The backlog at 31st March 2002 amounted to 769 million euros, of which 395 is expected to be executed during the balance of 2002.

- Operating activities in Kazakhstan and Saudi Arabia, as well as the initial phases of a significant project to be executed in Algeria, resulted in a 45 million euros increase in revenues, for the first quarter of 2002, as compared with the same quarter of 2001.
- Contribution from operations for the first quarter of 2002 amounted to 8 million euros, equal to 9.4% of revenues, compared to 3 million euros, equal to 7.5% of revenues, for the same period of 2001. The improved profitability was due to the focus upon complex projects in difficult areas, where the Group has a competitive advantage.

Attached are the following Saipem Group statements:
Reclassified consolidated balance sheet; Reclassified consolidated income statement by nature and destination of costs.

San Donato Milanese, 7th of May 2002

SAIPEM GROUP

RECLASSIFIED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

(millions of euros)

	31 st of December 2001	31 st of March 2002 (*)
Net tangible fixed assets	1,440	1,551
Net intangible fixed assets	<u>94</u>	<u>89</u>
	1,534	1,640
Of which:		
- Offshore Construction	613	727
- Floating Production	45	42
- Offshore Drilling	617	616
- Onshore Drilling	138	136
- Onshore Construction	79	76
- Others	42	43
Financial investments	6	6
Non current assets	1,540	1,646
Working capital	350	406
Provisions for contingencies	<u>(66)</u>	<u>(66)</u>
Net current assets	284	340
Employees' termination pay	(24)	(24)
CAPITAL EMPLOYED	<u>1,800</u>	<u>1,962</u>
Group shareholders' equity	1,156	1,212
Minority interest in net equity	2	51
Net debt	642	699
COVER	<u>1,800</u>	<u>1,962</u>

(*) The amounts do not include translation adjustment for the conversion of balance sheets of Group companies expressed in foreign currencies.

SAIPEM GROUP

**RECLASSIFIED CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT
BY
NATURE OF COSTS**

(millions of euros)

	1 st Quarter 2001	1 st Quarter 2002
Operating revenues	339	623
Other revenues and income	3	5
Purchases, services and other costs	(194)	(369)
Payroll and related costs	(70)	(113)
GROSS OPERATING INCOME	78	146
Amortisation, depreciation and write downs	(36)	(65)
OPERATING INCOME	42	81
Financial expenses, net	(10)	(10)
INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES	32	71
Income taxes	(7)	(17)
INCOME BEFORE MINORITY INTERESTS	25	54
Minority interests	-	2
NET INCOME FOR THE PERIOD	<u>25</u>	<u>56</u>

SAIPEM GROUP

**RECLASSIFIED CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT
BY
DESTINATION OF COSTS**

(millions of euros)

	1 st Quarter 2001	1 st Quarter 2002
Operating revenues	339	623
Production costs	(267)	(511)
Idle costs	(8)	(9)
Selling expenses	(5)	(6)
Research and development expenses	(1)	-
Other operating income, net	2	3
CONTRIBUTION FROM OPERATIONS	60	100
General and administrative expenses	(18)	(19)
OPERATING INCOME	42	81
Financial expenses, net	(10)	(10)
INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES	32	71
Income taxes	(7)	(17)
INCOME BEFORE MINORITY INTERESTS	25	54
Minority interests	-	2
NET INCOME FOR THE PERIOD	<u>25</u>	<u>56</u>