



**PRESS RELEASE**

**SORGENIA (CIR GROUP): AGREEMENT SIGNED FOR TEN YEAR LOAN  
OF 600 MILLION EURO**

***This deal enables the Sorgenia group to strengthen its financial structure and finance the investment in new generating capacity contained in its business plan***

*Milan, July 15 2009* – The **Sorgenia** group, which is controlled by **CIR** and in which the Austrian company **Verbund** has a stake, has today signed a **new loan agreement** for a period of **ten years** with a pool of six banks - Mediobanca Banca di Credito Finanziario SpA, which had the role of documentation bank, Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena SpA, Intesa SanPaolo SpA, Unicredit Mediocredito Centrale SpA, WestLB Ag and Banca Popolare di Lodi SpA – for an amount of **600 million euro**.

The loan, which is on a Club Deal basis, will enable Sorgenia to **strengthen its financial structure and to finance the investment in new generating capacity** contained in its business plan, particularly in relation to the thermoelectric CCGT plants at Bertonico-Turano Lodigiano (Lo) and Aprilia (Lt).

The loan involves an amortizing repayment schedule on a semi-annual basis starting in 2012 and an interest rate based on Euribor plus a margin in line with current market conditions.

Latham & Watkins was the legal advisor to the banks while the Chiomenti Legal Firm assisted the Sorgenia group.

At the same time the duration of the credit facility signed in July 2007 with Monte dei Paschi di Siena SpA for the CCGT plant in operation at Termoli was extended until 2019. The amount of this loan remaining is 162 million euro.

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