



press release

Bologna 28/04/2005

HERA: The Shareholders' Meeting approves the Annual Accounts for the year 2004 and appoints the members to the Board of Directors of Hera

Dividend of Euro 0.06 per share.

Tomaso Tommasi di Vignano confirmed as Chairman and Maurizio Chiarini appointed as new Managing Director.

The Shareholders' Meeting of Hera S.p.A, which met today at Bologna, approved the annual accounts for the year 2004 and proposal by the Board of Directors of the distribution of a dividend of Euro 0.06 per share, equal to a pay-out of 85%. The dividend will be paid from June 9.

The shareholders' meeting also took notice of the appointment of the members of the Board of Directors of Hera, in addition to Maurizio Chiarini joining the new Board are Luciano Sita, Pierluigi Celli, Stefano Zolea, Luigi Castagna and Vander Maranini.

There was confirmation, in addition to Tomaso Tommasi di Vignano, of the directors Ermanno Vichi, Filippo Brandolini, Roberto Sacchetti, Nicodemo Montanari and, representing the private shareholders, Piero Collina, Giuseppe Dolcini and Fabio Roversi Monaco. Antonio Venturini will remain in the office of Chairman of the Board of Statutory Auditors and Fernando Lolli and Sergio as Standing members.

The results for the year 2004 show a group value of production of Euro 1,639 million, an increase of 23.1% compared to the previous year; the gross operating margin was Euro 300.2 million that recorded an improvement of 23.8% on Group profitability, with an incidence on the value of production of 18.3%.

The operating result of Euro 144.3 million increased by 27.9% compared to the previous year, equal to 8.8% of the value of production and the Group net profit was Euro 62 million, an increase of 17% compared to 2003. The important results naturally include the significant contribution deriving from the integration, as of January 1, 2004, of the company Agea of Ferrara (with a contribution to the value of production of Euro 146 million and an Ebitda of Euro 23.6 million).



The Board of Directors of the Company, in a meeting held today at 2pm, confirmed Tomaso Tommasi di Vignano as Chairman and appointed Maurizio Chiarini as the new Managing Director.

“The positive consolidated results were achieved with good performances in all of the sectors of activity of the Group – declared the Chairman Tommasi di Vignano – and the composition of the Group gross operating margin related to the core businesses of waste management 29.7%, integrated water cycle 25.9% and energy 38.7%.

“The operating investments in 2004, for a total value of Euro 202.2 million – continued Tommasi di Vignano - included the completion of the new waste-to-energy plant at Bologna and important work for the enlargement of the gas and water distribution networks. “

“Again for the year 2004, the company was capable – commented the Managing Director Stefano Aldrovandi – to maintain the promises made to the financial community and to its shareholders. At the same time, the Hera Group continued to pursue the objective of constant improvement in the services and the satisfaction of the clientele, in relation to which the first customer satisfaction research was conducted in the region by our company providing very positive indications.”