

PRESS RELEASE**First half 2003****ACTIVITY**

Sales for the first half amounted to €3,232m, down by 2.9% on the first half of 2002 when large office property programmes were sold. Excluding the property activity, sales rose 1.5% thanks to acquisitions. Trends in the Group's various activities varied widely in the first half. Sales from the construction business slipped by 3% due to a tougher environment, especially in France; the road construction activity gained 3.9%, profiting from acquisitions made last year, mainly in Spain; the 1.9% increase in sales for the electrical contracting activity, half of which came from acquisitions, is expected to continue through the second half of 2003, the acquisition of Electrosur in Spain and EGEA in France has already been completed. Over a full year, the contribution to Forclum sales from companies consolidated since the beginning of 2003 will amount to €150m.

RESULTS

Due to the seasonal effect of activities, profits in the first half are traditionally not indicative. Operating profit amounted to €55m, compared with €57m in 2002, and net profit before goodwill amortisation came to €52m, compared with €50m in the first half of 2002.

OUTLOOK FOR 2003

For several half-year periods now, the order book has been exceptionally high; at 1 July 2003, it was down slightly to €5.9bn, compared with €6.1bn a year earlier, due to substantial progress in operations, especially in the concession business.

Ongoing acquisitions, mainly in electrical contracting, and the prospects for property sales in the second half enable the group to maintain its sales forecast of €7bn for the full year (6.94 billion in 2002).

Operating profit and net profit – Group share, are expected to be in line with the results for the previous year.

FINANCIAL POSITION

In spite of a high level of investment over the last twelve months, through acquisitions and investments in concessions, net debt had increased only slightly at 30 June 2003 (€392m compared with €367m at 30 June 2002).

€ million	First half 2002	First half 2003	%
Sales	3,329	3,232	- 2.9 %
Operating profit	+ 57	+ 55	- 3.4 %
Net profit before goodwill amortisation	+ 50	+ 52	+ 4.0 %
Net profit – Group share	+ 25	+ 26	+ 4.0 %