

PRESS RELEASE

Sanpaolo IMI Group: stock option plan 2002 window open from 24 May to 17 June 2005

Turin, 23 May 2005 – SANPAOLO IMI announces that the first stock option exercise plan for 2002 reserved to Group Management opens tomorrow. The plan period is expected to expire on 17 June 2005.

Following the stock option plans, up to a maximum of 7.990.000 ordinary shares of SANPAOLO IMI, exercise price 7.12 and value date from 1 January 2005.

INVESTOR RELATIONS Dean Quinn Tel. 011/5552593 Telefax 011/5552989 e-mail investor.relations@sanpaoloimi.com