

SANPAOLO IMI

PRESS RELEASE

SANPAOLO IMI FINANCE THE PRODUCTION OF CLEAN ENERGY

A choice consistent with the Group's environmental policy

Turin, April 3, 2006 - Sanpaolo IMI launches a financing program to support clean energy aimed at individuals and companies. The objective is to promote the use of renewable sources and the production of energy through environmentally sound systems, such as solar thermal collectors, and photovoltaic, biomass and cogeneration installations. The Sanpaolo IMI offer range includes three product lines:

- **EcoSanpaolo Loan** for individuals who intend to install photovoltaic solar panels. It is a personal loan with a duration of up to 10 years, without investigation costs.
- **Energy Credit Ceiling** for small businesses operating in the industrial, craft industry, trade, services and tourism sectors. It is a medium to long term financing aimed at the realization of installations for the production and potential sale of energy obtained through renewable sources.
- **Green Energy Credit Limit** reserved for agricultural businesses that intend to equip themselves with installations for the production and potential sale of clean energy. It is a medium to long term agricultural loan.

No collateral is required for the issuing of loans to individuals and businesses can make use of guarantee consortia or other additional guarantees to reduce spread.

The reference points for the financing applications are the 3,200 branches distributed throughout Italy belonging to the Group's banks: Sanpaolo, Sanpaolo Banco di Napoli, Carisbo, Cariparo, Carive, Friulcassa and Banca Popolare dell'Adriatico.

For Giovanni Viani, head of Groups Retail and Private Office, *"Aside from the well developed structure and the quality of the financing program, aimed at both individual customers and Small Business customers, we offer an important added value in the advice provided concerning the economic benefits and government incentives that have been significantly increased by the recent legislation. Also, in collaboration with the Group's company FIN.OPI (Finanziaria per le Opere Pubbliche e le Infrastrutture S.p.A.) that operates as equity investor in the public sector, we will provide support in the technical and economical assessment of more complex and innovative projects"*.

With this important initiative the Sanpaolo IMI Group confirms the importance it assigns to environmental protection, as also clearly expressed in its Social Report (www.grupposanpaoloimi.com): *"We want to avoid any type of waste and actively promote initiatives aimed at saving energy and natural resources, in accordance with the technologies at our disposal and under a positive cost/benefit scenario"*.

RELAZIONI ESTERNE

Filippo Vecchio

Torino 011/555.7747 - Telefax 011/555.6489

Bologna 051/6454411

Napoli 081/7913419

e-mail: infomedia@sanpaoloimi.com
(www.grupposanpaoloimi.com)

INVESTOR RELATIONS

Dean Quinn

Tel. 011/5552593

Telefax 011/5552989

e-mail investor.relations@sanpaoloimi.com