

## Press Release

14 November, 2006

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### Grand Prize for IRM group

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of November, 2006, IRM group was awarded the “Grand Prize for Exportation” given by the Export Agency of the Belgian Government.

IRM group is a high-tech company, specializing in the development, manufacture and service of measurement systems for the steel, aluminum and other non-ferrous industries. With more than 1600 systems installed worldwide, IRM group is a recognized leader in laser and radiometric measurement.

The managing director of IRM group, Jean-Marc Philippet, comments: *“In 2002, we launched a worldwide sales stimulation program. It included establishing offices in growing markets, implementing new partnership agreements, expanding the international sales network, actively participating in industry trade shows in USA/Europe/Asia, organizing specialty conferences for customers, and developing marketing tools promoting our corporate image worldwide. Moreover, we have invested massively in Research and Development to ensure we continue providing the best, up-to-date products”.*



*HRH Prince Philippe of Belgium giving the Grand Prize to the Managing Director of IRM group*

This policy has provided tangible results as shown by the rapid growth of the company. Consolidated annual sales doubled from 2003 to 2005, and will reach 11.5 million Euros at the end of 2006.

Headquartered in Belgium, IRM group includes subsidiaries in the USA and Canada, together with a network of agents in India, Taiwan, South Korea, Mexico, Brazil, and Italy. Further, an office has been established in China providing local sales and service to Chinese customers. Consequently, IRM group has increased considerably its market share worldwide.

Partnership agreements have been finalized with Australian and American companies which complement IRM group products. These agreements contributed to several major orders, one of which was the SEVERCORR project in the USA where IRM group was chosen as the main gauge supplier for the new tandem cold mill and galvanize line.

With such growth, IRM group has been actively hiring talented engineers (more than 20 high-technology jobs were recently created). Additionally, in September 2005, a new building was finished allowing the group to considerably increase its manufacturing capacity.

Presently, IRM group benefits from a solid reputation worldwide. Its future objective is to continue aggressively developing and promoting highly capable products of the best quality. To meet this objective, IRM group is constantly looking for new, passionate employees.

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