

PRESS RELEASE

Wise SGR acquires 100% of Biolchim Spa, in partnership with its Management Team

Milano, 16 January 2013 - Wise SGR S.p.A. acting as manager of Wisequity III funds, completed today the acquisition of 100% of Biolchim Spa from a group of financial investors. Biolchim top management, led by Leonardo Valenti, is investing alongside Wise in a classic MBO deal.

Biolchim is a company involved in the production and distribution of fertilizers, with a particular emphasis on last generation special fertilizers, sector in which the company is one of the most important players in the global arena. The current management team, which joined the company between 2008 and 2010, has initiated a process of evolution of the company from a leadership position in the Italian market, mainly in the traditional products, to a drastic innovation in terms of products and to an important expansion in the international markets. The company is forecasting 2012 revenues of about € 38 Million, of which about 50% international, and EBITDA in excess of € 4 Million.

The acquisition will be financed exclusively through equity from Wise and the management team, with the objective to continue the path of product innovation and of international expansion, both through organic growth and through acquisition of complementary companies.

Biolchim's acquisition represents the fourth deal for the Wisequity III funds, which closed the fundraising process in September 2011 with about € 180 Million of total commitments.

Michele Semenzato, Wise managing partner, who followed the investment together with Luigi Vagnozzi, commented: "We have been looking at the specialty fertilizer market for quite some time, as this is a niche where we expect significant growth opportunities linked to the increase in the attention to sustainability issues in agriculture. We also appreciated that this is a niche where Italian companies are among the most innovative on a global level. We decided that because of its current position, the developing projects that it is pursuing and the excellence of its management team, Biolchim represented the best target to invest in this market, with the goal of leading, through its team, an aggregation process which will allow the company to better compete in all the international markets".

Leonardo Valenti, Biolchim managing director, declared: "First of all I would like to thank my previous shareholders for all the support they gave us to achieve the goals of the first part of our plan, notwithstanding a period of turmoil in the international markets. I am positive the new shareholder will be able to support the management in the second part of the business plan foreseeing a further, important development, which will be achieved also through the building-up of international partnerships that we are already pursuing at industrial, technological and market level".

Wise has been assisted by Simmons&Simmons on the legal aspects, from "Studio Spadacini" on the accounting and fiscal aspects and from "Fineurop Soditic" on the financial aspects of the deal.

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Wise SGR

Wise SGR SpA (www.wisesgr.it) focus on the management of Private Equity funds which invest in small and medium enterprises. Funds managed by Wise usually are involved in LBO and development capital deals with companies which share a leadership position in their niches with the goal to increase the critical mass, also through build-up opportunities and help them to grow international, also through its international network. Wise is owned by the management and by Banca Popolare di Milano, which is a shareholder with a 20% stake. Wise is currently managing two funds: Wisequity II, with € 170 Million of commitment, which is in its divestment phase and Wisequity III, with commitment in excess of € 180 Million, which with Biolchim is completing its fourth investment, after the acquisitions of EidosMedia, Alpitour and Kiian.

Biolchim Spa

Biolchim (www.biolchim.it) has been a relevant player for 40 years in the sector of vegetal nutrition for professional agriculture. Its headquarters and production facilities are near Bologna (Italy) and the company sells its products in more than 50 countries, both through branches in Germany, Brazil and Hungary and through long-term partnerships with local distributors. Being an established market leader in the Italian market, during the last years the company focused its development efforts on the most promising international markets, also through the launch of new products based on technologies in line with the needs of a sustainable approach in agriculture.