

Press Release

WISE EQUITY AND MEP TOGETHER FOR GROWTH

The fund Wisequity VI enters in MEP to join Giorgio Del Fabro in the growth of the world's leading rebar processing machinery company.

MEP is the first investment realized by Wisequity VI fund, which aims to support the management team in the international expansion project already underway.

Milan-Udine, January 19th, 2024 – **Wise Equity**, management company of the investment fund “Wisequity VI”, and **A.C.M. S.r.l.**, sole shareholder of Macchine Elettroniche Piegatrici S.p.A., announce the signing of a binding agreement for the investment of **Wisequity VI** into the capital of **MEP**.

MEP, thanks to a solid operational set-up, an international footprint and a wealth of know-how gained over almost 60 years in the market, is a world leader in the production of **machinery for processing rebar** used in concrete reinforcement, with applications mainly related to the infrastructure sector. The company's distinctive positioning is embodied in its ability to guarantee not only high-quality products, automation, production efficiency and safety, but also high standards of after-sales service and spare parts to its large customer base.

The company, with headquarters in Reana del Rojale (Udine), a factory in Križevci (Croatia) and sales subsidiaries in Spain, France, Poland, Austria, the United States, Brazil and South Korea, expects to close 2023 with a turnover of **more than € 100 million**, about **90 percent** of which is achieved **abroad**, in more than 70 countries.

MEP's global leadership position in critical machinery in the infrastructure concrete supply chain, its strong export focus, and the strength of its management team led Wise Equity to invest in the project, with the goal to continue the company's growth, both organically through acquisitions.

In the transaction, Wisequity VI will acquire a majority stake and MEP's chairman Giorgio Del Fabro will re-invest a significant stake, together with current co-general managers Paolo Schneider Savio and Christian Leschiutta, who will ensure the company's management continuity.

The deal represents the first investment by Wisequity VI, the fund launched by Wise Equity last May with a total commitment of €400 million.

Giorgio Del Fabro, Chairman of MEP, said: *"We immediately identified Wise Equity, thanks to a special sensitivity to industrial issues, as the ideal partner to further strengthen and support our long development path, on the one hand ensuring respect for our history and positioning, and on the other infusing new energy, which is essential to be able to push the company towards new horizons of shared development and growth."*

Fabrizio Medea, Wise Equity Senior Partner, who oversaw the transaction together with Alessio Riccioni (Principal) and Edoardo Vaghi (Investment Manager), said: *"We are proud to be able to support Giorgio Del Fabro and the management team of MEP, a globally recognized excellence, in the implementation of a growth strategy, both organic and through acquisitions, that aims to make the Group even more international and distinctive in the market. The investment in MEP fully reflects the philosophy of the fund, which focuses on leading companies in specific niches, with a significant export share and solid growth potential. We believe in the project and in the management team that will have to implement it: we are confident that together we can guarantee the company an even more exciting future than the excellent results achieved in its 50+ years of history."*

Advisors to Wise Equity:

- Mediolanum Investment Banking as *M&A advisor*, with Lorenzo Di Rosa, Luca Luigi De Ninno, Valentino Cerboni, Edoardo Buzzella;
- Simmons & Simmons for *legal due diligence* and support in the SPA and financing contracts, with Andrea Accornero, Davide D'Affronto, Alessandro Bonazzi, Moira Gamba, Ida Montanaro, Martina Scottà;
- KPMG for *financial due diligence*, with Matteo Ennio, Maria Mayakina, Carlo Tosi, Gianluca Belcastro, Marika Mercurio;
- Studio Spada Partners for *tax due diligence and deal structuring*, with Guido Sazbon, Bernardo Porcellini, Gian Maria Bascherini;
- ERM for *ESG/EHS due diligence*, with Giovanni Aquaro, Federica Rinaldi, Lorenza Ponziani, Claudia Piccirillo;
- Euren Intersearch for organizational *pre-assessment*, with Dario Brivio.

Advisors to MEP S.p.A.:

- SLC Studio Avvocato Campoccia for legal, financial and deal-structuring advise, with Stefano Campoccia, Rolando Favella, Ambra Breda Marica De Pecol, Cristian Tulissi;
- Studio Salvador for tax support and deal-structuring advise, with Fausto Salvador.

Wise Equity

Wise Equity SGR is a company active in the management of closed-end investment funds investing in small and medium-sized companies with a focus on Italy. The funds managed by Wise Equity typically carry out Leveraged Buy Out and development capital operations dedicated to companies that have leading positions in their niche with two main objectives: to increase critical mass, also through build-ups, to improve the competitiveness and marginality of the companies, and to foster their international development.

Wise Equity currently has three funds under management:

- *Wisequity IV with subscribed capital of €215 million and about 92 percent of capital deployed and four remaining investments: Corob, Imprima, Innovery, and Waycap;*
- *Wisequity V launched in July 2019 with an allocation of €260 million, fully deployed on eight investments, seven of which, after the exit from Cantiere del Pardo, are still in the portfolio: Fimotec, Vittoria, Selle Royal, Special Flanges, Almac, OneTag and NTC;*
- *Wisequity VI launched in May 2023 with a total commitment of €400 million, of which MEP represents the first investment.*

MEP

MEP S.p.A., founded by Remigio Del Fabro in 1966, is a global leader in the supply of rebar processing machinery, which exports to more than 70 countries worldwide, and related after-sales services. With its wide product range, solid corporate structure and distinctive market positioning, MEP is a recognized benchmark for its large and fragmented customer base, which increasingly demands automation and safety. The advanced machineries, which MEP is able to offer, are a key component in the global construction and strategic infrastructure supply chain and will keep being more used also in developing markets, characterized by increasing urbanization.

For further information

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