SANPAOLO IMI GROUP

PRESS RELEASE

The Board of Directors of Banca IMI appointed Andrea Crovetto as General

Manager

Milan, 30 September 2005 - The Board of Directors of Banca IMI, investment bank of the Gruppo

SANPAOLO IMI, appointed Andrea Crovetto as General Manager.

After a long experience in Citibank, Andrea Crovetto joined Unicredit Group where, since 1999, he

organized and started the activities of Tradinglab as CEO and Deputy Chairman. As responsible for this

project, Mr. Crovetto developed trading and marketing activities of financial products for investors. In

2002 he also launched TLX electronic market.

In Gruppo Unicredito he was also appointed as Joint Director of Unicredito Italiano and Deputy General

Manager of Unicredit Banca.

In 2004 he was appointed as General Manager of Banca di Roma.

Banca IMI is the wholly owned investment-banking arm of the Sanpaolo IMI Group. It is one of Italy's major houses with strong placing power in both equities and fixed income, in structured finance and securities dealing.

Corporate finance consultancy, capital and debt raising, proprietary trading and trading on behalf of clients in a wide range of market and OTC instruments are Banca IMI's core businesses. The Bank also provides ancillary services including research together with clearing, settlement, etc.

Banca IMI's headquarters are in Milan, with offices in Rome. In addition, the Bank has a branch in London and operates in New York as

Banca IMI Securities Corp.

For further informations: