



PRESS RELEASE

ACQUISITION OF THE ITALIAN CONSUMER CREDIT GROUP SIGLA IS FINALIZED

Milan, October 8, 2007 - DeA Capital S.p.A. has finalized the acquisition of a 27.37% shareholding in Sigla Luxembourg S.A. (hereafter "Sigla") through its Luxembourg subsidiary DeA Capital Investments S.A.. Sigla is a holding company that owns controlling shareholding in Sigla Srl and other non-specific consumer credit companies (i.e. that deal in personal loans) in Italy.

Also, DeA Capital Investments S.A. participated in a reserved capital increase, raising its shareholding in Sigla to 29.74% and its total investment to €31 million.

By request of the Company's Board of Directors, DeA Capital Investments S.A. also committed to subscribing a second capital increase of € 7.5 million within the next three years, which would therefore raise DeA Capital Investments SA's shareholding in Sigla to 34% of its share capital. The total investment in Sigla will therefore eventually reach a maximum of €38.5 million, and will be fully financed using available cash resources.

Along with the finalization of the Sigla acquisition, a shareholders' agreement signed on August 9, 2007 with Palamon Capital Partners – a fund that holds the remaining shareholding in Sigla – came into effect. This agreement was made to regulate corporate governance and shareholder exit mechanisms.

The Sigla Group was established in 1982, and specializes in supplying personal loans to private individuals. With a varied product range, Sigla offers financing to all customer types, acting as the benchmark market operator for family financing services, and operating throughout Italy through a network of credit brokers, call centers, websites and its own direct sales points. The Sigla Group aims to close the 2007 year with outstanding loans of more than €200 million.

For further details on Sigla, please visit their website at www.siglafinanziamenti.it.

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