



Simonds Farsons Cisk plc
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COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT

Farsons Acquires Majority Shareholding in a joint ventures and expands operations in Italy

Simonds Farsons Cisk plc has announced that it has expanded its operations to Treviso in Italy where it has set up a new Company, Vita Sana srl with a view to penetrating the 19 litre bottle market in that region. Vita Sana srl is a fully owned subsidiary of Farsons Italia srl and is expected to start operations in the beginning of March this year. Mr Antoine Scicluna, who has experience in the field, has been appointed General Manager of the Company and is currently resident in Treviso setting up the operation. Forward Marketing Ltd are currently acting as consultants to Simonds Farsons Cisk plc on this project and are expected to become shareholders in the newly formed company in the coming months.

The Company has also announced that it has acquired the 30% shareholding in Eco-Pure Premium Water Ltd from ALPS, an American Bottled Water Company. This acquisition makes Eco-Pure Premium Water Ltd, a fully owned subsidiary within the Farsons Group. The Company, set up 5 years ago, has acquired a high reputation for quality water and service in Malta and has shown a consistent growth pattern.

Commenting on this expansion and acquisition, Mr Louis A. Farrugia, Group Chief Executive said, "This year would be a year of consolidation for the Group. These acquisitions and expansion into a new market are part of our strategic plan to diversify the Group and increase its competitiveness in the light of the changes which are bound to happen in the next few years. I am confident that the Group has the necessary resources to further strengthen our performance in the best interests of our shareholders and employees".

ends

Anthony J. Tabone
Company Secretary

23rd January 2003