



HOLDING DI PARTECIPAZIONI INDUSTRIALI S.P.A.

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **THE ACQUISITION OF CATHERINE NEMO HOLDING HAS BEEN CLOSED**

After receiving the authorization from the European Commission, HdP informs that its own associated company Burda Rizzoli France SAS started the execution of the agreement for the acquisition of the entire capital of the French publishing house Catherine Nemo Holding.

Characterized by a turnover amounting to about Euro 22 million and by a very high profitability, Catherine Nemo Holding publishes the magazines "Nouveau Détective", a news weekly magazine founded in 1928 and reference market leader thanks to an average circulation of over 260,000 copies, and "Horoscope", a monthly magazine of astrology which is market leader in its segment.

The capital of Burda Rizzoli France SAS is made up of a 75% interest owned by Burda RCS International Holding (a joint venture between HdP and Burda), while the remaining 25% is in the hands of some current partners of Catherine Nemo Holding.

The investment is part of HdP strategic program to develop the business of magazines on the international markets together with its partner Burda. Catherine Nemo Holding is a publishing reality that is well known in the French market with leader newspapers and magazines in the reference segments and with a well defined ability and know-how for the development of new products, which can also benefit from the considerable newspaper and magazine portfolio of both RCS and Burda.

Milan, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2003