

*Notice*

F2i Reti Logiche srl, a company wholly owned by the Second Fund managed by F2i SGR SpA, has signed a binding agreement with BNL and MPS for the acquisition of 10.27 per cent of SIA SpA, a company active in the creation and management of technological infrastructures and in the development of services for financial institutions, companies and government agencies in the areas of money and payment services, network services and capital markets.

At the same time, Fondo Strategico Italiano (CDP) and Orizzonte SGR (Chambers of Commerce) have signed binding agreements with Unicredit and certain banks of Gruppo Intesa for the purchase of 42 per cent and 6 per cent, respectively, of SIA.

The three partners will acquire a total of 59.32 per cent of SIA's capital and have signed a shareholders' agreement regulating governance and circulation of their respective shareholdings.

The operation is expected to close in the first quarter of 2014, conditional on authorisation being received from the Bank of Italy and the antitrust authority.

The markets that SIA operates have a competitive context that is evolving quickly. Gradual market deregulation, which has allowed the proliferation of new initiatives aimed at revolutionising the payments sector, has opened up SIA's markets, presenting many opportunities for growth given the growing sensitivity of financial brokers to computer crime resulting from deregulation, and the general trend towards reducing cash transactions. High levels of reliability and security in transactions and sophisticated antifraud solutions are one of SIA's strengths. In a payments market where heavy-handed intervention by legislators has created competitive imbalances among banks – subject to stringent compliance requirements – and other private parties, SIA has been able to develop innovative solutions for its own clients for remote payments, becoming a key partner to Europe's main financial institutions. SIA's distinctive strong point – unique in the sector – is its offer of integrated payment and money services on its own proprietary networks, ensuring maximum privacy for operations by means of point-to-point transactions.

Given these market reasons and the strategic nature of the sector, should other shareholders in SIA decide to sell their shareholdings in SIA, F2i would assess whether to increase its own share in the Company.

12.02.2013