



## PRESS RELEASE

### Results for the three months ended 31 March 2010

**Nanterre, 27 April 2010** - On 26 April 2010, the IMS Supervisory Board examined the Group's consolidated results for the three months ended 31 March 2010.

<i>(in millions of euros)</i>	First quarter 2009	Fourth quarter 2009	First quarter 2010	Change Q1 10/Q1 09
Volumes distributed (tonnes)	102,829	95,603	110,059	+7.0%
Turnover	211.9	173.7	206.1	-2.8%
Gross margin	35.8	28.1	41.4	+15.8%
Operating profit	(14.9)	(27.6)	(7.5)	
Net profit	(14.2)	(20.5)	(7.1)	
Net debt (including deconsolidated factoring)	225.6	158.1	200.8	

In the first quarter of 2010, volumes distributed totalled 110,059 tonnes, up 7.0% relative to the first quarter of 2009 and up 15.1% relative to the fourth quarter of 2009. Turnover totalled €206.1 million.

The upturn in activity was particularly strong in the stainless steel business, where volumes rose by 16.4% relative to the first quarter of 2009. Stronger business levels were accompanied by a sharp increase in gross margin, which recovered in all product lines due to inventory renewal. Gross margin totalled €41.4 million in the first quarter of 2010, as opposed to €100.3 million for the whole of 2009. The stainless steel business was boosted by higher prices of alloying elements from February onwards, while the engineering and wear-resistant steel businesses are likely to benefit from significant price rises starting in the second quarter.

Efforts to lower fixed costs in 2009 resulted in savings of €7.1 million in the first quarter of 2010, in line with the full-year target of €28 million.

Given these results and the outlook for the months ahead, the Group is confident that it will break even at the operating level this year, based on its current scope of consolidation.

Net debt rose from €158.1 million at 31 December 2009 to €200.8 million at 31 March 2010. The increase was driven by trade receivables arising from higher business levels. With inventories remaining under control, IMS has confirmed its target of reducing debt to less than €150 million at end-2010.



IMS is a European leader in the distribution of steel for the wear resistant, stainless and engineering markets. With a workforce of close to 2,000 staff in 17 European countries, IMS recorded 2009 turnover of €727 million.

Listed on Euronext Paris - compartment B of NYSE Euronext, member of the SBF 250 and Small 90 indices.

ISIN: FR0000033904 - Reuters: ITMT.PA - Bloomberg: IMS FP

[www.ims-group.com](http://www.ims-group.com)

**Download the business report for the three months ended 31 March 2010 at [www.ims-group.com](http://www.ims-group.com) in the "Investors" / "Reports, Results and Slideshows" section.**

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