



PRESS RELEASE

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IMS' economic performance rewarded by the "Trophée Midcaps 2008"

IMS, a European leader in the distribution of special steels, yesterday received the "Trophée Midcaps 2008" award for the best Economic Performance. This accolade rewards the greatest performance, in terms of growth and profitability, amongst small and midcaps listed on the Paris Euronext, i.e. companies with a market capital of between 50 million and 1 billion euros. IMS' economic performance is illustrated by the substantial increase in volumes sold (+21% in 2007, to 650,556 tonnes), in revenue (+39% in 2007, to 1.426 billion euros, a doubling in the figure between 2004 and 2007), and in operating profit (+18% in 2007, to 111 million euros).

Jean-Yves Bouffault, Chairman of the IMS Board, says: *"We are extremely happy to have received this award, which recognises the strategy implemented*

by IMS since 2005. I would personally like to share this award with all of our subsidiaries' managers and our 2,500 employees, who are more than ever united around our corporate project and who construct, day after day, our Group's performance. This reward is a reminder of the efficiency of our multi-line distribution model aimed at all industrial players across 17 European countries. The coming months will give us an opportunity to reaffirm the robustness of our model and to show that IMS has all the necessary competitive advantages to continue its lasting profitable growth."

The ODDO Midcap awards have been organised for the last four years by ODDO Midcaps, Ernst & Young, MiddleNext and NYSE Euronext.



Nanterre, 25th November 2008

IMS is a European leader in the distribution of wear-resistant steel, stainless steel and engineering steel.

Listed on Euronext Paris - compartment B of the NYSE Euronext, member of the SBF 120 and Small 90 indices.
ISIN: FR0000033904 - Reuters: ITMT.PA - Bloomberg: IMS FP

IMS: www.ims-group.com

2008 Annual Results Publication: 10th February 2009, after market