



international  
metal  
service

## PRESS RELEASE

**IMS**  
Philippe Brun  
Tel.: +33 1 41 92 04 23  
ims@ims-group.com

**NewCap.**  
Emmanuel Huynh / Axelle Vuillermet  
Tel.: +33 1 44 71 94 94  
infos@newcap.fr

**Nanterre,  
January 25<sup>th</sup>  
2007**

IMS, the European leader in special steels distribution, today announces its consolidated turnover for the full year ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006.

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

IMS is the European leader in the distribution of special steels for the anti-abrasion, anti-corrosion and mechanical engineering markets. Listed in compartment B Eurolist by Euronext Paris<sup>TM</sup>, member of the Small 90 index - **Next Prime**, member of the **FTSE index: 188**  
ISIN: FR0000033904,  
Reuters: ITMT.PA,  
Bloomberg: IMS FP

**Full year results  
to 31<sup>st</sup> December  
2006:  
7<sup>th</sup> March 2007,  
after market**



## 2006 sales: an excellent fourth quarter and full-year growth of 21.3%

Unaudited consolidated figures (thousands of euros)	2005	2006	Change	Change at constant scope
<b>First quarter</b>	220,669	238,766	+8.2%	+11.4%
<b>Second quarter</b>	234,828	248,595	+5.9%	+10.6%
<b>Third quarter</b>	199,416	246,929	+23.8%	+26.6%
<b>Fourth quarter</b>	189,696	290,059	+52.9%	+39.2%
<b>Full year</b>	844,609	1,024,349	+21.3%	+21.3%

Product line (tonnes)	2005	2006	Change	Change at constant scope
<b>Corrosion resistant</b>	97,685	118,396	+21.2%	20.1%
<b>Abrasion resistant</b>	82,945	85,825	+3.5%	3.7%
<b>Engineering</b>	283,453	334,826	+18.1%	10.7%
<b>Total</b>	464,083	539,047	+16.2%	11.5%

Fourth-quarter sales totalled €290m, up 39.2% at constant scope relative to the year-earlier period. The volume effect was 15.7% and the price effect 23.5%.

In 2006, market share gains and the roll-out of new product lines boosted volumes by 13.5% at constant scope. The sharp rise in the price of alloy metals (particularly nickel and molybdenum) resulted in a 7.8% increase in IMS' prices.

In December, IMS continued to expand by buying the operations of two Italian companies (pipe cutting and distribution of mechanical steels - annual sales of €3m) and a mechanical steel distribution operation in Spain (annual sales of €3.4m)

These deals illustrate the Group's targeted acquisitions strategy. They have no significant impact on 2006 sales or earnings.

In its 14<sup>th</sup> December 2006 meeting, the Supervisory Board appointed Yvon Jacob as a Supervisory Board member. Mr Jacob is Chairman of Legris Industries' Supervisory Board, and is Chairman of the Fédération des Industries Mécaniques and the Groupement des Fédérations Industrielles.

IMS expects to distribute more than 580,000 tonnes of steel in 2007 (barring further acquisitions), and is on track to hit its target of 700,000 tonnes in 2008.