



PRESS RELEASE

SOGEFI: 40 MILLION LOAN OBTAINED FROM THE EIB TO FUND INNOVATION

The credit facility is for the research and development program 2009-2012, which involves a total investment of 115 million. The group aims to produce new generation parts able to reduce fuel consumption and vehicle emissions. The loan is guaranteed for 50% by SACE

Milan, January 20 2011 - **Sogefi (CIR group)**, one of the main world operators in the production of filters and suspension components for motor vehicles, has obtained **a loan of 40 million euro** from the **European Investment Bank (EIB) to finance its research, development and innovation program 2009-2012**, which involves a **total investment** of approximately **115 million euro**.

The agreement with the EIB was reached following an in-depth analysis of the research and innovation programs of the Sogefi group. The loan has a maximum maturity of six years and is guaranteed for 50% by the Italian insurance and financial group **SACE**.

More specifically, the loan is for the research and development activity conducted by the Sogefi group in **France and Italy** in the **suspension components and filter divisions** with the aim of **developing products able to play a part in reducing the fuel consumption and carbon dioxide emissions of motor vehicles**.

In the **suspension components division**, the research and development activity is directed towards **reducing the weight of the products** by **improving the production processes** and using **new materials**, which will also limit the current dependence on steel.

In the **filter division** research is aimed at **developing lighter products with enhanced performance** through a greater use of plastic materials and the inclusion of new functionalities in the **oil, fuel and air filter systems**.

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