



PRESS RELEASE

INTERPUMP GROUP WINS 2002 INNOVATION AWARD OF HOME DEPOT, THE No. 1 US DIY RETAILER WITH SALES OF USD 55 BLN

AWARD ASSIGNED FOR FIRST TIME EVER TO A EUROPEAN COMPANY

Vice President and CEO, Giovanni Cavallini: "This award recognises the Interpump Group's ability to offer the market cutting-edge products and to compete with and surpass major global players, not only in pressure pumps and power take-offs for commercial vehicles – our traditional strengths – but also in the promising Cleaning sector".

S. Ilario d'Enza (Reggio Emilia) – January 23rd 2003. The **Interpump Group** – and in particular **FAIP**, the Interpump Cleaning division specialised in high-pressure washers for the consumer market - has won the **2002 Innovation Award**, the prize awarded every year for product innovation to **Home Depot's** best supplier. Home Depot is the world's largest DIY retail chain. Interpump Group was chosen from among the "**Top 100**" suppliers of Home Depot.

Home Depot, founded in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1979 is the world's largest retailer of DIY products. Listed on the New York Stock Exchange since 1981, Home Depot today has an extensive network consisting of over 1,500 stores and megastores in the USA, Canada and Mexico and generates annual sales of some USD 55 billion. For the second year running Home Depot has been ranked sixth in Fortune magazine's ranking of "*Most Admired Companies in America*" – and for the eighth year running Fortune also ranked Home Depot in the No. 1 slot in its "*America's Most Admired Retailer*" ranking. Every year Home Depot awards prizes to suppliers that have distinguished themselves in product or service innovation. And in 2002, for the first time ever, it has awarded a prize to a European company – the Interpump Group.

Giovanni Cavallini, the Interpump Group's Vice President and CEO, commented: "This award recognises the Interpump Group's ability to offer the market cutting-edge products and to compete with and surpass major global players, not only in pressure pumps and power take-offs for commercial vehicles – our traditional strengths – but also in the promising Cleaning sector".

The USA is the world's most competitive and demanding market. Assignment by Home Depot of its Innovation Award to Interpump is a further demonstration of the Interpump Group's ability to compete in the market as an industrial group featuring outstanding management of product and service quality.

In 2002 the Interpump Group achieved sales of €492 million (up by 15.5% over 2001). In the first nine months of 2002, the Cleaning sector accounted for 52% (€195 million) of the group's revenues, up by 32% YoY. In North America, in the first nine months of 2002 the Interpump group achieved total sales of over €127 million, up by 27.8% over 2001 – and going strongly against the current of the prevailing economic cycle. In the USA, Interpump is also directly present with an industrial associated company - **Muncie Power Products Inc.**, leader in power take-offs for commercial vehicles. The Interpump Group has also been included in the Forbes magazine's ranking of the world's 200 most attractive companies with sales of less than USD 1 billion.

For further information, please contact:

Moccagatta Associati Tel +39 02 864561419 – fax +39 02 86452082

Email: segreteria@moccagatta.it