

# ESPRINET S.P.A.

# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE REPORT

pursuant to Article 123-bis of the Italian Consolidated Law on Finance (TUF)

(Traditional management and control model)

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# GLOSSARY

Corporate Governance Code:	The Corporate Governance Code for Listed Companies approved in July 2014 by the Corporate Governance Committee and promoted by Borsa Italiana S.p.A., ABI, Ania, Assogestioni, Assonime and Confindustria.
Civil Code:	the Italian Civil Code.
Board:	the Board of Directors of Esprinet S.p.A.
Issuer:	Esprinet S.p.A., with its registered office at via Energy Park, 20, Vimercate (MB) and a share capital of €7,860,651.00 (fully paid up), and listed on the Monza and Brianza Companies Register with the tax code 05091320159, REA MB-1158694, and VAT no. IT 02999990969
Financial year:	the financial year to which this Report relates.
Issuer Regulations:	CONSOB Regulation 11971 of 1999, implementing Legislative Decree 58 of 24 February 1998, is a body of regulations issued by the Italian stock market regulator CONSOB ( <i>Commissione Nazionale per le Società e la Borsa</i> ) which governs the issuance of financial instruments for retail investment
Public Offer to Buy:	pursuant to Legislative Decree 58 of 24 February 1998, "Public Offer to Buy" ("POB") is taken to mean any offer, invitation to bid or promotional message for the cash purchase of financial products
CONSOB Market Regulations	: the Regulation issued by CONSOB in the form of Resolution 16191 of 2007, as subsequently amended and supplemented, in addition to the financial market sources of law system
CONSOB Related-P Regulations:	arty the Regulation concerning related-party transactions issued by CONSOB in the form of Resolution 17221 of 12 March 2010 (as subsequently amended)
Report:	the "Corporate Governance and Ownership Structure Report" prepared by companies issuing listed financial instruments pursuant to Article 123- <i>bis</i> of the Italian Consolidated Law on Finance (TUF)
TUF:	Legislative Decree 58 of 24 February 1998 ( <i>Testo Unico della Finanza</i> or "TUF"; Italian Consolidated Law on Finance), as subsequently amended and supplemented



#### INTRODUCTION

Esprinet S.p.A. subscribes and conforms to the Corporate Governance Code for Italian Listed Companies (the "Code"), which it adapts to its own characteristics.

In 2014, the Company continued to bring itself into line with the recommendations of the Code.

Pursuant to Article 70(8) and Article 71(1-*bis*) of the Issuer Regulations published by CONSOB, the Board of Directors of Esprinet S.p.A. decided, on 21 December 2012, to exercise its right not to comply with the obligation to publish the information documents prescribed in the case of significant mergers, demergers, capital increases through the contribution of assets in kind, acquisitions and transfers.

In order to fulfil the transparency requirements set forth in industry regulations, a "Corporate Governance and Ownership Structure Report" is drawn up each year containing a general description of the governance system adopted by the Group as well as information on the ownership structure, on the organisational model adopted pursuant to Legislative Decree 231 of 2001 and on the extent to which the Group complies with the Corporate Governance Code, including the main governance practices applied and the characteristics of the risk management and internal control system in relation to the financial reporting process.

The "Corporate Governance and Ownership Structure Report" is published under Investor Relations - Corporate Documents - 2015 Shareholders' Meeting on the Company's website (<u>www.esprinet.com</u>).

The Corporate Governance Code is available for consultation on the website of Borsa Italiana S.p.A. www.borsaitaliana.it.

#### **1. PROFILE OF ISSUER**

Esprinet S.p.A. (henceforth referred to as "Esprinet" or the "Company") was created in September 2000 by the merger of two leading IT distributors in Italy, Comprel S.p.A. and Celomax S.p.A. The latter had, in turn, grown out of the merger of Celo and Micromax in 1999.

This operation was the natural outcome of a process of operational integration that first involved Celo S.p.A. and Micromax S.p.A., the two existing IT distributors. Their merger gave birth to Celomax and, later, to Comprel.

Esprinet is the operational holding company of a group (the "Group") which, as at 31 December 2014, comprised V-Valley S.r.I., a wholly owned subsidiary, Celly S.p.A., a 60%-owned subsidiary acquired on 12 May 2014, and Spanish-law company Esprinet Iberica S.L.U., another wholly owned subsidiary.

In Italy and Spain, the Group is active only in the business-to-business (B2B) distribution of information technology (IT) and consumer electronics.

The scope of the acquisition of Celly S.p.A., which operates in the B2B distribution of IT and consumer electronics, particularly the wholesale distribution of mobile phone accessories, also includes its wholly owned subsidiaries:

- Celly Nordic OY, a company under Finnish law;
- Celly Swiss SAGL, a company under Swiss law;
- Celly Pacific LTD, a company under Chinese law, wholly owned by Celly Swiss SAGL;

all companies active in the same operational area as the holding company, as well as Celly S.p.A.'s 25% stake in French associate Ascendeo SAS.

The Italy Sub-Group was also active in the business-to-consumer (B2C) IT and consumer electronics sector until 28 February 2014, through Monclick S.r.l., and in the B2B microelectronic components sector until 23 July 2014, through Comprel S.r.l.

As at the same date, the Spain Sub-Group consisted solely of Esprinet Iberica S.L.U.

Thanks to an internet-based business model unique in its sector (www.esprinet.com), Esprinet concentrates particularly on the distribution of technology to resellers who deal mainly with small- and medium-sized businesses.

In 2012, Esprinet joined forces with 11 other major Italian IT resellers to found Assocloud S.r.l. Despite Esprinet S.p.A. having a stake of only 9.5% in this company, which aims to provide a portfolio of cloud



computing solutions, it is classified as an associate owing to the considerable influence Esprinet has over it pursuant to specific provisions in the articles of association.

Esprinet's corporate governance structure is organised in accordance with the traditional management model referred to in Articles 2380 et seq of the Italian Civil Code, and consists of the shareholders' meeting, the Board of Directors, which as the management body plays a central role in the Company's organisational structure, and the Board of Statutory Auditors, a supervisory body independent of the Board of Directors. As required by the law, official auditing is performed by an independent firm of auditors registered with CONSOB.

In compliance with the principles drawn up by the Corporate Governance Committee of Borsa Italiana S.p.A., implementation of the corporate governance system of the Esprinet Group involved adoption of the codes, principles and procedures that govern the activities of all the Company's organisational and operational components. These are constantly checked and updated in order to respond effectively to new regulations and operational procedures.

In order to perform its specialist activities, Esprinet S.p.A. relies on the services of Banca IMI S.p.A.

# 2. INFORMATION ON THE OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE (PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 123-*BIS*, PARAGRAPH 1, TUF) AS AT 16 MARCH 2015

#### a) Share capital structure (Article 123-*bis*, paragraph 1, letter a), TUF)

The Issuer's subscribed and paid-up share capital amounts to  $\in$ 7,860,651.00, divided into 52,404,340 ordinary shares with a par value of  $\in$ 0.15 each, representing 100% of the share capital. Table 1 attached hereto shows a detailed breakdown of the share capital.

There are no existing financial instruments that grant the right to subscribe for new shares nor are there any share-based incentive schemes that provide for increases of share capital, even free of charge.

#### b) Restrictions on transfer of shares (Article123-bis, paragraph 1, letter b), TUF)

The Company's Articles of Association do not include any restrictions on the transfer of shares or any approval clauses.

#### c) Significant investments in share capital (Article123-*bis*, paragraph 1, letter c), TUF)

Table 2 attached hereto shows the entities that hold a significant investment in the share capital, whether directly or indirectly, as per the disclosure pursuant to Article 120 of the TUF.

#### d) Shares with special rights (Article123-*bis*, paragraph 1, letter d), TUF)

There have been no issues and there are no holdings of shares with special rights of control.

# e) Employees' shares: method of exercising voting rights (Article123-*bis*, paragraph 1, letter e), TUF)

There are no methods of exercising voting rights particular to employees' shares.

#### f) Restrictions on voting rights (Article123-bis, paragraph 1, letter f), TUF)

The Company's Articles of Association do not include any restrictions on exercising the right to vote.



# g) Shareholders' agreements (Article123-bis, paragraph 1, letter g), TUF)

As at the date of this Report, there is a Shareholders' Lockup and Voting Agreement (hereinafter the "Agreement") pursuant to Article 122 of the TUF. Effective from 26 March 2012, this Agreement lasts for three years and concerns 18,978,380 shares representing 36.215% of the capital.

The members of the Agreement are shown in the table below:

	N° azioni ordinarie vincolate	% sul totale azioni	% sul totale azioni vincolate
Francesco Monti	8,232,070	15.709%	43.376%
Giuseppe Calì	7,732,000	14.755%	40.741%
Maurizio Rota	2,514,310	4.798%	13.248%
Alessandro Cattani	500,000	0.954%	2.635%
Totale	18,978,380	36.215%	100.000%

None of the individual members have control of Esprinet S.p.A., directly and/or through the Agreement, in accordance with the provisions of primary and secondary law, in particular pursuant to Article 93 of the TUF.

The main conditions of the Agreement are described below.

#### Lockup Restrictions

Members of the Agreement undertake, for its entire term, not to transfer in any way (including by means of mergers and/or demergers with third parties) the locked-up shares on an organised market or off market, and not to grant total or partial usufruct or any other limited property right on the shares bound by them under this Agreement, nor to initiate negotiations for their sale, including their forward sale, or to enter into options or swaps on the lockup shares and the other financial instruments bound by the Agreement.

An exception is the possibility of using the shares as a guarantee or pledge for loans, without prejudice to the restrictions imposed by the Agreement and the reservation of voting rights to the members who benefit from such loans.

The restriction on transfer does not apply, among others, to transfers among members of the Agreement as long as such transfers do not create a situation of control among those indicated by the provisions of primary and secondary law, in particular pursuant to Article 93 of the TUF, and to transfers that are unanimously approved by members of the Agreement.

In addition, the restriction does not apply to transfers inter vivos from an original member of the Agreement to relatives within the 3rd degree, as long as the shares remain locked up under the Agreement.

#### **Voting Restrictions**

Members of the Agreement undertake, for its entire term, to cast their votes in the competent corporate bodies of Esprinet S.p.A. in accordance with the resolutions passed at the meetings of the shareholders party to the Agreement (the "Agreement Meeting") for the issues subject to the same.

Decisions must be approved by at least 75% of the shares locked up to the Agreement.

#### **Bodies of the Agreement**

The bodies of the Agreement, in addition to the Shareholders' Meeting, are the Chairman and the Secretary, who are elected among the members and remain in office for the entire term of the Agreement.

In the case of resignation or unavailability, the new Chairman and/or Secretary must be elected by a simple majority of the members.

The Chairman must convene and chair the Agreement Meeting, prepare the agenda and conduct all the activities entrusted to him by the Meeting.

The Secretary must draw up the minutes of the Meetings, archive the minutes and conduct all the operational and executive duties required for correct functioning of the Agreement in support of the activities of the Meeting and the Chairman, as entrusted to him by the Chairman.

Alessandro Cattani and Fulvio di Domenico are appointed, respectively, Chairman and Secretary. The Agreement provides for some reciprocal commitments, in addition to transfer and voting restrictions, because its main purpose was to stabilise the structure of ownership and long-term strategies of the Esprinet Group, supporting the achievement of strategic objectives.

An extract of the Agreement is public and available on the CONSOB website (www.consob.it).

# h) Change of control clauses (Article123-*bis*, paragraph 1, letter h), TUF) and statutory provisions governing POB (Articles 104, paragraph 1-*ter*, and 104-*bis* paragraph 1, TUF)

The Issuer and its subsidiaries have not entered into significant agreements that enter into force or are subject to amendment in the event of changes to the structure of control.

The contract governing the five-year loan taken out by Esprinet on 31 July 2014 with a pool of banks contains some clauses that may result in extinguishment or revision in the event of a change of control, a standard procedure for loans of this type.

Supply procurement contracts entered into with the main vendors also contain clauses to enable the counterpart to revise its position in the event of a change of control, again an established market procedure.

In relation only to the Chief Executive Officer, Alessandro Cattani, by virtue of the post that he holds, he is also awarded, in accordance with the shareholders' resolution of 9 May 2012, a further fixed remuneration of €5.0 million payable in the event of a change of control.

The current Articles of Association do not derogate in any way from the provisions governing POB pursuant to Articles 104 and 104-*bis* of the TUF.

### i) Authorisation to increase the share capital and to purchase treasury shares (Article123bis, paragraph 1, letter m), TUF)

No powers are currently granted to the management body to increase the share capital.

#### Purchase of treasury shares

As part of the treasury shares purchase programme launched in September 2007, in conformity with the resolution passed by the Shareholders' Meeting of 26 April 2007, the Issuer, as at 31 December 2007, held 1,350,000 Esprinet ordinary shares at an average price of €11.06 each, gross of commissions.

The purchase operations were carried out on the market in accordance with the limits established by Article 2357 of the Civil Code and in conformity with the provisions of Article 132 of the TUF and Article 144-*bis* of the Regulations for Issuers, and therefore in accordance with the operational modality established by the regulations governing the organisation and management of markets, in respect of the ban on purchase proposals being directly linked to predetermined sales proposals.

Purchases were carried out in daily quantities that did not exceed 25% of the average daily volume of Esprinet S.p.A. ordinary shares traded on the market, in conformity with the provisions of Commission Regulation (EC) 2273/2003.

On 30 April 2014, the Shareholders' Meeting, simultaneously revoked the previous authorisation from the meeting of 29 April 2013, and, pursuant to Article 2357 of the Italian Civil Code, authorised the Board of Directors to buy, on one or more occasions and over a period of 18 months from the date of the resolution, a maximum of 10,480,000 ordinary Esprinet shares each with a par value of €0.15, fully paid-in, and limited to that number so as to ensure that at all times the maximum number of treasury shares owned by the Company never exceeds one fifth of the share capital, including any shares owned by subsidiary



companies. Note that the aforesaid maximum number includes any shares already held in portfolio on the date of the Shareholders' Meeting, at a unit purchase price (a) for purchases on regulated markets, that cannot be more than 20% lower and more than 20% higher than the official price recorded by the Company's ordinary shares on the trading day prior to each individual purchase and (b) for purchases made by means of a public takeover bid or exchange offer or by granting shareholders a put option proportional to the shares owned, that cannot be more than 30% lower and more than 30% higher than the official price recorded by the Company's ordinary shares in the ten trading days preceding the public announcement. The Shareholders' Meeting has given the Chief Executive Officer, Alessandro Cattani, a mandate to purchase shares, including through nominees, under the conditions set out above, at the frequency considered appropriate in the Company's interests, on regulated markets, in observance of the procedures set out in Article 144-bis, first paragraph, of the Issuer Regulations and has authorised the Board of Directors and, on its behalf, the Chief Executive Officer Alessandro Cattani, with right of sub-delegation, pursuant to Article 2357-ter of the Italian Civil Code, to sell in whole and/or in part, without time restriction, any treasury shares purchased even before having exhausted purchases, making any necessary or expedient accounting records, in accordance with any laws and regulations that may be applicable and with the relevant accounting principles. Furthermore, the Shareholders' Meeting has granted the Chief Executive Officer, Alessandro Cattani, all necessary powers to implement the resolution, in accordance with Article 132 of Legislative Decree 58/1998 and with the reporting obligations set out in Article 144-bis, third and fourth paragraph, of the Issuer Regulations.

No shares were purchased in 2014.

As at 31 December 2014, there were 1,181,400 treasury shares, representing 2.25% of the capital.

#### I) Management and coordination (Article 2497 et seq, Italian Civil Code)

As at the date of this Report, the Issuer is not subject to management and coordination, as defined in Article 2497 et seq of the Italian Civil Code, by third parties; it does, however, manage and coordinate all its Italian subsidiaries (Celly S.p.A. and V-Valley S.r.I.) and its Spanish subsidiary (Esprinet Iberica S.L.U.).

It is specified that:

- the information required by Article 123-*bis*, first paragraph, letter i) concerning the existence of agreements between the Company and directors which provide for compensation in the case of resignation or dismissal without just cause or if the relationship terminates as a consequence of a public takeover bid is illustrated in the Remuneration Report published in accordance with Article 123-*ter* of the TUF;
- the information required by Article 123-bis, first paragraph, letter I) ("provisions governing the appointment and substitution of directors ... and amendments to the articles of association, if different from the supplementary legislative and regulatory provisions in force"), is illustrated in paragraph 4.1 of this Report, in the section dedicated to the Board of Directors.

## 3. COMPLIANCE (ARTICLE 123-BIS, PARAGRAPH 2, LETTER A), TUF)

The Company adopts a corporate governance model in line with the principles and criteria contained in the Code.

In order to adapt to its own business and internal organisation, the Issuer may have been persuaded to distance itself from the recommendations of the Code. This Report explains the reasons for any such differences.

The Code is public and is available on the Borsa Italiana website (www.borsaitaliana.it).

At the date of this Report, no decision has been made to adopt codes of corporate governance other than the one put forward by Borsa Italiana S.p.A.



As at the date of writing this Report, to the best of their knowledge, the Issuer's directors are not aware of any non-national legislative provisions that may affect the corporate governance structure of Esprinet S.p.A. and its subsidiaries.

# 4. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# 4.1. Appointment and substitution (Article 123-bis, paragraph 1, letter I), TUF)

The appointment and substitution of directors is governed by Article 13 of the Articles of Association, which states that the election of corporate officers is conducted by an open vote, in compliance with the majorities required by law and/or established in the Articles of Association, using slate voting. Pursuant to current legislation, votes must be cast in a secret ballot with the assistance of two or more scrutineers appointed by the Shareholders' Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors are elected, in compliance with the current rules on gender balance, on the basis of candidate slates submitted and signed by the nominating shareholders, who alone or in conjunction with other shareholders represent, with respect to the date on which the slate is submitted, at least one fortieth of the share capital or any different amount established by law, and who in any case satisfy any other conditions set by law.

Slates must be deposited at the company's registered office at least twenty-five days prior to the date of the meeting at first call unless any shorter deadline is provided by law.

Slates must state which candidates qualify as independent, as defined by law for directors of listed companies.

Each slate must be accompanied by declarations in which the nominees accept their candidacy and confirm that there are no grounds for ineligibility or disqualification, that they meet any conditions set by law or the articles of association and (if applicable) that they qualify as independent.

Slates containing three or more candidates must be made up of candidates belonging to both genders so that at least one fifth (for the first term of office after 12 August 2012) and then one third (rounded up) of candidates belong to the less represented gender.

To demonstrate ownership of the number of shares required for the submission of slates, shareholders must deposit, by the date set according to the rules governing the publication of slates by the Company, a copy of the specific share certificates issued by the authorised intermediaries.

Slates submitted in breach of the articles of association will be treated as not having been submitted.

Each shareholder, as well as shareholders belonging to the same group - by which is meant the controlling entity, subsidiaries, sister companies and associates as defined by Article 2359 of the Italian Civil Code - and shareholders participating, including via subsidiaries, in an agreement regarding the company's shares pursuant to Article 122 of the TUF cannot submit more than one slate either directly or through trust companies.

For the purposes of this article, control (including with reference to parties in non-corporate form) is defined by Article 93 of the TUF.

Each candidate may appear on one slate only or will otherwise be disqualified.

Each eligible party may vote for one slate only.

Without prejudice to Article 2409-*septiesdecies* of the Civil Code, one member of the Board (who must satisfy the conditions of integrity and professionalism determined in accordance with Article 148, paragraphs III and IV of the TUF) is drawn from the minority slate obtaining the highest number of votes which is not connected in any way, even indirectly, with the shareholders who submitted or voted for the winning slate.

For the purposes of selecting the directors to be elected, no account will be taken of slates that fail to obtain a percentage of votes equal to at least half that required for the submission of slates.

All other members of the Board are drawn from the slate obtaining the highest number of votes, in the order in which their names appear on that slate, and at least two of them (or any higher number required by the laws in effect at the time when the slates are submitted) must meet the legal definition of independent as established for the directors of listed companies.

In the event of a tie between two or more slates, a new ballot is held between those slates on which all eligible parties present in the meeting may vote. The candidates on the slate winning a simple majority of votes shall be elected, with abstentions excluded from the count.

If, furthermore, with the candidates elected according to the method described below, the composition of the Board of Directors is not in line with the current rules on gender balance, the candidate from the more



represented gender elected last in progressive order on the slate that obtained the highest number of votes will be replaced by the first candidate on the less represented gender unelected on the same slate according to progressive order. This substitution procedure will be followed until the composition of the Board of Directors is in line with the current rules on gender balance. If, finally, this procedure does not achieve the outcome indicated above, the substitution will be made by resolution of the Shareholders' Meeting taken by a relative majority, following the submission of candidatures from individuals belonging to the less represented gender.

This procedure also applies in the case of substitution as described in Article 14, paragraph 5, below.

Pursuant to Article 144-*quater* of the Regulations for Issuers, CONSOB published Resolution 19109 of 28 January 2015, specifying the percentage required for submitting slates of candidates for the election of the management and control bodies and, in the Company's case, a minimum stake of 4.5% in the share capital was established.

In 2013, the Company adopted a continuity and succession plan for key managers within the Esprinet Group, i.e. the executive directors of Esprinet S.p.A. and managers with strategic responsibilities identified across the Group.

As well as guarding against key management risk by identifying a series of measures to be adopted in order to minimise the chances of a directorship becoming unexpectedly vacant as a result of resignation, dismissal, illness, death, disqualification, arrest, etc., this plan aims to define procedures for ensuring an efficient and quick substitution with a view to restoring normal corporate operating conditions.

This is one of the risk management procedures adopted as part of the internal control system and, as such, has been approved by the Chief Executive Officer on the basis of current operating practice and drafted with the help of the Head of the Internal Audit department and the director responsible for the Internal Control and Risk Management System.

Nevertheless, the Company intends to submit the plan to the Board of Directors before the end of the current financial year for formal approval.

The timing and methods of revision of the plan are not automatic; instead, they are part of the standard risk review cycles included, on a priority basis, in the programme of activities of the Risk Management department.

With the exception of the rules specified in the TUF, the Issuer is not subject to other sectoral rules or provisions concerning the composition of the Board.

## 4.2. Composition (Article 123-bis, paragraph 2, letter d), TUF)

Pursuant to the aforementioned Article 13 of the Articles of Association, the Esprinet S.p.A. Board of Directors consists of between seven and 13 members, depending on the vote of the Shareholders' Meeting. These directors serve three financial years or a shorter period specified on their appointment. They can be re-elected and their term of office ends on the date of the Shareholders' Meeting called to approve the financial statements for the final year of their term.

As at the date of this Report, the Board of Directors consists of 12 members appointed for three financial years by the Shareholders' Meeting of 9 May 2012. Their term of office ends on the date of the Shareholders' Meeting called to approve the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014.

At the time of appointment of the Board of Directors, only one slate was submitted by the shareholders Francesco Monti, Giuseppe Calì, Paolo Stefanelli, Maurizio Rota and Alessandro Cattani, with aggregate holdings of 26,708,880 ordinary shares of Esprinet S.p.A., equal to 50.967% of the share capital.

The above slate was accompanied by certificates issued by intermediaries proving their ownership of the number of shares represented, declarations of each candidate attesting possession of the legal requisites for the office of director and acceptance of the candidacy, and curricula vitae disclosing the personal and professional characteristics of each candidate. This documentation is still available for consultation on the Company's website (www.esprinet.com) in the Investor Relations section.

The percentage of votes obtained in proportion to share capital was 54.774%.

Subsequently, on 17 December 2012, the Independent Director Paolo Vantellini tendered his resignation due to new professional commitments.

Following Mr Vantellini's resignation, which took effect on 28 January 2013, the Board of Directors co-opted Cristina Galbusera, with the approval of the Board of Statutory Auditors. At the Shareholders' Meeting of



29 April 2013, Ms Galbusera was confirmed in her role as Independent Director up to the Shareholders' Meeting called to approve the 2014 financial statements, when the entire Board of Directors would be up for re-election.

Table 3 attached hereto shows the composition of the Board of Directors on the date of this Report.

Paolo Fubini, of the Fubini Jorio Cavalli e Associati law firm, is the Secretary of the Board of Directors. Number of meetings held in 2014

Board of Directors:18Control and Risks Committee:8Nomination and Remuneration Committee:4

Details are given below about the personal and professional characteristics of the individual members of the Board of Directors.

**Francesco Monti:** was born in Bovisio Masciago (Monza and Brianza) on 1 April 1946 and is the Chairman of Esprinet S.p.A. After graduating as en electronics engineer, he started his professional career as a sales manager for companies operating in the components sector. He is one of the founding members of Comprel where he acts as Sole Director and became Chairman in 1983. At the end of 1990s, he played an important role in the merger of Comprel S.p.A. and Celomax S.p.A. which led to the formation of Esprinet S.p.A. in September 2000.

Date of last appointment: shareholders' meeting of 9 May 2012 Date of first appointment: shareholders' meeting of 6 June 2000

**Maurizio Rota:** was born in Milan on 22 December 1957 and is Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive of Esprinet S.p.A.. After graduating as an electronics engineer, he started his professional career in the role of sales manager for companies operating in the IT sector. In 1986 he founded and became Chairman of Micromax. Until 1999 he was responsible for the company's development and consolidation, with a particular emphasis on relations with leading manufacturers and making important contributions towards the achievement of the company's commercial strategies. He was one of the leading promoters of the Micromax S.p.A. / Celo S.p.A. merger which gave rise to the creation of Celomax S.p.A., of which he became Managing Director and later Deputy Chairman. He played an important role in the merger of Comprel S.p.A. and Celomax S.p.A. which led to the formation of Esprinet S.p.A. in September 2000. Date of last appointment: shareholders' meeting of 9 May 2012

Date of first appointment: shareholders' meeting of 6 June 2000

**Alessandro Cattani**: was born in Milan on 15 August 1963 and is Chief Executive of Esprinet S.p.A.. After graduating in electronic engineering at the Politecnico di Milano, he then went on to achieve a Masters in Management (CEGA) at the Università L. Bocconi di Milano. He started his professional career at Scriba S.p.A. where, until 1990, he supported the senior management and also held the position of company director for the group's IT services. Between 1990 and 2000 he was involved in the development of management consultancy projects.

Date of last appointment: shareholders' meeting of 9 May 2012 Date of first appointment: shareholders' meeting of 6 June 2000

**Valerio Casari**: was born in Milan on 14 January 1966 and graduated with distinction in business economics at the Università L. Bocconi di Milano. Between 1992 and 1996 he was a financial analyst at Interbanca S.p.A.. From 1996 to 1997, he was corporate manager at Banca Agricola Mantovana S.c.a r.l.. Between 1998 and 2000, he held the role of investment manager in the private equity division of Arca Merchant S.p.A. He joined the Esprinet Group in 2000 in the role of Chief Financial Officer. Date of last appointment: shareholders' meeting of 9 May 2012

Date of first appointment: shareholders' meeting of 28 April 2009

**Giuseppe Cali**: was born in Palermo on 12 October 1937. After graduating as an industrial engineer, he started to work in the semi-conductors division of the US company Raytheon. In 1965 he was responsible for the production of diodes at Thomson Italia, and in 1967 he joined the sales division. In 1970, alongside



Francesco Monti and Paolo Stefanelli, he founded Comprel S.p.A., where he was responsible for commercial relations with foreign suppliers of electronic components, mainly from the US and Asia. In the 1980s, in his role as a director of Comprel Rep, he dealt with OEM clients on behalf of US and Asian

suppliers (Western Digital, Monolithic Memories, LSI Logic, Sinertek, Hyundai, etc.). During the 1990s, he was a director of value-added reseller (VAR) Sitel S.p.A., where he managed business clients (RAI, ELSAG, Poste Italiane, Olivetti, Seat, ABB, etc.) for the systems division.

Since 2003, he has been a director of Immobiliare Dea '81 S.p.A., a real estate asset management company.

Date of last appointment: shareholders' meeting of 9 May 2012 Date of first appointment: shareholders' meeting of 6 June 2000

**Marco Monti**: was born in Milan on 16 April 1978 and graduated in telecommunications engineering at the Politecnico di Milano.

After completing his studies, he entered the information technology world where he held various web marketing roles until becoming commercial and marketing manager at Infoklix S.p.A.

Currently, he is chairman of the holding company Montinvest S.r.l..

Date of last appointment: shareholders' meeting of 9 May 2012

Date of first appointment: shareholders' meeting of 28 April 2009

**Stefania Cal**ì: was born in Milan on 17 September 1973 and graduated in political sciences with specialisation in business economics at the Università Statale di Milano. In the 2002-2003 academic year, she achieved the qualification of Doctor of Research in Business History. Between 1999 and 2003, she was assistant to the chair of business economics and economics and business management, as well as working with the research department of a Lugano-based merchant bank and a business strategy firm in Milan. Since 2003, she has worked at Immobiliare Dea '81 S.p.A., where she was a project manager before becoming an asset manager in 2009.

Date of last appointment: shareholders' meeting of 9 May 2012

Date of first appointment: shareholders' meeting of 28 April 2009

**Mario Massari**: was born in Varese on 10 March 1951 and holds a degree in business economics from Bocconi University in Milan. He is a chartered accountant listed on the Register of Auditors. He is a tenured professor of business finance at Bocconi University in Milan. Between 2009 and 2013, he was director of the Finance department at the same institution. He is a member of the management committee of the Italian Valuation Council (Organismo Italiano di Valutazione - OIV).

He has been economic advisor to the Milan Stock Exchange on valuation matters as well as advisor to CONSOB on business, financial and corporate matters. He holds various management and supervisory posts within a number of listed and unlisted companies. He has written numerous studies and publications on economic, management and finance matters.

Date of last appointment: shareholders' meeting of 9 May 2012

Date of first appointment: shareholders' meeting of 28 April 2009

Andrea Cavaliere: was born in Piacenza on 4 March 1960 and has a degree in accounting. For several years he held management duties and posts in the pharmaceutical and mass-market consumer sector within the chemical group Bayer S.p.A. and subsequently in the mechanical production sector in Italy and abroad. Currently, he not only carries out management consultancy activities for a series of European companies but also holds, *inter alia*, the posts of general manager of Edintesa S.C.a.R.L., managing director of Fonderie Montini S.p.A., sole director of Syntesi S.r.l., chief executive of the financial holding company Edifin S.p.A. and managing director of the property company Lago di Garda S.p.A. Date of last appointment: shareholders' meeting of 9 May 2012 Date of first appointment: shareholders' meeting of 28 April 2009

**Chiara Mauri:** was born in Lecco on 6 June 1956 and holds a degree in Business Economics from the Università L. Bocconi di Milano. She is a Professor of Business Economics and Management and Head of the Department of Economic and Political Sciences at the Università della Valle d'Aosta and Visiting Professor at the Università Luigi Bocconi di Milano. She is a senior lecturer at the SDA Bocconi School of Management, where she is director of the Master of Management in Food & Beverage. She has worked as



a consultant on industrial and marketing strategy for various companies operating in different product sectors.

She has written various scientific publications.

Date of first appointment: shareholders' meeting of 09 May 2012

**Umberto Giovanni Quilici:** was born in Lucca on 29 April 1946 and holds a degree in physics from the University of Milan (1969). His professional and managerial career was been developed in various companies such as Italsiel, Logica General Systems and Data Management, where he held the post of General Manager and Chief Executive Officer. In 1997, he held the post of Central Director for Credito Italiano with responsibility for defining and implementing the Group's new ICT strategy. Acting in the capacity of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman, he supported the group's computing company (Ugis) throughout the course of its growth until December 2007. He has also held the position of Member of Board of Directors and Chairman in numerous Unicredit Group companies including the bank Bipop Carire. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of Unicredit Business Integrated Solutions (Ubis) where he chairs the Control and Risks Committee. He is also a member of the board at Be Think, Solve, Execute S.p.A., where he chairs the Control and Risks Committee.

Date of first appointment: shareholders' meeting of 09 May 2012

**Cristina Galbusera**: was born in Morbegno (SO) on 30 March 1952 and has a degree in accounting. She started her career at Galbusera S.p.A. in Cosio Valtellino (SO). She is also a member of the Board of Directors of Banca Popolare di Sondrio and Chairman of Confindustria Sondrio, Chairman of the Grocers Section of Confindustria Sondrio, member of the Board of Directors of Confindustria Sondrio Servizi and was, until 31 December 2011, a member of the Board of Directors of Banca d'Italia di Sondrio. Date of last appointment: Shareholders' Meeting of 29 April 2013

Date of first appointment: Board of Directors' meeting of 28 January 2013

No directors left their post in 2014.

#### Maximum number of offices held in other companies

The Board has not defined any general criteria about the maximum number of offices its own members can hold as directors or statutory auditors in other companies which might be considered compatible with their responsibility to carry out their duties effectively as a director of the Issuer, since it prefers to leave this task to shareholders at the time of submission of slates. This, however, does not affect the duty of each Board member to evaluate the compatibility of their director or auditor posts in other listed companies, financial companies, banks, insurance companies or other large-sized companies, with the responsibilities they have taken on as director of the Issuer.

Without prejudice to any matters that may be brought before the Nomination and Remuneration Committee, this way of doing things derives from the belief that it is preferable for each director to make their own decision about their ability to properly perform their duties while simultaneously holding other posts. This is supported by directors' attendance at Board and committee meetings, which is historically very high and was 93% in 2014.

For more on this, please see Table 3 - Structure of the Board of Directors.



Name	Office	Company
Francesco Monti	Chairman of the Board of Directors	V-Valley S.r.l. <sup>(1)</sup>
Maurizio Rota	Chairman of the Board of Directors Director	Celly S.p.A. <sup>(1)</sup> V-Valley S.r.I. <sup>(1)</sup>
Alessandro Cattani	Chairman of the Board of Directors Director Director Director	Esprinet Iberica S.I.u. <sup>(1)</sup> Celly S.p.A. <sup>(1)</sup> V-Valley S.r.I. <sup>(1)</sup> A. Agrati S.p.A.
Valerio Casari	Director Director	Esprinet Iberica S.I.u. <sup>(1)</sup> Celly S.p.A. <sup>(1)</sup>
Stefania Calì	Director	Celly S.p.A. <sup>(1)</sup>
Mario Massari	Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors Director Sole Director Chairman of the Board of Statutory Auditors Chairman of the Board of Statutory Auditors	Risanamento S.p.A. <sup>(2)</sup> Compagnia Italiana di Navigazione S.p.A. Studi Finanziari S.r.I. Ospedale San Raffaele S.r.I. Travi e Profilati di Pallanzeno S.r.I. Dueferdofin - Nucor S.r.I. Valore Reale SGR S.p.A. Acofer Prodotti Siderurgici S.r.I. San Zeno Accaio-Duferco S.r.I. Diagnostica Ricerca San Raffaele S.p.A. Betty Blue S.p.A.
Andrea Cavaliere	Chief Executive Officer Director Director Director	Edifin S.r.I. Montini S.p.A. Geomateria S.r.I. Società Lago di Garda S.p.A.
Chiara Mauri	Director	Colorificio San Marco S.p.A.
Umberto Giovanni Quilici Cristina Galbusera	Director Director Director	Unicredit Business Integrated Solutions Be Think Solve Execute S.p.A. <sup>(2)</sup> Banca Popolare di Sondrio Scpa <sup>(2)</sup>

The following table lists the companies in which each individual director holds management or control positions as at 31 December 2014:

<sup>(1)</sup>companies belonging to the Issuer's Group

<sup>(2)</sup>companies listed on the Italian stock exchange

In the occasion of the Shareholders' Meeting for the approval of the 2014 Financial Statement as at 31 December 2014, the current Board of Directors mandate (dated back 9 May 2012) will expire, as the three-year period 2012 – 2014 ends.

To this purpose, the Board - upon the recommendation of the Appointment and Remuneration Committee - specified some general criteria on the maximum number of the offices in the Report on the resolution for the appointment of a new administrative body: non-executive Directors can hold no 4 (four) offices in public companies, while no limit was specified for other offices types, transferring to each Director to check if he/she can held the office. Executive Directors will have different criteria then the ones abovementioned, considering also the business type of the Companies where the office is hold.

#### Induction Programme

During the board meetings and, therefore, indicatively on a monthly basis, the Board was given updated information about company trends and the performance of company affairs as well as the main changes in the regulatory and legislative framework of relevance to the company and the sector in which it operates.



## 4.3. Role of the Board of Directors (Article 123-bis, paragraph 2, letter d), TUF)

During 2014, the Board of Directors met 18 times, with each meeting lasting on average around 70 minutes. There are 12 board meetings scheduled for 2015, of which three had already been held by the date of this Report.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors is responsible for organising the work of the Board. In particular, the Chairman must ensure that all the appropriate information and documentation is made available to Board members so that they can make their decisions at Board meetings.

Except in particularly urgent or confidential situations, each director and statutory auditor is informed of the agenda items sufficiently in advance by way of summary presentations accompanied by the documents that are the subject of the agenda items.

Each document is protected by a password, which has been agreed and communicated in advance, in order to ensure the confidentiality of the information therein.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors, alone or with the help of the other executive directors, will endeavour to ensure that the necessary time can be devoted to the items on the agenda so as to allow a constructive discussion and will, in his running of meetings, encourage contributions from individual Board members.

When additional background about the items on the agenda is required, the Issuer's managers will be invited to attend Board meetings.

Article 17 of the Articles of Association establishes that the Board of Directors is responsible for examining and approving:

- the Issuer's strategic, industrial and financial plans;
- the strategic, industrial and financial plans for the group headed by the Issuer;
- the Issuer's corporate governance system;
- the structure of the group headed by the Issuer.

The Board of Directors is responsible for the Company's strategic and organisational functions as well as for verifying the existence of all controls necessary for monitoring the performance of the Company and the Group.

The articles of association grant the Board of Directors the fullest possible powers for the ordinary and extraordinary management of the Company, with the right to carry out all acts considered necessary to implement and achieve the Company's objects, excluding those that the law strictly reserves for the Shareholders' Meeting.

The Board of Directors can delegate, within the limits specified in current legislation, some of its powers to one or more directors, establishing the limits and conditions thereof at the time the powers are delegated, with the obligation that each director involved must report to the Board of Directors at least once every three months on the activities carried out in the performance of the powers delegated.

The Board of Directors, or the directors to whom powers have been conferred, reports to the Board of Statutory Auditors on the activities carried out in the performance of those duties, on the most significant operations carried out by the Company and its subsidiaries and on operations where a potential conflict of interest exists.

The information is provided at meetings of the Board of Directors, and in any event at least once every quarter.

During their regular meetings, the Board and the Board of Statutory Auditors are informed, including via delegated bodies, about activities carried out, about the most important economic and financial transactions undertaken by the Company or by its subsidiaries, and about foreseeable business trends, with particular regard to transactions involving a potential conflict of interest.



The Board examines and approves the Company's strategic choices and all economic and financial transactions which are regarded as significant insofar as they may materially affect, positively or negatively, the Company's activities and performance.

According to the Guidelines for the Internal Control and Risk Management System (hereinafter "ICRMS") (see Appendix 3), the Board is responsible for assessing the adequacy of the Company's organisational, administrative and accounting structure, as arranged by the delegated bodies, with particular regard to the ICRMS.

In particular, the Board of Directors, following consultation with the Control and Risks Committee (hereinafter "CRC"):

- a) defines the guidelines for the ICRMS in order to ensure that the main risks are correctly identified and appropriately measured, managed and monitored and, in the final analysis, checks that the risks assumed are compatible with the company objectives set;
- b) periodically assesses, at least once a year, the adequacy and effectiveness of the ICRMS having regard to the characteristics of the company and to the risk profile assumed;
- c) approves, at least once a year, the work plan prepared by the Head of the Internal Audit Unit, having consulted with the Board of Statutory Auditors and the Supervisory Director of the ICRMS;
- d) describes, in the corporate governance report, the essential components of the ICRMS and expresses its opinion on the adequacy of the latter;
- e) issues the Organisation, Management and Control Model pursuant to Legislative Decree 231/01;
- f) assesses, following consultation with the Board of Statutory Auditors, the results described by the independent auditors or by the independent audit firm in the letter of suggestions and in the report on fundamental issues emerging during auditing.

In order to carry out correctly the tasks assigned to it, the Board obtains support from specific appointed bodies.

Therefore, the Board of Directors:

- sets up the Control and Risks Committee and grants the latter powers to advise and make proposals in relation to the ICRMS and appoints its members;
- identifies a Supervisory Director who is responsible for designing, implementing and operating an effective ICRMS;
- on the Supervisory Director's proposal and having consulted with the CRC and with the Board of Statutory Auditors:

(i) appoints and dismisses the Head of the Internal Audit Unit and organises his activities, ensuring that he is given appropriate resources for performing his responsibilities, and defines his remuneration in line with company policies;

(ii) appoints the Supervisory Board pursuant to Legislative Decree 231/01 (hereinafter "Supervisory Board").

Responsibility for identifying the main company risks, especially those emerging as a result of entering into areas of activity and/or business and those connected with changes in general and sector regulations, is entrusted to the Risks Committee, made up of the Chief Executive Officer, the Supervisory Director, the Head of the Internal Audit Unit, the Group Administrative Manager, the Head of Group Management Control and the Risk Manager.

In practice, an opinion is expressed on the suitability of the risk management system during the presentation of the annual risk management plan consisting of the "activities plan" and "audit plan" drawn up according to the "ERM-Enterprise Risk Management" model. This plan describes the activities scheduled for the year in relation to the management strategy identified for each of the main risks faced by the Company and is written by the Head of Internal Audit and submitted to the Supervisory Director of the ICRMS and to the CRC, with the support of the Internal Audit Unit, having been previously examined and approved by the Chief Executive Officer. On the basis of this, and of the results of the actions undertaken in the past year, the Board, having consulted with the Control and Risks Committee, expresses its own opinion on the adequacy of the Esprinet Group's control system. During the year 2012, the ERM methodology was



implemented among the subsidiaries too, starting with Esprinet Iberica, thus creating the conditions for an even more substantiated opinion as to the risk management systems of the subsidiaries. The Company expects to implement the ERM plan at subsidiary Celly S.p.A., which became part of the Esprinet Group in May 2014, by the end of the first half of 2016.

During the year, the Board assessed the general operational performance, taking into consideration, in particular, information received from the delegated bodies and periodically comparing the results obtained with those expected.

The Board of Directors is responsible for examining and approving, in advance, operations of the Issuer and its subsidiaries where those operations have a significant strategic, economic or financial importance for the Issuer.

For the purposes above, the Board has chosen not to establish general criteria for identifying significant operations, essentially for the following reasons:

- the responsibility of the Board on specific operations arises not from the definition of general criteria, but on the contrary from the powers of proxy of the Executive Directors that is characterised by a remarkable stability in time (in this respect the main drivers being typically amount and ordinary/extraordinary nature of operations in terms of frequency and/or contiguity to current business);
- pursuant to the Articles of Association and with no minimum exemption threshold, decisions concerning (i) specific types of operations (approval and revision of the business plan), (ii) acquisitions, spin-offs and disposals (including by subsidiaries) of equity investments and/or businesses, or (iii) the taking out of medium/long-term loans, that actually represent significant operations, are left to the Board.

Decisions on transactions whose amounts exceed the limits set forth by the powers awarded to executive directors are also left to the Board.

At least once a year, the Board carries out a self-evaluation, without the help of external consultants, with respect to its structure, composition and functioning and that of its internal committees.

The self-evaluation procedure is conducted by preparing questionnaires that are submitted and completed by the members of the Board of Directors.

The Board conducted the latest self-evaluation at the meeting on 12 February 2015.

The procedure involved sending each director a questionnaire containing 31 matters for evaluation, each to be ranked according to a scale.

These questionnaires were collected anonymously and examined to obtain average ratings.

The results were discussed in real time by the Board, and the average self-evaluation remains positive, albeit down slightly on the previous year.

As a result, the Board deemed its size, composition and functioning, as well as that of its internal committees, including the numbers of independent, executive and non-executive directors, to be suitable.

In the occasion of the Shareholders' Meeting for the approval of the 2014 Financial Statement as at 31 December 2014, the current Board of Directors mandate (dated back 9 May 2012) will expire, as the three-year period 2012 – 2014 ends.

For this purpose the Board – upon recommendation of the Appointment and Remuneration Committee and through the Report on the resolution for the appointment of a new Board – propose to the Shareholders to appoint to the Board some members with financial, logistics, business management and strategic marketing skills.

The Shareholders' Meeting has not authorised any exemptions to the restriction on competition contained in Article 2390 of the Italian Civil Code.

Upon recommendation of the Appointment and Remuneration Committee, the Board considers that there are no particular organisational requirements to waive the art. 2390; once the appointment is accepted,



each Administrator must inform the Board about any activities exercised with competitors of the Company, and also of any relevant modification.

# 4.4 Delegated bodies

At the date of this Report, in pursuance of the right granted in Article 17 of the Articles of Association, management powers have been delegated to the following executive directors:

- Francesco Monti, Chairman;
- Maurizio Rota, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer;
- Alessandro Cattani, Chief Executive Officer;
- Valerio Casari, Director and Group Chief Financial Officer.

These delegations confer extensive operational powers, separately and/or jointly, and were conferred in consideration of their respective professional experience and expertise.

A breakdown of the management powers conferred on each of the executive directors is contained in Appendix 8.

The Board also remains responsible for, among other things, decisions that exceed the limits established in the aforementioned powers and, requiring a majority of at least 70% of the Board (rounded up), with no casting vote given to the Chairman, decisions concerning: a) appointment and dismissal of Chief Executive Officers and granting and revocation of their powers; b) approval and revision of budgets or business plans;

c) acquisitions, spin-offs or disposals (including by subsidiaries) of equity investments and/or businesses; d) approval of stock option plans and share buy-back plans; e) taking out of medium/long-term loans; f) creation of an Executive Committee, definition of its delegated powers and appointment and dismissal of its members.

#### **Chairman of the Board of Directors**

Francesco Monti, Chairman of the Board of Directors, has specific management delegations which give him the necessary powers to carry out his executive duties and functions.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors is also, from a legal point of view, the individual responsible for the management of the Issuer.

The Chairman is not the majority shareholder of the Issuer.

He nevertheless participates in the Shareholders' Agreement described in further detail in point 2, letter g, of this Report.

#### Reporting to the Board

The delegated bodies report to the Board on the operations carried out in the exercise of the powers delegated to them at the first possible meeting and in any case at least once every month.

#### 4.5 Other Executive Directors

Besides that stated in point 4.4 above, there are no other directors considered to be executive.

#### 4.6 Independent Directors

#### **Independent Directors**

The Independent Directors are Mario Massari, Andrea Cavaliere, Umberto Giovanni Quilici, Chiara Mauri and Cristina Galbusera

At the first opportune moment after their appointment, the Board checked that they fulfilled the independence requirements based on applicable law and recommendations in the Code, using information supplied by the parties in question. The Board then published the results of these checks in a release issued to the market.

Based on the information provided to the Board of Directors, it was found that none of the independent directors had sufficient financial relations with the Company, its subsidiaries, controlling shareholders



and/or delegated bodies so as to compromise their independence. These independent directors do not hold direct or indirect equity investments enabling them to exercise control over the Company, nor are they members of a shareholders' agreement through which they might exercise control or significant influence over the Company.

None of the independent directors is an important representative of the Company, of a subsidiary having strategic importance or of a company under joint control with the Company, or of a company or entity which, together with others through a shareholders' agreement, controls the Company or is able to exercise a significant influence over the latter.

Moreover, none of the independent directors has been a director of the Company for more than nine of the last 12 years, nor have they been shareholders or directors of companies or entities belonging to the network charged with providing audit services for the Company.

In making the constant appraisals of the existence of independence requirements, the Board usually applies all of the criteria set out in the Code.

In the board meeting of 12 February 2015, the Board carried out its annual appraisal of the independence of directors, checking that they fulfilled the independence requirements set out in Articles 147-*ter*, paragraph 4 and 148, paragraph 3 of the TUF, and in the Code.

Following the appraisals made, it emerged that all of the requirements set out therein are satisfied, and the directors simultaneously pledged to maintain their independence for the entire duration of their term of office or, where applicable, to resign.

At the meeting on 12 February 2015, the Board of Statutory Auditors verified and established that the Board of Directors correctly applied the evaluation criteria and procedures adopted for evaluating the independence of its members.

Indipendent Directors decided not to meet in absence of the other Directors, since the quality and quantity of the information received during the plenary sessions was appropriate to the aim of their mandate, and considering also the monthly Board of Directors Meetings, and also the meetings of the Committee they belong to, which represent a further exchange of views.

#### 4.7 Lead Independent Director

On the date of this Report, since the criteria set out in the Code are not satisfied, there is no Lead Independent Director on the Board.

### 5. HANDLING OF CORPORATE INFORMATION

In order to monitor the circulation of confidential information before disclosure to the public and to guarantee respect of the obligation for privacy provided for by law, the Board of Directors resolved, on 7 April 2006, updated on 15 March 2013 following legislative changes, to approve the Regulations governing the handling of confidential information and also the compilation of a register of individuals who have access to such information, entrusting the responsibility for this to Valerio Casari, Group Chief Financial Officer. The Regulations govern the internal management and the external disclosure of significant information particularly with regard to privileged information about the Company and its subsidiaries. In particular, they:

- define the confidentiality duties imposed on all persons who have access to such information, stipulating, *inter alia*, that information may only be disclosed by reason of their working or professional activities;
- compile a register of individuals who have access to confidential information and establish the method of keeping and updating the register, nominating the Chief Financial Officer of the Company, Valerio Casari, or in case of necessity the Chief Executive Officer, as the individual responsible for this register.

The Register of individuals who have access to privileged information was created on 7 April 2006. The Register lists the people who have occasional or regular access to significant or privileged information. The Register was created in the form of a Group Register and is kept and managed on behalf of the subsidiaries too.

These regulations can be found on the Esprinet website www.esprinet.com (under Investor Relations, Corporate Governance).



#### Insider dealing

On 16 December 2002 the Board of Directors of the Issuer approved the adoption of the Code of Conduct on insider dealing. This Code of Conduct came into force on 1 January 2003.

The Code of Conduct governs market disclosure obligations, within the time periods and subject to the thresholds defined in the above Regulations, with respect to transactions, relating to Esprinet shares, which are carried out by "significant persons" (i.e. persons who, by virtue of the post that they hold within the Company, have privileged information about the Company's prospects and persons closely connected to the latter), as well as shareholders who hold at least 10% of the Company's share capital.

In the meeting of 7 April 2006, the Board of Directors approved the internal regulations aimed in part at identifying the "significant" managers who are subject to disclosure obligations and the method of disclosing to the Company the operations carried out by those significant persons.

In order to align the "Procedure for the management and approval of related party transactions" with other documents related to Corporate Governance which refer to the notion of "managers with strategic responsibilities", the Board of Directors updated the internal regulations by a resolution of 22 December 2011.

In addition to directors and auditors, the following individuals were therefore identified as being "managers with strategic responsibility": the Italy Country Manager, Marco Bardelli, the Country Manager Spain, Matteo Restelli and the Group CFO-Chief Financial Officer, Valerio Casari, the latter also being an executive director; they were identified as being individuals with regular access to privileged information and with decision-making powers and, for that reason, liable to be subject to the disclosure rules defined in the insider dealing procedures.

The document updated to include the latest amendment approved by the Board of Directors on 17 April 2014 and the resignation of one of the managers with strategic responsibilities (Matteo Restelli) can be found on the Esprinet website www.esprinet.com (under the Investor Relations section).

#### 6. INTERNAL BOARD COMMITTEES (ARTICLE 123-BIS, PARAGRAPH 2, LETTER D), TUF)

In the year 2000, the Board set up the Internal Control Committee (now the Control and Risks Committee), the Nominations Committee and the Remuneration and Stock Options Committee.

As part of the process of continually reviewing and updating the corporate governance system, also prompted by the changes made over the years to the Corporate Governance Code, on 26 April 2006 the Board combined the Nominations Committee and the Remuneration and Stock Options Committee to create the Nomination and Remuneration Committee.

On 9 May 2012, the Board of Directors set up a further internal committee, the Strategies Committee, with the duty of supporting the Board in defining the Esprinet Group's competitive strategy both at company level and at the level of individual Strategic Business Areas, thereby helping to identify the main options for creating value.

The members of the Strategies Committee are (in alphabetical order): Giuseppe Calì, Stefania Calì, Alessandro Cattani (Chief Executive Officer), Francesco Monti (Chairman of the Board of Directors), Marco Monti, Maurizio Rota (Deputy Chairman and Managing Director).

The Chairman of the Strategies Committee is the Chief Executive Officer Alessandro Cattani.

#### 7. NOMINATION AND REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

The Committee has an advisory function and is able to make proposals to the Board of Directors. It currently comprises three independent directors: Mario Massari (Chairman), Andrea Cavaliere and Cristina Galbusera

Mr Massari has proven knowledge and experience in accounting and financial matters, and his professionalism was verified by the Board at the time of his appointment.

The rules governing the composition, main duties and functioning of the Committee are fixed by its Regulations, which also establish that the Committee has the following functions:

- i) to propose candidates to the Board for the office of director, as provided for in Article 2386, first paragraph, of the Civil Code, if it is necessary to substitute an independent director;
- ii) to draw up opinions about the Board's size and composition and express recommendations about:



- a) the professionals deemed appropriate to sit on the Board;
- b) the maximum number of director or auditor posts which might be considered compatible with their responsibility to carry out effectively the duties of director of the Company, taking into account the involvement of directors in the internal board committees;
- c) individual problems that might arise if the shareholders' meeting, to meet organisational requirements, authorises, in advance, general exemptions from the prohibition on competition provided for in Article 2390 of the Civil Code.
- iii) to periodically assess the suitability, overall consistency and concrete application of the remuneration policy for chief executive officers and managers with strategic responsibilities by using, in that connection, the information supplied by the chief executive officers and by making proposals on the matter to the Board of Directors;
- iv) to present proposals to the Board regarding the remuneration of the chief executive officers, general manager and deputy general managers, where present in the company's organisation chart, and of the directors appointed to certain positions as well as the setting of performance targets associated with the variable component of that remuneration, monitoring the application of the decisions taken by the Board and checking, in particular, that the performance targets are actually achieved and their assessment criteria. It is understood that no director will take part in the Committee meetings in which proposals are made to the Board about their remuneration;
- v) to instruct the preparation of a plan for the succession of executive directors, if the Board decides to adopt one;
- vi) with reference to companies that belong to the Group:
  - a) to express an opinion to the Board of the Parent Company about the candidates for the post of director, including the Chief Executive Officer or the General Manager in cases where the presence of one or more chief executive officers is not provided for;
  - b) to express an opinion to the Board of the Parent Company on the proposals for determining the total remuneration owed to the board members of the subsidiaries.

With reference to remuneration plans based on financial instruments or otherwise (e.g. stock option plans, share grants, phantom stock options, etc.), the Committee presents to the Board its recommendations about the use of such plans and about all relevant technical aspects associated with their formulation and application. In particular the Committee draws up proposals for the Board about the incentive scheme deemed most appropriate and monitors the evolution and application over time of the plans approved by the company bodies.

The Committee meets as often as necessary to ensure its own tasks are carried out correctly and shall be convened at the company's registered office (or at another place specified by the Chairman) at the initiative of the Chairman or following a written request from any of its members, and in any case, always prior to the meeting of the Board called to decide upon the remuneration of directors with specific roles and/or the senior managers of the company. The Committee may have access to the information and company departments necessary to carry out its tasks and may make use of external consultants at the company's expense, within the limits of the budget approved by the Board.

Committee meetings are chaired by the Chairman, or if he is absent or unavailable, by the member who has been in office the longest. The Chairman may occasionally invite other members of the Board to Committee meetings, or invite persons whose presence may be useful for the correct running of the Committee. When invited by the Chairman, other individuals have participated in the meeting to discuss specific items on the agenda based on the subjects from time to time discussed.

For Committee meetings to be validly held, a majority of active members must be present.

The Committee takes decisions by an absolute majority of those present.

Minutes are taken of Committee meetings. The secretary draws up the minutes of the meetings. Minutes are signed by the Chair of the meeting and by the secretary.

The Committee met four times during the year in order to resolve on the following items:

- the proposed revision of the long-term compensation plan for Esprinet S.p.A. managers and directors for the 2012-14 period;



- a settlement with a manager with strategic responsibilities following their resignation as Chairman of the Board of Directors of subsidiary Esprinet Iberica S.L.U.;
- the assessment of the proposed appointment and related remuneration of the new management body of subsidiary Esprinet Iberica S.L.U.;
- assessment of the proposed appointment and related remuneration of the management body of subsidiary Celly S.p.A.;
- assessment, pursuant to Article 3.1. iii) of the Regulations, of the concrete application of the remuneration policy for chief executive officers and managers with strategic responsibilities;
- analysis of the status of the performance measurement system applied to all staff.

The average length of meetings was around 60 minutes.

There are four meetings scheduled for the current year, of which two have already been held (on 12 February 2015 and 16 March 2015).

In carrying out its duties, the Committee has been able to access the company information and departments necessary and to call on support from external consultants, within the limits set by the Board.

The Board of Directors approved, for the Committee on 9 May 2012, an annual expenditure budget for the entire duration of the mandate of €200,000.

#### 8. **REMUNERATION COMMITTEE**

See point 7 above.

# 9. DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION

Detailed information about the remuneration of executive directors is contained in the Remuneration Report published pursuant to Article 123-ter of the TUF, to which reference can be made for information about:

- general remuneration policy;
- share-based remuneration plans;
- remuneration of executive directors;
- remuneration of managers with strategic responsibilities;
- remuneration of non-executive directors;
- compensation for directors in the case of resignation or dismissal or if the relationship terminates as a consequence of a takeover offer (Article 123-bis, paragraph 1, TUF)

This document will be subject to resolution by the Shareholders' Meeting called to approve the Company's financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014.

The incentive mechanisms for the Head of the Internal Audit Unit and the Financial Reporting Officer are not inconsistent with the duties that they perform based on the posts held.

#### **10. CONTROL AND RISKS COMMITTEE**

The Board of Directors has set up an internal Control and Risks Committee with responsibility for assisting the Board in carrying out its own internal control and risk management duties.

#### Composition and Functioning of the Control and Risks Committee

As at the date of this Report, the Control and Risks Committee comprises three non-executive, independent directors: Andrea Cavaliere (Chairman), Mario Massari and Chiara Mauri.

The Chairman chairs the meetings of the Committee and coordinates its work. Mr Massari has knowledge and experience in accounting and financial matters that was deemed to be suitable by the Board at the time of his appointment.



The Chairman of the Board of Statutory Auditors (or another Auditor he may designate) or other auditors may participate in meetings. When necessary, the Head of the Internal Audit Unit, the Supervisory Director for the Internal Control and Risk Management System and the Company's consultants (as persons whose presence may be helpful in ensuring that the Committee's duties are better performed) have been invited to participate in Committee meetings.

The task of the Control and Risks Committee is to assist the Board of Directors through its powers to investigate, make proposals and advise in order to ensure that the main risks faced by the Company and the Group are correctly identified and appropriately managed and monitored.

In this area, the Committee:

a) assists the Board of Directors to carry out its tasks in relation to internal control and risk management relating to:

- i) establishing the guidelines for the Internal Control and Risk Management System;
- ii) checking periodically that this is effective and appropriate to the company's characteristics and risk profile assumed;
- iii) ascertaining that the main risks faced by the Company are adequately identified and managed;
- iv) approving, at least once a year, the work plan prepared by the Head of the Internal Audit Unit, having consulted with the Board of Statutory Auditors and the Supervisory Director of the Internal Control and Risk Management System;
- v) evaluating, after consultation with the Board of Statutory Auditors, the results described by the independent auditor in any letter of suggestions and in the report on the fundamental issues emerging during auditing;
- vi) describing, in the corporate governance report, the main characteristics of the Internal Control and Risk Management System and expressing its opinion on the overall adequacy of the latter;
- assesses, together with the Financial Reporting Officer and after consultation with the independent auditor and the Board of Statutory Auditors, whether accounting principles are being used correctly and consistently for the purposes of preparing the consolidated financial statements;
- c) expresses opinions on specific aspects relating to the identification of the main risks faced by the Company;
- d) examines the periodic reports on the assessment of the Internal Control and Risk Management System and those of particular importance which are prepared by the Internal Audit Unit;
- e) monitors the independence, adequacy, effectiveness and efficiency of the Internal Audit Unit;
- can ask the Internal Audit Unit to carry out checks in specific operational areas, informing the Chairman of the Board of Statutory Auditors at the same time;
- g) performs any additional duties that are assigned to it by the Board.
- h) reports to the Board, at least upon the approval of the financial statements and at the end of each half year, on the activities conducted and the suitability of the Internal Control and Risk Management System;
- expresses its opinion on the proposals for the appointment and dismissal of the Head of the Internal Audit Unit drawn up by the Supervisory Director for the Internal Control and Risk Management System - ensuring that the former has sufficient resources to carry out his duties - and on the remuneration proposals, in accordance with company policies;
- j) assesses the comments that emerge from the Supervisory Board's reports pursuant to Law no. 231/2001 and from the surveys and examinations carried out by third parties.

In order to carry out correctly the tasks assigned to it, the Committee may meet with the Independent Auditors and with the management of the Company and the Group, along with the chairmen or other members of the respective boards of statutory auditors or other control bodies where these exist.

With regard to the organisation and management models provided for under Legislative Decree 231/01, the Control and Risks Committee follows closely the respective maintenance and update activities by acquiring relevant information.

Finally, the Control and Risks Committee, with reference to the Procedure for Related Party Transactions approved by the Board on 26 November 2010, in accordance with the CONSOB Regulation containing



provisions about related-party transactions, adopted under Resolution 17221 of 12 March 2010 as subsequently amended by Resolution 17389 of 23 June 2010, having met the requirements in terms of composition, carried out the tasks of the committee appointed to carry out the following activities:

- with respect to "less important" transactions, without prejudice to the decision-making structure adopted by the Company through the granting of delegations and powers and prior to the approval of transactions, expression of a reasoned non-binding opinion on the Company's interest in carrying out the transaction and on the appropriateness and substantial correctness of the respective conditions;
- with respect to "more important" transactions, participation in the negotiation and investigation of those transactions, through receiving complete and timely information flows and expression, for the benefit of the Board, of a prior favourable reasoned opinion on the Company's interest in carrying out the transaction and on the appropriateness and substantial correctness of the respective conditions.

During the year 2014, the Committee met eight times.

The activities carried out in the financial year by the Committee were predominantly concerned with monitoring and adapting the entire Internal Control and Risk Management System. Furthermore, the Committee:

- examined and approved the report on the second half of 2013;
- examined and approved the Audit Schedule for 2014 and found the Internal Audit Unit responsible for it to be adequate;
- voted in favour of the candidacy and subsequent appointment of the new Head of the Internal Audit Unit, as well as their related remuneration;
- examined and approved the report on the first half of 2014;
- periodically reviewed information received from the Head of the Internal Audit Unit on the status of the Audit Schedule.

In relation to related-party transactions, the Committee:

- voted in favour of the settlement with a manager with strategic responsibilities;
- voted in favour of the review of the procedure for managing and approving related-party transactions.

The Committee also voted in favour of the review of the Internal Control and Risk Management System Guidelines.

The Committee acknowledged information received from the independent auditors on the audit schedule for the financial statements at 31 December 2014 and on better application of accounting standards.

The average length of meetings was around 80 minutes.

There are six meetings scheduled for the current year, of which one has already taken place (on 16 March 2015).

Minutes have been drawn up correctly for all Committee meetings.

In carrying out its duties, the Committee was able to access the company information and departments necessary and to call on support from external consultants, within the limits set by the Board. On 9 May 2012, the Board of Directors approved an annual expenditure budget of €200,000 for the Committee for the duration of the mandate.

## **11. INTERNAL CONTROL AND RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

## 11.1 Main characteristics of the risk management system



The Internal Control and Risk Management System is an essential component of the corporate governance system of Esprinet S.p.A. and of its subsidiaries and/or associates (collectively the "Group").

It is defined as a set of rules, behaviours, policies, procedures and organisational structures that aim to enable the main operational risks to be identified, measured, managed and monitored thereby helping to safeguard the Company's assets, the efficiency and effectiveness of company processes, the reliability of financial information and compliance with laws and regulations and with the articles of association and internal procedures.

This system is integrated into the more general organisational, administrative and corporate governance structures adopted by the Group and takes into consideration the reference models and best practices existing nationally and internationally. The degree to which the system is integrated, more specifically, is measured by the degree of homogeneity, interdependence and integration of its various players and members.

The Company combines the control activities and procedures which are compulsory as a result of legislative interventions or interventions on the part of supervisory authorities with those adopted through management policy choices, expanding their scope of application where deemed necessary.

Therefore, in the integrated system, an important role is offered by organisation and control systems developed in accordance with the provisions of Legislative Decree 231/01 (administrative liability of bodies), including the system for safeguarding occupational health and safety pursuant to Legislative Decree 81/01, of Law 262/05 on the protection of savings (introduction of the role of Financial Reporting Officer), of the Italian Data Protection Act as well as in relation to established organisational models for control in specific areas such as "guality".

By pursuing the goal of an effective and cost-efficient ICRMS as a whole, a procedure is required which enables risks to be identified and assessed as well as a synergic approach to the design of controls in the various areas of application within the Company.

The ICRMS minimises the impact of these risks on the Company's activities and provides reasonable (albeit not absolute) reassurance that the Company and the Group as a whole is not hampered, in the achievement of its operational goals or in the orderly and lawful conduct of its business, by circumstances or factors which may be reasonably foreseen, while recognising that no control process can provide absolute protection from the risks inherent in business activities or from the possibility that fraudulent breaches of laws and regulations or Company procedures, human errors or extraordinary events may cause harm.

The Board of Directors represents the motor of the ICRMS, because it is responsible for defining the guidelines of the control system.

In carrying out its duties, it relies on the collaboration of specific appointed bodies and individuals such as the Supervisory Director for the Internal Control System, the Head of Internal Audit, the Risks Committee, the Control and Risks Committee, the Internal Audit Unit and, from 2014, the Risk Manager.

During the meeting on 16 March 2015, the Board conducted the evaluation of adequacy, effectiveness and effective functionality of the Internal Control and Risk Management System, with favourable outcome.

# 11.2 The risk management and internal control system in relation to the financial reporting process

Risk management is an integral component of the internal control system and, as such, the Company and the Group have adopted a system prepared specifically to deal with the process of financial reporting. In fact, Esprinet has prepared a risk management and internal control system in relation to the financial reporting process that can be defined as a set of mechanisms, procedures and instruments intended to ensure achievement of Company objectives concerning economic and financial reporting. The objectives are summarised as follows:

- reliability of information: fairness and conformity to the adopted accounting standards, and requirements of the law and regulations in force;
- accuracy of information: without distortions intended to influence the decision-making process;
- reliability of information: clear presentation facilitating comprehension of complex aspects of Company business;
- timeliness of information: on schedule as communicated to third parties.



As an Italian company listed on a regulated market in Italy, Esprinet must apply the provisions of Law 262/05 and subsequent amendments.

Consequently, as of the year 2007 Esprinet integrated its own internal audit control system by pursuing a model conventionally defined as "Model 262", based on the provisions and methodologies defined in accordance with the "Internal Control - Integrated Framework" model published by the "Committee of Sponsoring Organisations of the Treadway Commission", a framework of reference for the internal control system that is generally accepted at the international level ("CoSo Framework").

The main characteristics of the "Model 262" implemented are summarised below:

- definition of the roles and responsibilities of the organisational units participating in the general activities of preparing, diffusing and verifying the information communicated to the market;
- definition of the operational management procedures for activities related to fulfilling requirements of the law;
- to support drafting of legal certificates and declarations by the manager responsible for internal control and the Chief Executive Officer, introduction of the obligation for heads of Company operational units entrusted with implementation of "Model 262" to internally certify, by means of the specific internal communications process, correct functioning of the internal audit control system pursuant to Law 262/05 concerning processes and flows of accounting under their responsibility, of the completeness and reliability of data flows, and the adequacy and effective application of the key controls listed in the matrixes of competence;
- attribution of the responsibility for "Model 262" testing to the Internal Audit Unit.

"Model 262" refers to accounting information, that is the set of documents and data communicated to the market, containing final data about the assets and liabilities, results and cash flows of the Esprinet Group and the companies included in the scope of consolidation.

It therefore refers to these documents:

- financial statements of Esprinet SpA;
- consolidated statements of the Esprinet Group;
- half-yearly financial report;
- half-yearly management report;
- press releases containing economic and financial information, such as quarterly reports, if these include diffusion of accounting data.

The compliance activities pursuant to Law 262 of 2005 qualify the management and accounting system to structure and prepare the separate and consolidated financial statements, as well as all other communications of a financial nature.

The system is made up of a set of procedures designed to enable the written certification that the Esprinet accounting documents and communications issued to the market, including interim reports, are consistent with accounting records and ledgers. The system certifies the adequacy, based on the Company's characteristics, of the administrative and accounting procedures and the effective application of those procedures over the period in question.

Considering the activities introduced to comply with Law 262/05, consisting of the creation and monitoring of a set of procedures designed to implement the objectives of the law, and a sub-system of rules and procedures introduced voluntarily by the Group, the internal audit system has the following basic characteristics:

- a) a body of administrative and accounting standard practice and procedures applied uniformly and coherently, even if not formalised in a true "operations manual", consisting essentially, among others, of: (i) a Group chart of accounts and (ii) a set of rules, operating instructions and schedules for monthly closing of accounts;
- b) capacity to control and intervene directly at any time, attributed to the departments of reference of the parent company, in the procedures of subsidiaries concerning application of the accounting policies and assessment criteria, accounting concerning intra group transactions, respect of the chart of accounts, etc.;



- c) a process of identifying the main risks associated with accounting information and key controls for monitoring the identified risks (accounting management "risk assessment"), under the supervision of the managing director responsible for internal control and the Chief Executive Officer;
- a process of periodic evaluation of the adequacy and effective application of the specific key controls, to be conducted at least half-yearly when the financial statements and half-yearly report are prepared, intended to identify any necessary supplementary controls, corrective actions or plans, or improvement plans for implementation;
- e) a process of internal documentation and communication for the heads of Company departments/operational units identified by "Model 262", directed to the manager responsible for internal control, intended to focus on the effectiveness of the controls and the results of the evaluations; in this context, the executive director with responsibility for internal control must report periodically to the Board of Directors, the Control and Risks Committee and, as competent, to the Board of Statutory Auditors, with reference to the functions and responsibilities of his office;
- f) a process of certification directed outside the Company, based on reports and declarations issued by the manager responsible for internal control pursuant to Article 154-bis, TUF, in the context of the general process of preparing the financial statements, the half-yearly financial and management reports, also based on the controls conducted as per the accounting control model, the results of which are shared with the Chief Executive Officer who will then submit the report or the declaration to the Board of Directors, together with the accounting document, for approval by the same.

With reference to point c), this activity led to identifying the critical processes and accounting data flow for each relevant area and accounting data item, and the control activities in place.

This formed the basis for developing the control matrixes to describe the standard control activities ("key controls") and the department heads responsible for implementing the model ("process owners") for each process qualified as critical or sensitive in the context of "Model 262".

The company processes and related matrixes and control consoles, together with the list of the process owners responsible for the control of various aspects are subject to periodic evaluation and updating.

## 11.3 Supervisory Director of the Internal Control and Risk Management System

After appointment of the new Board of Directors in 2012, on 9 May 2012, the Board appointed executive director Valerio Casari to be responsible for supervising the functionality of the Internal Control and Risk Management System.

The Supervisory Director is responsible for supervising the functionality of the Internal Control System, in liaison with the Chief Executive Officer, so as to ensure the guidelines defined by the Board of Directors are implemented.

In particular, the Supervisory Director carries out the following tasks:

- a) identifies and monitors the trend of the main risks faced by the Company, taking into account the activities performed within the group and submitting these periodically to the Board of Directors for evaluation;
- b) implements the guidelines for the ICRMS defined by the Board of Directors and oversees the design, implementation and management of the ICRMS, while constantly checking its suitability and effectiveness;
- c) ensures that the ICRMS is adapted in line with changes in operating conditions and in the legislative and regulatory framework;
- can ask the Internal Audit Unit to carry out checks on specific operational areas and on compliance with internal rules and procedures in the performance of company operations and reports at the same time to the Chairman of the Board of Directors, the Chairman of the CRC and the Chairman of the Board of Statutory Auditors;
- e) reports in a timely manner to the CRC (or to the Board of Directors) about problems and critical issues emerging in the performance of its activity or which it has learned about, so that the CRC (or Board of Directors) can take the appropriate steps;
- f) proposes to the Board of Directors, after hearing the opinion of the CRC, the appointment, dismissal and remuneration of the Head of Internal Audit.



The primary responsibility of the Supervisory Director is to share with the CEO the tasks of designing, implementing and managing the ICRMS, by which is meant the set of processes designed by the Company and by the Group for (i) the identification, handling and management of those risks, (ii) the determination of the respective criteria for compatibility with the principles of sound and prudent management and (iii) the continual maintenance of such risks, with particular respect to the residual risks from mitigation activities, within the limits of acceptability and in line with the goals of creating and preserving value established by the Board of Directors.

These activities are carried out coherently with the techniques, methodologies and principles of the leading international models of reference and, in particular, according to the typical ERM-Enterprise Risk Management approach.

In carrying out his tasks, the Supervisory Director obtains cooperation and support from the various bodies and individuals that make up the ICRMS and, in particular, the Risk Manager, the Head of Internal Audit and the Risks Committee.

# 11. Head of the Internal Audit Unit

After the appointment of the new Board of Directors in 2012, Pietro Aglianò, former member of the Supervisory Board, was confirmed in the role of Head of the Internal Audit Unit.

Following a reorganisation of the administrative structure, Mr Agilanò took on the role of Financial Reporting Officer.

He was replaced as Head of the Internal Audit Unit by Giuseppe Monina, who had spent three years with the Group's internal audit team.

As was the case for the previous Head of the Internal Audit Unit, the appointment of Mr Monina was based on the proposal submitted by the Supervisory Director of the Internal Control and Risk Management System, having already been approved by the Control and Risks Committee and having consulted the Board of Statutory Auditors.

The Head of the Internal Audit Unit, who is not responsible for any operational area and reports to the Board of Directors and is part of the Chief Executive Officer's staff, has the following responsibilities:

- a) to check, both on an ongoing basis and in relation to specific requirements and in line with international standards, that the ICRMS is operational and suitable, using an Audit Plan approved by the Board of Directors and based on a structured process of analysis and prioritisation of the main risks;
- b) to prepare periodic reports containing appropriate information about his activities, the ways in which risk management is conducted and observance of the plans defined to contain such risks; these reports contain an assessment of the suitability of the Internal Control and Risk Management System;
- c) to prepare timely reports about events of particular importance;
- d) to send the reports referred to in points b) and c) to the Chairmen of the Board of Statutory Auditors, CRC and Board of Directors as well as to the Supervisory Director;
- e) to check, as part of the Audit Plan approved by the Board of Directors, the reliability of the information systems including the accounting systems.

As part of his duties and responsibilities, the Head of Internal Audit has direct access to all useful information for carrying out his task.

In particular, the Head of Internal Audit operates via an organised structure dedicated to Internal Audit which also supports the former in carrying out checks on specific operational areas and on compliance with internal procedures and rules in the conduct of management operations.

As part of the control activities to be carried out under the supervision of the Head of Internal Audit, the Internal Audit Unit prepares an annual plan of checks ("Audit Plan") to be examined by the CRC and, at least once every six months, a report to be submitted to the Supervisory Directory, the CRC and the Board of Statutory Auditors.

On the instruction of the FRO, to whom it is functionally accountable with respect to this kind of activity, the Internal Audit Unit can carry out checks on the system of administrative/accounting control provided for in Law 262/05.



Furthermore, on the instruction of the Supervisory Board, the Internal Audit Unit may carry out checks on the system of controls provided for in the Organisation, Management and Control Model pursuant to Legislative Decree 231/01.

Every year, the Head of Internal Audit presents the Board with an expenses budget for the provision of his duties in the current year.

At the recommendation of the Supervisory Director and with the prior approval of the Control and Risks Committee, the Board of Directors defined the remuneration of the Head of Internal Audit, which, in compliance with company policy, is transferred to his standard employee compensation.

During the year, the Company intends to ensure that the Board of Statutory Auditors votes on the remuneration of the Head of Internal Audit.

During the year the Head of Internal Audit had direct access to all relevant information for the performance of his duties and reported about these to the Control and Risks Committee, the Board of Statutory Auditors and the director responsible for the Internal Control and Risk Management System.

The Internal Audit Unit has the principal responsibility of assisting the Head of Internal Audit in examining the validity of the Internal Control and Risk Management System by analysing and assessing the effectiveness and correct operation of that system.

The Internal Audit Unit also supports the Supervisory Director in identifying, noting and assessing the main risks faced by the Company. In particular, in this area of activity, the Internal Audit Unit constantly supports the heads of the operational units in providing methodological support to the process of identifying and assessing the risks that fall under their respective areas of responsibility and which may potentially harm the achievement of their goals.

The Internal Audit Unit carries out specific scheduled control activities to check the correct application of the rules and procedures of the Internal Control System with the aim of identifying any shortcomings and improvements to be made to internal control and risk management processes.

It checks, in particular, that the rules and procedures constituting the terms of reference of the control processes are being observed and that the persons involved act in accordance with the predetermined goals.

The Internal Audit Unit, under the guidance of the Head of Internal Audit, manages the planning process of auditing and prepares an annual plan of controls for submission to the Head of Internal Audit, the Control and Risks Committee and, at least twice a year, a report for the Supervisory Director, the Control and Risks Committee and the Board of Statutory Auditors.

On the instruction of the Financial Reporting Officer, to whom it is functionally accountable with respect to this kind of activity, the Internal Audit Unit can carry out checks on the system of administrative/accounting control provided for in Law 262/05.

Furthermore, on the instruction of the Supervisory Board, the Internal Audit Unit may carry out checks on the system of controls provided for in the Organisation, Management and Control Model pursuant to Legislative Decree 231/01.

Given the complexity and size of the Company and of the Group, Internal Audit duties may, as a whole or for certain operational areas, be outsourced to external bodies provided that they meet the requirements of professionalism and independence.

## 11.5 Risk Manager

The Risk Manager has the following duties:

- a) to implement, develop and continually update a system for identifying, assessing, managing and monitoring risks in accordance with typical ERM principles;
- b) to support the department heads (risk owners) during the identification (assessment) and management of the risks pertaining to them;



- c) to work with the risk owners to develop processes and procedures aimed at mitigating risk in their various areas of competency;
- d) to foster a culture of risk awareness within the organisation.

The Risk Manager is therefore responsible for overseeing the corporate risk management process by using typical ERM methods and, where necessary, by suggesting measures to those parties who play a role in the ICRMS aimed at improving the internal control system.

Every year, the Risk Manager carries out a critical review of risk mapping and the risk management and monitoring system (ERM), and presents the results to the Chief Executive Officer, the Supervisory Director, the CRC and the Head of Internal Audit. On a six-monthly basis, he also reports to the Supervisory Director, the CRC, the Board of Statutory Auditors and the Supervisory Board on risk control activities.

## **11.6 Risks Committee**

The Risks Committee, made up of the Chief Executive Officer, Supervisory Director, Head of Internal Audit, Group Administrative Manager, Group Management Control Manager and Risk Manager, has the duty to support the Chief Executive Officer and Supervisory Director in carrying out the institutional duty of identifying the main company risks, especially those emerging as a result of entering into new areas of activity and/or business or connected with changes in general and sectoral legislation.

Therefore, the Risks Committee supports the CEO and Supervisory Director, while bearing in mind that these two individuals do not devote the whole of their time to the duties carried out in connection with the ICRMS, in updating and maintaining the map of main company risks defined at the start of each tax years and approved by the Board of Directors. It helps the company bodies in the process of identifying new risk areas and supplies, where possible or recommended on the grounds of particular urgency, an initial indication about the actions to be carried out in order to introduce or streamline and/or improve the controls aimed at mitigating the risks.

## 11.7 Organisational Model pursuant to Legislative Decree 231/2001

The Issuer and its wholly owned Italian subsidiary V-Valley S.r.I have an Ethical Code, a "Code of Conduct for Responsible Supply Chain Management" and an "Organisation, Management and Control Model" pursuant to Legislative Decree 231/01 (hereinafter also "the Model"). CELLY

# The Spanish subsidiary Esprinet Iberica S.L.U. has adopted the Ethical Code and an organisational model compliant with Italian legislation and similar to the Model adopted by the Issuer.

The Ethical Code refers to the values of transparency, correctness and honesty to which the Esprinet Group aspires and which are at the basis of the Model adopted. The aim of the Model is to define the guidelines, regulations and principles of conduct that govern the Company's business activities and with which all the individuals who are covered by the Model must comply in order to avoid committing one of the offences referred to in Legislative Decree 231/2001 and to ensure that all Company operations are conducted in conformity with the conditions of correctness and transparency.

The current Model provides for the definition of preventive controls concerning the following types of offences:

- crimes against the public administration (Articles 24 and 25 of Legislative Decree 231/01, Article 319quater of the Italian Penal Code);
- corporate crimes and corruption involving individuals (Article 25-ter of Legislative Decree 231/01);
- market abuse (Article 25-sexies of Legislative decree 231/01);
- crimes against the individual (Article 25-quinquies of Legislative Decree 231/01);
- crimes of receiving, laundering and using money, goods or other assets of illegal origin (Article 25-*octies* of Legislative Decree 231/01);
- organised crimes (Article 24-ter of Legislative Decree 231/01);
- cross-border offences (Articles 3 and 10 of Law 146/06);
- manslaughter and serious or grievous bodily harm committed as a result of the breach of rules governing accident prevention and the protection of occupational health and safety (Article 25-*septies* of Legislative Decree 231/01);



- computer crimes (Article 24-bis of Legislative Decree 231/01);
- counterfeiting offences (Article 25-bis of Legislative Decree 231/01);
- crimes against industry and commerce (Article 25-bis.1 of Legislative Decree 231/01);
- copyright infringement offences (Article 25-novies of Legislative Decree 231/01);
- environmental crimes (Article 25-undecies of Legislative Decree 231/01);
- crimes relating to the employment of foreign citizens in the country illegally (Article 25-duodecies of Legislative Decree 231/01);

The Model has been published on the corporate intranet, and the Ethical Code and the "Code of Conduct for Responsible Supply Chain Management" is available on the Company's website, www.esprinet.com.

More specifically, the aim of the Model is to:

- identify the specific sensitive areas with reference to the different types of offences provided for in Legislative Decree 231/01 and describe, for each of these areas, the sensitive activities to which the control instruments adopted for prevention are applied;
- indicate the rules that the individuals the Model is addressed to must observe in order to correctly apply the Model itself;
- provide the internal body appointed to ensure that the Model is implemented and observed with the instruments necessary for carrying out the monitoring, controlling and verifying activities.

To check that the instructions contained in the Model are implemented and to verify how effective they are, on 14 May 2012 the Board of Directors also chose to appoint, confirming its continuity with the previous three years, a Control and Supervisory Board ("Supervisory Board"), composed of the following three members:

- Mario Anaclerio (Chairman)
- Pietro Aglianò
- Angela Azzolina.

Subsequently, on 30 June 2014, Giuseppe Monina, the Head of Internal Audit, was appointed to replace Pietro Aglianò, in continuation of Company practice.

The term of office of the Supervisory Board is three years and runs concurrently with that of the Board of Directors.

The duties of the Supervisory Board are to supervise:

- a) compliance with the stipulations of the Model, in relation to the various kinds of offence covered by Legislative Decree 231/01 and by subsequent laws that have extended the scope of application of that decree;
- b) the effectiveness of the Model with respect to the company structure and to its actual ability to prevent offences from being committed;
- c) the advisability of updating the Model, where there is a need to adapt the latter to changes in the Company's circumstances and/or legislative changes.

In order to carry out its functions, the Board of Directors grants the Supervisory Board the following powers:

- to check the efficiency and effectiveness of the Model including in terms of conformity between the actual operational arrangements adopted and the procedures formally specified by the Model;
- to check that the requirements of effectiveness and efficiency of the Model continue to be fulfilled over the course of time;
- to encourage the updating of the Model, by putting forward proposals to the Chairman of the Board of Directors, where necessary, with respect to possible updates and alterations to be made in the form of amendments and/or additions which become necessary as a result of significant breaches of the provisions of the Model, significant changes in the organisational structure of the Company and/or in the ways in which the Company's activities are carried out or legislative changes;
- to report promptly to the Chairman of the Board of Directors any established breaches of the Model which may cause liability to arise for the Company, so that appropriate action can be taken;



- to promote and define initiatives for the distribution of the Model and for staff training and raising staff awareness about compliance with the principles contained in the Model;
- to promote and devise communication and training initiatives with respect to the content of Legislative Decree 231/01, to the effect of the legislation on the Company's activities and to behavioural standards;
- to provide clarifications about the meaning and application of the provisions contained in the Model;
- to provide an effective channel of internal communication for the transmission of significant information within the meaning of Legislative Decree 231/01, while guaranteeing the protection and confidentiality of the informant;
- to put forward and submit for the approval of the Chairman of the Board of Directors an estimate of the expenditure necessary to carry out correctly the tasks assigned;
- to gain unrestricted access to any unit of the Company, without the need for any prior consent, in order to request information, documentation and data considered necessary to carry out the tasks laid down in Legislative Decree 231/01;
- to request significant information from partners, advisors and external partners, regardless of what they are called;
- to encourage the imposition of any disciplinary measures resulting from established breaches of this Model.

The Supervisory Board prepares an annual plan of the activities that it intends to carry out, including the schedule of checks on the operating protocols adopted, which is forwarded to the Board of Directors for information.

The Supervisory Board continually notifies the results of its activities to the Chairman of the Board of Directors and to the Chief Executive Officer and/or the Supervisory Director.

In addition, every six months, the Supervisory Board prepares an activity report and provides the Board of Directors and the Board of Statutory Auditors with a detailed description of the activities performed.

If invited, the Chairman of the Supervisory Board or, if he is unable, another member of the Supervisory Board indicated by the latter, may take part in meetings of the Board of Statutory Auditors and of the Company's Control and Risks Committee.

In 2014 the Supervisory Board met 11 times and periodically reported to the Board of Directors and the Board of Statutory Auditors, identifying the necessary implementations but without recording negative elements concerning the structure or the application of the Model.

The Supervisory Board submits annually to the Board of Directors a request for an independent expenditure budget consistent with the activities planned.

## **11.8 Independent Auditors**

The task of auditing the Company's accounts is entrusted to the firm Reconta Ernst & Young S.p.A.. Based on the substantiated proposal of the Board of Statutory Auditors, the Shareholders' Meeting of 27 April 2010 entrusted the task to that firm for a period of nine years in accordance with current laws.

## **11.9 Financial Reporting Officer**

Following the resignation of the Group Administrative Director, Giuseppe Falcone, on 17 April 2014 the Board of Directors, having reached an agreement with the Board of Statutory Auditors, appointed as Financial Reporting Officer (FRO) on the basis of Article 18-*bis* of the Articles of Association the new Group Administrative Director, Pietro Aglianò, who had been the Group's Head of Internal Audit since 2011 and the Administrative Director of Esprinet S.p.A. and the Italian subsidiaries for several years. The FRO is given the powers and means required to fulfil his/her duties.

The FRO has the following powers:

- direct access to all information required to process accounting data without any need for authorisation, both within the Company and within the Group companies;
- participation in internal flows of relevance to accounting purposes;
- supervision of existing company procedures and authorisation of new procedures if they impact on the financial statements, the consolidated statements or documents subject to certification;



- assessment, with adequate technical support, of the role of company information systems in assuring adequacy of procedures and controls.

For the purposes of traceability and transparency, the Financial Reporting Officer determines the most appropriate means of archiving documents with an impact on disclosure of accounting documents of the Company.

As regards resources, the Financial Reporting Officer has the authority to:

- organise his activities, using an appropriate, dedicated organisational structure (by number and level of resources) and any additional internal or external resources to be selected as required;
- dispose of a dedicated budget;
- make use of other organisational units of the Company, other than those under his direct control, to carry out his duties according to methods to be agreed with the same;
- make use of information provided by control bodies to execute specific controls.

Every year, the FRO presents the Board with a specific budget for the effective performance of his/her role as guarantor of the functioning of Model 262.

The Financial Reporting Officer periodically informed the Board about how and when this budget will be used.

# 11.10 Coordination between individuals involved in the Internal Control and Risk Management System

The guidelines for the Internal Control and Risk Management System adopted by the Company on 24 September 2009, and subsequently updated on 27 July 2012 and 14 May 2014, specify how the various individuals involved in the internal control system will coordinate their activities.

#### **12. DIRECTORS' INTERESTS AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

The Board of Directors, having received approval from the independent Committee has approved, in accordance with Article 4 of CONSOB Regulation 17221 of 12/03/2010 as subsequently amended and supplemented, the procedure aimed at regulating the management and approval of transactions between Esprinet and related parties, including transactions in which directors and auditors hold interests, in order to ensure compliance with the necessary standards of transparency and substantive and procedural propriety.

The procedure therefore provides a definition of the above transactions and identifies, according to the type, nature and characteristics, the respective decision-making responsibilities and the related authorisation process. It attaches to the existing structure of delegations and decision-making powers within Esprinet and does not affect operations for which board approval is required by the articles of association or by law. This is adopted in compliance with the stipulations contained in the Regulations on Related Parties, with the recommendations contained in the Corporate Governance Code and with the instructions and guidelines for the application of the Regulations on Related Parties supplied by CONSOB in Communication DEM/10078683 of 24 September 2010.

This does not affect the provisions of Articles 2343-*bis*, 2358, 2373, 2391 and Articles 2497 to 2497-*septies* of the Italian Civil Code.

The above procedure was approved with the favourable opinion of a specially formed committee comprising exclusively independent directors meeting the independence requirements laid down in Article 148, paragraph 3, TUF and in Article 3 of the Code.

On 14 May 2014, the Board of Directors, having received approval from the Control and Risks Committee, approved the updating of the procedure in order to make it easier to apply, based partly on experiences over the years in which the procedure has been in force. In particular, the related-party database will be updated every six months, rather than every three months, and include the category of negligible transactions, insofar as these are excluded from the specific decision-making process of the procedure, the drafting, signing, annulling and terminating of property leases of no longer than six years (excluding any renewals) and a total annual charge of €150,000.



The procedure is available on the website www.esprinet.com , in the Investor Relations section, to which reference can be made for further details.

# **13. APPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY AUDITORS**

Article 19 of the current Articles of Association provides that members of the Board of Statutory Auditors are appointed on the basis of slates in which the candidates are indicated by means of a sequential number. In January 2013, in order to ensure a gender balance, based on the requirement laid down in Article 148, paragraph 1-*bis*, of the Italian Consolidated Law on Finance, the Board of Directors decided, in the light of CONSOB Resolution 18098 of 8 February 2012, to introduce criteria guaranteeing a gender balance into its Articles of Association, thereby amending Article 19 of said articles.

The Articles of Association state that each slate consists of two sections, one reserved for candidates for the office of standing auditor and the other for candidates for the office of alternate auditor.

Each slate contains a number of candidates not exceeding the number of members to be elected.

Slates can only be submitted by shareholders who, alone or in conjunction with other shareholders, represent a total of at least 2.5% (two point five percent) of voting shares in ordinary shareholders' meetings. Each shareholder, as well as shareholders belonging to the same group - by which is meant the controlling entity, subsidiaries, sister companies and associates as defined by Article 2359 of the Italian Civil Code - and shareholders participating, including via subsidiaries, in an agreement regarding the company's shares pursuant to Article 122 of the TUF cannot submit more than one slate, including through an intermediary or a trust company.

Slates, signed by the shareholder or shareholders submitting them (also by proxy to one of these), must be deposited at the registered office at least twenty-five days prior to the date of the meeting at first call (and this will be mentioned in the notice of meeting), unless any shorter deadline is provided by law.

Each slate must be accompanied, within the same twenty-five day period indicated above, by a description of the professional résumé of the individual candidates, as well as the declarations with which individual candidates accept their candidacy and confirm, under their own responsibility, that there are no grounds for ineligibility or disqualification, that they meet the conditions set by law and by the articles of association. Outgoing auditors are eligible for re-election.

Each candidate may appear on one slate only or will otherwise be disqualified.

Each shareholder may vote for one slate only.

For the election of the Auditors, the procedure is as follows:

- from the slate obtaining the highest number of votes, two standing members and one alternate member
   based on the sequential order with which they were listed in the corresponding sections of the slate are taken;
- from the slate obtaining the second highest number of votes, the other standing member and the other alternate member based on the sequential order with which they were listed in the corresponding sections of the slate are taken.

In the event of a tie between two or more slates, a new ballot is held between those slates on which all shareholders present in the meeting may vote. The candidates on the slate winning a simple majority of votes shall be elected, with abstentions excluded from the count.

The office of Chairman of the Board of Statutory Auditors is assigned to the standing member ranked first in the corresponding section of the slate that obtained the highest number of votes from slates submitted by the minority.

If, according to the method described above, the composition of the Board of Statutory Auditors, in terms of its standing members, is not ensured in line with current rules on gender balance, the necessary substitutions will be made with respect to the candidates for the post of standing auditor on the slate that obtained the highest number of votes, according to the progressive order with which the candidates are listed.

If the conditions required by law or by the articles of association are not met, the statutory auditor will step down from office.



If a standing auditor is replaced, his place will be taken, until the next shareholders' meeting and subject to compliance with the current rules on gender balance, by the first alternate member belonging to the same slate as the statutory auditor who has stepped down from office.

If it is the Chairman who is replaced, the chairmanship is taken over, until the next shareholders' meeting, by the other standing auditor, or, failing that, by the first alternate member taken from the slate to which the former chairman belonged.

If the shareholders' meeting needs to make appointments of standing and/or alternate auditors and of the Chairman as required by law so that the full number of members of the Board of Statutory Auditors can be reinstated following substitution, it will proceed according to the following procedures:

- if it is necessary to replace the standing and/or alternate auditor taken from the slate receiving the second highest number of votes, the unelected candidates for standing auditor and for alternate auditor listed in the corresponding sections of the same slate are proposed for office and the person elected is the one obtaining the highest number of votes;
- in the absence of names to put forward pursuant to the previous paragraph, and if it is necessary to replace one or more standing and/or alternate auditors and/or the chairman taken from the slate that obtained the highest number of votes, the provisions laid down by the civil code will be applied and the shareholders' meeting will resolve by a majority vote, with abstentions excluded from the count.

In all cases of substitution, it is specified that the composition of the Board of Statutory Auditors must observe the current rules on gender balance.

If just one slate is submitted, the shareholders' meeting resolves by a majority vote, with abstentions excluded from the count, and, subject to compliance with the current rules on gender balance, the chairmanship will be allocated to the candidate listed in first place in the section of the slate containing the candidates for the office of standing auditor. If a standing auditor or the Chairman is replaced, their place will be taken, until the next shareholders' meeting, by the alternate auditor and the standing auditor in the sequential order taken from the list in the corresponding section of the slate, again subject to compliance with the current rules on gender balance.

In the situation envisaged in the previous paragraph, should the shareholders' meeting need to proceed, in accordance with the law, with the appointments of standing and/or alternate auditors and the chairman so that the full number of members of the Board of Statutory Auditors can be reinstated following substitution, the provisions laid down in the civil code will be applied and the shareholders' meeting resolves by a majority vote, with abstentions excluded from the count.

Persons who hold the office of statutory auditor in five other Italian companies with shares listed in Italy, excluding companies controlled by Esprinet S.p.A., as well as persons who do not meet the requirements of professionalism and integrity as required by applicable legislation, cannot be elected as statutory auditors. At least one of the standing auditors and at least one of the alternate auditors must be chosen from persons listed in the register of auditors who have carried out the activity of statutory auditing for a period of no less than three years. Statutory auditors not meeting the requirement described in the previous paragraph are chosen from among those who have gained total experience over a continuous period of at least three years in the performance of:

- managerial duties in the administration, finance or control sections of companies limited by shares listed on the stock exchange;
- professional activities or permanent university lecturing posts in the legal, economic, financial, technical/scientific/IT areas, services in general, the computer products industry or trading of computer products, the provision of services in the field of data processing and computer systems, or in sectors closely related to that of the Company;
- managerial roles in public bodies or public authorities active in the sectors of banking, finance, insurance, IT, industry or trading of computer products, the provision of services in the field of data processing and computer systems, or in sectors closely related to that of the Company.

Pursuant to Article 144-*quater* of the Regulations for Issuers, CONSOB published Resolution 19109 of 28 January 2015, specifying the percentage required for submitting slates of candidates for the election of the management and control bodies and, in the Company's case, a minimum stake of 4.5% in the share capital was established.



# 14. COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONING OF THE BOARD OF STATUTORY AUDITORS (ARTICLE 123-BIS, PARAGRAPH 2, LETTER D), TUF)

The Board of Statutory Auditors appointed at the Shareholders' Meeting of 9 May 2012 will remain in office for a three-year term, until the approval of the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014, using the slate voting system.

At the time of appointment of the Board of Statutory Auditors, only one slate was submitted by the shareholders Francesco Monti, Giuseppe Calì, Paolo Stefanelli, Maurizio Rota and Alessandro Cattani, with aggregate holdings of 26,708,880 ordinary shares of Esprinet S.p.A., equal to 50.967% of the share capital.

The above slate was accompanied by certificates issued by intermediaries proving their title to the number of shares represented, declarations of each candidate attesting possession of the legal requisites for the office of statutory auditor and acceptance of the candidacy, and curricula vitae disclosing the personal and professional characteristics of each candidate. This documentation is still available for consultation on the Company's website (www.esprinet.com), under the Investor Relations section.

The percentage of votes obtained in proportion to share capital was 54.774%.

Details are given below about the personal and professional characteristics of the individual members of the Board of Statutory Auditors.

**Giorgio Razzoli:** was born in Reggio Emilia on 20 April 1968 and is Chairman of the Board of Statutory Auditors. After obtaining a Degree in Economics and Commerce from the Università di Modena, he started his professional career as a tax and corporate advisor. He has been registered with the Modena Association of Public and Chartered Accountants since 1994. He has held the role of statutory auditor/single auditor for various companies over a number of years. He has been a director of listed companies and has chaired their remuneration and control and risks committees.

He currently runs an associate firm of public accountants operating in the area of tax and corporate consulting.

**Emanuele Calcaterra:** was born on 20 February 1934 and is a Standing Auditor. He obtained a Degree in Economics and Commerce from the Università Cattolica di Milano and is registered with the Milan Association of Public Accountants. He currently runs a firm of public accountants operating in the area of tax and corporate consulting.

**Mario Conti:** was born on 09 November 1948 and is a Standing Auditor. He obtained a Degree in Economics and Commerce from the Università Cattolica di Milano and is registered with the Milan Association of Public Accountants. He currently works in the area of tax and corporate consulting.

Table 4 attached hereto shows the structure of the Board of Statutory Auditors on the date of this Report.

During the year the Board of Statutory Auditors met 6 times.

The average length of meetings was around 3 hours.

There are 6 meetings scheduled for the current year. As at 16 March 2015, one meeting had been held.

The delegated bodies reported in a correct and timely manner to the Board of Statutory Auditors on the work they carried out, on the general operational performance and on future developments.

The Board of Statutory Auditors:

- verified the independence of its own members in the first meeting called after their appointment;
- in conducting the checks above applied all of the criteria indicated in Article 148, TUF.

During the board meetings and, therefore, indicatively on a monthly basis, the Board of Statutory Auditors was given updated information about company trends and the performance of company affairs as well as the main changes in the regulatory and legislative framework of relevance to the company and the sector in which it operates.



The Issuer requires that any statutory auditor who has an interest, either directly or on behalf of a third party, in a certain transaction involving the Issuer must inform the other statutory auditors and the Chairman of the Board of Statutory Auditors in a timely and thorough manner about the nature, terms, origin and extent of his interest.

The Board of Statutory Auditors regularly carries out checks on the independence of the external auditors, verifying that the legal provisions covering this matter are respected and examining the nature and entity of any non-auditing services provided for the issuer and its subsidiaries by the external auditors and any companies belonging to the same network of companies, as well as regularly providing shareholders at Shareholders' Meetings with reports containing the results of the checks it has carried out.

Furthermore, in accordance with Legislative Decree 39/2010, the Board of Statutory Auditors supervised the financial reporting process, the effectiveness of the internal control, internal auditing and risk management systems, the statutory auditing of annual accounts and consolidated accounts and the independence of the independent auditors.

In that capacity, the Board of Statutory Auditors evaluates proposals, the work plan and the results illustrated in the auditors' report and in any letter of suggestions.

In carrying out its activities, the Board of Statutory Auditors may ask the Head of Internal Audit to carry out checks on specific areas of operation or transactions of the Company. The Board of Statutory Auditors exchanges, in a timely manner, important information with the Control and Risks Committee on carrying out the respective duties and functions.

There were no auditors who stepped down from office during the year.

There have been no changes in the composition of the Board of Statutory Auditors since the end of the year.

### **15. RELATIONS WITH SHAREHOLDERS**

Ongoing dialogue with Shareholders and, in particular, with institutional investors is engaged under the instructions of the Chief Executive Officer, who obtains assistance, within the Company, from a restricted number of colleagues who are particularly suited and specifically appointed to offer the maximum assistance possible. Additional contributions come from outside, for specific contractual relationships, from qualified professionals who deal both with the management of legal relations and also with communication. The Issuer has also deemed it useful to appoint an Investor Relations Manager with responsibility for relations with shareholders and institutional investors. The Investor Relations Manager also has specific responsibility for handling price sensitive information and relations both with Borsa Italiana and CONSOB.

The head of the Investor Relations Unit is Michele Bertacco.

Shareholders can also consult all shareholder documentation on the website www.esprinet.com, in the Investor Relations section.

#### 16. SHAREHOLDERS' MEETINGS (ARTICLE 123-BIS, PARAGRAPH 2, LETTER C), TUF)

In accordance with Article 10 of the Company's Articles of Association, eligible parties have the right to attend shareholders' meetings.

All eligible parties with the right to attend the shareholders' meeting have the right to peruse all official documents deposited at the registered office and to obtain a copy of the same.

Parties eligible to vote can be represented at shareholders' meetings by a third party in accordance with the provisions of the law. The Company may be notified of a proxy to take part in the Shareholders' Meeting by sending the document to the email address indicated in the notice of meeting.

As regards the functioning of Shareholders' Meetings, the Company follows a set of Rules approved by the Ordinary Shareholders' Meeting and not attached to the Articles of Association. A copy of these Rules is



handed over to the shareholders, together with a copy of the current articles of association, at shareholders' meetings and a copy is also available for consultation on the Company's website (www.esprinet.com), in the Investor Relations section.

Shareholders' Meetings are chaired by the Chairman of the Board of Directors or, if he is absent or unavailable, by the Deputy Chairman, if appointed, or, in their absence, by another person designated by the Shareholders' Meeting.

It is the responsibility of the Chairman of the Meeting to ascertain that the meeting has been properly convened, to establish the identity and eligibility of those present, to manage the proceedings of the Meeting on the basis of the approved Rules Governing Shareholders' Meetings, and to verify and announce the results of votes.

Unless the minutes are drawn up by a notary, the Chairman is assisted by a secretary, who need not be a shareholder, appointed by the meeting.

Voting rights cannot be exercised by post.

Resolutions of the Shareholders' Meeting are documented in minutes signed by the Chairman of the meeting and by the secretary, or by the notary when the latter draws up the minutes or when a notary's participation in this respect is required by law.

Resolutions are taken on the basis of an open vote.

For elections of corporate officers, voting is by means of an open vote or, where required by law, voting is by secret ballot and, to that end, two or more scrutineers must be appointed by the meeting.

To demonstrate ownership of the number of shares required for the submission of slates, shareholders must deposit, along with the slates, a copy of the specific share certificates issued by the authorised intermediaries.

The Shareholders' Meeting is responsible for voting on matters provided for by applicable legislation, including authorisations specified in the Company's procedures for related-party transactions.

The Company makes all the documentation available in the time and manner provided by law to ensure that shareholders are adequately informed about the necessary elements, and that they can take the decisions for which they are responsible with full knowledge of the facts.

Such documentation is available at the registered office and is also published on the Company's website in the Investor Relations section.

The Articles of Association provide that the management body is vested with all the powers set out in Article 2365, paragraph 2, of the Italian Civil Code.

Ten directors took part in the Shareholders' Meeting of 30 April 2014, while two directors were excused. The Board reported to the Shareholders' Meeting on its work during the year by way of the Report on Operations annexed to the financial statements as at 31 December 2014.

The Board worked in order to provide the Shareholders with a thorough documentation dealing with the necessary information for the Shareholders' meeting decision, both before the meeting call, and also with the provision of an "information kit" shared on the Meeting date.

There was no need for additional measures, since the policy of the Company is to provide all necessary information before the Meeting, rather than the intervention during the Meeting, which can be accepted in event of clarification requests that are not presented during the Meeting.

During the year there were no significant changes in the market capitalisation of the Issuer's shares or in the composition of its share structure.



# 17. OTHER CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PROCEDURES (ARTICLE123-*BIS*, PARAGRAPH 2, LETTER A), TUF)

The Company has not adopted any additional corporate governance procedures other than those described above, deriving from provisions of the law and regulations, except for adoption of the organisational model in accordance with Legislative Decree 231/01 and the provisions of the Internal Control System, inspired by international standards, in particular ERM-Enterprise Risk Management published by the Committee of Sponsoring Organisations of the Treadway Commission (Coso).

## **18. CHANGES AFTER THE CLOSING DATE**

There have been no changes to the corporate governance structure since the closing date.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors *The Chairman* Francesco Monti



#### **SUMMARY TABLES**

The following table shows the exact composition of the share capital.

#### **Table 1: Share Capital Structure**

	Share numbers	% c.s.	Market on which listed	Rights and Obligations	
Ordinary Shares (1/2)	52,404,340	100.0%	MTA STAR Segment	(3)	
Shares with limited voting rights	no	-	-	-	
Share with no voting rights	no	-	-	-	

(1) ISIN code IT0003850929

<sup>(2)</sup> on the date of this Report, the Company holds 1,181,400 ordinary shares for which voting rights are suspended

<sup>(3)</sup> the rights attached to ordinary shares are described in Articles 5 and 6 of the articles of association

The following table shows the persons who, according to the documents published by CONSOB (updated status based on communications received pursuant to law and drawn up to the date of the Report), hold shares with voting rights at the Ordinary Shareholders' Meeting amounting to more than 2% of the ordinary capital.

#### Table 2 - Significant investments in Share Capital

Declarant	Direct Shareholder	% on ordinary capital	% on voting capital	
Francesco Monti	Francesco Monti	15.709%	15.709%	
Giuseppe Calì	Giuseppe Calì	14.755%	14.755%	
Paolo Stefanelli <sup>(1)</sup>	Paolo Stefanelli <sup>(1)</sup>	9.751%	9.751%	
Maurizio Rota	Maurizio Rota	4.798%	4.798%	
Bestinver Gestion, SGIIC S.A. <sup>(2)</sup>	Bestinver Gestion, SGIIC S.A. <sup>(2)</sup>	9.879%	9.879%	
JP Morgan Asset Management Holdings Inc	JP Morgan Asset Management Holdings Inc	2.229%	2.229%	
Esprinet S.p.A. <sup>(3)</sup>	Esprinet S.p.A. <sup>(3)</sup>	2.254%	2.254%	

<sup>(1)</sup> dividend payment, 2013 coupon 9

<sup>(2)</sup> the declarant exercises the vote for shares owned by Bestinfond F.I. (stake of 2.958%) and Bestinver Internacional F.I. (stake of 3.077%).

<sup>(3)</sup> Treasury shares held.

The following table shows the composition of the Board of Directors on the date of this Report.



#### Table 3 - Structure of the Board of Directors

							RC	Com	NR (	Com
Office	Name	Exec	Non exec.	Indip. <sup>(1)</sup>	(2)	other offices	(3)	(2)	(3)	(2)
Chairman	Francesco Monti	х			100%	1				
Deputy Chairman ad CEO	Maurizio Rota	x			100%	2				
CEO	Alessandro Cattani	х			100%	4				
Director	Valerio Casari	х			100%	2				
Director	Giuseppe Calì		х		94%	-				
Director	Marco Monti		х		100%	-				
Director	Stefania Calì		х		89%	1				
Director	Mario Massari		х	х	83%	11	x	100%	x	100%
Director	Andrea Cavaliere		х	х	100%	4	х	100%	х	100%
Director	Chiara Mauri		х	х	89%	1	x	100%		25%
Director	Cristina Galbusera		х	x	78%	1			x	50%
Director	Umberto Giovanni Quilic	i	х	х	83%	2				

<sup>(1)</sup> independent directors pursuant to the Code and TUF.

<sup>(2)</sup> percentage of attendance at meetings of the Board and Committees

<sup>(3)</sup> indicates membership of Committees.

#### NOTES

Exec.: an executive director

#### Non-exec.: a non-executive director

**Other**: the total number of director or auditor posts held by the individual concerned in other companies listed on regulated markets, in Italy or abroad, in financial companies, banks, insurance companies or large-sized companies and in the Group's companies. The point, "Maximum Number of Offices held in Other Companies" contains a list of the companies with reference to each individual director, also specifying whether the companies concerned belong to the Esprinet Group. **CR Comm.** Control and Risks Committee

NR Comm. Nomination and Remuneration Committee

The following table shows the composition of the Board of Statutory Auditors on the date of this Report.

#### Table 4 - Structure of the Board of Statutory Auditors

Name	Office	In office since	Indip.	(4)	(5)	(6)	Other Office
Giorgio Razzoli	Chairman	09/05/2012	x	83%	100%	63%	-
Emanuele Calcaterra	Standing Statutory Auditor	09/05/2012	х	100%	83%	13%	6
Mario Conti	Standing Statutory Auditor	09/05/2012	x	100%	100%	13%	7
Silvia Santini	Alternate Statutory Auditor	09/05/2012	х	-	-	-	-
Maurizio Rusconi	Alternate Statutory Auditor	09/05/2012	x	-	-	-	-

<sup>(4)</sup> percentage of attendance at meetings of the Board of Statutory Auditors

<sup>(5)</sup> percentage of attendance at meetings of the Board of Directors

<sup>(6)</sup> percentage of attendance at meetings of the Control and Risks Committee

#### NOTES

Indep .: the officer qualifies as independent according to the criteria set by the Code

Other: the total number of offices as director or statutory auditor in other companies pursuant to Article 148-bis, TUF.



Annual Corporate Governance and Ownership Structure Report



# Appendices

Appendix 1	Esprinet S.p.A. Company By-Laws
Appendix 2	Rules Governing Shareholders' Meetings of Esprinet S.p.A.
Appendix 3	Guidelines for the Internal Control and Risk Management System
Appendix 4	Esprinet S.p.A. Code of Ethics
Appendix 5	Code of conduct for responsible management of the Esprinet Group supply flow
Appendix 6	Extract from Esprinet S.p.A.'s Organisation, Management and Control Model pursuant to Legislative Decree 231/01
Appendix 7	Regulation of the Control and Risks Committee
Appendix 8	Regulation of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee
Appendix 9	System of management delegations of Esprinet S.p.A.



# **Appendix 1**

## **Company By-Laws**

#### SECTION I

# INCORPORATION – CORPORATE NAME – REGISTERED HEADQUARTERS – COMPANY DURATION

#### Article 1

A joint stock company has been incorporated called:

#### "esprinet" s.p.a.

The corporate name can, for all purposes, also be used in the other following form:

"Esprinet" S.p.A.

#### Article 2

The Company has its registered office in Vimercate (MB).

Headquarters, agencies, representation offices and branch offices may be constituted or closed both in Italy and in other foreign countries.

#### Article 3

The company's duration is fixed as lasting until December 31<sup>st</sup> 2100 and can be extended one or more times with a resolution passed by an extraordinary shareholder meeting. Shareholders who have not taken part in resolutions concerning the extension of duration do not have the right of withdrawal.

#### SECTION II

#### CORPORATE PURPOSE

#### Article 4

The company has as its corporate purpose:

- Sale – both wholesale and retail – also via Internet, sales representation, hiring out and assembly of computers and of electronic equipment and products in general, as well as of auxiliary and complementary products;

- Installation of data processing procedures;

- Organisational restructuring of companies and provision of technical courses for professional updating;

- Supply of services in the field of data processing and information systems including the operation, maintenance, technical assistance and repair of electronic computers and of electronic equipment in general and marketing services including Web and logistics services;

- The taking on of sales representation and agency mandates in the sectors indicated above;

- The acquisition of equity interests in companies and/or organisations that already exist or are being incorporated, specifying that this activity will not be performed vis-à-vis the public but only vis-à-vis subsidiary or associated companies as per Article 2359 of the Italian Civil Code. The company can undertake co-ordination, also of a strategic nature, of the various equity interests, providing, where necessary, services of a technical, administrative, accounting, information-technology, commercial, promotional, and financial nature. It can also accomplish all transactions whose nature is financial – including provision of guarantees – real-estate related, and commercial that are connected with



achievement of the corporate purpose, with exclusion, in any case, of performance of financial activities vis-à-vis the public.

#### SECTION III

#### SHARE CAPITAL AND COMPANY SHARES

#### Article 5

Share capital is EUR 7,860,651.00 (seven million eight hundred sixty thousand six-hundred and fifty-one) divided into the number of 52,404,340 (fifty-two million four-hundred and four thousand three-hundred and forty) shares of a nominal value of EUR 0.15 (zero point fifteen) each.

Share capital can be increased on one or more occasions by virtue of resolutions passed by extraordinary shareholder meetings also via issue of shares having rights different to those of ordinary shares, in compliance with current regulations. Share capital can also be increased via conferment of receivables and of goods in kind. In the case of a capital increase, the option right is excluded within the limit of 10% (ten percent) of previous existing share capital, on condition that the shares' issue price corresponds to the shares' market value and is confirmed in a specific report by the firm appointed as independent auditor. The resolution concerning the present paragraph is passed with the quorums indicated in Articles 2368 and 2369 of the Italian Civil Code.

Saving the provisions made by Article 2441, paragraph 8, of the Italian Civil Code, the shareholder meeting – to service stock option plans and with a resolution passed by as many shareholders as those accounting for over half of share capital, even if the resolution is passed in a meeting held after first call – can pass resolutions approving share capital increases within the maximum limit of 7% (seven percent) of existing share capital, with exclusion of option rights and with the power to determine prices that can also be differentiated, fixed in compliance with the criteria established by current regulations and with possible discounts on the average stock market price, as long as they are based on objective parameters envisaged by the stock option plans.

The shareholder meeting can delegate the decisions indicated in the previous paragraph to the Board of Directors, as per the provisions of Article 2443 of the Italian Civil Code.

#### Article 6

Each right holder has one vote for each share held. Shares are registered, freely transferable and indivisible and, in the case of joint ownership, are regulated by law.

#### Article 7

The shareholder capacity means adherence to the company by-laws.

#### **SECTION IV**

#### SHAREHOLDER MEETING

#### Article 8

The shareholder meeting, properly constituted, represents all shareholders.

The shareholder meeting is in charge to deliberate on issues required by the applicable law, included the authorizations requested by the procedures adopted by the Company dealing with the operations with related parties.

Its resolutions, passed in compliance with the law and with the present by-laws, are binding for all shareholders, even if they do not attend the meeting or dissent.



Whilst the powers of meeting convocation envisaged by specific legal requirements in any case hold good, the Board of Directors convenes ordinary or extraordinary shareholder meetings to be held at the company's registered headquarters or in any other place indicated in the meeting notice, as long as it is in Italy.

Shareholder meetings can also be convened by the Board of Statutory Auditors, in the cases envisaged by law, via its President, or by at least two members of the Board of Statutory Auditors, after having advised the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Notice of the meeting, including the information envisaged by the norms also of regulatory kind in force, must be published as by law on the website of the Company; where necessary for mandatory rule or decision of the directors, on the Gazzetta Ufficiale della Republica Italiana [Official Gazette of the Italian Republic] with the other methods envisaged by the norms also of regulatory kind in force.

The meeting notice can also indicate the date fixed for the meeting on second call and, if necessary, for the meeting on third call, if the meetings on first and second call fail to reach the quorum.

The notice must specify the quorum required for the submission of candidate lists for the election of directors and statutory auditors, along with the method of calculation.

#### Article 9

The Ordinary Shareholders' Meeting must be called at least once a year within 120 (one hundred and twenty) days from the financial year end.

The Shareholders that jointly represent at least one fortieth of the share capital can request, within 10 (ten) days after the publishing of Shareholders' Meeting notice of calling, an integration of the items in the agenda by indicating in the question the proposed further items; the notification of such integrations will follow the rules and terms prescribed by law.

#### Article 10

Right-holders have the right to attend shareholder meetings.

Every right-holder having the right to attend the shareholder meeting has the right to peruse all official documents lodged at the company's registered HQ and to obtain a copy of the same.

Right-holders can cause themselves to be represented at shareholder meetings with observance of legal requirements. Notification to the Company of the proxy given for the attendance of the shareholder meeting can be made also through sending of the document at the email address indicated in the meeting notice.

#### Article 11

For the validity of shareholder meetings and resolutions, on both first and second or on third call, legal regulations are applied.

For appointment of the Board of Statutory Auditors the provisions of Article 19 are applied.

Majorities for resolutions are calculated without taking voting abstentions into account.

#### Article 12

Shareholder meetings are chaired by the Chairman of the Board of Directors, or in the case of his absence or impediment, by the Deputy Chairman, if appointed, and, in their absence, by another person designated by the shareholder meeting.

It is the responsibility of the meeting chairman to ascertain that the meeting has been properly constituted, ascertain the identity and legitimation of those present, manage meeting proceedings on the basis of the approved Shareholder Meeting Regulation, and to ascertain and proclaim the results of voting. Unless minutes are drawn up by a notary, a secretary, not necessarily a shareholder, appointed by the shareholder meeting, assists the meeting chairman.

Voting rights cannot be exercised by post.



Shareholder meeting deliberations and resolutions are documented in minutes signed by the meeting chairman and by the secretary, or by the notary when the latter draws up the minutes or when a notary's participation in this respect is required by law.

#### Article 13

Resolutions for the election of directors and statutory auditors are passed on the basis of an open vote, with the majorities required by law and the by-laws, using the preference list system; when required by law, voting is by secret ballot and two or more scrutineers must be appointed by the general meeting.

The members of the Board of Directors are elected, with respect of the equality of the genders required by the applicable law, on the basis of candidate lists submitted and signed by the sponsoring shareholders, who alone or in conjunction with other shareholders represent, as of the date the list is submitted, at least one fortieth of the share capital or any different amount established by law, and who in any case satisfy any other conditions set by law.

The lists must be filed at the company's registered office at least twenty-five days prior to the date of the meeting on first call, without prejudice to any shorter deadline set by law.

The lists must state which candidates qualify as independent, as defined by law for directors of listed companies.

Each list must be accompanied by declarations in which the nominees accept their candidacy and confirm that there are no reasons for ineligibility or disqualification, that they meet any conditions set by law or the company's by-laws, and (if applicable) that they qualify as independent.

The lists that count three or more than three candidates must contain candidates representing both genders, in order to be present in the lists, at least one-fifth (during the first mandate after 12<sup>th</sup> August 2012) and then at least one-third, of the candidates belonging to the gender less represented.

To demonstrate ownership of the number of shares required for the submission of lists, shareholders must file within the term envisaged by the norms in force for the publishing of the lists by the Company, a copy of the shareholding certificates issued by the authorized intermediaries.

Lists submitted in violation of the by-laws will be treated as never submitted.

A single shareholder, as well as shareholders belonging to the same group -- i.e. the controlling party, subsidiaries, sister companies and associates as defined by Art. 2359 of the Italian Civil Code -- and shareholders who are party, including through subsidiaries, to an agreement regarding the company's shares per Art. 122 of Legislative Decree 58/1998 may not submit more than one list either directly or through trust companies or other intermediaries.

For the purposes of this article, control (including with reference to parties in non-corporate form) is defined by Art. 93 of Legislative Decree 58/1998.

Each candidate may appear on one list only or will otherwise be disqualified.

Each right-holder may vote for a single list.

Without prejudice to Art. 2409 septiesdeces of the Italian Civil Code, one member of the Board of Directors (who must satisfy the conditions of reputability and professional qualifications per Art. 148, paragraphs III and IV of the Consolidated Finance Act) is drawn from the minority list obtaining the highest number of votes which is in no way associated, even indirectly, with the shareholders who submitted or voted for the winning list. For the purposes of selecting the winning candidates, account is not taken of lists that fail to obtain a percentage of votes equal to at least half that required for the submission of lists.

All other members of the board are drawn from the list obtaining the highest number of votes, in the order in which their names appear on the list, and at least two of them (or any higher number required by the laws in effect when the lists are submitted) must meet the legal definition of independent as established for the directors of listed companies.



In the event of a tie between two or more lists, a new ballot is held between these lists on which all rightholders present in general meeting shall vote. The candidates on the list winning a simple majority of votes shall be elected, with abstentions excluded from the computation.

In case the Board of Director's composition, even after the fulfillment of the procedure written above, does not respect the prescriptions required by the law in order to guarantee the equality of the genders, the last elected candidate of the majority list, according to the sequential number in which the candidates are indicated, belonging to the gender more represented, will be automatically replaced by the first not elected candidate of the same list and belonging to the gender less represented. This procedure will be applied as long as the composition of the Board of Directors will be respectful of the prescriptions required by the applicable law in order to guarantee the equality of the genders. In the event of the procedure's inability to guarantee the equality of the genders required by the applicable law, the replacement will be adopted by the Shareholders' meeting resolution. This resolution will be adopted with simple majority by means of submission of candidates belonging to the gender less represented.

The procedure written above is applicable also in case of replacement as written below in the article 14, paragraph five.

#### SECTION V

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Article 14

The company is managed by a Board of Directors, which is appointed by the shareholder meeting and consists of a variable number of members, in any case not less than 7 (seven) and not more than 13 (thirteen).

It is the responsibility of the ordinary shareholder meeting to determine the number of members of the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors, at the first meeting following its election and with the input of the Board of Statutory Auditors, shall verify that the directors elected on the assumption that they qualify as independent actually satisfy the requisite criteria, and if such criteria were not originally met or cease to be met at a later time, shall require said persons to step down and shall take the consequent measures; independent status shall be verified by the board periodically, according to its rules of operation, but no less than once per calendar year.

The members of the Board of Directors may also be non-shareholders; they serve for three years or for a shorter term established upon their election, may be re-elected, and step down as of the shareholders' meeting called to approve the financial statements for their final year in office.

If one or more directors become unavailable during the company's financial year, they are substituted in accordance with legal regulations.

If the majority of directors appointed by the shareholder meeting cease to be available because of resignation or for any other reason, the whole Board is taken to have lapsed with this taking effect when it has been replaced. In this case a shareholder meeting must be urgently convened to appoint the whole Board.

#### Article 15

The Board – if the shareholder meeting has not already done so – elects the Chairman from among its members, and possibly also a Deputy Chairman. It can also appoint a secretary from outside its members.

General representation of the company and also the power of corporate signature pertain on a disjoined basis to the Chairman, Deputy Chairman (if appointed), and, within the limits of their functions, to directors to whom the Board of Directors has delegated its powers pursuant to Article 17.

#### Article 16

Meetings of the Board of Directors are also held away from the company's registered HQ, as long as the venue is in Italy, and are convened at the Chairman's request or at the joint request of the majority of Board



members, or at the request of the President of the Board of Statutory Auditors or of at least one member of the Board of Statutory Auditors.

In order for the Board of Directors' resolutions to be valid, the presence of the majority of directors in office is required.

Resolutions are passed on the basis of the outright majority of the votes of members present, excluding those abstaining. In the case of a tie vote, the chairman of the meeting has the casting vote.

In exception to the above, resolutions must be passed by a majority of 70% (seventy percent) of the board (rounded up), with no casting vote given to the chairman, when the resolutions concern: a) the election and removal of managing directors and the granting and revocation of their powers; b) approving and revising the budget or the business plan; c) the acquisition, spin-off or sale (including by subsidiaries) of companies and/or equity investments; d) the approval of stock option plans and treasury share buy-back plans; e) new medium/long-term loans; f) the creation of an Executive Committee, the definition of its powers and the appointment and removal of its members.

The Board of Directors' meetings are chaired by the Chairman or, in the case of his absence or impediment, by the Deputy Chairman, if appointed, or by the most senior director in terms of age.

Convocation must take place via telegram, fax or e-mail to be sent at least three clear days before the date fixed for the meeting and, in urgent cases, at least 48 hours beforehand to each director's domicile. Regardless of observance of the convocation formalities indicated above, the Board meeting is taken to be properly constituted if all Board members and all standing statutory auditors in office are present.

The possibility is envisaged of Board of Directors' meetings being held via teleconferencing or videoconferencing, on condition that all those eligible can participate and be identified and are able to follow the discussion and intervene in real time in discussion of the topics addressed, as well as to receive and peruse or transmit documents. If such prerequisites exist, the Board meeting is considered to be held in the place where the Chairman is present, and where the secretary for the meeting must also be present, in order to permit the drafting and signature of minutes in the relevant journal.

The deliberations and resolutions of the Board of Directors must be documented in minutes, signed by the Chairman and by the secretary for the meeting.

#### Article 17

The Board of Directors is vested with the fullest possible powers for ordinary and extraordinary management of the company.

The Board is also attributed with all competences as per Article 2365, second paragraph, of the Italian Civil Code. The Board of Directors does not have competence to issue bonds, as per Articles 2410 et seq. of the Italian Civil Code. On occasion of meetings, to be held with at least a quarterly frequency, the Board of Directors and the Board of Statutory Auditors, also via delegated bodies, are informed of the activity performed and of the transactions most important in business, financial and capital terms undertaken by the company or by its subsidiaries, and of expected business progress, with special reference to operations featuring potential conflict of interest.

When special needs are deemed to make it appropriate, the aforementioned information can be communicated in writing to the President of the Board of Statutory Auditors.

The Board of Directors can appoint one or more Managing Directors, who are under obligation to operate within the limits indicated by law.

The Board of Directors can, within legal limits, delegate its powers to an Executive Committee, determining the content, limits and possible methods of exercising the powers delegated pursuant to Article 16 above.

For the Executive Committee's meetings and decisions, the rules dictated for the Board of Directors apply; however, all decisions not unanimously approved by the Executive Committee shall revert to the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors can also appoint one or more general managers, who need not be directors, determining their powers and related compensation.



The office of Managing Director and that of President of the Executive Committee can be combined with those of Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors.

#### Article 18

Members of the Board of the Directors have the right to be refunded for expenses borne for reasons of their office and to emoluments in the amount fixed by the shareholder meeting.

The shareholder meeting can also determine an overall amount for remuneration of all directors, including those holding particular offices. The Board of Directors will share out the emolument or remuneration as determined above in the way that it considers to be most appropriate, taking account of the commitment required of its members.

The remuneration of members of the Board of Directors holding particular offices is determined – if the shareholder meeting has not done so – by the Board itself pursuant to Article 2389 of the Italian Civil Code.

#### Article 18 bis

The Board of Directors, with mandatory input from the Board of Statutory Auditors, appoints in the company's administrative sector a financial reporting officer (with suitable qualifications, specific experience in finance and control, and a record of ethical conduct), granting that person the powers and means necessary for fulfilment of his duties and defining his term of office.

#### SECTION VI

#### BOARD OF STATUTORY AUDITORS

#### Article 19

The Board of Statutory Auditors consists of three standing members and two substitute members. Appointment of members of the Board of Statutory Auditors will take place according to the procedure indicated in the following paragraphs and is designed to reserve the appointment of one standing statutory auditor and one substitute statutory auditor for minority shareholders, and with respect of the equality of the genders required by the applicable law.

Appointment of the members of the Board of Statutory Auditors takes place on the basis of lists in which the candidates are indicated by means of a sequential number. Each list consists of two sections: one reserved for candidates for the office of standing statutory auditor and the other for candidates for the office of substitute statutory auditor. Each list contains a number of candidates not exceeding the number of members to be elected.

The lists that count three or more than three candidates must contain candidates representing both genders, in order to be present in the lists, at least one-fifth (during the first mandate after 12<sup>th</sup> August 2012) and then at least one-third of the candidates as standing members of the Board of Statutory Auditors belonging to the gender less represented, and also at least one-fifth (during the first mandate after 12<sup>th</sup> August 2012) and then at least one-third of the candidates as substitute members of the Board of Statutory Auditors, belonging to the gender less represented.

Lists can be presented only by shareholders who, at the time the lists are submitted, account - alone or together with other shareholders – for at least the same percentage of share capital required by Article 13 for the election of the Board of Directors, and in any case satisfy any other requirements set by law.

Each shareholder, as well as shareholders belonging to the same group – with this meaning the entity exercising control, subsidiaries and companies controlled by the same parent entity, or those associated according to Article 2359 of the Italian Civil Code – and shareholders participating, also via subsidiaries, in an agreement under Article 122 of Italian Legislative Decree no. 58/1998 concerning the company's shares, cannot present, not even via third parties or trustee companies, more than one list.

For the purposes of the present article control exists, also with reference to subjects that are not corporate entities, in the cases envisaged by Article 93 of Italian Legislative Decree 58/1998.

The lists, signed by the shareholder or shareholders presenting them (also via delegation of one shareholder) must be lodged at the company's registered HQ at least 25 days before the date fixed for the



shareholder meeting on first call (and this will be mentioned in the meeting notice), without prejudice to any shorter deadline established by law.

Together with each list, within the same 25-day term indicated above, a description must be lodged of individual candidates' professional resumés, as well as the declarations with which individual candidates accept their candidacy and attest, under their own responsibility, the absence of causes of incompatibility and ineligibility, as well as the existence of the requisites laid down by regulations for the office in question and in particular their independent status.

Within the term envisaged by the applicable rules for the publishing of the lists by the Company, there must be lodged also the certificates issued by the authorized intermediaries proving, at the moment of the lodging of the lists at the Company, the ownership of the number of shares necessary for their presentation.

Lists submitted that do not observe the above rules are considered not to have been presented.

Outgoing statutory auditors can be re-elected. Each candidate can present himself/herself in just one list, on pain of ineligibility.

Each right-holder can vote for only one list.

The following procedure is applied for the election of statutory auditors:

- from the list obtaining the highest number of votes, two standing members and one substitute member - based on the sequential order with which they were listed in the corresponding sections of the list – are taken.

- from the list with the second highest number of votes submitted by minority shareholders who are not associated, even indirectly, with those who submitted or voted for the winning list, the other standing member and the other substitute member – based on the sequential order with which they were listed in the corresponding sections of the list – are taken.

In the case of a tie vote between two or more lists, all right-holders present at the shareholder meeting proceed with a new vote between these lists. The candidates on the list achieving the majority of votes – excluding abstentions from the calculation – are the ones elected.

The chairman of the Board of Statutory Auditors is elected at the shareholders' meeting from among the auditors drawn from the minority list.

In case, even after the fulfillment of the procedure written above, the composition of Board of Statutory Auditors does not respect the prescriptions required by the applicable law in order to guarantee the equality of the genders, there will be made the necessary replacement, according to the sequential number in which the candidates are indicated, among the candidates as standing members of the Board of Statutory Auditors of the majority list, in order to respect the equality of the genders required by the applicable law.

If he/she lacks the requisites required by regulations or by company by-laws, the statutory auditor lapses from office.

In the case of substitution of a standing statutory auditor, his/her place is taken, until the next shareholder meeting, and with respect of the equality of the genders required by the applicable law, by the first substitute member belonging to the same list as the statutory auditor who ceases to hold office.

In the case of substitution of the chairman, the presidency is taken over, until the next shareholder meeting, by the eldest statutory auditor who satisfies the conditions set by law, or, in his/her absence, by the first substitute member taken from the list to which the ex-chairman belonged. If the shareholder meeting has to make appointments of standing and/or supplementary statutory auditors and of the chairman as required by law, in order to replenish the Board of Statutory Auditors following substitution, it proceeds according to the following statutory rules:

- If it is necessary to substitute the standing and/or substitute statutory auditor taken from the list receiving the second highest number of votes, the candidates for standing statutory auditor and for substitute statutory auditor – not elected – listed in the corresponding sections of the same list are proposed for office and the person elected is the one obtaining the highest number of votes.



- In the absence of names to put forward pursuant to the previous paragraph, and if it is necessary to replace one or more standing and/or substitute statutory auditors and/or the chairman taken from the list that obtained the highest number of votes, the provisions of law are applied and the shareholder meeting passes a resolution based on the majority of voters, excluding abstainers from the calculation.

In every case of replacement, the composition of the Board of Statutory Auditors must respect the equality of the genders required by the applicable law.

If just one list is presented, the shareholder meeting decides on the basis of the majority of voters, with respect of the equality of the genders required by the applicable law, excluding abstentions from the count, and the presidency pertains to the candidate listed in first place in the section of the list containing the candidates for the office of standing statutory auditor. In the case of replacement of a standing statutory auditor or of the chairman, the substitute statutory auditor and the standing statutory auditor in the sequential order shown in the list in the relevant section take over, with respect of the equality of the genders required by the applicable law, until the next shareholder meeting.

In the case envisaged in the previous paragraph, if the shareholder meeting has to proceed, as legally required, with appointments of standing and/or supplementary statutory auditors and of the chairman in order to replenish the Board of Statutory Auditors following substitution, the provisions of law are applied as well as the terms of the preceding paragraphs of this article regarding the election procedure; the shareholder meeting passes a resolution with the majority of voters, excluding abstentions from the calculation. Only those who have made the documentation indicated in this article available by the shareholder meeting date can be proposed as candidates. Those persons who hold directorships or internal auditing positions in other companies or entities incorporated under Italian law with shares listed in Italy (excluding companies controlled by "esprinet s.p.a.", parties controlling "esprinet s.p.a.", or companies controlled by the same controlling party of "esprinet s.p.a."), in excess of the limit set by the law and by implementation regulations, as well as those who do not possess the requisites of independence, honourability and professionalism required by applicable regulations, cannot be elected and, if elected, must step down. At least one of the standing statutory auditors and at least one of the substitute statutory auditors must be chosen from persons registered in the central register of accounting auditors who have performed the activity of legal auditing of accounts for a period of not less than three years. Statutory auditors not meeting the requisite envisaged in the previous paragraph are chosen from among those who had total experience over a continuous period of at least three years in the performance of:

- Managerial tasks in the administration, finance and control sectors of joint stock companies listed on the stock exchange;

- Professional or permanent university teaching activities in a juridical, economic, financial and IT-related technical/scientific subject matter; in the service industry in general, in IT product manufacturing or sale, provision of services in the field of data processing and information-technology systems, or in any case in sectors strictly pertinent to that of the company;

- Managerial functions in public entities or public administrations active in the banking, financial, insurance, and IT sectors, in the manufacturing or sale of IT products, in the provision of services in the field of data processing and information-technology systems, or in any case in sectors strictly pertinent to that of the company.

#### Article 20

The shareholder meeting establishes the annual cheque payable to each standing statutory auditor for the latter's entire term of office. Statutory auditors have the right to be refunded for expenses borne for reasons of office.

#### **SECTION VII**

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EARNINGS

#### Article 21



The company's financial year ends on December 31st of each year. At the end of each financial year the Board of Directors proceeds with preparation of year-end financial statements, within the terms established by law and observing legal requirements.

#### Article 22

After deduction of the portion for the legal reserve, the net profit shown in year-end financial statements is shared between shareholders in proportion to the shares owned, unless otherwise determined by the shareholder meeting.

Dividends are paid out at the banks designated by the Board of Directors as from the date fixed by the Board. Dividends not collected within five years after the day when they become payable lapse and revert to the company. The Board of Directors can decide to pay dividends on account in the cases, in the ways, and within the limits permitted by current legal provisions.

#### SECTION VIII

#### DISSOLUTION AND LIQUIDATION

#### Article 23

If at any time or for any reason dissolution of the company occurs, the shareholder meeting will determine the liquidation approach and will appoint one or more liquidators, establishing their powers.

#### SECTION IX

#### FINAL PROVISIONS

#### Article 24

For all items for which provision is not made in the present company by-laws, the provisions made by law will be observed.



# **Appendix 2**

# Rules Governing Shareholders' Meeting of Esprinet S.p.A.

#### Article 1

These Rules govern the holding of ordinary and extraordinary shareholders' meetings of the company "esprinet s.p.a." ("Company") and, where compatible, any meetings of special categories of shareholders and of bondholders ("Eligible Parties").

#### Article 2

These Rules are available to the Eligible Parties the Company's registered office and at the venue where shareholders' meetings are held in accordance with Articles of Association.

#### Article 3

Everyone entitled to attend shareholders' meetings according to the law and the Articles of Association can take part in the meeting. It is also possible to take part through a representative pursuant to the Articles of Association. In any case, the person attending the meeting, personally or by proxy, must identify himself by presenting a suitable identity document, including with respect to the powers pertaining to him if the latter represents a legal entity.

The Company's officers and employees may attend shareholders' meeting, without having the right to speak, together with any scrutineers appointed pursuant to the Articles of Association to carry out the functions described in subsequent articles of these Rules.

Company employees, directors and employees of Group companies, and representatives of the independent auditor, as well as Company advisors, can attend the meeting, where their presence is deemed useful by the Board of Directors or by the Chairman of the Board of Directors in relation to the matters to be discussed.

Where their presence is deemed useful by the Board of Directors or by the Chairman of the Board of Directors, experts, financial analysts and journalists accredited for each meeting can also attend shareholders' meetings without having the right to speak. Accreditations must be received at the Company's registered office by midnight on the third day before the date of the shareholders' meeting at first call.

#### Article 4

Those who have the right to attend shareholders' meetings under Article 3 above, must deliver to the Company's specifically designated personnel, at the entrance to the premises where the meeting is being held, the documents laid down in current laws confirming their eligibility to attend the shareholders' meeting, in return for a voting form, which must be exhibited for any checks and which must be returned if leaving the meeting before it ends. In the member leaves the meeting only temporarily, his return to the room where the meeting is being held must be notified to the designated personnel, who will return the attendance and/or voting form.

Those who have the right to attend the shareholders' meeting pursuant to paragraphs 2 et seq of Article 3 above, must identify themselves to the Company's designated personnel at the entrance to the premises where the meeting is being held and collect an identification badge that must remain evident.

#### Article 5

The shareholders' meeting is chaired by the Chairman of the Board of Directors or, in his stead, by a deputy chairman. In the event of their absence or resignation, attendees will appoint the chairman chosen from among the directors and shareholders present. The chairman of the meeting is assisted by a secretary, who need not be shareholder, designated by the shareholders' meeting pursuant to the Articles of Association.

The chairman of the meeting, also availing himself of the assistance of designated staff, checks the validity of proxies, the right of those present to attend the meeting, and the proper convening of the meeting.



During the course of the meeting, the chairman also verifies, on a case-by-case basis, with reference to individual items on the agenda, the right of those present to take part in discussions and vote on the items concerned.

Under the chairman's guidance, an attendance sheet is drawn up which identifies those who attend on the basis of their share ownership and specifies the number of shares, and all other attendees.

If appropriate, the chairman selects scrutineers, who need not be shareholders.

#### Article 6

No recording instruments of any type whatsoever, photographic devices and similar contraptions can be taken into the premises where the shareholders' meeting is being held, without specific authorisation to do so by the chairman of the meeting.

#### Article 7

After having verified that the shareholders' meeting has been properly convened, the chairman reads out the items on the agenda.

#### Article 8

In presenting the agenda items for discussion, the chairman may, as long as the shareholders' meeting does not object, follow a different order to that shown in the notice of meeting.

The chairman and, at his request, the directors will illustrate the items on the agenda, making use, as appropriate, of the Company's employees, directors and employees of Group companies as well as the Company's advisors.

The chairman moderates discussion, giving leave to speak to all those who have the right to take part in discussion pursuant to Article 9 below. He must intervene to avoid abuse or disruptions to the proper course of the meeting.

#### Article 9

All those who attend as representative of shareholdings have the right to speak only on each of the items opened to discussion.

Those wishing to speak must ask the chairman for leave to do so, by presenting him with a written request containing an indication and a brief description of the subject to which the request refers, after the chairman has read out the agenda items and until he declares discussion of the item to which the request to speak refers to be over. If two or more requests are submitted simultaneously, the chairman gives leave to speak according to the alphabetical order of the last names of the persons so requesting.

The chairman can authorise the submission of verbal requests to speak by means of a show of hands. Members of the Board of Directors and statutory auditors can ask to speak during discussion.

Company employees and directors and employees of Group companies or any advisors present may be asked to speak where this is deemed useful by the chairman in relation to the matter to be discussed.

#### Article 10

The chairman and, at his request, directors, statutory auditors, employees and advisors, will reply to speakers at the end of each spoken comment or after all spoken comments have been made on an individual agenda item.

#### Article 11

The chairman may, having regard to the subject and the importance of individual agenda items, determine the period of time available to each speaker to make his comment, which must not exceed five minutes. At the end of this time, the chairman can ask the speaker to conclude his comment within the next two minutes. Those who have already taken part in discussion can ask to speak again for a second five-minute period including to make any declarations of their voting intentions.

#### Article 12

The proceedings of shareholders' meetings generally last just one session. During the latter the chairman may, if he deems it appropriate and if the shareholders' meeting does not object, interrupt proceedings for a period of no more than three hours.



The chairman must adjourn the meeting to no more than three days later in the case provided for in Article 2374 of the Italian Civil Code or if he deems it necessary and as long as the shareholders' meeting does not object. In this case, after having consulted with the Board of Statutory Auditors, he will simultaneously specify the date and time of the new meeting to continue proceedings.

#### Article 13

It is the chairman's responsibility to maintain order during the meeting so as to ensure the proper conduct of proceedings, to repress abuse, and also to mediate or prevent the occurrence of situations of conflict within the shareholders' meeting. To this end, and unless the shareholders' meeting objects, he can withdraw leave to speak in the following cases:

- if the speaker speaks without having leave to do so or if he speaks about items not on the agenda or continues to speak beyond the allotted time;
- following a warning, if the spoken comment is irrelevant to the item being discussed;
- if the speaker makes rude or offensive statements or assumes rude or offensive attitudes;
- in the case of incitement to violence and disorder.

#### Article 14

If one or more of those present prevent others from discussing or through their behaviour provoke a situation such as to impede the proper conduct of the meeting, the chairman will warn the perpetrator of such conduct to stop behaving in that manner.

If this warning has no effect, the chairman will, unless the shareholders' meeting objects, order the persons previously warned to be expelled from the meeting room for the entire duration of the discussion.

#### Article 15

After all spoken comments have been made, the chairman concludes by declaring the discussion of the individual agenda item to be over.

#### Article 16

Before starting voting operations, the chairman re-admits to the meeting anyone previously excluded from the same under Article 14 above. The measures described in Articles 13 and 14 can also be taken, if the appropriate conditions are met, during the voting stage, while still allowing those for whom such measures are taken to exercise their voting rights, if any.

### Article 17

Depending on circumstances, the chairman can also order that voting on each item take place after conclusion of discussion of each item or at the end of discussion of all agenda items.

#### Article 18

Unless otherwise provided by law or by the Articles of Association, voting takes place using the open vote system.

Taking into account the number of votes pertaining to each shareholder, the chairman adopts one of the following methods:

- a) roll call;
- b) completion of voting papers;
- c) show of hands;
- d) standing and sitting;
- e) use of appropriate electronic devices.

#### Article 19

The chairman takes appropriate measures to ensure orderly voting processes.



#### Article 20

Once votes and counts have been completed, the chairman declares passed the motion obtaining the favourable vote of the majority required by law or by the Articles of Association.

#### Article 21

After voting on all agenda items has been completed and the respective results announced, the chairman declares the shareholders' meeting to be over.

#### Article 22

The minutes of the shareholders' meeting contain either directly or attached:

- the text of motions put to the vote;
- a summary of spoken comments and of the replies given;
- the outcomes of voting, indicating the votes cast (broken down into for, against, and abstentions).

The chairman is able to give the notary or secretary – for attachment to the minutes and for the sake of completeness of information – any documents read or presented during the meeting, as long as these are considered to be relevant to the matters and items discussed.

#### Article 23

For any matter not covered by these Rules, reference should be made to the provisions of the Italian Civil Code, to special laws and to the Articles of Association.

#### Article 24

Any amendment to these Rules must be approved by the ordinary general meeting of shareholders with the quorums required for the valid convening and resolutions of the latter, as well as with the formalities required by law and by the Articles of Association and, in addition, must also be expressly passed by the Board of Directors.



# **Appendix 3**

#### **Guidelines for the Internal Control and Risk Management System**

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Internal Control and Risk Management System ("ICRMS") is an essential element of the corporate governance system of Esprinet S.p.A. ("Company") and of its subsidiaries and/or associates (collectively the "Group").

It is defined as a set of rules, behaviours, policies, procedures and organisational structures that aim to enable the main operational risks to be identified, measured, managed and monitored thereby helping to safeguard the Company's assets, the efficiency and effectiveness of company processes, the reliability of financial information, compliance with laws and regulations and with the articles of association and internal procedures.

This system is integrated into the more general organisational, administrative and corporate governance structures adopted by the Group and takes into consideration the reference models and best practices existing nationally and internationally. The degree to which the system is integrated, more specifically, is measured by the degree of homogeneity, interdependence and integration of its various players and members.

The Company combines the control activities and procedures which are compulsory as a result of legislative interventions or interventions on the part of supervisory authorities with those adopted through management policy choices, where necessary expanding their scope of application where deemed necessary.

Therefore, in the integrated system, an important role is offered by organisation and control systems developed in accordance with the provisions of Legislative Decree 231/01 (administrative liability of bodies), including the control system in relation to occupational health and safety pursuant to Legislative Decree 81/01, of Law 262/05 on the protection of savings (introduction of the role of Financial Reporting Officer), of the Italian Data Protection Act as well as in relation to established organisational models for control in specific areas such as "quality".

By pursuing the goal of an effective and cost-efficient ICRMS as a whole, a procedure is required which enables risks to be identified and assessed as well as a synergic approach to the design of controls in the various areas of application within the Company.

The ICRMS minimises the impact of these risks on the Company's activities and provides reasonable (albeit not absolute) reassurance that the Company and the Group as a whole is not hampered, in the achievement of its operational goals or in the orderly and lawful conduct of its business, by circumstances or factors which may be reasonably foreseen, while recognising that no control process can provide absolute protection from the risks inherent in business activities or from the possibility that fraudulent breaches of laws and regulations or Company procedures, human errors or extraordinary events may cause harm.

The ICRMS, defined on the basis of the best national and international practice, is built on the following three levels of control:

- level 1: operational units identify and assess risks and define specific actions to deal with and manage these;
- level 2: units responsible for risk control define methods and tools for managing risks and carry out risk monitoring activities;
- level 3: the Internal Audit unit provides independent assessments on the entire ICRMS.

#### TASKS RELATING TO THE INTERNAL CONTROL AND RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

#### 2.1 Bodies and individuals in the Internal Control and Risk Management System

The following table gives a brief summary of the bodies and individuals that play a role in the ICRMS and identifies that role and the main functions performed by each of the players:



	ROLE IN THE INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEM								
BODY	ASSESSMENT	SUPERVISION	SYSTEM DESIGN	SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT	PERFORMANCE OF CONTROLS				
Board of Directors	2		7	1					
	N		V	V					
Board of Statutory Auditors	N		1	1	1				
Supervisory Board (Legislative Decree 231/01	N		V	N	V				
Internal Control and Risk Committee									
Chief Executive Officer									
Director in charge of the internal control and risk management system		$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$					
Head of Internal Audit									
Risk Manager									
Risks Committee									
Financial Reporting Officer (Law 262/05)				$\checkmark$	V				
	·								
Internal Audit - Level 3									
Operational managers (management)- Level 1									

#### 2.2 Role and responsibilities of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors, in its capacity as strategic supervisory body, has final responsibility for the ICRMS and periodically checks its suitability while also promoting a culture that promotes control functions at all levels of the Company.

In particular, the Board of Directors, following consultation with the CRC:

- a) defines these guidelines in order to ensure that the main risks are correctly identified and appropriately measured, managed and monitored and, in the final analysis, checks that the risks assumed are compatible with the company objectives set;
- b) periodically assesses, at least once a year, the adequacy and effectiveness of the ICRMS having regard to the characteristics of the company and to the risk profile assumed;
- approves, at least once a year, the work plan prepared by the Head of the Internal Audit unit, having consulted with the Board of Statutory Auditors and the Director in charge of the ICRMS (hereinafter also "Director in charge");
- d) describes, in the corporate governance report, the essential components of the ICRMS and expresses its opinion on the adequacy of the latter;





- e) issues the Organisation, Management and Control Model pursuant to Legislative Decree 231/01;
- f) assesses, following consultation with the Board of Statutory Auditors, the results described by the independent auditors or by the independent audit firm in the letter of suggestions and in the report on fundamental issues emerging during auditing.

In order to carry out correctly the tasks assigned to it, the Board obtains support from specific appointed bodies.

Therefore, the Board of Directors:

- sets up the CRC and grants the latter powers to advise and make proposals in relation to the ICRMS and appoints its members;
- identifies a Director in charge who is responsible for designing, implementing and operating an effective ICRMS;
- upon the Director in charge's proposal and having consulted with the CRC and with the Board of Statutory Auditors:

(i) appoints and dismisses the Head of the Internal Audit Unit and organises his activities, ensuring that he is given appropriate resources for performing his responsibilities, and defines his remuneration in line with company policies;

(ii) appoints the Supervisory Board pursuant to Legislative Decree 231/01.

At least once a year, the Board of Directors carries out a self-evaluation of the structure, composition and functioning of the Board itself and of the internal committees.

#### 2.3 Role and responsibilities of the Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for implementing these guidelines for the ICRMS with the support of the CRC and for ensuring that all necessary actions to create the system are adopted.

In particular, the Chief Executive Officer carries out the following tasks:

- a) is responsible for identifying the main company risks, taking into account the characteristics of the activities carried out by the issuer and by its subsidiaries and refers these periodically to the Board for examination;
- b) implements and updates the guidelines defined by the Board of Directors, taking care of the design, creation and management of the internal control and risk management system and constantly checking that it is appropriate and effective in line with changes in operating conditions and in the legislative and regulatory framework;
- c) checks and issues the organisational procedures and measures necessary to implement the ICRMS;
- d) checks and approves the activities for identifying the main risks faced by the Company (strategic, operational, financial and compliance) which are carried out by the Director with the support of the Risk Manager, taking into account the characteristics of the activities performed by Group companies, promoting the measures necessary to reduce and manage those risks and submitting these to the Board of Directors for assessment and final examination;

In carrying out his duties, the Chief Executive Officer is supported by the Director in charge, with whom he shares the same responsibilities in terms of design, creation, management and supervision of the ICRMS.

# 2.4 Role and responsibilities of the Director in charge of the Internal Control and Risk Management System

The Director in charge of the ICRMS:





- a) identifies and monitors the trend of the main risks faced by the Company, taking into account the activities performed within the group and submitting these periodically to the Board of Directors for evaluation;
- b) implements the guidelines for the ICRMS defined by the Board of Directors and oversees the design, implementation and management of the ICRMS, while constantly checking its suitability and effectiveness;
- c) ensures that the ICRMS is adapted in line with changes in operating conditions and in the legislative and regulatory framework;
- can ask the Internal Audit unit to carry out checks on specific operational areas and on compliance with internal rules and procedures in the performance of company operations and reports at the same time to the Chairman of the Board of Directors, the Chairman of the CRC and the Chairman of the Board of Statutory Auditors;
- e) reports in a timely manner to the CRC (or to the Board of Directors) about problems and critical issues emerging in the performance of its activity or which it has learned about, so that the CRC (or Board of Directors) can take the appropriate steps;
- f) proposes to the Board of Directors, after hearing the opinion of the CRC, the appointment, dismissal and remuneration of the Head of Internal Audit.

The primary responsibility of the Director in charge is to share with the CEO the tasks of designing, implementing and managing the ICRMS, by which is meant the set of processes designed by the Company and by the Group for (i) the identification, handling and management of those risks, (ii) the determination of the respective criteria for compatibility with the principles of sound and prudent management and (iii) the continual maintenance of such risks, with particular respect to the residual risks from mitigation activities, within the limits of acceptability and in line with the goals of creating and preserving value established by the Board of Directors.

These activities are carried out coherently with the techniques, methodologies and principles of the leading international models of reference and, in particular, according to the typical ERM-Enterprise Risk Management approach.

In carrying out his tasks, the Director in charge obtains cooperation and support from the various bodies and individuals that make up the ICRMS and, in particular, the Risk Manager, the Head of Internal Audit and the Risks Committee.

### 2.5 Role and responsibilities of the Head of Internal Audit

The Head of Internal Audit, who is not responsible for any operational area and reports to the Board of Directors and is part of the Chief Executive Officer's staff, has the following responsibilities:

- a) checks, both on an ongoing basis and in relation to specific requirements and in line with international standards, that the ICRMS is operational and suitable, using an Audit Plan approved by the Board of Directors and based on a structured process of analysis and prioritisation of the main risks;
- b) prepares periodic reports containing appropriate information about his activities, the ways in which risk management is conducted and observance of the plans defined to contain such risks; these reports contain an assessment of the suitability of the internal control and risk management system;
- c) prepares timely reports about events of particular importance;
- d) sends the reports referred to in points b) and c) to the Chairmen of the Board of Statutory Auditors, CRC and Board of Directors as well as to the Director in charge;
- e) checks, as part of the Audit Plan approved by the Board of Directors, the reliability of the information systems including the accounting systems.

As part of his duties and responsibilities, the Head of Internal Audit has direct access to all useful information for carrying out his task.

In particular, the Head of Internal Audit operates via an organised structure dedicated to Internal Audit which also supports the Head of Internal Audit in carrying out checks on specific operational areas and on compliance with internal procedures and rules in the conduct of management operations.



As part of the control activities to be carried out under the supervision of the Head of Internal Audit, the Internal Audit unit prepares an annual plan of checks ("Audit Plan") to be examined by the CRC and, at least once every six months, a report to be submitted to the Director in charge, the CRC and the Board of Statutory Auditors.

On the instruction of the FRO, to whom it is functionally accountable with respect to this kind of activity, the Internal Audit unit can carry out checks on the system of administrative/accounting control provided for in Law 262/05.

Furthermore, on the instruction of the Supervisory Board, the Internal Audit unit may carry out checks on the system of controls provided for in the Organisation, Management and Control Model pursuant to Legislative Decree 231/01.

#### 2.6 Role and responsibilities of the Risk Manager

The responsibilities of the Risk Manager are as follows:

- a) implement, develop and keep constantly updated a system aimed at identifying, assessing, managing and monitoring risks upon the typical principles of ERM;
- b) support the unit manager ("risk owner") in the assessment and management of the risks controlled
- c) cooperate with the risk owner in developing processes and procedure aiming at mitigating risks in each corresponding area;
- d) promote the risk culture within the company.

The Risk Manager is responsible for presiding over the process of the company risk management through the ERM, proposing, if necessary, to the ICRMS agents any further activities to adjust the internal control system. The Risk Manager revises the risk matrix and also the corresponding management and monitoring system (ERM) at least once per year and presents the results to the CEO, to the Director in charge, to the Risk Committee and to the Head of Internal Audit.

Twice per year, he also informs the Director in charge, the Control and Risk Committee, the Statutory Auditor and the Supervisory Board about the risk control activity.

#### 2.7 Role and responsibilities of the Risks Committee

The Risks Committee, made up of the CEO, Director in charge, Head of Internal Audit, Group Administrative Manager and Group Management Control Manager and the Risk Manager, has the duty to support the CEO and Director in charge in carrying out the institutional duty of identifying the main company risks, especially those emerging as a result of entering into new areas of activity and/or business or connected with changes in general and sectoral legislation.

Therefore, the Risks Committee supports the CEO and Director in charge, while bearing in mind that these two individuals do not devote the whole of their time to the duties carried out in connection with the ICRMS, in updating and maintaining the map of main company risks defined at the start of each tax years and approved by the Board of Directors. It helps the company bodies in the process of identifying new risk areas and supplies, where possible or recommended on the grounds of particular urgency, an initial indication about the actions to be carried out in order to introduce or streamline and/or improve the controls aimed at mitigating the risks identified.

#### 2.8 Role and responsibilities of the Internal Control and Risk Management Committee

As far as the ICRMS is concerned, the CRC is responsible for supporting the Board of Directors' decisions and assessments by carrying out appropriate investigative activities, so that the main risks faced by the Company and by the Group are correctly identified and adequately measured, managed and monitored, and, for relevant matters, assists the Board of Directors in decisions concerning the approval of periodic financial reports.

In this area, the CRC:

a) assists the Board of Directors to carry out its designated tasks in relation to internal control and risk management relating to:





- i. establishing the guidelines for the ICRMS;
- ii. periodically checking that the ICRMS is effective and appropriate to the company's characteristics and risk profile assumed;
- iii. ascertaining that the main risks faced by the Company are adequately identified and managed;
- iv. approving, at least once a year, the work plan prepared by the Head of Internal Unit, having consulted with the Board of Statutory Auditors and the Director in charge;
- v. evaluating, after consultation with the Board of Statutory Auditors, the results described by the independent auditor in any letter of suggestions and in the report on the fundamental issues emerging during auditing;
- vi. describing, in the corporate governance report, the main characteristics of the internal control and risk management system and expressing its opinion on the overall adequacy of the latter.
- b) assesses, together with the Financial Reporting Officer and after consultation with the independent auditor and the Board of Statutory Auditors, whether accounting principles are being used correctly and consistently for the purposes of preparing the consolidated financial statements;
- c) expresses opinions on specific aspects relating to the identification of the main risks faced by the Company;
- d) examines the periodic reports on the assessment of the ICRMS and those of particular importance which are prepared by the Internal Audit unit;
- e) monitors the independence, adequacy, effectiveness and efficiency of the Internal Audit unit;
- f) can ask the Internal Audit unit to carry out checks in specific operational areas and to report at the same time to the Chairman of the Board of Statutory Auditors;
- g) performs any additional duties that are assigned to it by the Board of Directors;
- h) reports to the Board, at least upon the approval of the financial statement and the approval of the halfyearly financial report, on the activities conducted and the suitability of the internal control and risk management system;
- expresses its opinion on the proposals for the appointment and dismissal of the Head of Internal Audit – ensuring that it has sufficient resources to carry out its duties – and on the remuneration proposals, in accordance with company policies;
- j) assesses the comments that emerge from the Supervisory Board's reports pursuant to Law no. 231/2001 and from the surveys and examinations carried out by third parties.

With regard to the organisation and management models provided for under Legislative Decree 231/2001, the CRC follows closely the respective maintenance and update activities by acquiring sensitive information.

Finally, the CRC, with reference to the Procedure for Related Party Transactions approved by the Board of Directors on 26 November 2010, in accordance with the CONSOB Regulation containing provisions about related party transactions, adopted under resolution no. 17221 of 12 March 2010 as subsequent amended by resolution no. 17389 of 23 June 2010, having met the requirements in terms of composition, carried out the tasks of committee appointed to carry out the following activities:

- with respect to "less important" transactions, without prejudice to the decision-making structure adopted by the Company through the granting of delegations and powers and, previously, the approval of transactions, express a reasoned non-binding opinion on the Company's interest in carrying out the transaction and on the appropriateness and substantial correctness of the respective conditions;
- with respect to "more important" transactions, participate in the negotiation and investigation of those transactions, through receiving complete and timely information flows and to express, for the benefit of



the Board of Directors, a prior favourable reasoned opinion on the Company's interest in carrying out the transaction and on the appropriateness and substantial correctness of the respective conditions.

The Chairman of the Board of Statutory Auditors (or another auditor he may designate) or other auditors may participate in the works of the CRC.

#### 2.9 Role and responsibility of the Supervisory Board pursuant to Legislative Decree 231/01

The ICRMS is supplemented, with respect to the part concerning preventing the risk of administrative offences being committed and, therefore, with respect to compliance, by the Ethical Code and by the "Organisation, Management and Control Model" pursuant to Legislative Decree 231/01 ("Model").

The Board of Directors appoints a Supervisory Board with the task of monitoring:

- a) compliance with the stipulations of the Model, in relation to the various kinds of offence covered by Legislative Decree 231/01 and by subsequent laws that have extended the scope of application of that decree;
- b) the effectiveness of the Model with respect to the company structure and to its actual ability to prevent offences from being committed;
- c) the advisability of updating the Model, where there is a need to adapt the latter to changes in the Company's circumstances and/or legislative changes.

In order to carry out its functions, the Board of Directors grants the Supervisory Board the following powers:

- to check the efficiency and effectiveness of the Model including in terms of conformity between the actual operational arrangements adopted and the procedures formally specified by the Model;
- to check that the requirements of effectiveness and efficiency of the Model continue to be fulfilled over the course of time;
- to encourage the updating of the Model, by putting forward proposals to the Chairman of the Board of Directors, where necessary, with respect to possible updates and alterations to be made in the form of amendments and/or additions which become necessary as a result of significant breaches of the provisions of the Model, significant changes in the organisational structure of the Company and/or in the ways in which the Company's activities are carried out or legislative changes;
- to report promptly to the Chairman of the Board of Directors any established breaches of the Model which may cause liability to arise for the Company, so that appropriate action can be taken;
- to promote and define initiatives for the distribution of the Model and for staff training and raising staff awareness about compliance with the principles contained in the Model;
- to promote and devise communication and training initiatives with respect to the content of Legislative Decree 231/01, to the effect of the legislation on the Company's activities and to behavioural standards;
- to provide clarifications about the meaning and application of the provisions contained in the Model;
- to provide an effective channel of internal communication for the transmission of significant information within the meaning of Legislative Decree 231/01, while guaranteeing the protection and confidentiality of the informant;
- to put forward and submit for the approval of the Chairman of the Board of Directors an estimate of the expenditure necessary to carry out correctly the tasks assigned;
- to gain unrestricted access to any unit of the Company without the need for any prior consent in order to request information, documentation and data considered necessary to carry out the tasks laid down in Legislative Decree 231/01;
- to request significant information from partners, advisors and external partners, regardless of what they are called;
- to encourage the imposition of any disciplinary measures resulting from established breaches of this Model.

The Supervisory Board prepares an annual plan of the activities that it intends to carry out, including the schedule of checks on the operating protocols adopted, which is forwarded to the Board of Directors for information.

The Supervisory Board continually notifies the results of its activities to the Chairman of the Board of Directors and to the Chief Executive Officer and/or the Director in charge.



In addition, every six months, the Supervisory Board prepares an activity report and provides the Board of Directors and the Board of Statutory Auditors with a detailed description of the activities performed. If invited, the Chairman of the Supervisory Board or, if he is unable, another member of the Supervisory Board indicated by the latter, may take part in meetings of the Board of Statutory Auditors and of the CRC.

#### 2.10 Role of the Financial Reporting Officer

The Financial Reporting Officer ("FRO") is, pursuant to the provisions of Law 262/05, responsible for the administrative/accounting control system.

In particular, the Financial Reporting Officer must:

- a) certify, by means of a written declaration, that the Company's financial reporting documents and communications released to the market, including interim reports, tally with documentary evidence and accounting books and records;
- b) establish appropriate administrative and accounting procedures for drawing up the individual and consolidated financial statements, or suggest amendments to the existing procedures, as well as any other financial disclosures;
- c) certify, jointly with the Chief Executive Officer, by means of a report attached to the individual financial statements, semi-annual report and consolidated financial statements:
  - i) the adequacy, based on the Company's characteristics, of the administrative/accounting procedures and the effective application of those procedures over the period in question;
  - ii) correspondence between the documents to which the certification relates and the accounting books and records and their ability to give a true and fair view of the economic and financial situation of the Company and of all of the Group companies included within the scope of consolidation.

The checks carried out by the FRO consist in analysing the internal flows relevant for accounting purposes and evaluating the correct operation of the system of administrative/accounting controls, in examining and approving the company procedures that have an impact on the individual and consolidated financial statements and on the documents to be certified and in analysing, through appropriate technical support, the role played by the company's information systems in ensuring that procedures and controls are adequate.

The FRO reports directly, on a half-yearly basis, to the Board of Directors, to the CRC and, for relevant matters, to the Board of Statutory Auditors with respect to the functions and responsibilities inherent in the post.

After reporting to the Chairman of the Board of Directors, to the Chief Executive Officer and to the Director in charge, the Officer reports to the Board of Directors on the state of the system of internal controls over financial reporting at the time of approval of the financial statements and the half-yearly financial report.

#### 2.11 Role and responsibilities of the Board of Statutory Auditors

The Board of Statutory Auditors carries out the typical supervisory activities laid down by national law to establish conformity with the law and with the articles of association and compliance with the principles of correct administration.

The Board of Statutory Auditors also monitors:

- the adequacy of the Company's organisational structure with respect to the relevant aspects, of the internal control system and of the administrative/accounting system and the reliability of the latter in giving a true and fair view of management events;
- the means of concretely implementing the rules of corporate governance laid down by codes of conduct drawn up by companies managing regulated markets or by trade associations which the Company has publicly declared that it has incorporated;
- the adequacy of the instructions given by the Company to its subsidiaries.



In carrying out its activities, the Board of Statutory Auditors may ask the Internal Audit unit to carry out checks on specific areas of operation or transactions of the Company. The Board of Statutory Auditors exchanges, in a timely manner with the CRC, important information on carrying out the respective duties and functions.

As the Committee for Internal Control and Auditing ("CICA"), as established by Art. 19 of Legislative Decree 39/2010, the Board of Statutory Auditors monitors:

- a) the financial reporting process;
- b) the effectiveness of the internal control, internal audit and, where applicable, risk management systems;
- c) the statutory auditing of annual account and consolidated accounts;
- d) the independence of the independent auditor or independent audit firm, in particular with regard to the provision of non-audit services to the body entrusted with the auditing of the accounts.

The independent auditor or the independent audit firm presents a report to the CICA on the fundamental issues emerging during the audit and on the major shortcomings found in the system of internal controls with respect to the financial reporting process. They must also confirm annually to the CICA their independence and any non-audit services supplied to the Group's companies and periodically discuss the risks relating to their independence as well as the measured adopted to limit or neutralise these. The Board of Statutory Auditors observes the general conformity of the form and content of the financial statements with the law, the correct adoption of current accounting principles and the correspondence of the financial statements with the facts and information which have come to the attention of the Board of Statutory Auditors by virtue of its participation in the meetings of the corporate bodies and of the exercise of its supervisory duties and inspection and control powers.

The Board of Statutory Auditors expresses an opinion to the Shareholders' Meeting on the appointment and dismissal of the independent auditors. The Board of Statutory Auditors assesses not only the independence of the independent auditors but also their technical suitability in relation to the latter's organisation in terms of the breadth and complexity of the duties. In expressing the aforementioned opinion, the Board of Statutory Auditors takes into account the remuneration owed to the Independent Auditors for the audit plan submitted.

#### 2.12 Role and responsibilities of management and employees

The Group's management and employees, each according to the respective responsibilities and tasks assigned within the Company's organisation, must help to ensure that the ICRMS operates effectively insofar as it is part of their responsibility to enable the Company to achieve its goals. Any shortcomings observed must be reported to the line manager.

They must therefore have the necessary knowledge, preparation and capacity to act and operate as part of the ICRMS and they must be able to carry out the tasks inherent in their role and to fulfil their responsibilities. Each individual employee therefore has the right and duty to have full knowledge and understanding of the Company and of the Group, of the latter's operating mechanisms, goals, markets in which it operates and the risks to which it is exposed on a daily basis.



# **Appendix 4**

# **Code of Ethics**

# **A. Foreword and General Principles**

# 1. Scope of application of the Ethical Code and persons to whom the Code applies

The Ethical Code is applicable to all activities carried out by or in the name and on behalf of Esprinet S.p.A. and its subsidiary companies ("Group" or "Group Companies"). The Ethical Code:

- sets out the conducts and governs the set of rights, duties and responsibilities that the Group expressly assumes towards its stakeholders;
- defines the ethical criteria adopted for ensuring a correct equilibrium between expectations and interests of the various stakeholders;
- contains principles and guidelines of conduct in possible areas of ethical risk.

For this reason, the Boards of Directors of Esprinet S.p.A. and of the subsidiary companies have adopted this Ethical Code, compliance with which is of vital importance for the correct functioning, reliability and reputation of the Group, these being key factors in its success.

The Code illustrates the values and behavioural standards which the Group and the Persons to whom the Code applies indicated below must observe.

The Group is committed to promoting the dissemination and observance of the principles contained in this Code in compliance with the behavioural rules defined herein.

The purpose of the Ethical Code is to guide the Group's behaviours and operations in both internal and external dealings, with the focus being on complying fully with current laws in all countries in which it operates as well as complying with internal procedures.

The stipulations of the Code – and the respective penalties in the event of breach – apply to all those who, directly or indirectly, permanently or occasionally, work with the Group.

In particular, the Code applies to the following persons:

- all employees and colleagues, including occasional colleagues, of Group Companies;
- directors, members of the board of statutory auditors, representatives and agents;
- professionals who (individually or as members of a professional association) provide services in the interest of Group Companies, without any exception;
- advisors, agents.

All persons indicated in the paragraph below shall hereinafter collectively be defined as "Persons" or, in the singular, "Person to whom the Code applies".



It is the duty of all Persons to whom the Code applies to be familiar with the content of this Code, to understand its meaning and, where necessary, to take the initiative in asking for clarifications about the Code and to report any shortcomings.

All Persons to whom the Code applies must be familiar and comply with the laws applicable in all contexts in which they operate and, if there exist any doubts as to how to act, they may contact the Supervisory Board (see final paragraph of this Code) to ask for clarifications and instructions.

The Group is committed to promoting an understanding of the Code among the Persons to whom the Code applies, to including their contribution in the definition of its content and to providing suitable tools to ensure that the Code is fully and effectively applied.

This Code forms an integral part of the Organisation, Management and Control Model ("Model") of Group Companies. Any behaviour contrary to the letter and spirit of the Ethical Code will be punished in accordance with the provisions of the Code.

By complying with the Model, the Persons to whom the Code applies, as indicated below, help to preserve the image and good reputation of the Group.

# 2. Group's mission

To be the best technology distributor operating in its relevant markets, assuring shareholders an aboveaverage return on investment thanks to a precise, professional, honest, fast, reliable and innovative management of customers and suppliers relationship, achieved by an attentive enhancement and exploitation of the skills and innovative capability of its personnel.

## 3. Corporate values

• The quest of excellence

We run to win and not to participate;

Results orientation

We work towards an objective and it has to be achieved;

Seriousness of approach

Success is founded on ethical trading, observance of rules, professionalism, and a spirit of sacrifice;

### Team power

Victory is possible only if my colleague runs for me and I run for him/her and not if we run against each other;

#### Innovation

Value is created by inventing new ways of satisfying customers and vendor needs;

### • An entrepreneurial spirit at all levels

Innovation requires every employee not only to come up with new ideas, but also to have the courage to promote them within into the Company and, if accepted, to turn them into new sources of competitive advantage.



# **B. Behavioural standards**

## 4. Business management principles

## 4.1 Management of operations

Each operation and transaction shall be correctly recorded, authorised, verifiable, legitimate, consistent and appropriate. All actions and operations performed by Group Companies shall be suitably recorded so that the decision-making, authorisation and implementation process can be checked.

A suitable means of traceability is provided for each record so that checks can be made at all times to establish the characteristics and reasons for the operation and identify the persons who authorised, performed, recorded and checked it.

## 4.2 Performance of tasks and agreements

The Persons to whom the Code applies shall perform their tasks and duties diligently, accurately, efficiently and professionally, in compliance with the law, and applying the General Principles of the Ethical Code and the provisions of the Model.

They must therefore use the necessary diligence according to the nature of the service and the interests of the Group and observe the provisions governing performance and the working rules given by the Group.

All Company activities shall be recorded and evidenced by suitable documentation conforming to legislation, regulations and the procedures of the Model, to allow a check to be made on the decision-making, authorisation and performance process, and to ensure the traceability of individual actions and/or stages of the operational cycle.

## 4.3 Administration and accounting

The Group shall comply with the laws and regulations regarding the drafting of the annual and interim accounts and all kinds of similar documentation required by current legislation.

The accounts of Esprinet S.p.A. and of Group Companies shall be drafted in accordance with laws and with local and/or international Accounting Standards.

All Annual Accounts and periodic reports which require auditing shall be audited by the appointed auditors. Company information and data supplied to third parties and accounting entries evidencing the Company's operations shall be transparent, accurate and complete.

The Group's employees shall lend their full cooperation to ensure that the Company's operations are portrayed in a correct and timely manner in its accounting system.

For each transaction, a suitable amount of supporting documentation shall be maintained which ensures that the appropriate authorisation and the financial reasons for the transaction can be identified.

The supporting documentation shall be easily obtainable and filed in accordance with suitable criteria which allow it to be consulted easily by the internal control bodies and by suitably authorised external organisations and institutions.

All Persons to whom this Code applies who become aware of omissions, tampering, falsification or negligence in accounting records or entries or the supporting documentation shall report the facts in a timely manner to their superior and/or to the Supervisory Board.

## 4.4 Information

The Group shall protect the confidentiality of the information and data in its possession, operating in compliance with current laws and regulations applicable.



The disclosure of information on any ground, either inside or outside the Group, shall comply with the Laws, Regulations and Procedures in force, and with the principles of transparency and appropriate behaviour. Information shall be clear, complete, truthful and not misleading so that recipients are able to take informed decisions.

A reminder is given that it is necessary to comply with the confidentiality undertakings laid down by data protection laws.

The Group shall identify and indicate to the Persons to whom the Code applies the channels, forms and managers responsible for communication actions from and to third parties and the market, establishing suitable procedures for the disclosure of price-sensitive information.

In the course of communication activities aimed at third parties, whether price-sensitive or not, the Persons to whom the Code applies shall use the channels and forms identified by the Group or inform the Department Managers of their reporting and communication activities.

## 4.5 Confidential information

All Persons to whom the Code applies are obliged not to use confidential information for purposes unrelated to the performance of their duties and tasks and not to disclose or use such information in a manner that may cause harm to the Group.

Anyone who gives false, exaggerated or biased information, or performs simulated operations or other stratagems designed to generate a significant alteration in the price of financial instruments or the appearance of an active market for them<sup>1</sup>, shall be liable for criminal and administrative penalties.

In addition, anyone who improperly disseminates or uses privileged information, meaning information of specific content which is not available to the public, relating to financial instruments, which, if it became public, would considerably influence their price, is liable to criminal and administrative penalties.

More specifically, action may be taken against anyone in possession of "privileged information" due to a shareholding in a company, or the exercise of a function, job or appointment who:

- buys, sells or performs other operations, directly or indirectly, on financial instruments using that information;

- without good reason discloses the information, or advises others on the basis of that information to perform some of the operations specified above;

In the event of doubt, it is necessary to comply with the company procedure regarding "Price Sensitive Information" and "Internal Dealing".

## 4.6 Conflict of interests

Members of company bodies, employees and partners must not conduct business, for their own benefit or that of third parties, which competes with the Group Companies.

If a Person to whom the Code applies, either directly or indirectly (i.e. close relatives), finds himself in a situation of actual or potential conflict with the interests of the Group, he shall inform his superior and/or contact person, who shall be responsible for assessing (either alone or with the involvement of the appropriate bodies and/or those identified by the legislation) whether a conflict actually exists, and what measures should be taken.

For related party transactions and Internal Dealing, the Group has published a specific procedure, to which reference can be made for further details.

## 4.7 Company property

Each Person to whom the Code applies shall protect and diligently use the Company property and equipment placed at his disposal for the performance of tasks and duties, avoiding improper use thereof

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Art. 181 Leg. Decree 58/1998 (manipulation of financial instruments).



which could damage them or reduce their efficiency, and shall not use them for personal purposes. Computer systems (hardware/software) and communication systems (telephones/fax/Internet connections, etc.) in particular shall be used in accordance with the security procedures and rules/regulations in force in the Company.

# 4.8 Dealings with Supervisory Authorities and Boards

It is expressly prohibited to prevent or hamper, through the concealment of documents or other stratagems, the performance of supervisory or auditing activities legally entrusted to shareholders, to other company bodies or to external auditors.

It is also prohibited to make to the public supervisory authorities, in the communications required by law and in order to hamper the performance of supervisory duties, false material facts, even if subject to appraisal, on the economic or financial situation of the Group Companies or to conceal, using other fraudulent means, facts which should have been disclosed. This principle is also applicable to information about property owned or managed by Group Companies on behalf of third parties.

It is not permitted, in any form, to knowingly hinder the duties of the public supervisory authorities.

It is, finally, prohibited to carry out illegal transactions involving the shares or stocks of Group Companies and transactions to the detriment of creditors.

## 4.9 Share Capital

It is prohibited to perform share capital reductions, mergers or demergers in violation of the laws protecting creditors.

It is prohibited to fictitiously form or increase the share capital of Group Companies, through allocation of the company's shares or stocks at a lower value than their face value, mutual subscription of shares or stocks; significant overvaluation of goods in kind or receivables, or the assets of Group Companies in the case of transformation.

It is prohibited to engage in any simulated or fraudulent behaviour aimed at determining a majority in shareholders' meeting in order to obtain an unfair profit for oneself or for others.

In addition, it is prohibited, including by means of simulated conducts, to return the contributions made by shareholders or release them from the obligation to make such, except in the cases of lawful reduction of share capital.

It is prohibited to distribute profits or advance profits not actually achieved or allocated to reserve or to distribute unavailable reserves.

# 4.10 Checking of financial flows

Group Companies and their employees must never perform or be involved in activities involving the purchase, receiving, concealment, laundering (i.e. acceptance or handling) or use in economic or financial activities of money, goods or other assets originating from criminal activities in any form or manner.

Group Companies and their employees must previously check the information available (including financial and reputational information) about commercial counterparts and suppliers, in order to determine their respectability and the legitimacy of their activities before entering into business relations with them.

In dealings with commercial counterparts and suppliers, Group Companies and their employees must comply with company procedures and must guarantee the transparency and traceability of operations.

Group Companies and their employees must always comply with anti-money-laundering laws in any competent jurisdiction.

It is prohibited to falsify or put into circulation (by accepting, buying and/or selling) bank notes, coins, public credit cards, revenue stamps and watermarked paper in the interest and/or benefit of Esprinet S.p.A. and its subsidiaries.



Anyone who, as payment, receives false or stolen bank notes or coins or public credit cards, through dealings attributable to Group Companies, is obliged to inform their superiors so that the appropriate reports can be made.

Furthermore, Group Companies and their employees must never be involved in the purchase or receiving of counterfeit goods.

The Group is also actively engaged, through prior control activities, in the suppression of terrorism financing.

# 5. Principles in dealings with stakeholders

## 5.1 Honesty and integrity in relationships

The conduct of relations of all types and levels shall be based on transparency, appropriate behaviour, honesty, integrity and fairness. Relations of all types and levels shall not involve any discrimination on the ground of age, sex, race, nationality, personal or social status, religion, political convictions, or membership of organisations and/or associations not conflicting with the law in force.

## 5.2 Fair competition

The Group supports and seeks to uphold the value of fair competition, rejecting behaviour contrary to this principle, whether it is collusive, predatory and/or constitutes abuse of a dominant position.

Fair competition on the market is interpreted by the Group as involving the supply of high-quality services and products, which meet customers' needs and comply with the contractual undertakings.

# 5.3 Protection and best use of Human Resources

Human resources are considered a primary value for achieving the Group's goals, due to the professional contribution they make as part of a relationship based on fairness, correct behaviour and mutual trust.

The Group shall protect and promote the value of human resources and encourage their professional growth and is committed to avoiding discrimination of all kinds and guaranteeing equal opportunities, and offering working conditions which respect individual dignity and safe, healthy workplaces, in compliance with current standards and workers' rights.

Relations between the different levels of the hierarchy (relating to different levels of responsibility within the Group) shall be based on the principles set out above.

The Group does not allow the conduct of employment relations not governed by agreed and formalised contracts.

In order to improve the skills and expertise of each employee so that they can reach their full potential, the competent company units must:

- apply criteria of merit and professional competence in making any decision relating to employees;
- select, recruit, train, pay and manage employees without any discrimination, ensuring that they enjoy equal and fair treatment regardless of sex, age, nationality, religion and ethnicity;
- ensure that each employee has equal opportunities in relation to all aspects of the employment relationship, including, but not limited to, professional recognition, pay, refresher and professional training courses, etc.

It is also prohibited for the competent departments to employ former employees of the Public Administration (or their relatives) who were actively and personally involved in business negotiations with Group Companies or in approving requests made by Companies to the Public Administration. The Group Companies undertake:



- to respect fundamental human rights;
- to prevent child exploitation;
- not to use forced labour or labour carried out in conditions of slavery or servitude.
- not to use workers without a proper residence permit.

The Group also stipulates that in its internal and external working relationships the following is not permitted:

- reduction or maintenance in a state of subjection through violence, threat, deception, abuse of authority, exploitation of a situation of physical or mental inferiority or of a situation of need or through the promise or giving of sums of money or other benefits to those with authority over the person;
- harassment of any kind such as the creation of a hostile working environment for individual workers or groups or workers, unjustified interference with the work of others and the creation of obstacles and barriers to the careers prospects of others;
- sexual harassment, by which is meant making the career development opportunities or other benefits conditional upon the provision of sexual favours or offers of private interpersonal relationships which are unwanted by and which may upset the victim.
- use of non-EU workers without a residence permit.

All employees must not work under the effects of alcoholic substances or drugs or substances which produce an analogous effect and must not consume such substances during their work.

Chronic addition to alcohol and drugs which has an impact on work or which may disrupt the normal conduct of working activities will be regarded in the same vein as the previous paragraph.

It is strictly prohibited to use company premises, in any way, for the trafficking of narcotic substances and pornographic material and to keep such substances and material on the premises of Group Companies, warehouses, outbuildings or in any other place otherwise connected with the Group.

It is strictly prohibited to promote organised and cross-border crime in any way or form.

#### 5.3.1 Occupational Health and Safety

The Group adopts measures aimed at promoting improvements in the health and safety of workers in all work-related aspects and ensures that this objective is constantly pursued. The Group adopts all appropriate measures to guarantee the health and safety of workers, including activities to prevent occupational hazards, information and training, and ensures that these measures are constantly updated.

To that end, the Group adopts a management system that explains policies, aims, activities, roles and responsibilities in relation to health and safety.

The principle is thus guaranteed of constant improvement aimed at consolidating a safety culture at all levels.

## 5.4 Dealings with Customers and Suppliers

Relations with customers and suppliers shall be conducted in accordance with the law, the general principles of the Ethical Code and the provisions of the Model.

Additionally for Suppliers, a specific code of conduct is in force governing relationship principles.

In particular, relations with customers shall be based on appropriate behaviour, politeness and helpfulness. In dealings with suppliers, selection processes shall be based on an objective competitive comparison (in terms of quality, price, performance guarantees and after-sales service), with no favouritism or discrimination.

It is not permitted to offer money, gifts or other benefits (e.g. promises of recruitment) – directly or via an intermediary – to managers/employees of a customer/supplier or to their relatives, in order to obtain advantages for Group Companies.

Directors, managers or contacts of Group Companies agree not to allow or engage in any form of bribery, including payments or other forms of benefits granted personally to Directors or employees or contacts of customers/suppliers with the aim of improperly influencing business decisions and causing harm to them.



All activities involving contractual relations with customers and involving the creation and management of relations with suppliers shall be documented and traceable, to aid the performance of the supervision activities delegated by Group Companies to the Supervisory Board in the implementation of the Model.

## 5.5 Dealings with public authorities and institutions

In dealings with public authorities and institutions, whether Italian or foreign, the Persons to whom the Code applies shall act in compliance with Laws, Regulations and the Model, i.e. fairly and honestly, without exerting any improper influence (for example in the form of gifts, offers of work, use of confidential information, actions that may harm its integrity or reputation, etc.) on the other party's decisions in order to obtain favourable treatment, even if the request comes from representatives of those Bodies.

All activities involving relations with public authorities and institutions, whether Italian or foreign, shall be documented and traceable, to aid the performance of the supervision activities delegated by Group Companies to the Supervisory Board in the implementation of the Model.

It is prohibited to offer cash or gifts to managers, officials or employees of public authorities or their relatives, whether they are Italian or from other countries, even if the request comes from representatives of those persons, except in the case of gifts or clothing of low value, by which is meant costing less than €100.

The Group classes unlawful payments made directly by Italian parties and/or organisations or their employees, and those made by parties acting on their behalf in Italy or abroad, as bribery.

It is prohibited to offer and/or accept any valuable item, service or favour in order to obtain or solicit favourable treatment in the course of dealings with the public authorities.

In countries or situations in which it is customary to offer gifts to customers or other parties as a courtesy, such gifts shall be of an appropriate nature and value, shall not conflict with the legislation in force in that country, and shall not under any circumstances be interpretable as a request for favours and/or special terms.

When business negotiations, requests and/or dealings with the public authorities are being conducted, the personnel involved shall not seek to influence the decisions of the other party, including the officials who negotiate or take decisions on behalf of the public authorities. It is also prohibited for the personnel involved to follow up any unlawful request made by representatives of the public authorities.

In the specific case of a tender procedure with the public authorities, the Company shall operate in compliance with the law and correct commercial practice.

If Group Companies use an external organisation and/or party to represent them in their dealings with public authorities, the same directives shall be applied to that organisation and/or third party, its employees and/or staff as to the Persons to whom this Model applies.

Moreover, the Group Companies shall not be represented by third parties whose involvement could give rise to a conflict of interest.

In the course of business negotiations, requests and/or dealings with the public authorities, the following actions shall not be taken (either directly and/or indirectly):

- examining and/or proposing business and/or employment opportunities which could personally benefit the employees of the public authority;
- offering and/or supplying gifts (of any kind or nature);
- requesting and/or obtaining confidential information which could compromise the integrity or reputation of one or both Parties.

## 5.6 Gifts and benefits

The Persons to whom the Code applies are expressly prohibited from offering and receiving gifts (either directly or through third parties) to/from any party which could be interpreted as exceeding normal business practices or courtesy, or be understood to imply a request for preferential treatment in the conduct of any business associated with the Company.



If a Person to whom the Code applies receives offers and/or requests for gifts or benefits (except in the case of customary gifts of low value), he shall immediately inform his superior and/or contact person, who shall be responsible for assessing the directives and parameters to be used to handle this particular case, whether there is an actual risk of deviation from the provisions of the legislation and the Model, and what measures should be taken.

## 5.7 Environmental protection

The Group Companies' business is based on the principle of environmental and public health protection, in compliance with the specific applicable regulations.

The Group is committed to safeguarding the environment as a primary asset and to promoting internally the rational use of resources and a focus on the pursuit of innovative solutions to guarantee energy saving.

## 6. Monitoring and sanctions

Group Companies have set up an internal Supervisory Board which has autonomous powers of initiative and control. The Supervisory Board is entrusted, inter alia, with the duties of monitoring, checking and dissemination of the Ethical Code.

Any (actual and/or potential) breach of the aforementioned General Principles, of the provisions of the Ethical Code and of the Model may be notified by any party to the Supervisory Board, which will report it to the appropriate internal body, namely:

- Chief Executive Officer
- Internal Control Committee
- Board of Statutory Auditors

Breaches may be reported through the following communication channels:

1. electronic mail: ODV@esprinet.com;

2. traditional mail: SUPERVISORY BOARD - Esprinet S.p.A. Via Energy Park 20 – 20871 Vimercate (MB)

Compliance with the provisions of the Ethical Code shall be considered an essential part of employees' contractual obligations.

Non-compliance and/or breach of the rules of conduct set out in the Ethical Code on the part of employees constitutes a breach of the obligations arising from the working relationship and gives rise to the application of the disciplinary sanctions laid down by law and by collective bargaining agreements.

Sanctions shall be proportional to the severity and nature of the facts.

Responsibility for managing disciplinary proceedings and for imposing sanctions lies with the specially delegated units, which will follow the relevant company provisions.

In the event of breaches of the Ethical Code by Directors, the Supervisory Board shall notify the Board of Directors and the Board of Statutory Auditors of that circumstance so that they can take the appropriate measures as required by law.

The Group has implemented a more detailed sanction system, based on the general principles contained in this Ethical Code.

Any behaviour contrary to the provisions of this Code by colleagues, suppliers, advisors and commercial partners connected to Group Companies by a contractual relationship other than an employment relationship may result, in more serious situations, in the termination of the contractual relationship.

This does not affect – where the conditions so exist – the right to take action to claim compensation for any damage suffered by Group Companies.



## 7. Approval of the Code and amendments

This Ethical Code is approved by resolution of the Boards of Directors of Group Companies. Any amendment/addition that becomes necessary, including legislative changes, shall be defined by Esprinet S.p.A. and incorporated by its subsidiary companies.



## Appendix 5

# CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF THE ESPRINET GROUP SUPPLY FLOW

## 1. Introduction

The Esprinet Group (hereinafter also the "Group" or the "Group Company") wishes to establish commercial relations with its own suppliers and business partners that are characterised by transparency, fairness and ethical trading practices. The development of transparent long-term relationships with suppliers, attention to quality, safety and respect of the environment and compliance with applicable laws represent objectives that must be pursued with a view to consolidating the added value created for stakeholders.

Therefore, in conjunction with the Ethical Code adopted by Esprinet S.p.A. and its subsidiaries, the Group has defined a Code of Conduct to guide relations throughout the supply chain.

## 2. Scope of application and persons to whom the Code applies

The Code of Conduct lays down guidelines for contractors, consultants, professionals, typical suppliers and business partners (hereinafter "Persons to whom the Code applies") of Esprinet Group Companies and any sub-contractors, whether operating as natural persons or organised firms.

When carrying out activities deriving from their relationship with Group Companies, the Persons to whom the Code applies must comply with the provisions of this document and also act as guarantors for the conduct of sub-suppliers involved in the provision of the service performed in the name of, or on behalf of, Group Companies.

The Group has opted to implement this Code with the intention of adopting an impartial approach focused on a transparent appraisal of supplies.

This document complements and reinforces the principles set forth in legislation and in general, all external and internal regulations with specific reference to the ethical aspects of corporate conduct and forms an integral part of all agreements and contracts entered into by the Group.

Receivers' compliance with the principles set forth in this Code of Conduct constitutes an essential requirement for establishing business relations with Group Companies. Likewise, non-compliance, or even partial compliance with the principles set out herein may result in termination of existing relationships.

## 3. General principles for supply flow management

Selection processes for the persons identified as Persons to whom the Code applies shall be based on an objective competitive comparison (in terms of quality, price, performance guarantees and after-sales service), with no favouritism or discrimination.

Commercial relations with the Persons to whom the Code applies are conducted with mutual respect for the following criteria:

- impartiality;
- cost efficiency;
- transparency;
- loyalty;
- professional integrity,



eschewing relations which may create personal advantages or conflicts of interest or harm to the Persons to whom the Code applies.

In particular, the purchasing processes are characterised by:

- equal opportunities for all suppliers, offering the possibility of competing to those satisfying the requirements, excluding any favouritism;
- mutual loyalty, transparency and collaboration at all stages, pre-contractual and contractual;
- seeking out the best competitive advantage, to this end adopting objective criteria that can be documented through an appropriate competitive selection process.

In this respect, the Group particularly appreciates the adoption by its own suppliers of ethical standards of conduct and the certification of quality and environmental management systems, corporate certification and that linked to staff health and safety.

## 4. Working conditions

The Persons to whom the Code applies undertake to comply with the fundamental rights of their staff, for example:

- equal opportunities;
- respect for personal dignity, privacy and the rights of every individual;
- guaranteed applicable national mandatory minimum wage;
- respect for working hours established by applicable regulations;
- freedom of association for employees;
- prohibition of child labour;
- prohibition on use of drugs and alcohol at work;
- prohibition on forced labour;
- prohibition on use of labour without a residence permit.

The Persons to whom the Code applies must refrain from all forms of discrimination based on political or trade union opinions, religious beliefs, racial or ethnic origin, nationality, age, gender, sexual orientation, health, marital status, disability, physical appearance, socio-economic situation and, in general, any individual characteristics.

## 5. Health and safety

The Persons to whom the Code applies undertake to comply with legislation on health and safety in the workplace applicable in the region in which they operate, to disseminate and consolidate a culture of safety by fostering awareness of risks and promoting responsible behaviour by all collaborators, thereby protecting the health and safety of staff mainly through preventive actions.

## 6. Environment

The Persons to whom the Code applies undertake to comply with the environmental protection regulations in force in countries where they perform their activities, with a view to preserving the attributes of areas in which they operate and promoting optimum use of natural resources.

They are also required to comply with regulations governing the use of dangerous substances in the production of consumer goods (for example, the so-called Rohs II European Union Directive), preparing technical documents and statements of conformity which are preserved over time and by the methods established by legislation and by correctly labelling products.



Group Companies must verify full compliance with obligations on the part of those concerned and to this end may request supporting documentation and conduct tests and controls.

## 7. Dealings with the public authorities

In dealings with public authorities and institutions, whether Italian or foreign, the Persons to whom the Code applies shall act in compliance with laws, regulations and corporate provisions, i.e. fairly and honestly, without exerting any improper influence on the other party's decisions in order to obtain favourable treatment and without agreeing to unlawful requests, or to any other form of conditioning, on the part of public authority officials.

All activities and relations with the public authorities and Institutions, national or foreign, conducted in the name of and on behalf of the Group or which may reflect on the Group and its business, shall be documented and traceable.

## 8. Business principles

#### Compliance with legislation

One of the fundamental principles to be followed by the Persons to whom the Code applies is to comply with the laws and regulations in force in all the countries in which the Group operates. Under no circumstances will the pursuit of the Group's interests justify or render acceptable conduct that is contrary to the law.

Group Companies will not initiate or continue any dealings with parties who are unwilling to accept this principle.

If any of the provisions contained in this document violate national legislation in force in the supplier's country, the latter shall take precedence.

The Persons to whom the Code applies must not perform or be involved in activities involving the purchase, receiving, concealment, laundering (i.e. acceptance or handling) or use in economic or financial activities of money, goods or other assets originating from criminal activities in any form or manner. They must never be involved directly or indirectly in any form of financing of terrorist organisations.

#### Prohibition on corruption

The Group prohibits any form of corruption, including towards private individuals. The Persons to whom the Code applies agree, for their part, not to allow or engage in any form of bribery, including payments or other forms of benefits granted personally to Directors or employees or contacts of Group Companies with the aim of improperly influencing business decisions.

#### Transparency of financial information

The Persons to whom the Code applies must undertake to provide information on their activities, organisational structures, financial situation and performance as provided by applicable the laws and regulations.

#### **Intellectual property**

The Group respects and does not make unauthorised use of third party intellectual property rights. The Persons to whom the Code applies are therefore required to comply with applicable legislation on intellectual property rights.

More specifically, those concerned must undertake to protect their own and third party industrial property rights (trademarks, patents, distinctive marks, designs, industrial models, intellectual work, etc.). Accordingly, any infringement or alteration of national or foreign trademarks or distinctive marks, industrial products, patents, designs or national or foreign industrial models is prohibited, as is the import, withholding for sale, placing on sale or otherwise in circulation and industrial manufacturing or use of counterfeit objects or altered goods obtained through infringement or in violation of industrial property rights is prohibited.



To this end the Persons to whom the Code applies are required to define corporate procedures and protocols to protect third party intellectual property rights and scrupulously apply them.

#### Fair business and antitrust

Many countries have enacted laws and regulations prohibiting illegal trade restrictions normally referred to as antitrust laws. These laws are intended to:

- protect consumers and competitors from unfair business practices;

- promote and protect healthy competition.

Such laws and regulations vary depending on the country of activity, but generally prohibit agreements or actions which reduce competition without any benefit to consumers.

In any event, the Persons to whom the Code applies are required to refrain from any form of unethical behaviour contrary to regulations protecting fair competition. Even where an action does not in itself constitute an offence, any unlawful agreement intended to undermine competition is prohibited.

#### **Conflict of interests**

The Persons to whom the Code applies are under an obligation to notify any relation with a staff member, director, proxy, representative, agent, or business prospector of a Group Company which could create even a potential direct conflict of interest.

#### Intermediation in the hiring of labour

The Persons to whom the Code applies must comply with applicable regulations prohibiting intermediation, brokerage and contracting out of labour and refrain from any actions involving such situations through the assignment in any form whatsoever of labour only services, except in cases expressly permitted under applicable employment law according to established procedures.

#### Management and conduct of operations

During activities conducted for Group Companies, the Persons to whom the Code applies are required to ensure every operation and transaction is correctly recorded, authorised, verifiable, lawful, consistent and coherent. All actions and operations performed shall be suitably recorded so that the decision-making, authorisation and implementation process can be checked.

A suitable means of traceability is provided for each record so that checks can be made at all times to establish the characteristics and reasons for the operation and identify the persons who authorised, performed, recorded and checked it.

## 9. Application and notifications

#### **Obligations of acceptance**

The Code of Conduct forms an integral part of all contracts and agreements stipulated by Group Companies with the Persons to whom the Code applies. Compliance by the Persons to whom the Code applies with the principles set forth in this Code of Conduct constitutes an essential requirement for establishing business relations with the Group. Repeated non-compliance, or partial compliance, with the principles set forth in the Code of Conduct will result in termination of existing relations.

Acceptance of the Code of Conduct is an essential condition for inclusion on the list of official Suppliers. The Code of Conduct must be signed in acceptance by the owner or legal representative of the Person to whom the Code of Conduct applies and appended to the documents produced during bidding procedures.

#### Equivalence with other codes

The Esprinet Group appreciates and accords great value to the independent initiatives of those concerned to define principles of conduct and monitor their correct implementation along their own supply chain.



In the case where the Person to whom the Code applies has adopted its own Ethical Code of which the provisions are in line with the contents of this document, the latter may be signed as an alternative to this Code of Conduct.

#### Violations

If sufficiently grave, violations of the provisions of this Code of Conduct may result in termination of the contractual relationship.

Group Companies' Supervisory Bodies are responsible for monitoring compliance with the Code of Conduct and must respond to any requests for information and further details.

#### **Duty of notification and procedures**

The Persons to whom the Code of Conduct applies are required to inform the aforementioned Supervisory Body of:

- any attempts by another competitor or interested party to interfere with regular implementation of the procedures and/or performance of the contract;
- any anomalous request or claim made by Group contact persons or others which may influence decisions on the award or stipulation of a contract and its performance;
- any relation with a staff member, director, proxy, representative, agent, or business prospector of a Group Company which could create even a potential direct or indirect conflict of interest.

Breaches may be reported through the following communication channels:

1. electronic mail: ODV@esprinet.com;

2. traditional mail: SUPERVISORY BOARD – Esprinet S.p.A. Via Energy Park 20 – 20871 Vimercate (MB)

Anonymous or unsigned notifications will be disregarded.

#### **Publicity and information**

The Group is committed to disseminating and publicising the Code of Conduct in an adequate manner, by the necessary means and communication channels and, wherever possible, to publishing it on its own websites.

#### Approval and amendments

This Code of Conduct is approved by resolution of the Boards of Directors of Group Companies. Any amendment/addition that becomes necessary, including legislative changes, shall be defined by Esprinet S.p.A. and incorporated by its subsidiary companies.



## Appendix 6

## Extract of the Organisation, Management and Control Model pursuant to Legislative Decree 231/01 of Esprinet S.p.A.

#### 1. LEGISLATIVE DECREE NO. 231 OF 8 JUNE 2001

#### 1.1 <u>The rules governing the administrative liability of Bodies</u>

Legislative Decree no. 231 of 8 June 2001 ("Decree") introduced into the Italian legal system a system of administrative liability for certain types of offences committed by Bodies (meaning companies, associations, consortia, etc. – "Bodies") in their own interest or for their own benefit, (i) by individuals appointed to represent, direct or govern those Bodies or a financially and functionally autonomous organisational unit thereof, or by individuals who manage and supervise those Bodies, including on a de facto basis, and (ii) by individuals managed or supervised by one of the persons indicated above. This liability is in addition to the (criminal) liability of the individual who actually committed the offence.

The purpose of extending such liability is to capture Bodies that have gained a direct or indirect advantage from the commission of certain criminal offences. The sanctions imposed by the Decree consist of fines and prohibitions, such as the suspension or revoking of licences or concessions, prohibition on carrying on business, ban on contracting with Public Authorities, exclusion from or withdrawal of funding and grants and ban on advertising goods and services.

The liability envisaged by the Decree also extends to offences committed abroad by the Body where it has its registered office in Italy, provided that no proceedings are taken by the State in which the offence was committed.

As regards the type of offences that may bring into play the above rules governing the administrative liability of Bodies, the Decree refers to a series of offences, which will be briefly described below and which can be summarised simply as follows:

Offences against the public authorities (Art. 24 and 25):

- bribery in the conduct of office (Article 318 of the Criminal Code);
- bribery to commit an act contrary to official duties (Article 319 of the Criminal Code);
- bribery in legal transactions (Article 319-ter of the Criminal Code);
- incitement to bribery (Article 322 of the Criminal Code);
- extortion (Article 317 of the Criminal Code);
- embezzlement against the State (Article 316-bis of the Criminal Code)
- misappropriation of aids from the State, from the European Union or from another Public Body (Art. 316-ter of the Criminal Code);
- fraud against the State, against the European Union or against another public body (Article 640, second paragraph, no. 1 of the Criminal Code);
- aggravated fraud for the procurement of public funds (Article 640-bis of the Criminal Code);
- computer fraud against the State, against the European Union or against another Public Body (Article 640-ter of the Criminal Code).

With respect to those offences, Law 190/2012 added the offence of "improper inducement to give or promise benefits" pursuant to Art. 319-quater of the Criminal Code.

Art. 6 of Law no. 409 of 23 November 2001 on "Urgent measures in view of the introduction of the euro" inserted an Art. 25-bis, which seeks to punish Bodies for the offences set out in the Criminal Code with respect to "forgery of currency, public credit notes, official stamps, instruments or acknowledgements".

As part of the reform of company law, Art. 3 of Legislative Decree no. 61 of 11 April 2002 introduced an Art. 25-ter (subsequently amended by Law no. 262 of 28 December 2005, which inserted, among predicate offences, Art. 2629-bis of the Civil Code concerning the failure to disclose a conflict of interests), extending the rules governing the administrative liability of Bodies to corporate crimes, as configured by the same Legislative Decree no. 61/2002, which will be briefly described below and which can be summarised simply as follows:

- false corporate disclosures (Article 2621 of the Civil Code);
- false corporate disclosures to the detriment of the company, shareholders or creditors (Article 2622, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Civil Code);





- obstruction of supervisory activities (Article 2625, paragraph 2, of the Civil Code);
- unlawful return of contributions (Article 2626 of the Civil Code);
- illegal distribution of profits and reserves (Article 2627 of the Civil Code);
- illegal transactions involving own shares or stocks or those of the parent company (Article 2628 of the Civil Code);
- transactions to the detriment of creditors (Article 2629 of the Civil Code);
- failure to disclose a conflict of interests (Art. 2629-bis of the Civil Code);
- fictitious formation of share capital (Article 2632 of the Civil Code);
- unlawful allocation of company assets by liquidators (Article 2633 of the Civil Code);
- unlawful influence on shareholders' meetings (Article 2636 of the Civil Code);
- stockjobbing (Article 2637 of the Civil Code);
- obstructing the duties of the public supervisory authorities (Article 2638, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Civil Code).

Art. 1, para. 77, letter b) of Law no. 160 of 6 November 2012 inserted into Art. 25-ter, a letter s-bis) which includes in Legislative Decree 231/2001 the offence of "bribery among private individuals" (Art. 2635 of the Civil Code).

Art. 3 of Law no. 7 of 14 January 2003 introduced into the Decree an Art. 25-quater, which inserts into the category of predicate offences for the purposes of applying sanctions upon Bodies, the "crimes of terrorism or subversion of the democratic order" laid down in the criminal code, in special laws or which have been committed in breach of the International Convention on the Repression of the Financing of Terrorism adopted in New York on 9 December 1999. Subsequently, Art. 5 of Law no. 228 of 11 August 2003 added an Art. 25-quinquies concerning offences against the person such as reduction to slavery and people trafficking. On this matter, Law no. 7 of 9 January 2005 added an Art. 25-quater.1, which punishes Bodies within the structure of which the crime set out in Art. 583-bis of the Criminal Code is committed (regarding the mutilation of female genital organs).

Furthermore, Law no. 62 of 18 April 2006 introduced into the Decree an Art. 25-sexies which adds to the above list the offences of insider dealing and market manipulation provided for in part V, title I-bis, chapter II, of the Italian Finance Act (Legislative Decree no. 58 of 24 February 1998).

Art. 10 of Law no. 146 of 16 March 2006 provides that Bodies will incur liability according to Legislative Decree 231/2001, with respect to an additional category of offences, which must nevertheless present the characteristics of "cross-border crime":

- criminal association (Art. 416 of the Criminal Code);
- membership of Mafia-type associations (Art. 416-bis of the Criminal Code);
- criminal association involving the contraband of foreign manufactured tobacco (Art. 291-quater, Presidential Decree no. 43 of 23-1-1973);
- association involving the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (Art. 74 of Presidential Decree no. 309 of 9-10-1990);
- provisions against illegal immigration (Art. 12, paragraph 3, 3-bis, 3-ter and 5, of Legislative Decree no. 268 of 25-7-1998);
- inducement to withhold statements or to make false statements to the judicial authorities (Art. 377-bis of the Criminal Code);
- personal aiding and abetting (Art. 378 of the Criminal Code).

In order for the crimes listed above to be classified as transnational crimes, it is necessary (not only for the crime committed to be punishable with imprisonment of no less than four years) that an organised criminal group is involved. Furthermore, a transnational crime is one that is committed in more than one State; or is planned, directed or controlled in a State other than that in which it was actually committed; or is committed in one State but involves an organised criminal gang that engages in criminal activities in more than one State; or is committed in one State but has substantial effects in another State.

Art. 9 of Law no. 123 of 3 August 2007 on "*Measures concerning occupational health and safety and delegation to the Government to reorganise and reform the relevant legislation*" inserts into the provisions contained in Legislative Decree 231/2001 an Art. 25-septies (subsequently amended by Legislative Decree 81/2008), entitled as follows: "*Manslaughter and serious or grievous bodily harm committed as a result of the breach of rules governing accident prevention and the protection of occupational health and safety*". The article therefore extends the punishability of Bodies for the offences set out in Articles 589 and 590, third paragraph, of the Criminal Code, where they have been committed as a result of the breach of rules governing accident protection of occupational health and safety.



Following the approval of Legislative Decree 231/2007, administrative liability was introduced for legal persons, pursuant to Legislative Decree 231/2001, in relation to the commission of the offences of *receiving, laundering and using money, goods or assets of illegal origin* (Arts. 648, 648-bis and 648-ter of the Criminal Code, as mentioned in Art. 25-octies of Legislative Decree 231/2001).

Law no. 48/2008 on "Ratification and implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime adopted in Budapest on 23 November 2001 and rules for the adaptation of national legislation" introduced into the text of the Decree an Art. 24-bis concerning computer crimes. This concerns in particular the following crimes: false disclosures in a public computer document or one having probative effect (Art. 491bis of the Criminal Code); unlawful access to a computer or electronic system (Art. 615-ter of the Criminal Code); unlawful possession and distribution of access codes to computer or electronic systems (Art. 615quater of the Criminal Code); distribution of equipment, devices or computer programs aimed at damaging or interrupting a computer or electronic system (Art. 615-quinquies of the Criminal Code); unlawful intercepting, jamming or interruption of computer or electronic communications (Art. 617-guater of the Criminal Code); installation of equipment intended to intercept, jam or interrupt computer or electronic communications (Art. 617-quinquies of the Criminal Code); damaging of information, data and computer programs (Art. 635-bis of the Criminal Code); damaging of information, data and computer programs used by the State or by another public body or public utility (Art. 635-ter of the Criminal Code); damaging of computer or electronic systems (Art. 635-quater of the Criminal Code); damaging of computer or electronic systems of public utilities (Art. 635-guinguies of the Criminal Code); computer fraud by an electronic signature certification body (Art. 640-quinquies of the Criminal Code).

Law no. 94 of 15 July 2009 on "public safety measures" introduced Art. 24-ter entitled "organised crimes" covering various criminal offences involving association. These include in particular: criminal association (Art. 416 of the Criminal Code); membership of mafia-type associations including foreign associations (Art. 416-bis of the Criminal Code); political/mafia electoral bribery (Art. 416-ter of the Criminal Code); association involving the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (Art. 74 of Presidential Decree no. 309 of 9 October 1990), kidnapping of persons for the purposes of extortion (Art. 630 of the Criminal Code).

Law no. 99 of 23 July 2009 on "measures for the development and internationalisation of businesses, and in energy matters" introduced new categories of offence into the scope of application of Legislative Decree 231/2001, in terms of counterfeiting, crimes against industry and commerce and copyright protection.

Specifically, the scope of Art. 25-bis of Legislative Decree 231/2001 was extended to now include the following offences: counterfeiting, alteration of use of distinctive signs of original works or industrial products (Art. 473 of the Criminal Code), introduction into the state and trading of products bearing false signs (Art. 474 of the Criminal Code). Law 99/2009 also introduced Art. 25-bis 1, which covers the following offences: disruption of industry and trade (Art. 513 of the Criminal Code); unlawful competition with threat or violence (Art. 513-bis of the Criminal Code); frauds against national industries (Art. 514 of the Criminal Code); fraud in exercise of trade (Art. 515 of the Criminal Code); sale of non-genuine substances as genuine (Art. 516 of the Criminal Code); sale of non-genuine substances as genuine (Art. 517 of the Criminal Code); manufacture and trade of goods produced with unlawful appropriation of industrial property rights (Art. 517-ter of the Criminal Code); counterfeiting of geographical information or designations of origin of agro-food products (Art. 517-quater of the Criminal Code).

As regards copyright protection, Art. 25-nonies stipulates that bodies will be liable for copyright infringement offences as per Arts. 171, 171 bis, 171 ter, 171 septies and 171 octies of Law no. 633 of 1941.

Legislative Decree 121/2011 introduced environmental offences into Art. 25-undecies of Legislative Decree 231/2001.

The types of offence are listed below: discharge of industrial effluents (Art. 137 Legislative Decree 152/2006); unauthorised waste management activities (Art. 256 Legislative Decree 152/2006); site improvement (Art. 257 Legislative Decree 152/2006); breach of obligations of notification and keeping of mandatory records and forms (Art. 258 Legislative Decree 152/2006); illegal traffic of waste (Art. 259 Legislative Decree 152/2006); organised activities for illegal traffic of waste (Art. 260 Legislative Decree 152/2006); computer system for monitoring waste traceability (Art. 260-bis Legislative Decree 152/2006); atmospheric emissions (Art. 279-bis Legislative Decree 152/2006); stoppage and reduction in use of substances harmful to zone (Art. 3, paragraph 6, of Law 549/1993); wilful contamination of vessels (Art. 8 Legislative Decree 202/2007) and negligent contamination of vessels (Art. 9 Legislative Decree 202/2007); destruction or damaging of habitats within a protected site (Art. 733-bis Criminal Code); trading of specimens belonging to protected animal species (Arts. 1, 2, 3-bis and 6 of Law no. 150 of 7 February



1992); slaughter, destruction, capture, taking or possession of specimens of protected wild plant or animal species (Art. 727 bis Criminal Code).

Finally, Art. 2 of Legislative Decree no. 109 of 16 July 2012 implementing Directive 2009/52/EC –providing for minimum standards on sanctions and measures against employers of illegal labour – introduced an Art. 25-duodecies, which provides for the offence of "Use of illegally staying third-country nationals" (Art. 22, para. 12-bis, of Legislative Decree no. 286 of 22 July 1998).

## <u>1.2 The adoption of an Organisation, Management and Control Model as a means of excluding administrative liability</u>

Article 6 of the Decree introduces a particular form of excluding administrative liability arising from an offence if the Body shows:

- 1. that, before the offence was committed, its management body had adopted and effectively implemented Organisation and Management Models capable of preventing offences of the kind that occurred;
- that it has entrusted the task of supervising the functioning and observance of the models and of ensuring that they are updated to an internal board which has autonomous powers of initiative and control;
- 3. that the individuals who committed the offence did so through fraudulent evasion of the aforementioned Organisation and Management Models;
- 4. there was no absence of supervision or insufficient supervision by the Board referred to in point 2.

The Decree also provides that, in relation to the extension of the delegated powers and to the risk of the offences being committed, the Models described in letter a) must meet the following requirements:

- 1. identify the areas where there is a risk that the offences specified in the Decree may be committed;
- 2. draw up specific protocols in order to plan the formation and implementation of the Body's decisions in relation to the offences to be prevented;
- 3. devise procedures for identifying and for managing the Company's financial resources that can prevent the commission of these offences;
- 4. stipulate reporting requirements in relation to the Board appointed to supervise the functioning and observance of the Model;
- 5. introduce an internal disciplinary system for sanctioning any failure to observe the measures indicated in the Model.

The Decree provides that Organisational and Management Models may be adopted, while guaranteeing the requirements stated above, on the basis of codes of conducts (also known as Guidelines) draw up by the representative trade associations and forwarded to the Ministry of Justice.

#### 2. ESPRINET'S GOVERNANCE MODEL AND ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

#### 2.1 Esprinet

Esprinet S.p.A. and its subsidiaries (which together form the "Esprinet Group" or the "Group") are engaged in the wholesale distribution of information technology and consumer electronics in Italy and Spain and have around 47,000 customer retailers and over 500 brands in its portfolio.

In Italy, the Group is active in the following business areas:

- "business-to-business" (B2B) distribution of Information Technology (IT) and consumer electronics;
- "business-to-business" (B2B) distribution of micro-electronic components.



On the Spanish market, the Group is only active in the B2B distribution of Information Technology (IT) and consumer electronics.

On the Italian market, the predominant activity is the distribution of IT products (hardware, software and services) and consumer electronics.

Besides the more traditional IT products (desktop PCs, notebook PCs, printers, photocopiers, servers, software packages, etc.), it also distributes consumables (cartridges, tapes, toners, magnetic media), networking products (modems, routers, switches), digital and latest-generation entertainment products such as cameras, video cameras, video games, LCD TVs, palmtops and MP3 players.

Distribution activities are carried out with professional retailers ("business-to-business", including large-scale operators).

Alongside the distribution of information technology and consumer electronics, it is also engaged in the distribution, on the Italian market, of micro-electronic components (active, passive, connections and displays) which had previously been carried by a division of the parent company Esprinet and which, in 2003, was transferred to the then newly-formed company Comprel (which was founded with the same company name previously belonging to one of the three companies which, through their merger, had formed Esprinet).

The Company's **mission** is to be the best Technology distributor on the relevant markets, guaranteeing shareholders an above-average return on their investment as a result of meticulous, professional, honest, fast, reliable and innovative management of dealings with customers and suppliers, achieved by making the most of the skills and innovative abilities of its personnel.

It is committed to the constant improvement of safety and of the environment, in particular to preventing accidents, occupational diseases, pollution and compliance with the relevant legislation.

The **values** on which the Company's activities are based are:

- Pursuit of excellence: play to win not just to take part;
- Results-oriented: we work towards a goal, which must be achieved;
- Professionalism: success is based on business ethics, observance of rules, ensuring full customer satisfaction, professionalism and a spirit of sacrifice;
- Team spirit: victory is only possible if the whole team is in tune with each other;
- Innovation: value is created by inventing new ways of meeting the needs of customers and suppliers;
- Entrepreneurial spirit: innovation requires every employee not only to come up with new ideas, but also to have the courage to put forward their ideas to the Company and, when they are accepted, to turn them into new sources of competitive advantage;
- Compliance with current legislation and adherence to ethical principles;
- Raising staff awareness of environmental and safety issues and of the importance of each person contributing to prevent accidents and to improve the general conditions of safety at work and the environmental efficiency of the organisation.

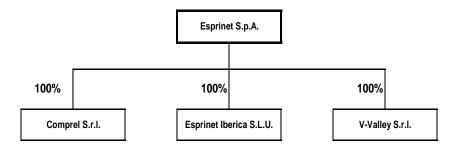
#### 2.2 The Group headed by Esprinet

The current structure of the Esprinet Group consists of:

- Italy subgroup, including the Italian companies controlled directly by Esprinet S.p.A. (Comprel S.r.I. and V-Valley S.r.I.);
- Spain subgroup, represented by the Spanish company Esprinet Iberica S.L.U.

A brief description is given below about the companies belonging to the Group.





#### Italy subgroup

#### Comprel S.r.l.

Formed in June 2003, it has its registered office at Via Energy Park 20, Vimercate (MB) and is wholly owned by Esprinet S.p.A.

It has been operational since 1 October 2003, which was the start date of the lease contract for the activities of distributing electronic components previously managed by the sole shareholder Esprinet S.p.A.

This operation was from the outset in preparation for the subsequent spin-off and transfer to Comprel S.r.l., which was completed in December 2003.

The activities spun off at the time, now forming the core business of Comprel, involved the distribution of semi-conductors ("active"), passive components, connections, displays and subsystems.

#### V-Valley S.r.l.

Formed in June 2010 under the company name Master Team S.r.I and changed in September to V-Valley S.r.I., it has its registered office at Via Energy Park 20, Vimercate (MB) and is wholly owned by Esprinet S.p.A.

This company, operational since December 2010, carries out all activities relating to the distribution of "value" products (essentially high-range servers, storage and networking, virtualisation, security, bar-code scanning).

#### Spain subgroup

#### Esprinet Iberica S.L.U.

Originally formed and acquired by the Group in order to serve a vehicle for the Spanish acquisitions executed between the end of 2005 and the end of 2006, since 1 March 2007, Esprinet Iberica, anticipating the operational effects of the mergers carried out after that date, has taken on the UMD and Memory Set activities under a lease arrangement. Owing to the subsequent mergers of Nogara, Carlinca, Memory Set and UMD, Esprinet Iberica is now the only legal entity operating in Spain. The company owns offices and warehouses in Zaragoza, which is located around only 300 km from the major Spanish cities (Madrid, Barcelona, Bilbao and Valencia) which together account for over 80% of IT consumption in Spain. Sales come exclusively from the core business of B2B distribution of IT and consumer electronics.

#### 2.3 The Governance Model

In accordance with the Corporate Governance Code for Listed Companies adopted and subsequently updated by the Corporate Governance Committee of Borsa Italiana S.p.a. and within the intention of constantly and progressively bringing its Governance into line with legislative developments, the Company has developed a series of governance instruments which can be summarised as follows:

#### Ethical Code

The Ethical Code summarises the guiding principles behind the ethical/corporate responsibilities on which individual behaviour must be based: it is the key instrument for the promotion of ethics within the Company as well as a means of guaranteeing and upholding the Company's reputation so that it can create trust externally.



The adoption of important ethical principles to prevent offences of the kind set out in Legislative Decree 231/2001 constitutes an essential part of the system of preventive control, identifying the Company's values and the most important rights and duties of those who work with or for the Company in any capacity. The adoption of the Ethical Code is, in general, a reflection of a business context in which the primary objective is to meet as best as possible the needs and expectations of customers and stakeholders, through:

- continual promotion of a high standard of internal professionalism;
- full and constant compliance with current legislation in the countries in which it operates;
- conformity of its activities with the principles of consistency and transparency and associated controls;
- rules governing dealings with third parties (suppliers, customers, public authorities) in order to avoid possible conflicts of interest and corruption.

#### Powers of attorney

The Company has defined a system of powers of attorney consistent with its organisational structure in order to formally grant powers and responsibilities for the management of company business.

#### Organisation Chart and Organisational Structure

These briefly describe the Company's structure, hierarchical relationships and relevant aspects of organisational units, their activities and their mutual relations.

#### Handling of corporate information

In order to monitor the circulation of privileged information before it is made available to the public and to ensure compliance with the confidentiality duties laid down by law, the Board of Directors, in its resolution of 7 April 2006, approved the Internal Regulations for the Management of Privileged Information and the creation of a Register of Persons who have Access to such Information.

The Regulations govern the internal management and the external disclosure of significant information particularly with regard to privileged information about the Company and its subsidiaries. In particular, they:

- define the confidentiality duties imposed on all persons who have access to such information, stipulating, *inter alia*, that information may only be disclosed by reason of their working or professional activities;
- make provision for the creation of a Register of Persons who have Access to Privileged Information and the procedures for maintaining and updating the Register, indicating that responsibility for the latter lies with the Company's CFO and, as substitute, with the Chief Executive Officer.

The Register lists the people who have occasional or regular access to significant or privileged information. The Register was created in the form of a Group Register and is kept and managed on behalf of the subsidiaries too.

#### Internal Dealing

Since 1 January 2003, Esprinet has had an Internal Dealing Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct governs market disclosure obligations, within the time periods and subject to the thresholds defined in the above Regulations, with respect to transactions, relating to Esprinet shares, which are carried out by "significant persons" (i.e. persons who, by virtue of the post that they hold within the Company, have privileged information about the Company's prospects and persons closely connected to the latter), as well as shareholders who hold at least 10% of the Company's share capital.

#### Relations with shareholders and rules governing shareholders' meetings

Ongoing dialogue with Shareholders and, in particular, with institutional investors is engaged under the instructions of the Chief Executive Officer, who obtains assistance, within the Company, from a restricted number of colleagues who are particularly suited and specifically appointed to offer the maximum assistance possible. Additional contributions come from outside, for specific contractual relationships, from qualified professionals who deal both with the management of legal relations and also with communication. As regards the functioning of shareholders' meetings, the Company follows a set of Rules approved by the ordinary shareholders' meeting and not attached to the Articles of Association. A copy of these Rules is



handed over to the shareholders, together with a copy of the current Articles of Association, at shareholders' meetings.

The Articles of Association does not stipulate any particular rules which depart from the provisions of the Civil Code regarding the exercise of shareholder rights.

#### Internal control system

The Board of Directors defines the guidelines for the internal control system, which is understood to be the set of processes designed to monitor the efficiency of the Company's operations, the reliability of financial information, compliance with laws and regulations and the safeguarding of the Company's assets.

The internal control system thus designed and continually implemented is capable of effectively controlling the typical risks of corporate management, including the activities of subsidiaries, and of monitoring the Company's and the Group's economic and financial situation.

The Companies has appointed an Executive Director for the internal control system to whom the duties summarised below are assigned:

- to identify the main risks faced by the Company taking account of the characteristics and activities carried out by the Company;
- to implement the guidelines defined by the Board of Directors, by designing, establishing and managing the internal control system;
- to constantly check the adequacy, effectiveness and efficiency of the internal control system;
- adapt the system to changes in operational conditions and in the legislative and regulatory framework;
- to propose to the Board of Directors the appointment, dismissal and remuneration of the Head of Internal Audit, with the latter being chosen from those who meet the necessary requirements of independence and capability.

Appointments were also made, as provided for in the Corporate Governance Code for Listed Companies issued by Borsa Italiana, of the Head of Internal Audit and the Financial Reporting Officer pursuant to Law 262/2005.

#### Security Policy Document

The Company has drawn up and still applies the Security Policy Document in the time and manner specified in Legislative Decree 196/2003 despite the repeal of the previous legislation which provided that the company was obliged to hold a Security Policy Document.

Esprinet constantly updates this document in order to provide specific evidence of the way in which data protection issues are managed.

In addition, the Board of Directors of Esprinet SpA has appointed the Chief Executive Officer as Personal Data Protection Officer, who has also been granted the specific authority to delegate all his powers to individual Data Processors who are managers and employees of the Company according to their respective areas of responsibility.

#### Occupational Health and Safety

The Company has for all sites of the Esprinet Group a *risk assessment document* in accordance with Legislative Decree 81/2008, which contains an exhaustive list of risky activities, prevention and protection measures and the programme of measures deemed appropriate to ensure that safety procedures improve over time.

The Company has also adopted an occupational health and safety management system certified in accordance with the British Standard OHSAS 18001:2007.

#### 2.4 The institutional structure

A description is given below of Esprinet's institutional structure.

#### Shareholders' Meeting

The Shareholders' Meeting, properly constituted, represents all shareholders and its resolutions, taken in compliance with the law and with the Company's Articles of Association, are binding on all shareholders, even if they do not attend the meeting or dissent. The Board of Directors calls ordinary or extraordinary Shareholders' Meetings which are to be held at the registered office or at any other place indicated in the notice of meeting, as long as it is in Italy. Shareholders' Meetings can also be called, in the cases laid down



by law, by the Chairman of the Board of Statutory Auditors or by at least two members of the Board of Statutory Auditors, after having advised the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

The ordinary shareholders' meeting must be called at least once a year within 120 days of the end of the financial year.

Shareholders' Meetings are chaired by the Chairman of the Board of Directors or, if he is absent or unavailable, by the Deputy Chairman, if appointed, and, in their absence, by another person designated by the Shareholders' Meeting. It is the responsibility of the Chairman of the Meeting to ascertain that the meeting has been properly convened, to establish the identity and eligibility of those present, to manage the proceedings of the Meeting on the basis of the approved Rules Governing Shareholders' Meetings, and to verify and announce the results of votes. Unless the minutes are drawn up by a notary, the Chairman is assisted by a secretary, who need not be a shareholder, appointed by the Meeting, in accordance with the Articles of Association.

#### **Board of Directors**

The Company is managed by a Board of Directors, which is appointed by the Shareholders' Meeting and consists of a variable number of members of no less than 7 (seven) and no more than 13 (thirteen). It is the responsibility of the Ordinary Shareholders' Meeting to determine the number of members based on slates of candidates submitted and signed by shareholders in accordance with Art. 13 of the Company's Articles of Association.

The Board – if the Shareholders' Meeting has not already done so – elects from among its members the Chairman and possibly also a Deputy Chairman. It can also appoint a secretary from outside its members. Meetings are chaired by the Chairman or, if he is absent or unavailable, by the Deputy Chairman, if appointed, or by the most senior director in terms of age.

The Board of Directors plays a central role in the organisation of the Company, being vested with extensive powers for the ordinary and extraordinary management of the Company. It is responsible for the strategic direction and organisation of the Company and for checking the existence of the controls necessary to monitor the performance of the Company and of the Group.

The Board examines and approves the Company's strategic choices and all economic and financial transactions which are regarded as significant insofar as they may materially affect the Company's activities and performance. The Board also approves any related party transactions, without any limit except that of the at least minimum legal and financial basis of the relationship.

Finally, the Board can, within legal limits, delegate its powers to an Executive Committee, determining the content, limits and possible methods of exercising the delegated powers pursuant to Article 16 of the Articles of Association.

Powers to represent the Company and to sign on behalf of the Company lie separately with the Chairman and with the Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors (if appointed), and, within the limits of their powers, with the directors to whom the Board of Directors has delegated its powers.

There is also the position of Chief Executive Officer, who remains in office for a term of three years and is responsible for the Company's operations, for the implementation of rules and regulations and for the autonomy of the operating structure.

#### **Board of Statutory Auditors**

The Board of Statutory Auditors is appointed by the Shareholders' Meeting, remains in office for three years and consists of three regular members and two substitute auditors who meet the requirements of integrity and professionalism laid down by current legislation. Members are appointed according to the procedure stated in Art. 19 of the Company's Articles of Association.

#### Financial reporting officer (Law 262/2005)

The Board of Directors, with mandatory input from the Board of Statutory Auditors, appoints, within the Company's administrative section, a Financial Reporting Officer (with suitable qualifications, specific experience in finance and control, and a record of ethical conduct) (as provided by Law 262/2005), granting that person the powers and resources necessary to fulfil his duties and determining his term of office.

In addition, Esprinet has set up the following Committees in accordance with the provisions of the Corporate Governance Code for Listed Companies, whose role is offer advice and put forward proposals with respect



to the matters for which they are competent and to report directly to the Board of Directors (as described in the Rules governing Committees):

 Internal Control and Risk Management Committee: The Internal Control and Risk Management Committee consists of non-executive directors, the majority of whom are independent and at least one of whom has suitable experience in accounting and financial matters.

The Committee has powers to offer advice and put forward proposals to the Board and the following functions are, in particular, assigned to the Committee:

- assist the Board in carrying out activities related to the internal control system, in particular in defining the guidelines for that system, in carrying out regular checks on the adequacy and functioning of the system and in establishing that the main risks faced by the Company are identified and adequately managed;
- assess, together with the financial reporting officer and the auditors, having previously consulted with the Board of Statutory Auditors, whether the accounting principles used are adequate for the purposes of preparing the consolidated financial statements;
- express opinions, at the request of the Chief Executive Officer and/or the Executive Director entrusted with internal control, on specific aspects relating to the identification of the main risks faced by the Company and to the design, creation and management of the internal control system;
- examine the work plan drawn up by the Head of Internal Auditing, as well as the periodic reports prepared by the latter, at least once every six months, in addition to the activities of the Financial Reporting Officer;
- monitor the effectiveness of the auditing process;
- carry out the additional tasks which are assigned by the Board of Directors and, in particular, expresses an opinion on the rules governing the transparency and the substantive and procedural correctness of related party transactions and other transactions in which a director holds an interest personally or on behalf of third parties;
- report to the Board of Directors, at least at the time of the approval of the financial statements and at the end of each quarter, on the activities performed and on the adequacy of the internal control system;
- express its opinion on the proposals made by the Executive Directors entrusted with Internal Control to the Board of Directors with respect to the appointment and dismissal of the Head of the Internal Audit unit and on the proposals regarding remuneration, consistently with the Company's policies;
- assess the comments that emerge from the reports of the Head of the Internal Audit unit, from the communications issued by the Board of Statutory Auditors and by individual members of the Board, from the reports and management letters of the Independent Auditors, from the reports of the Supervisory Board pursuant to Legislative Decree 231/01 and from the surveys and examinations carried out by third parties.
- **Nomination and Remuneration Committee:** the Committee comprises at least three nonexecutive directors, the majority of whom are independent, and is appointed by the Board of Directors. The Committee elects a Chairman from within and, at the latter's proposal, appoints a Secretary, who need not be a member. Members remain in office for the duration of their tenure as Director, unless fully or individually replaced by resolution of the Board of Directors.

The Committee is asked to prepare nomination proposals for the post of members of the Board of Directors (analysing the specific qualities of candidates and drawing up a detailed report on their personal and professional characteristics), to put forward proposals to the Board concerning the remuneration of the Chief Executive Officers – and those who vested with particular duties – and concerning the criteria for determining the compensation payable to senior management. The Committee is also asked to resolve on share incentive schemes (stock option plan approved by the Company).

The Committee meets whenever the Chairman of the Committee deems this appropriate or is asked to meet by the Chairman of the Board of Directors and, in any event, before each meeting of the Board of Directors called to resolve on the aforementioned matters.

• Independent Committee: comprises three non-executive and independent directors.

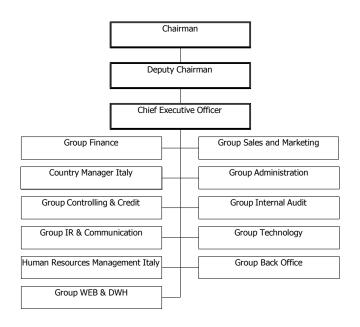
As part of the duties identified by the Board of Directors in the Related Party Transactions procedure adopted by the Company, the Committee expresses a prior substantiated opinion on the Company's interest in carrying out the Related Party Transaction and on the appropriateness and substantial correctness of that Transaction.



In relation to Related Party Transactions, the Committee has the right to be assisted, at the Company's expense, by one or more independent experts of its own choosing.

#### 2.5 The organisational structure

Esprinet's Organisational Structure is represented below.



A description is given below of the activities carried out by the Departments and Divisions into which the Company is divided.

- Group Controlling & Credit Department: is responsible for management control, final analysis of the structure of company margins and costs and for the ex post checking of budget/actual variances. It is also responsible for granting loans to customers, within the sphere of autonomy defined as part of the Group Risk Policy, or for investigatory activities in the case of decisions that go beyond the department's decision-making independence, for debt recovery and lending services to customers;
- Group Finance Department: is responsible for defining and managing the financial policies that support the business of the Company and its subsidiaries, for managing relations with credit institutions in relation to ordinary finance transactions, for managing cash position forecasts and for identifying, assessing and managing financial risks (foreign exchange, interest rate, market risks).

It also carries out activities, in close liaison with the Group Controlling Dept., to coordinate and manage the annual planning cycle (budget, revised budget, forecast) and the multi-annual business plan.

The unit also supports the Chief Executive Officer in assessing the feasibility and management of extraordinary finance transactions and, in general, in analysing the economic/financial suitability of significant investments (capital budgeting).

- Human Resources Management Department: is responsible for managing human resources within the Group companies and, more specifically, for recruitments, dismissals, job rotations, relations with external bodies (public or third parties bound by contract), staff training and development, searching and selection, management of staff disputes;
- Group IR & Communication Department: is responsible for preparing and implementing the marketing plan of the Company and of its subsidiaries as well as the related external



communication initiatives. It is also responsible for managing relations with the market and the financial community.

- Group Technology Department: is responsible for the development and maintenance of the information systems and associated infrastructures of the Company and of its subsidiaries. It also provides technical support to internal users (helpdesk);
- Group Sales & Marketing Department: defines the group's sales and development policies, in
  particular by identifying new business opportunities for the Italian and Spanish market. It is the
  point of contact for the central structures of European coordination of the main suppliers.
- Group Internal Auditing Department: supports the management in implementing and maintaining a structured and formalised system for identifying, measuring, managing and monitoring the main risks faced by the Company and checks that the procedures of the internal control system are correctly applied. It is also responsible for the Health, Safety, Environment & Privacy and for the correct application of health and safety rules and regulations, respect for the environment and for privacy, for the Operational & Quality area, and has the duty to control the effectiveness and efficiency of company processes in terms of risk management and governance of the "Quality System" and the Finance & Compliance area which is responsible for the correct application of risk management rules and procedures in the administrative/accounting sphere and in the area of financing reporting and for checking the constant observance of current legislative stipulations.
- Group Administration Department: is responsible for all activities in relation to general accounting, sales, costs, filing and treasury. It is responsible for drawing up and publishing the separate interim and annual financial statements of the Group's Italian companies as well as the consolidated financial statements. It coordinates with the external auditors, with the Board of Statutory Auditors and with the Tax Authorities. It manages the corporate and legal affairs of the Italian companies with particular responsibility for dealings with shareholders and with the bodies in charge of the organisation and management of regulated markets (CONSOB, Borsa Italiana).
- Group Back Office Department: includes the Supply Chain Division, which manages transportation activities and logistics from acceptance to dispatch of goods, including goods handling operations with the help of an external company), the Purchasing Department, which has the task of managing purchases of goods based on instructions issued by Product Marketing and monitoring all related activities (placing an order, receiving goods, managing returns) and, finally, the General Services Department, which includes facility management activities.
- Group Web & Datawarehouse Department: is responsible, at group level, for creating and maintaining websites, for creating computer tools and for managing the Company's datawarehouses.
- Country Manager Italy: coordinates the activities of the Sales & Marketing divisions by defining and implementing the sales strategies for the group's Italian associates, with responsibility for volumes of sales and sales margins on products.

In particular, the Country Manager Italy manages the following organisational structures:

- **Professional Services and Tender Division:** is responsible for carrying out market-focussed projects involving the Central and Local Public Authorities, through participation in public tenders and for managing the sale of services, such as onsite installations, maintenance, specialist training, integrated logistics, provided directly or through a network of company partners.
- **Consumer Division:** is responsible for selling to customers in the Consumer segment including stores and organised and specialised distribution chains.
- **Sales Cash&Carry Department**: manages the selling activities of the 17 Cash & Carry's located throughout the country.
- IT Value Area Sales & Product Marketing Division: is responsible for developing business in relation to complex technologies and the possibility of providing related support services, through specialist sales activities and pre-sales technical support.
- IT Volume Area Sales & Product Marketing Division: is responsible for managing "volume" products (personal computers, printers, notebooks) both from a sales and marketing perspective.
- Office Products Area Sales and Product Marketing Division: is responsible for managing consumables, accessories and stationery products, both with regard to sales and to relations with suppliers and marketing activities.
- **Consumer Electronics Area Sales & Product Marketing Division**: is responsible for buying and selling telephony, audio, video, domestic appliance and, in general, consumer electronics products.



#### 3. ESPRINET'S ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT MODEL

#### 3.1 Introduction

To support the important process of identifying, measuring, managing and monitoring the main risks which may impact on the correct management of the Company's business, Esprinet has carried out an analysis of its own organisational system, with the help of specialist consultants, with a view to adopting an Organisation and Management Model compliant with the stipulations contained in Legislative Decree 231/2001. The adoption and implementation of the Model represents for Esprinet not only a means of preventing the offences set out in Legislative Decree 231/2001 but, in particular, a strategic factor in ensuring the constant improvement of the Corporate Governance system.

In drawing up the Model, account was taken not only of the legislative developments since 2001 but also of the Guidelines issued by Confindustria.

The Model is a coherent set of principles and rules that:

- regulate the internal functioning of the Company and determine the ways in which the Company relates to the outside world;
- govern the operation of a system for monitoring sensitive activities, aimed at preventing the commission or attempted commission of the offences laid down in Legislative Decree 231/2001.

The Model, as approved and subsequently updated by the Company's Board of Directors, is made up of the following constituent parts:

- process of identifying the Company's activities within which the offences laid down in Legislative Decree 231/2001 may be committed ("map of sensitive activities");
- definition and application of general control principles and specific protocols in relation to the sensitive activities identified;
- process of identifying ways of managing financial resources capable of preventing offences from being committed;
- Supervisory Board;
- Ethical Code (cf. para. 2.3 of the General Part of this Model);
- Disciplinary System to sanction breaches of the provisions contained in the Model;
- identification of a plan for communicating the Organisational Model to staff and persons that interact with the Company.

Pursuant to Article 6, paragraph 1, letter a) of the Decree, Organisation and Management Models are documents issued by the senior management as a collective body. Therefore, the adoption of this Model constitutes the prerogative and responsibility of the Board of Directors.

The updating of the Model is entrusted to the Chairman of the Board of Directors, at the express delegation of the latter.

Changes made by the Chairman, including on the instructions of the Supervisory Board, must be ratified by the Board of Directors annually, with effect from the date of adoption of this Model.

Aside from those circumstances that require the immediate updating of the Model (such as changes in the Company's internal structure and/or changes in the ways in which the Company's activities are carried out, legislative changes, etc.), this Model will in any case be regularly reviewed.

#### 3.2 The Guidelines issued by Confindustria

This Model takes account of the "Guidelines for the construction of Organisation, Management and Control Models pursuant to Legislative Decree 231/2001" approved by Confindustria and last updated on 9 April 2008.

In particular, Confindustria initially approved the text of its Guidelines on 7 March 2002 and also provided methodological information for identifying areas at risk and for the structuring of the Model.

Subsequently, on 3 October 2002, Confindustria prepared a "Supplementary appendix to the Guidelines for the construction of Organisation, Management and Control Models pursuant to Legislative Decree 231/2001 to cover the crimes introduced by Legislative Decree 61/2002". The aim of that document is to extend the rules laid down in Legislative Decree 231/2001 to corporate crimes, ensuring greater transparency of procedures and processes within the company and, therefore, guaranteeing more effective control over managers' actions.



On 18 May 2004, Confindustria made a number of updates to the Guidelines, especially in relation to the Supervisory Board, which were considered in the drafting of this Model.

Finally, on 9 April 2008, Confindustria made further updates to the Guidelines, in relation to the following categories of offences: market abuse, virtual paedopornography, mutilation of female genital organs, crossborder organised crime, manslaughter and serious or grievous bodily harm committed as a result of the breach of occupational health and safety rules, laundering.

The Guidelines suggest the use of risk assessment and risk management methodologies which are broken down into the following stages:

- identification of risk areas, designed to establish in which company area/sector the harmful events identified in Legislative Decree 231/2001;
- preparation of a control system with the capacity to prevent risks through the adoption of specific protocols.

The most important components of the control system proposed by Confindustria are:

- Ethical Code;
- organisational system;
- manual and computerised procedures;
- powers of authorisation and signature;
- control and management systems;
- staff information and training.

These must be inspired by the following principles:

- verifiability, documentability, coherence and consistency of each operation;
- application of the principle of segregation of duties (no person can independently manage an entire process);
- documentation of controls;
- establishment of an adequate system of sanctions for infringements of the rules of the Civil Code and the procedures set forth in the Model;
- identification of the requirements of the Supervisory Board (autonomy, independence, professionalism and continuity of action);
- reporting obligations on the part of the Supervisory Board.

3.3 The project to create and to update Esprinet's Organisation and Management Model

The Model, as prescribed by the Decree and recommended by the Confindustria Guidelines and by best practices, was prepared and subsequently updated several times according to the methodological stages described below.

#### Stage 1 – Organisational analysis and identification of sensitive processes

Identification of the processes and activities within which the offences expressly laid down in Legislative Decree 231/2001 may be committed and identification of the "key officers", i.e. individuals with an in-depth knowledge of those processes/activities and the control mechanisms currently in place ("key officers").

#### Stage 2 – As-Is Analysis

Analysis and formalisation, for each sensitive process/activity, of:

- main stages;
- functions and roles/responsibilities of the internal and external parties involved;
- existing control mechanisms;

in order to establish in which areas/sectors of activity and in which ways the categories of offences set out in Legislative Decree 231/2001.

Mapping of sensitive processes/activities and the identification of the existing control system with reference to "control principles" (see paragraph 3.4).

#### Stage 3 – Gap Analysis

Identification of any weaknesses and the respective improvements necessary to ensure that the Organisational Model is capable of preventing the offences laid down in Legislative Decree 231/2001. To that end, a Gap Analysis was carried out between the current model ("As is") and the model to aim for ("To



be") with particular reference, in terms of compatibility, to the system of delegations and powers, to the system of company procedures and to the characteristics of the body to which to assign the duty to supervise the functioning and observance of the Model.

#### Stage 4 – Drawing-up of the Organisation and Management Model

Drafting and updating of the Company's Organisation, Management and Control Model, on the basis of the results of the previous stages and following a comparison with the relevant best practices, and according to the strategic choices of the Company's decision-making bodies and the degree of strategic alignment with the existing internal control system. The Model is divided into the following parts:

- General Part, containing a description of the relevant legislative panorama, the activities carried out by the Company and a definition of the structure required to implement the Model such as the functioning of the Supervisory Board and the system of sanctions;
- Special Part, the content of which consists in identifying the Company's activities that may be at risk of the commission of the offences laid down in the Decree, with an indication of the respective control protocols.

As recommended by the Confindustria Guidelines, the Model therefore fulfils the following functions:

- to inform all those who work for and on behalf of Esprinet of the need for strict compliance with the Model, the breach of which entails severe disciplinary sanctions;
- to punish any behaviour which, inspired by a mistaken company interest, is contrary to laws, regulations or, more generally, principles of correctness and transparency;
- to provide information about the serious consequences that could arise for the Company (and therefore for all of its employees, managers and directors) from the imposition of the fines and prohibitions laid down in the Decree and from the possibility that these may also be imposed as a precautionary measure;
- to enable the Company to exercise constant control and careful supervision over sensitive processes so that it can intervene promptly if risks should emerge.

#### 3.4 Definition of control principles

The system of controls, developed by the Company on the basis of the instructions supplied in the Confindustria Guidelines and according to national and international best practices, was created by applying the control principles defined below to individual sensitive activities:

- Regulations: existence of suitable Company instructions to provide principles of conduct, operating
  procedures for carrying out sensitive activities as well as procedures for filing important documentation;
- Traceability: i) each operation in relation to the sensitive activity must, where possible, be adequately documented; ii) the process of decision-making, authorisation and execution of the sensitive activity must be verifiable ex post, including through suitable documentation and, in each case, the situations and ways in which the records made may be deleted or destroyed must be documented in detail;
- Segregation of tasks: separation of tasks and responsibilities between the person authorising, carrying out and checking those activities. This segregation is guaranteed by the involvement, within the same macro-process, of several persons in order to guarantee independence and objectivity of processes. Segregation of duties is also achieved through the use of computer systems that only authorise certain operations for clearly identified and authorised persons;
- Powers of attorney and delegations: powers of authorisation and signature assigned must be: i) consistent with the organisational and managerial responsibilities assigned, specifying, where necessary, the thresholds for approval of expenditure; ii) clearly defined and well-known within the Company. It is necessary to define the roles to which the power is assigned to bind the Company to specific expenditure, specifying the limits and nature of that expenditure;
- Monitoring activities: aimed at the periodic/timely updating of delegations and of the control system consistently with the decision-making system as well as the entire organisational structure. Concerns the existence of process controls carried by the heads of the competent units or by an external body.

#### 3.5 Persons to whom the Model applies



This Model applies to all those appointed to manage, direct, govern or supervise the Company, including on a de facto basis, and to all employees, appropriately trained and informed about the content of the Model, according to procedures defined according to the degree of responsibility assigned to them.

As regards agents, consultants and suppliers in general, since these are external parties, they are not directly obliged to comply with the rules laid down in the Model nor can they, in the event of breach of those rules, be subject to a disciplinary sanction.

The Company therefore distributes the Ethical Code to the latter, according to specific company rules, and will stipulate, in the various contracts drawn up with them, specific termination clauses or penalties in the event of breach of the rules contained in that Code.

#### 4. SUPERVISORY BOARD

#### 4.1 Esprinet's Supervisory Board: requirements

Based on the stipulations of the Decree, the Company may be excluded from liability arising from the commission of offences on the part of senior managers or persons supervised and managed by the latter, if the management body has adopted and effectively implemented an Organisation, Management and Control Model capable of preventing such offences and has entrusted the duty of supervising the functioning and observance of the Model and ensuring that it is updated to a body which has autonomous powers of initiative and control.

The assigning of the above tasks to an autonomous board, together with the correct and effective performance of those tasks, is therefore an essential condition for achieving an exclusion of the liability laid down in the Decree.

The main requirements of the Supervisory Board (such as those also laid down in the Confindustria Guidelines) can be identified as follows:

- <u>autonomy and independence</u>: the board must be inserted as a staff unit in the highest possible hierarchical position and must report to the highest operational level of the Company;
- professionalism: the board must have a wealth of knowledge, tools and techniques necessary to carry out its activities effectively;
- <u>continuity of action</u>: the effective and constant implementation of the Organisational Model is facilitated by the presence, among the members of the board, of a function which, by virtue of the tasks performed, guarantees constant activity within the company.

The Guidelines stipulate that the Supervisory Board may have one or more members. What is important is that, as a whole, the same body is able to meet the requirements set out above.

In accordance with the stipulations of the Decree and following the Confindustria Guidelines, Esprinet S.p.A has identified its own Supervisory Board so that it is able to ensure, in relation to its organisational structure and to the degree of risk of the commission of the offences laid down in the Decree, the effectiveness of the controls and activities for which the body is created.

#### 4.2 General principles in terms of establishment, appointment and replacement of the Supervisory Board

The Company's Supervisory Board is established by resolution of the Board of Directors which identifies its members. The latter remain in office for the period specified at the time of appointment, which is no more than three years (at the end of which they may be re-elected) or until they are dismissed in accordance with the specifications of this paragraph.

At the end of that period, the Supervisory Board remains in office until the next meeting of the Board of Directors at which the new appointments (or re-elections) are made.

If, during the term of office, one or more members of the Supervisory Board cease to be a member of the Board, the Board of Directors will replace the latter by passing a board resolution: in this case, the new member will step down at the same time as the other members previously appointed.

Any compensation for carrying out the role of member of the Supervisory Board is fixed by the same Board of Directors that made the appointment.

Appointment as a member of the Supervisory Board is conditional upon meeting subjective eligibility requirements.





In particular, the person appointed to hold the post of member of the Supervisory Board must issue a statement certifying the absence of:

- actual or potential conflicts of interests with the Company so as to undermine the independence required by the role and duties of the Supervisory Board;
- direct or indirect ownership of shareholdings to such an extent that he is able to exercise significant influence over the Company;
- directorships in the three years preceding the appointment as a member of the Supervisory Board
   in companies that have gone insolvent or other insolvency proceedings;
- conviction, including one not confirmed by a final judgment, or plea-bargained sentence, in Italy or abroad, for the offences laid down in the Decree or other offences harming professional morality;
- conviction, including one not confirmed by a final judgment, for an offence that involves the permanent or temporary exclusion from public offices or the temporary exclusion from management positions in legal entities and companies.

Where any of the grounds for ineligibility stated above should apply to a person already appointed, the latter will automatically step down from office. In that case, the Board of Directors will make the appropriate replacements at its own initiative.

In order to guarantee the necessary freedom and independence for members of the Supervisory Board, they may only be dismissed from office for just cause by means of a special resolution of the Board of Directors.

To that end, "just cause" for revoking the duties and powers granted to the member of the Supervisory Board may, for example, be understood to mean:

- serious negligence in carrying out the tasks associated with the post;
- "absence of supervision or insufficient supervision" as provided for in Art. 6, paragraph 1, letter
   d) of the Decree which may also result from a conviction, including one not confirmed by a final judgment, imposed on the Company pursuant to Legislative Decree 231/2001 or from a pleabargained sentence;
- the termination of another office in the case where this is an express requirement for appointment as a member of the Supervisory Board.

In view of the particular nature of the powers of the Supervisory Board and of the associated professional content, the Board may, in carrying out its supervisory and control duties, be supported by dedicated staff. In addition, it may obtain help from the units present within the Company which may, from time to time, be necessary and may also use external consultants where this is necessary to carry out its duties as effectively and independently as possible.

#### 4.3 Economic resources assigned to the Supervisory Board

In order to operate autonomously and with the appropriate tools to ensure that it carries out effectively the tasks assigned by this Model, as provided for in the Decree, the Supervisory Board asks the Board of Directors for a budget and the latter provides those funds following prior discussion.

#### 4.4 Duties and powers of the Supervisory Body

The Supervisory Board has its own rules regulating the performance of its activities.

The Supervisory Board is given the task of monitoring:

- compliance with the stipulations of the Model, in relation to the various kinds of offence covered by the Decree and by subsequent laws that have extended the scope of application of that decree;
- the effectiveness of the Model with respect to the company structure and to its actual ability to prevent offences from being committed;
- the advisability of updating the Model, where there is a need to adapt the latter to changes in the Company's circumstances and/or legislative changes.

In particular, in order to carry out its duties, the following powers are assigned to the Supervisory Board:

- to check the efficiency and effectiveness of the Model including in terms of conformity between the actual operational arrangements adopted and the procedures formally specified by the Model;
- to check that the requirements of effectiveness and efficiency of the Model continue to be fulfilled over the course of time;



- to encourage the updating of the Model, by putting forward proposals to the Chairman of the Board of Directors or to the Chief Executive Officer, where necessary, with respect to possible updates and alterations to be made in the form of amendments and/or additions which become necessary as a result of: i) significant breaches of the provisions of the Model; ii) significant changes in the internal structure of the Company and/or in the ways in which the Company's activities are carried out; iii) legislative changes;
- to report promptly to the Chairman of the Board of Directors any established breaches of the Model which may cause liability to arise for the Company, so that appropriate action can be taken;
- to promote initiatives for the distribution of the Model and for staff training and raising staff awareness about compliance with the principles contained in the Model;
- to promote and devise communication and training initiatives with respect to the content of Legislative Decree 231/2001, to the effect of the legislation on the Company's activities and to behavioural standards;
- to provide clarifications about the meaning and application of the provisions contained in the Model;
- to promote the implementation of an effective channel of internal communication for the transmission of significant information within the meaning of Legislative Decree 231/2001, while guaranteeing the protection and confidentiality of the informant;
- to put forward and submit for the approval of the Board of Directors an estimate of the expenditure necessary to carry out correctly the tasks assigned;
- to gain unrestricted access, in compliance with current laws, to any Company Division in order to request information, documentation and data deemed necessary to carry the duties provided for in Legislative Decree 231/2001;
- to request significant information from partners, advisors and external partners, regardless of what they are called;
- to encourage the imposition of any disciplinary measures resulting from established breaches of this Model.

The results of the activities carried out by the Supervisory Board are reported to the Company's senior management.

In particular, two reporting channels are assigned to the Supervisory Board:

- the first, continuously, to the Chairman and to the Chief Executive Officer;
- the second, at least every six months in written form, to the Board of Directors and to the Board of Statutory Auditors.

The reporting will concern:

- the activities carried out by the Supervisory Board;
- any critical aspects emerging both in terms of company conducts or internal events and in terms of the effectiveness of the Model.

Minutes are taken of the meetings of the Supervisory Board and a copy of the minutes is kept by the Supervisory Board.

Responsibility for minute-taking may be entrusted to an external party chosen by the Supervisory Board, which is bound by a duty of confidentiality with respect to the proceedings minuted.

The Board of Directors, the Board of Statutory Auditors, the Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer have the right to convene the Supervisory Board at any time.

#### 4.5 Reporting duties to the Supervisory Board – Information flows

#### 4.5.1 Reporting duties on the part of Company representatives or third parties

Within the company, the Supervisory Board is informed not only of the documentation prescribed in the individual parts of the Model (for example risk assessment document pursuant to Legislative Decree 81/2008) but also any information, including from third parties, relating to the implementation of the Model. Such information generally consists of disclosures relating to the likely commission of the crimes laid down in the Decree in relation to the Company's activities or to conducts which are not in line with the rules of conduct adopted by the Company.

The reporting flow must be channelled to the Supervisory Board.

Breaches may be reported through the following communication channels:

1. electronic mail: ODV@esprinet.com;



2. traditional mail: SUPERVISORY BOARD – Esprinet S.p.A. Via Energy Park 20 – 20871 Vimercate (MB) Reports concerning any established or presumed breach of the Model must be gathered together by the Supervisory Board whether they are communicated in writing or orally or electronically.

The Supervisory Board acts to ensure the confidentiality of the informant's identity, without prejudice to the obligations laid down by law and the protection of the rights of the Company or of persons accused mistakenly and/or in bad faith.

Any act or omission aimed at avoiding having to report to the Supervisory Board constitutes a disciplinary offence.

#### 4.5.2 Reporting duties in relation to official deeds

As well as the reports stated in the previous paragraph, the following information is also reported to the Supervisory Board:

- measures and/or information coming from the judiciary, from judicial police bodies or from any other authority, which reveal that investigations are being conducted in relation to the offences laid down in the Decree, including those commenced against unknown persons;
- reports prepared by the heads of the company departments involved in the sensitive activities indicated in the Model (including the independent auditors) in relation to their control activities, which may reveal facts, actions, events or omissions which are critical in terms of observance of the provisions of the Decree;
- information on the actual implementation of the Organisational Model at all company levels, highlighting any disciplinary proceedings brought and any sanctions imposed (including measures towards employees) or measures for filing such procedures together with the respective reasons.

#### 5. THE DISCIPLINARY SYSTEM

#### 5.1 General principles

An essential factor in the effective implementation of the Model is the preparation of a suitable disciplinary system and sanctions to punish any infringement of the rules of conduct established in the Model to prevent the offences laid down in the Decree and, in general, of the internal procedures established by the Model (cf. Art. 6, second paragraph, letter e and Art. 7, fourth paragraph, letter b).

Disciplinary sanctions are applied regardless of whether an offence is actually committed and, therefore, regardless of the commencement and outcome of any criminal proceedings.

The rules of conduct imposed by the Model are assumed by the Company entirely autonomously in order to guarantee maximum compliance with the aforementioned Decree which is binding on the Company.

Moreover, the principles of timely and immediate response mean that it is inappropriate to delay the imposition of the disciplinary sanction pending the outcome of any proceedings brought before the courts (cf. Confindustria Guidelines, chapter II, point 4, page 30).

All employees, directors and colleagues of Esprinet S.p.A. are subject to the disciplinary system and sanctions specified in this Model as are all those persons who have contractual relations with the Company (agents, consultants and suppliers in general), within the framework of these relations.

The procedure for imposing the sanctions set out in this chapter takes account of the particular characteristics arising from the legal status of the subject against whom the action is taken.

The Supervisory Board checks that adequate information is given to all of the parties specified above, as from the start of their relationship with the Company, about the existence and content of this system of sanctions.

#### 5.2 Measures against employees

Conducts adopted by employees in violation of the individual rules of conduct laid down in this Model are defined as disciplinary offences.

Obstructing the work of the Supervisory Board is classed as a disciplinary offence.

In the event of doubt as to the legitimacy of the request for information or documents made by the Supervisory Board, the employee has the right to consult with his line manager. If the refusal persists, the



Supervisory Board may consult with the Chairman of the Board of Directors, who, in observance of current laws, will call a meeting with the worker so that he can hand over the information and documents required by the Supervisory Board.

As regards the sanctions that may be imposed on clerical workers and professional employees, these are taken from the sanctions set out in the Company's disciplinary system and/or in the system of sanctions provided by the National Collective Bargaining Agreement for employees of commercial and services companies, in observance of the procedures laid down in Article 7 of the Workers' Statute and any special laws applicable.

Esprinet S.p.A.'s disciplinary system is therefore made up of the rules of the Civil Code and of the rules laid down in the aforementioned NCBA. In particular, the disciplinary system describes the conducts sanctioned according to the importance of the individual offences considered and the sanctions actually imposed based on the severity of the offences committed.

In relation to the foregoing, the Model refers to the sanctions and categories of sanctionable acts laid down in the existing system of sanctions under the aforementioned NCBA, in order to bring any breaches of the Model into the categories provided by the aforementioned provisions.

The conducts that constitute a breach of the Model, together with the corresponding sanctions, are as follows:

- a "verbal warning" is issued to any worker who breaches one of the internal procedures/guidelines laid down in the Model (for example, fails to observe the prescribed rules, neglects, without just reason, to send the requested information to the Supervisory Board, fails to carry out checks, etc.) or, when carrying out activities in sensitive areas, acts in a manner contrary to the stipulations of the Model. These conducts constitute a failure to observe the instructions given by the Company;
- a "written warning" is issued to any worker who commits a repeated breach of the procedures/guidelines laid down in the Model or, when carrying out activities in sensitive areas, repeatedly acts in a manner contrary to the stipulations of the Model. These conducts constitute a repeated failure to observe the instructions given by the Company;
- 3. a "fine" (of no more than four hours' normal pay) is imposed on any worker who, negligently carrying out the work assigned to him, breaches the internal procedures/guidelines laid down in the Model or, when carrying out activities in sensitive areas, acts in a manner contrary to the stipulations of the Model;
- 4. the sanction of "suspension" from work and from pay for a period of no more than 10 days is imposed on any worker who has breached the internal procedures/guidelines laid down in the Model or, when carrying out activities in sensitive areas, has acted in a manner contrary to the stipulations of the Model more than three times in the calendar year where such breaches are sanctioned by the imposition of a fine. These conducts, constituting a failure to observe the instructions given by the Company, represents acts contrary to the interests of the Company;
- 5. the sanction of "dismissal without notice" is imposed on any worker who, when carrying out activities in sensitive areas, acts in a manner contrary to the stipulations of the Model to such extent that the measures laid down in Legislative Decree that the measures laid down in Legislative Decree 231/2001 are applied to the Company, as well as any worker who commits the breaches described in point 4 more than three times in the calendar year. That conduct causes the Company to lose all confidence in the worker and causes serious moral and/or material harm to the Company.

The type and extent of each of the sanctions illustrated above will be determined taking into account:

- the intentionality of the behaviour or the degree of negligence, carelessness or inexperience including with regard to the foreseeability of the event;
- the overall behaviour of the worker, taking into account the existence or otherwise of disciplinary procedures against him, within the limits permitted by law;
- the worker's tasks;
- the functional position of the individuals involved in the acts constituting the breach;
- other particular circumstances that accompany the disciplinary offence.

None of this affects the Company's right to claim compensation for the damage arising from the breach of the Model by an employee. Any compensation sought will be proportional to the:

- level of responsibility and autonomy and of the employee who committed the disciplinary offence;
- possible existence of previous disciplinary measures in relation to that person;
- degree of intentionality of his behaviour;



 severity of the effects of that behaviour, by which is meant the level of risk to which the Company reasonably believes it was exposed - pursuant to Legislative Decree 231/2001 – as a result of the censured conduct.

The body responsible for the actual imposition of the disciplinary measures described above for nonmanagement employees is the Personnel Department, which will impose the sanctions on the instructions of the Supervisory Board, having also consulted with the line manager of the person who committed the censured conduct.

In each case, the Supervisory Board receives timely notification of any action concerning disciplinary proceedings against a worker for breach of this Model, from the time of the disciplinary dispute.

The Supervisory Board is required to be involved in the procedure for imposing sanctions owing to breach of the Model, in the sense that a disciplinary sanction for a breach of the Model cannot be imposed without previously informing the Supervisory Board of the content of the charge made and of the type of sanction intended to be imposed.

The Supervisory Board is also notified of any archiving measures in relation to the disciplinary proceedings described in this chapter.

Workers must be given immediate and detailed information about the introduction of any new provision.

#### 5.3 Measures against managers

Where managers are responsible for breaching the rules laid down in this Model or, when carrying out activities in areas of risk, for acting in a manner contrary to the stipulations of the Model, the procedure to be followed will be to apply against those responsible the measure deemed most appropriate in accordance with the Civil Code, with the Workers' Statute and with the Collective Bargaining Agreement for managers of commercial and services companies, following the procedure illustrated for other categories of employees which is set out in point 5.2 above.

As a specific sanction, the manager may also have any powers of attorney granted to him suspended.

The body responsible for the actual imposition of the disciplinary measures described above for managers is the Board of Directors. Individual documents of the disciplinary procedure since the dispute may be signed by the Chairman who must report to the Board of Directors. The latter remains exclusively competent to adopt the measure concluding the disciplinary procedure.

The Supervisory Board is required to be involved in the procedure for imposing sanctions on managers owing to breach of the Model, in the sense that a sanction for a breach of the Model cannot be imposed on a manager without previously informing the Supervisory Board.

The Supervisory Board must likewise be notified of any archiving measure in relation to the disciplinary proceedings described in this chapter.

#### 5.4 Measures against Directors

In the event of breaches on the part of Directors, the Supervisory Board will immediately inform the Board of Directors and the Board of Statutory Auditors, which will take the actions laid down by current legislation which they deem appropriate.

#### 5.5 Measures against external parties and Partners

Specific contractual clauses inserted into letters of engagement or into partnership agreements make provision for the termination of the contractual relationship or the right to withdraw if external parties (project workers, agents, consultants, including those belonging to Group companies) or other natural or legal persons connected to the Company by a contractual relationship, act in a manner contrary to the guidelines indicated in this Model and in the Ethical Code and in such a way as to bring about the risk of the commission of an offence laid down in the Decree.

Such cases do not affect the right to claim compensation if harm is caused to the Company from such conducts such as, for example, where the sanctions laid down in the Decree are imposed on the Company, including on a precautionary basis.

The Supervisory Board checks that the clauses described in this point are included in the contractual forms.





#### 6. INFORMATION AND TRAINING

In order to guarantee that the Model and the Ethical Code are implemented effectively, the Company ensures that the content and principles of the Model are correctly disseminated both within and outside of its organisational structure.

In particular, the Company's aim is to extend the dissemination of the content and principles of the Model not only to its own employees but also to parties which, although they are not formally classified as employees, work permanently or occasionally towards the achievement of the Company's goals by virtue of contractual relations.

Communication and training activities differ according to the target audience but must, in each case, be based on principles of completeness, clarity, accessibility and continuity in order to enable the various recipients to fully understand those company provisions which they are required to observe and the ethical standards on which they must base their behaviour.

Participation in training activities is compulsory.

#### 6.1 Employees

All employees are required to:

- familiarise themselves with the principles and content of the Model, including by means of participating in training activities;
- understand the operating procedures to be followed in carrying out their activities;
- contribute actively, according to their role and responsibilities, to the effective implementation of the Model, reporting any shortcomings observed in the latter.

In order to ensure that its communication activities are both effective and rational, the Company encourages employees to familiarise themselves with the content and principles of the Model to the extent determined by the position and role that they hold.

Employees can access and consult the documentation comprising the Model directly on the Company's intranet in a dedicated area.

New employees will be invited, at the time of recruitment, to consult the documentation constituting the Model and will be asked to sign a declaration confirming that they are familiar with and agree to comply with the principles of the Model described therein.

In order to promote an understanding of the provisions laid down in Legislative Decree 231/2001 and of the rules adopted through the Model, the Company provides a training course for its managers, employees and partners engaged in the areas where there is a risk of the commission of the offences laid down in the Decree.

The Company also promotes specific training activities for members of the corporate offices, management staff or those with representative duties.

#### 6.2 Other recipients

The content and principles of the Model must also be communicated to third parties that have contractual relations with the Company or which represent the Company but without employee status (for example: commercial partners, consultants and other external partners, howsoever named).

To that end, the Company provides third parties with a copy of the Ethical Code and/or Code of Conduct of suppliers and asks them to formally certify that they have read the document.

#### ORGANISATION, MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL MODEL

Legislative Decree 231/2001

#### SPECIAL PART

..... OMISSIS ....



## Appendix 7

## **Regulation of the Control and Risks Committee**

#### Article 1

This Regulation ("**Regulation**") governs the operations of the Control and Risks Committee ("**Committee**") established by a resolution of the Board of Directors ("**Board**") of ESPRINET S.P.A. ("**Company**") on 9 May 2012.

#### Article 2 – Composition

- 2.1 The Committee is appointed by the Board and is composed of at least three non-executive directors. All members of the Committee are independent in the Company's opinion, based on the situations, albeit not absolute, of non-independence set out in Art. 3 of the Code of Corporate Governance for Listed Companies. At least one member of the Committee shall have adequate experience in accounting and financial matters or in risk management, to be evaluated by the Board upon appointment.
- **2.2** The Committee shall remain in office for as long as its members serve as Company directors.
- **2.3** If one or more Committee members should step down from office for any reason, the Board shall replace them by adopting an appropriate resolution.
- **2.4** The Board shall appoint the Chairman, who shall be responsible for coordinating and planning the Committee's activities and for chairing the respective meetings.
- **2.5** The Board shall appoint a secretary, who need not be one of the Committee members, and who shall be given the task of preparing the minutes of meetings.

#### Article 3 – Duties

The Committee shall be responsible for assisting the Board, through its powers to investigate, make proposals and advise, in order to ensure that the main risks faced by the Company and its subsidiaries are correctly identified and appropriately measured, managed and monitored. It shall also determine the extent to which such risks are compatible with the management of the Company consistent with the strategic objectives identified.

In this respect, the Committee is ascribed the following tasks:

- a) to assist the Board in carrying out its tasks in relation to internal control and risk management attributed to it by the Corporate Governance Code for Listed Companies relating to:
  - i. establishing the guidelines for the Internal Control and Risk Management System;
  - ii. checking periodically that this is effective and appropriate to the company's characteristics and risk profile assumed;
  - iii. ascertaining that the main risks faced by the Company are adequately identified and managed;



- iv. approving, at least once a year, the work plan prepared by the Head of the Internal Audit unit, having consulted with the Board of Statutory Auditors and the director in charge of the internal control and risk management system;
- v. evaluating, after consultation with the Board of Statutory Auditors, the results described by the independent auditor in any letter of suggestions and in the report on the fundamental issues emerging during auditing;
- vi. describing, in the corporate governance report, the main characteristics of the internal control and risk management system and expressing its opinion on the overall adequacy of the latter;
- b) to assess, together with the Financial Reporting Officer and after consultation with the independent auditor and the Board of Statutory Auditors, whether accounting principles are being used correctly and consistently for the purposes of preparing the consolidated financial statements;
- c) to express opinions on specific aspects relating to the identification of the main risks faced by the Company;
- d) to examine the periodic reports on the assessment of the internal control and risk management system and those of particular importance which are prepared by the Internal Audit unit;
- e) to monitor the independence, adequacy, effectiveness and efficiency of the Internal Audit unit;
- to ask the Internal Audit unit to carry out checks in specific operational areas and to report at the same time to the Chairman of the Board of Statutory Auditors;
- g) to perform any additional duties that are assigned to it by the Board;
- to report to the Board, at least upon the approval of the financial statement and at the end of each half year, on the activities conducted and the suitability of the internal control and risk management system;
- to express its opinion on the proposals for the appointment and dismissal of the Head of the Internal Audit Unit drawn up by the Director in charge of the internal control and risk management system – ensuring that it has sufficient resources to carry out its duties – and on the remuneration proposals, in accordance with company policies;
- to assess the comments that emerge from the Supervisory Board's reports pursuant to Law no.
   231/2001 and from the surveys and examinations carried out by third parties;
- k) to express opinions to the Board of Directors on the rules of transparency and substantial and procedural correctness of related party transactions and those in which a director holds a personal or third party interest, and to carry out the duties ascribed to the committee under the CONSOB regulation concerning related party transactions adopted under resolution no. 17221 of 12 March 2010 as subsequently amended by resolution no. 17389 of 23 June 2010.

#### Article 4 – Calling, running and minuting of meetings

**4.1** The Committee shall meet as often as necessary to ensure its own tasks are carried out correctly and shall be convened at the company's registered office (or at another place specified by the



Chairman) at the initiative of the Chairman or following a written request from any of its members. The Committee may have access to the information and company departments necessary to carry out its tasks and may make use of external consultants at the company's expense, within the limits of the budget approved by the Board.

- **4.2** The notice of meeting, stating the date, time and place for the meeting and the topics to be discussed, shall normally be sent by the secretary, at the request of the Chairman, at least five days prior to the date set for the meeting; in urgent cases this period may be reduced to 24 hours.
- **4.3** Committee meetings may also be held over the telephone, provided that all participants can be identified and that such identification is included in the respective minutes, and participants are able to follow the discussions and speak in real time on the topics being addressed, and may exchange documentation if required.
- **4.4** Committee meetings shall be chaired by the Chairman, or if he is absent or unavailable, by the eldest Committee member.
- 4.5 The Chairman of the Board of Statutory Auditors (or another Auditor he may designate) or other auditors may participate in Committee meetings. The Chairman may occasionally invite other members of the Board to Committee meetings, or invite persons whose presence may be useful for the correct performance of the Committee's duties.
- **4.6** For Committee meetings to be validly held, a majority of active members must be present. The Committee takes decisions by an absolute majority of those present.
- **4.7** Minutes are taken of Committee meetings. The secretary draws up the minutes of the meetings. Minutes are signed by the Chair of the meeting and by the secretary.

#### Article 5 – Expenses

- **5.1** The Committee shall have an annual expenditure budget allocated by the Board for the performance of its tasks.
- 5.2 Committee members shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred when taking part in meetings.

#### Article 6 – Amendments to the Regulation

The Committee shall periodically verify the suitability of this Regulation and shall submit any amendments or additions to the Board of Directors.



## Appendix 8

## **Regulation of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee**

#### Article 1

This Regulation ("**Regulation**") governs the operations of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee ("**Committee**") established by a resolution of the Board of Directors ("**Board**") of ESPRINET S.P.A. ("**Company**" or "**Parent Company**") on 9 May 2012.

#### Article 2 – Composition

- 2.1 The Committee is appointed by the Board and is composed of at least three non-executive directors. All members of the Committee are independent in the Company's opinion, based on the situations, albeit not absolute, of non-independence set out in Art. 3 of the Code of Corporate Governance for Listed Companies. At least one member of the Committee shall have adequate knowledge and experience in financial matters or remuneration policies, to be evaluated by the Board upon appointment.
- **2.2** The Committee shall remain in office for as long as its members serve as Company directors.
- **2.3** If one or more Committee members should step down from office for any reason, the Board shall replace them by adopting an appropriate resolution.
- **2.4** The Board shall appoint the Chairman of the Committee, who shall be responsible for coordinating and planning the Committee's activities and for chairing the respective meetings.
- **2.5** The Board shall appoint a secretary, who need not be one of the Committee members, and who shall be given the task of preparing the minutes of meetings.

#### Article 3 – Duties

- **3.1** The Committee has the following duties:
  - i. propose candidates to the Board for the office of director, as provided for in Art. 2386, first paragraph, of the Civil Code, if it is necessary to substitute an independent director;
  - ii. draw up opinions about the Board's size and composition and express recommendations about:
    - a) the professionals deemed appropriate to sit on the Board;
    - b) the maximum number of director or auditor posts which might be considered compatible with their responsibility to carry out effectively the duties of director of the Company, taking into account the involvement of directors in the internal board committees;
    - c) individual problems that might arise if the shareholders' meeting, to meet organisational requirements, authorises, in advance, general exemptions from the prohibition on competition provided for in Art. 2390 of the Civil Code;
  - iii. periodically assess the suitability, overall consistency and concrete application of the **remuneration policy** for chief executive officers and managers with strategic responsibilities



by using, in that connection, the information supplied by the chief executive officers and by making proposals on the matter to the Board of Directors;

- iv. present proposals to the Board regarding the remuneration of the chief executive officers, general manager and deputy general managers, where present in the company's organisation chart, and of the directors appointed to certain positions as well as the setting of performance targets associated with the variable component of that remuneration, monitoring the application of the decisions taken by the Board and checking, in particular, that the performance targets are actually achieved and their assessment criteria. It is understood that no director will take part in the Committee meetings in which proposals are made to the Board about their remuneration;
- v. instruct the preparation of a plan for the succession of executive directors, if the Board decides to adopt such;
- vi. with reference to companies that belong to the Group:
  - express an opinion to the Board of the Parent Company about the candidates for the post of director, including the chief executive officer or the general manager in cases where the presence of one or more chief executive officers is not provided for;
  - b) express an opinion to the Board of the Parent Company on the proposals for determining the total remuneration owed to the board members of the subsidiaries.
- **3.2** With reference to remuneration plans based on financial instruments or otherwise (e.g. stock option plans, share grants, phantom stock options, etc.), the Committee presents to the Board its recommendations about the use of such plans and about all relevant technical aspects associated with their formulation and application. In particular the Committee draws up proposals for the Board about the incentive scheme deemed most appropriate and monitors the evolution and application over time of the plans approved by the company bodies.

#### Article 4 – Calling, running and minuting of meetings

- 4.1 The Committee meets as often as necessary to ensure its own tasks are carried out correctly and shall be convened at the company's registered office (or at another place specified by the Chairman) at the initiative of the Chairman or following a written request from any of its members, and in any case, always prior to the meeting of the Board called to decide upon the remuneration of directors with specific roles and/or the senior managers of the company. The Committee may have access to the information and company departments necessary to carry out its tasks and may make use of external consultants at the company's expense, within the limits of the budget approved by the Board.
- **4.2** The notice of meeting, stating the date, time and place for the meeting and the topics to be discussed, shall normally be sent by the secretary, at the request of the Chairman, at least five days prior to the date set for the meeting; in urgent cases this period may be reduced to 24 hours.
- **4.3** Committee meetings may also be held over the telephone, provided that all participants can be identified and that such identification is included in the respective minutes, and participants are able



to follow the discussions and speak in real time on the topics being addressed, and may exchange documentation if required.

- 4.4 Committee meetings shall be chaired by the Chairman, or if he is absent or unavailable, by the eldest Committee member. The Chairman may occasionally invite other members of the Board to Committee meetings, or invite persons whose presence may be useful for the correct performance of the Committee's duties.
- 4.5 For Committee meetings to be validly held, a majority of active members must be present.
- **4.6** The Committee takes decisions by an absolute majority of those present.
- **4.7** Minutes are taken of Committee meetings. The secretary draws up the minutes of the meetings. Minutes are signed by the Chair of the meeting and by the secretary.

# Article 5 – Reporting

The Committee shall report to the Board on all activities that it conducts.

# Article 6 – Expenses

- **6.1** The Committee shall have an annual expenditure budget allocated by the Board for the performance of its tasks.
- 6.2 Committee members shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred when taking part in meetings.

# Article 7 – Amendments to the Regulation

The Committee shall periodically verify the suitability of this Regulation and shall submit any amendments or additions to the Board.



# **Appendix 9**

# System of management delegations of Esprinet S.p.A.

# A. CHAIRMAN FRANCESCO MONTI:

# A1. WITH INDIVIDUAL SIGNATURE:

# RELATIONS WITH STATE AND QUASI-STATE BODIES AND RELATIONS WITH INSTITUTIONS

To represent the Company in all dealings with the various ministries, state or quasi-state bodies in general, local authorities, chambers of commerce, social security and pensions agencies, anti-trust authorities, privacy authorities, CONSOB, Borsa Italiana S.p.A., the Bank of Italy and other similar authorities both in Italy and abroad.

To receive, create and release cautionary deposits in dealings with government ministries, public debt offices, the Bank for Deposits and Loans, tax authorities, customs authorities, municipal authorities, regional authorities and any other public entity both in Italy and abroad.

# TAXES AND DUTIES

To represent the Company in relations with any government and local tax office, both in Italy and abroad, with the option of delegating such authority to licensed professionals.

To sign and file, also via computerized systems, returns for direct and indirect taxes, Intrastat forms and tax and statistical forms and questionnaires; to accept and reject official tax assessments; to reach agreements and settlements; to insist on recognition of roles; to present appeals, complaints and documents; to appoint defence counsel for the presentation of appeals and memoranda to any tax office or commission; to accept tax refunds, including interest; to issue receipts; to make payment without any limit on the amounts and to carry out any operations necessary to pay any direct or indirect tax, levy or duty.

# TENDERS ANNOUNCED BY PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND FORMATION OF TEMPORARY CONSORTIA OF COMPANIES

To participate in Tenders announced by public authorities, sign the respective offers and any documents required in order to participate.

To form Temporary Consortia of Companies to participate in Tenders, undertaking the role of agent or principal.

To stipulate, undersign and terminate regulations for the Temporary Consortia of Companies.

# DISPUTES, ARBITRATION AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS INITIATED BY THE COMPANY

To sue third parties, including state and/or quasi-state institutions both in Italy and abroad, and consequently to represent the Company in proceedings started by the Company before any judicial authority both in Italy and abroad including the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Court, the Court of Accounts and the Council of State at all levels of judgement and in all countries.

To nominate and revoke lawyers and solicitors, for the cases referred to above, granting them all suitable powers and establishing their fees.

To settle or conciliate all lawsuits or disputes initiated both in and out of court, take part in arbitration



proceedings, including the possibility to request judicial arbitration, and to appoint and revoke arbitrators and establish their powers.

To accept, defer, refer and take oaths including decision-making oaths.

To apply for precautionary or judiciary seizures and confiscation, concerning debtors or third-parties, provide statements concerning third parties in cases of seizure or confiscation, in compliance with the provisions of current laws, and ensure rulings are enforced.

To represent the Company in bankruptcy proceedings, enforced administrative liquidation, pre-bankruptcy settlements and the supervised administration of third-party debtors, exacting payments on account or in full settlement and issuing receipts, and to advance claims and impugnments and vote in these procedures.

# DISPUTES, ARBITRATION AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE COMPANY

To represent the Company in proceedings against the Company before any judicial authority both in Italy and abroad including the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Court, the Court of Accounts and the Council of State at all levels of judgement and in all countries.

To nominate and revoke lawyers and solicitors, for the cases referred to above, granting them all suitable powers and establishing their fees.

To settle or conciliate all lawsuits or disputes initiated both in and out of court, take part in arbitration proceedings, including the possibility to request referral to a justice of the peace, and to appoint and revoke arbitrators and establish their powers.

To accept, defer, refer and take oaths including decision-making oaths.

# PERSONNEL RELATIONS

To hire and dismiss employees, including those in management positions, and to define the financial aspects of any settlement of any labour dispute arising with employees.

To represent the Company before any interested body, indicatively: job centres, INPS (Italian social security and pensions agency), INAIL (Italian agency providing insurance against accidents in the workplace), category pension funds and so forth.

To represent the Company in all types of dealings with local and national trade union representatives.

# POST AND CERTIFIED EMAIL

To receive from post offices and transport companies all types of recorded delivery letters, parcels and objects, issuing the relevant receipts and releases.

To send and collect letters, packages and parcels, including recorded-delivery and insured items.

To send and receive letters and documents relating to the Company by means of Certified Email.

# BANK, POST OFFICE AND SURETY TRANSACTIONS

To pay any sum owed by the Company up to a limit of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each individual operation, issuing cheques, making bank transfers including via computerised systems, collecting bills of exchange or direct debits and in general operating on the Company's current accounts or depending on the Company's cash resources or credit facilities with banks and in conformity with the contractual provisions regulating relationships with banks.

To issue promissory notes, accept drafts and in general carry out any promissory transactions up to a limit



of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each individual transaction.

To carry out money transfers up to a limit of €10,000,000.00 (ten million euro) between Company current accounts, depending on the Company's cash resources or credit facilities with banks and in conformity with the contractual provisions regulating relationships with banks.

To carry out operations on the Company's post office accounts, issue cheques and also transfer cheques to third parties up to a limit of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each individual transaction.

To ask banks and/or insurance companies to issue guarantees up to the amount of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each transaction.

To open and close current accounts, to open credit facilities for importing goods against cash payments or against acceptance agreements, foreign currency deposits, foreign exchange operations, rentals, the use or disposal of safe deposit boxes, strong boxes and compartments of safes, and the creation or closure of deposits.

To stipulate agreements with banks for every form of banking operation, including the granting of credit facilities to the Company in various forms such as, for example, simple current account overdrafts, trade and financial discount credit lines, and the acceptance of drafts or advances in foreign currencies for all types of imports, with the specific exclusion of medium-term borrowing transactions including taking out loans.

To stipulate agreements with banks for carrying out operations aimed at neutralising foreign exchange risks on cash operations.

# **ISSUE OF GUARANTEES AND LETTERS OF PATRONAGE**

To issue guarantees to third parties up to the limit of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each operation and letters of patronage in favour of the Company's wholly-owned Italian and foreign subsidiaries.

# **DELEGATION OF POWERS**

To nominate proxies to delegate powers with separate signing authority.

# SIGNATURE

To sign all Company correspondence concerning the deeds as per the powers conferred, attaching to their signatures the words "esprinet S.p.A." or alternatively "Esprinet S.p.A." "The Chairman of the Board of Directors".

# A.2 WITH JOINT SIGNATURE

Francesco Monti, in his position as Chairman, with joint signature with Maurizio Rota, in his position as Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer, Alessandro Cattani, in his position as Chief Executive Officer, Valerio Casari, in his position as Managing Director are granted the following administrative powers to be exercised with the joint signature of at least two of them.

# BANK, POST OFFICE AND SURETY TRANSACTIONS

To pay any sum owed by the Company over the limit of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each individual operation, issuing cheques, making bank transfers including via computerised systems, collecting bills of exchange or direct debits and in general operating on the Company's current accounts or depending on

the Company's cash resources or credit facilities with banks and in conformity with the contractual provisions regulating relationships with banks.

To issue promissory notes, accept drafts and in general carry out any promissory transactions over a limit of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each individual transaction.

To carry out money transfers over a limit of €10,000,000.00 (ten million euro) between Company current accounts, depending on the Company's cash resources or credit facilities with banks and in conformity with the contractual provisions regulating relationships with banks.

To carry out operations on the Company's post office accounts, issue cheques and also transfer cheques to third parties over a limit of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each individual transaction.

To ask banks and/or insurance companies to issue guarantees above the amount of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro).

# **DELEGATION OF POWERS**

To nominate proxies for the delegation of powers with joint signing authority provided such powers are granted to other Company Directors or to Company employees at the level of Manager.

# SIGNATURE

To sign all Company correspondence concerning the deeds as per the powers conferred, attaching to their signatures the words "esprinet S.p.A." or alternatively "Esprinet S.p.A." and respectively: "The Chairman of the Board of Directors", "The Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer", "The Chief Executive Officer" and "The Managing Director" or alternatively "Chief Financial Officer".

# **B. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MAURIZIO ROTA**

# **B1. WITH INDIVIDUAL SIGNATURE**

# RELATIONS WITH STATE AND QUASI-STATE BODIES AND RELATIONS WITH INSTITUTIONS

To represent the Company with the various ministries, state or quasi-state bodies, local authorities, chambers of commerce, social security and pensions agencies, anti-trust authorities, privacy authorities, CONSOB, Borsa Italiana S.p.A., the Bank of Italy and other similar authorities both in Italy and abroad.

To receive, create and release cautionary deposits in dealings with government ministries, public debt offices, the Bank for Deposits and Loans, tax authorities, customs authorities, municipal authorities, regional authorities and any other public entity both in Italy and abroad.

To represent the company and execute contracts with the post office and telecommunications agencies.

# PURCHASE OF GOODS, MERCHANDISE AND SERVICES

To stipulate, undersign and terminate agreements including framework agreements.

To purchase as part of long- and short-term contracts, exchange, contract out and import goods, merchandise and services relating to the Company's typical business, with power to establish the price, terms and conditions, and to sign the relevant contracts and deeds, including freight and insurance contracts concerning the merchandise and products purchased by the Company.

To agree on rebates, discounts, payment extensions, surcharges, penalties and, in general, all supply conditions for purchases.

To purchase from and/or exchange with third parties, including those belonging to the Group, or confer within the Company, motor vehicles, with the fullest power to determine the relevant method, price and conditions, performing all the necessary formalities at the relevant Public Register office and all other competent offices.

To permit entries and cancellations of privileges on motor vehicles, undertaking the relative deeds and appropriate formalities with the relevant offices and releasing the Offices themselves and in particular the competent Public Automobile Registry office from all liabilities.

To sign approval forms for both temporary and definitive imports, as well as forms approving free-of-charge items, Italian Currency Exchange Office forms, declarations of price consistency, consular invoices, requests for certification of origin and documents in general certifying the origin, value and nature of products imported by the Company, and to sign all customs control statements and invoices for imported merchandise.

To prepare all statements and all documents necessary for making purchases abroad.

To sign letters concerning the forwarding to banks of documents demonstrating imports.

# SALE OF GOODS, MERCHANDISE AND SERVICES

To stipulate, undersign and terminate agreements including framework agreements.

To sell as part of long- and short-term contracts, exchange, contract out and export goods, merchandise and services relating to the Company's typical business, with power to establish the price, terms and conditions, and to sign the relevant contracts and deeds, including freight and insurance contracts concerning the merchandise and products sold by the Company.

To grant rebates, discounts, payment extensions, surcharges, penalties and, in general, all supply conditions for sales.

To sell to and/or exchange with third parties, including those belonging to the Group, motor vehicles, with the fullest power to determine the relevant method, price and conditions, performing all the necessary formalities at the relevant Public Register office and all other competent offices.

To permit entries and cancellations of privileges on motor vehicles, undertaking the relative deeds and appropriate formalities with the relevant offices and releasing the Offices themselves and in particular the competent Public Automobile Registry office from all liabilities.

To sign approval forms for both temporary and definitive exports, as well as forms approving free-of-charge items, Italian Currency Exchange Office forms, declarations of price consistency, consular invoices, requests for certification of origin and documents in general certifying the origin, value and nature of products exported by the Company, and to sign all customs control statements and invoices for exported merchandise.

To prepare all statements and all documents necessary for making sales abroad.

To sign letters concerning the forwarding to banks of documents demonstrating exports.

# TENDERS ANNOUNCED BY PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND FORMATION OF TEMPORARY CONSORTIA OF COMPANIES

To participate in Tenders announced by public authorities, sign the respective offers and any documents



required in order to participate.

To form Temporary Consortia of Companies to participate in Tenders, undertaking the role of agent or principal.

To stipulate, undersign and terminate regulations for the Temporary Consortia of Companies.

#### COLLECTIONS

To request and receive collections of any sum owed to the Company under any right and for any reason and to issue receipts for total or partial collection.

To negotiate on receivables under dispute, granting discounts and rebates.

To make payments into the Company's bank and post office current accounts, cashing postal and telegraph orders, mandates, cheques and promissory notes and endorsing cheques for payment into such current accounts, bills of exchange but exclusively for collection, discount, receipt and protest, and issuing bank clearances.

# POST AND CERTIFIED EMAIL

To receive from post offices and transport companies all types of recorded delivery letters, parcels and objects, issuing the relevant receipts and releases.

To send and collect letters, packages and parcels, including recorded-delivery and insured items.

To send and receive letters and documents relating to the Company by means of Certified Email.

#### INSURANCE

To stipulate private insurance contracts or mandates, including insuring credit, signing the relevant policies. To amend the said insurance contracts and reach agreements, in the case of a claim, on the amount of compensation due from the insurance company, and to issue receipts for the amounts received.

# **CUSTOMER CREDIT**

To authorise the granting of commercial credit facilities to customers for amounts up to  $\in 2,500,000.00$  (two million, five hundred thousand euro) and up to  $\in 4,000,000.00$  (four million euro) for temporary credit facilities associated with specific sales valid for no more than 180 days, surplus to the amounts guaranteed by credit insurance, non-recourse transfers to factoring companies and insurance and banking sureties provided by customers.

# TAXES AND DUTIES

To represent the Company in relations with any government and local tax office, both in Italy and abroad, with the option of delegating such authority to licensed professionals.

To sign and file, also via computerized systems, returns for direct and indirect taxes, Intrastat forms and tax and statistical forms and questionnaires; to accept and reject official tax assessments; to reach agreements and settlements; to insist on recognition of roles; to present appeals, complaints and documents; to appoint defence counsel for the presentation of appeals and memoranda to any tax office or commission; to accept tax refunds, including interest; to issue receipts; to make payment without any limit on the amounts and to carry out any operations necessary to pay any direct or indirect tax, levy or duty.

# DISPUTES, ARBITRATION AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS INITIATED BY THE COMPANY



To sue third parties, including state and/or quasi-state institutions both in Italy and abroad, and consequently to represent the Company in proceedings started by the Company before any judicial authority both in Italy and abroad including the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Court, the Court of Accounts and the Council of State at all levels of judgement and in all countries.

To nominate and revoke lawyers and solicitors, for the cases referred to above, granting them all suitable powers and establishing their fees.

To settle or conciliate all lawsuits or disputes initiated both in and out of court, take part in arbitration proceedings, including the possibility to request judicial arbitration, and to appoint and revoke arbitrators and establish their powers.

To accept, defer, refer and take oaths including decision-making oaths.

To apply for precautionary or judiciary seizures and confiscation, concerning debtors or third-parties, provide statements concerning third parties in cases of seizure or confiscation, in compliance with the provisions of current laws, and ensure rulings are enforced.

To represent the Company in bankruptcy proceedings, enforced administrative liquidation, pre-bankruptcy settlements and the supervised administration of third-party debtors, exacting payments on account or in full settlement and issuing receipts, and to advance claims and impugnments and vote in these procedures.

# DISPUTES, ARBITRATION AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE COMPANY

To represent the Company in proceedings against the Company before any judicial authority both in Italy and abroad including the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Court, the Court of Accounts and the Council of State at all levels of judgement and in all countries.

To nominate and revoke lawyers and solicitors, for the cases referred to above, granting them all suitable powers and establishing their fees.

To settle or conciliate all lawsuits or disputes initiated both in and out of court, take part in arbitration proceedings, including the possibility to request referral to a justice of the peace, and to appoint and revoke arbitrators and establish their powers.

To accept, defer, refer and take oaths including decision-making oaths.

# CONTRACTS FOR THE SUPPLY OF UTILITIES AND SERVICES

To stipulate, sign and terminate contracts for the supply and provision of all types of utilities and, in particular, to represent the Company in dealings with companies supplying energy, telecommunication services and various other services to businesses.

To stipulate and terminate contracts with sales agents and representatives.

To stipulate and terminate agency and/or distribution contracts with national and international principals and agents.

To award and revoke mandates to professionals and/or self-employed staff.

#### PERSONNEL RELATIONS

To hire and dismiss employees, including those in management positions, and to define the financial aspects of any settlement of any labour dispute arising with employees.

To represent the Company before any interested body, indicatively: job centres, INPS (Italian social security



and pensions agency), INAIL (Italian agency providing insurance against accidents in the workplace), category pension funds and so forth.

To represent the Company in all types of dealings with local and national trade union representatives.

To grant leave of absence, holidays and sabbatical periods to employees, including those in management positions.

To grant promotion, salary increases, bonuses, rewards and fringe benefits of any type to employees, including those in management positions.

# BANK, POST OFFICE AND SURETY TRANSACTIONS

To pay any sum owed by the Company up to a limit of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each individual operation, issuing cheques, making bank transfers including via computerised systems, collecting bills of exchange or direct debits and in general operating on the Company's current accounts or depending on the Company's cash resources or credit facilities with banks and in conformity with the contractual provisions regulating relationships with banks.

To issue promissory notes, accept drafts and in general carry out any promissory transactions up to a limit of  $\in$ 5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each individual transaction.

To carry out money transfers up to a limit of €10,000,000.00 (ten million euro) between Company current accounts, depending on the Company's cash resources or credit facilities with banks and in conformity with the contractual provisions regulating relationships with banks.

To carry out operations on the Company's post office accounts, issue cheques and also transfer cheques to third parties up to a limit of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each individual transaction.

To ask banks and/or insurance companies to issue guarantees up to the amount of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each transaction.

To open and close current accounts, to open credit facilities for importing goods against cash payments or against acceptance agreements, foreign currency deposits, foreign exchange operations, rentals, the use or disposal of safe deposit boxes, strong boxes and compartments of safes, and the creation or closure of safe deposits.

To stipulate agreements with banks for every form of banking operation, including the granting of credit facilities to the Company in various forms such as, for example, simple current account overdrafts, trade and financial discount credit lines, and the acceptance of drafts or advances in foreign currencies for all types of imports, with the specific exclusion of medium-term borrowing transactions including taking out loans.

To stipulate agreements with banks for carrying out operations aimed at neutralising foreign exchange risks on cash operations.

# **ISSUE OF GUARANTEES AND LETTERS OF PATRONAGE**

To issue guarantees to third parties up to the limit of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each operation and letters of patronage in favour of the Company's wholly-owned Italian and foreign subsidiaries.

# FACTORING OPERATIONS

To sign and terminate factoring contracts, sign credit disposals, collection mandates, advance and discount



operations, set up guarantees and complete all forms of operations concerned with factoring, with the option of delegating authority for these powers to third parties.

# RENTAL AND LEASING OF MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

To sign, amend and terminate rental and leasing contracts for movable and immovable property lasting no more than six years.

# **DELEGATION OF POWERS**

To nominate proxies to delegate powers with separate signing authority.

# SIGNATURE

To sign all Company correspondence concerning the deeds as per the powers conferred, attaching to their signatures the words "esprinet S.p.A." or alternatively "Esprinet S.p.A." "The Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer".

# **B2. WITH JOINT SIGNATURE**

Maurizio Rota, in his position as Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer with joint signature with Francesco Monti, in his position as Chairman of the Board of Directors, Alessandro Cattani, in his position as Chief Executive Officer and Valerio Casari, in his position as Managing Director are granted the following administrative powers to be exercised with the joint signature of at least two of them.

# BANK, POST OFFICE AND SURETY TRANSACTIONS

To pay any sum owed by the Company over the limit of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each individual operation, issuing cheques, making bank transfers including via computerised systems, collecting bills of exchange or direct debits and in general operating on the Company's current accounts or depending on the Company's cash resources or credit facilities with banks and in conformity with the contractual provisions regulating relationships with banks.

To issue promissory notes, accept drafts and in general carry out any promissory transactions over a limit of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each individual transaction.

To carry out money transfers over a limit of €10,000,000.00 (ten million euro) between Company current accounts, depending on the Company's cash resources or credit facilities with banks and in conformity with the contractual provisions regulating relationships with banks.

To carry out operations on the Company's post office accounts, issue cheques and also transfer cheques to third parties over a limit of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each individual transaction.

To ask banks and/or insurance companies to issue guarantees above the amount of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro).

# **DELEGATION OF POWERS**

To nominate proxies for the delegation of powers with joint signing authority provided such powers are granted to other Company Directors or to Company employees at the level of Manager.

# SIGNATURE

To sign all Company correspondence concerning the deeds as per the powers conferred, attaching to their signatures the words "esprinet S.p.A." or alternatively "Esprinet S.p.A." and respectively: "The Deputy



Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer", "The Chairman of the Board of Directors", "The Chief Executive Officer" and "The Managing Director" or alternatively "Chief Financial Officer".

# Maurizio Rota, in his position as Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer with joint signature with Alessandro Cattani, in his position as Chief Executive Officer. RENTAL, LEASING AND PURCHASING OF MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

To sign, amend and terminate rental and leasing contracts lasting over six years for movable and immovable property, with the right of first refusal at the end of such leasing contracts without any limitation. To acquire, sell, mortgage or transfer property with a unit value of less than Euro 2,000,000.00 (two million euro).

# **CUSTOMER CREDIT**

To authorise the granting of commercial credit facilities to customers for amounts of over  $\in 2,500,000.00$ (two million, five hundred thousand euro) and up to a maximum of Euro 5,000,000.00 (five million euro), or over  $\in 4,000,000.00$  (four million euro) and up to a maximum of Euro 6,000,000.00 (six million euro) for temporary credit facilities associated with specific sales valid for no more than 180 days, in addition to the amounts guaranteed by credit insurance, non-recourse transfers to factoring companies and insurance and banking sureties provided by customers.

# **DELEGATION OF POWERS**

To nominate proxies for the delegation of powers with joint signing authority provided such powers are granted to other Company Directors or to Company employees at the level of Manager.

# SIGNATURE

To sign all Company correspondence concerning the deeds as per the powers conferred, attaching to their signatures the words "esprinet S.p.A." or alternatively "Esprinet S.p.A." and respectively: "The Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer" and "The Chief Executive Officer".

# C. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ALESSANDRO CATTANI (CEO)

# **C1. WITH INDIVIDUAL SIGNATURE**

# RELATIONS WITH STATE AND QUASI-STATE BODIES AND RELATIONS WITH INSTITUTIONS

To represent the Company with the various ministries, state or quasi-state bodies, local authorities, chambers of commerce, social security and pensions agencies, anti-trust authorities, privacy authorities, CONSOB, Borsa Italiana S.p.A., the Bank of Italy and other similar authorities both in Italy and abroad.

To receive, create and release cautionary deposits in dealings with government ministries, public debt offices, the Bank for Deposits and Loans, tax authorities, customs authorities, municipal authorities, regional authorities and any other public entity both in Italy and abroad.

To represent the company and execute contracts with the post office and telecommunications agencies.

To represent the company in dealings with institutional and non-institutional investors, as well as qualified operators as defined by Article 25 of CONSOB Resolution 11522/1998 as amended.

# PURCHASE OF GOODS, MERCHANDISE AND SERVICES

To stipulate, undersign and terminate agreements including framework agreements.



To purchase as part of long- and short-term contracts, exchange, contract out and import goods, merchandise and services relating to the Company's typical business, with power to establish the price, terms and conditions, and to sign the relevant contracts and deeds, including freight and insurance contracts concerning the merchandise and products purchased by the Company.

To agree on rebates, discounts, payment extensions, surcharges, penalties and, in general, all supply conditions for purchases.

To purchase from and/or exchange with third parties, including those belonging to the Group, or confer within the Company, motor vehicles, with the fullest power to determine the relevant method, price and conditions, performing all the necessary formalities at the relevant Public Register office and all other competent offices.

To permit entries and cancellations of privileges on motor vehicles, undertaking the relative deeds and appropriate formalities with the relevant offices and releasing the Offices themselves and in particular the competent Public Automobile Registry office from all liabilities.

To sign approval forms for both temporary and definitive imports, as well as forms approving free-of-charge items, Italian Currency Exchange Office forms, declarations of price consistency, consular invoices, requests for certification of origin and documents in general certifying the origin, value and nature of products imported by the Company, and to sign all customs control statements and invoices for imported merchandise.

To prepare all statements and all documents necessary for making purchases abroad.

To sign letters concerning the forwarding to banks of documents demonstrating imports.

# SALE OF GOODS, MERCHANDISE AND SERVICES

To stipulate, undersign and terminate agreements including framework agreements.

To sell as part of long- and short-term contracts, exchange, contract out and export goods, merchandise and services relating to the Company's typical business, with power to establish the price, terms and conditions, and to sign the relevant contracts and deeds, including freight and insurance contracts concerning the merchandise and products sold by the Company.

To grant rebates, discounts, payment extensions, surcharges, penalties and, in general, all supply conditions for sales.

To sell to and/or exchange with third parties, including those belonging to the Group, motor vehicles, with the fullest power to determine the relevant method, price and conditions, performing all the necessary formalities at the relevant Public Register office and all other competent offices.

To permit entries and cancellations of privileges on motor vehicles, undertaking the relative deeds and appropriate formalities with the relevant offices and releasing the Offices themselves and in particular the competent Public Automobile Registry office from all liabilities.

To sign approval forms for both temporary and definitive exports, as well as forms approving free-of-charge items, Italian Currency Exchange Office forms, declarations of price consistency, consular invoices, requests for certification of origin and documents in general certifying the origin, value and nature of products exported by the Company, and to sign all customs control statements and invoices for exported





#### merchandise.

To prepare all statements and all documents necessary for making sales abroad.

To sign letters concerning the forwarding to banks of documents demonstrating exports.

# TENDERS ANNOUNCED BY PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND FORMATION OF TEMPORARY CONSORTIA OF COMPANIES

To participate in Tenders announced by public authorities, sign the respective offers and any documents required in order to participate.

To form Temporary Consortia of Companies to participate in Tenders, undertaking the role of agent or principal.

To stipulate, undersign and terminate regulations for the Temporary Consortia of Companies.

# COLLECTIONS

To request and receive collections of any sum owed to the Company under any right and for any reason and to issue receipts for total or partial collection.

To negotiate on receivables under dispute, granting discounts and rebates.

To make payments into the Company's bank and post office current accounts, cashing postal and telegraph orders, mandates, cheques and promissory notes and endorsing cheques for payment into such current accounts, bills of exchange but exclusively for collection, discount, receipt and protest, and issuing bank clearances.

# POST AND CERTIFIED EMAIL

To receive from post offices and transport companies all types of recorded delivery letters, parcels and objects, issuing the relevant receipts and releases.

To send and collect letters, packages and parcels, including recorded-delivery and insured items.

To send and receive letters and documents relating to the Company by means of Certified Email.

# INSURANCE

To stipulate private insurance contracts or mandates, including insuring credit, signing the relevant policies. To amend the said insurance contracts and reach agreements, in the case of a claim, on the amount of compensation due from the insurance company, and to issue receipts for the amounts received.

# CUSTOMER CREDIT

To authorise the granting of commercial credit facilities to customers for amounts up to  $\leq 2,500,000.00$  (two million, five hundred thousand euro) and up to  $\leq 4,000,000.00$  (four million euro) for temporary credit facilities associated with specific sales valid for no more than 180 days, surplus to the amounts guaranteed by credit insurance, non-recourse transfers to factoring companies and insurance and banking sureties provided by customers.

# TAXES AND DUTIES

To represent the Company in relations with any government and local tax office, both in Italy and abroad, with the option of delegating such authority to licensed professionals.

To sign and file, also via computerized systems, returns for direct and indirect taxes, Intrastat forms and tax and statistical forms and questionnaires; to accept and reject official tax assessments; to reach



agreements and settlements; to insist on recognition of roles; to present appeals, complaints and documents; to appoint defence counsel for the presentation of appeals and memoranda to any tax office or commission; to accept tax refunds, including interest; to issue receipts; to make payment without any limit on the amounts and to carry out any operations necessary to pay any direct or indirect tax, levy or duty.

#### DISPUTES, ARBITRATION AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS INITIATED BY THE COMPANY

To sue third parties, including state and/or quasi-state institutions both in Italy and abroad, and consequently to represent the Company in proceedings started by the Company before any judicial authority both in Italy and abroad including the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Court, the Court of Accounts and the Council of State at all levels of judgement and in all countries.

To nominate and revoke lawyers and solicitors, for the cases referred to above, granting them all suitable powers and establishing their fees.

To settle or conciliate all lawsuits or disputes initiated both in and out of court, take part in arbitration proceedings, including the possibility to request judicial arbitration, and to appoint and revoke arbitrators and establish their powers.

To accept, defer, refer and take oaths including decision-making oaths.

To apply for precautionary or judiciary seizures and confiscation, concerning debtors or third-parties, provide statements concerning third parties in cases of seizure or confiscation, in compliance with the provisions of current laws, and ensure rulings are enforced.

To represent the Company in bankruptcy proceedings, enforced administrative liquidation, pre-bankruptcy settlements and the supervised administration of third-party debtors, exacting payments on account or in full settlement and issuing receipts, and to advance claims and impugnments and vote in these procedures.

# DISPUTES, ARBITRATION AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE COMPANY

To represent the Company in proceedings against the Company before any judicial authority both in Italy and abroad including the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Court, the Court of Accounts and the Council of State at all levels of judgement and in all countries.

To nominate and revoke lawyers and solicitors, for the cases referred to above, granting them all suitable powers and establishing their fees.

To settle or conciliate all lawsuits or disputes initiated both in and out of court, take part in arbitration proceedings, including the possibility to request referral to a justice of the peace, and to appoint and revoke arbitrators and establish their powers.

To accept, defer, refer and take oaths including decision-making oaths.

# CONTRACTS FOR THE SUPPLY OF UTILITIES AND SERVICES

To stipulate, sign and terminate contracts for the supply and provision of all types of utilities and, in particular, to represent the Company in dealings with companies supplying energy, telecommunication services and various other services to businesses.

To stipulate and terminate contracts with sales agents and representatives.

To stipulate and terminate agency and/or distribution contracts with national and international principals





#### and agents.

To award and revoke mandates to professionals and/or self-employed staff.

#### PERSONNEL RELATIONS

To hire and dismiss employees, including those in management positions, and to define the financial aspects of any settlement of any labour dispute arising with employees.

To represent the Company before any interested body, indicatively: job centres, INPS (Italian social security and pensions agency), INAIL (Italian agency providing insurance against accidents in the workplace), category pension funds and so forth.

To represent the Company in all types of dealings with local and national trade union representatives.

To grant leave of absence, holidays and sabbatical periods to employees, including those in management positions.

To grant promotion, salary increases, bonuses, rewards and fringe benefits of any type to employees, including those in management positions.

# BANK, POST OFFICE AND SURETY TRANSACTIONS

To pay any sum owed by the Company up to a limit of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each individual operation, issuing cheques, making bank transfers including via computerised systems, collecting bills of exchange or direct debits and in general operating on the Company's current accounts or depending on the Company's cash resources or credit facilities with banks and in conformity with the contractual provisions regulating relationships with banks.

To issue promissory notes, accept drafts and in general carry out any promissory transactions up to a limit of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each individual transaction.

To carry out money transfers up to a limit of €10,000,000.00 (ten million euro) between Company current accounts, depending on the Company's cash resources or credit facilities with banks and in conformity with the contractual provisions regulating relationships with banks.

To carry out operations on the Company's post office accounts, issue cheques and also transfer cheques to third parties up to a limit of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each individual transaction.

To ask banks and/or insurance companies to issue guarantees up to the amount of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each transaction.

To open and close current accounts, to open credit facilities for importing goods against cash payments or against acceptance agreements, foreign currency deposits, foreign exchange operations, rentals, the use or disposal of safe deposit boxes, strong boxes and compartments of safes, and the creation or closure of safe deposits.

To stipulate agreements with banks for every form of banking operation, including the granting of credit facilities to the Company in various forms such as, for example, simple current account overdrafts, trade and financial discount credit lines, and the acceptance of drafts or advances in foreign currencies for all types of imports, with the specific exclusion of medium-term borrowing transactions including taking out loans.

To stipulate agreements with banks for carrying out operations aimed at neutralising foreign exchange risks



on cash operations.

#### **ISSUE OF GUARANTEES AND LETTERS OF PATRONAGE**

To issue guarantees to third parties up to the limit of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each operation and letters of patronage in favour of the Company's wholly-owned Italian and foreign subsidiaries.

#### **FACTORING OPERATIONS**

To sign and terminate factoring contracts, sign credit disposals, collection mandates, advance and discount operations, set up guarantees and complete all forms of operations concerned with factoring, with the option of delegating authority for these powers to third parties.

# RENTAL AND LEASING OF MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

To sign, amend and terminate rental contracts for buildings and any other asset lasting no more than six years.

#### **DELEGATION OF POWERS**

To nominate proxies to delegate powers with separate signing authority.

#### SIGNATURE

To sign all Company correspondence concerning the deeds as per the powers conferred, attaching to their signatures the words "esprinet S.p.A." or alternatively "Esprinet S.p.A." "The Chief Executive Officer".

# **C2. WITH JOINT SIGNATURE**

Alessandro Cattani, in his position as Chief Executive Officer with joint signature with Francesco Monti, in his position as Chairman of the Board of Directors, Maurizio Rota, in his position as Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer, Valerio Casari, in his position as Managing Director, are granted the following administrative powers to be exercised with the joint signature of at least two of them.

# BANK, POST OFFICE AND SURETY TRANSACTIONS

To pay any sum owed by the Company over the limit of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each individual operation, issuing cheques, making bank transfers including via computerised systems, collecting bills of exchange or direct debits and in general operating on the Company's current accounts or depending on the Company's cash resources or credit facilities with banks and in conformity with the contractual provisions regulating relationships with banks.

To issue promissory notes, accept drafts and in general carry out any promissory transactions over a limit of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each individual transaction.

To carry out money transfers over a limit of €10,000,000.00 (ten million euro) between Company current accounts, depending on the Company's cash resources or credit facilities with banks and in conformity with the contractual provisions regulating relationships with banks.

To carry out operations on the Company's post office accounts, issue cheques and also transfer cheques to third parties over a limit of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each individual transaction.

To ask banks and/or insurance companies to issue guarantees above the amount of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro).

# **DELEGATION OF POWERS**



To nominate proxies for the delegation of powers with joint signing authority provided such powers are granted to other Company Directors or to Company employees at the level of Manager.

# SIGNATURE

To sign all Company correspondence concerning the deeds as per the powers conferred, attaching to their signatures the words "esprinet S.p.A." or alternatively "Esprinet S.p.A." and respectively: "The Chief Executive Officer", "The Chairman of the Board of Directors", "The Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer" and "The Managing Director" or alternatively "Chief Financial Officer".

# Alessandro Cattani, in his position as Chief Executive Officer with joint signature with Maurizio Rota, in his position as Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer RENTAL, LEASING AND PURCHASING OF MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

To sign, amend and terminate rental and leasing contracts lasting over six years for movable and immovable property, with the right of first refusal at the end of such leasing contracts without any limitation. To acquire, sell, mortgage or transfer property with a unit value of less than Euro 2,000,000.00 (two million euro).

# **CUSTOMER CREDIT**

To authorise the granting of commercial credit facilities to customers for amounts of over €2,500,000.00 (two million, five hundred thousand euro) and up to a maximum of Euro 5,000,000.00 (five million euro), or over €4,000,000.00 (four million euro) and up to a maximum of Euro 6,000,000.00 (six million euro) for temporary credit facilities associated with specific sales valid for no more than 180 days, in addition to the amounts guaranteed by credit insurance, non-recourse transfers to factoring companies and insurance and banking sureties provided by customers.

# **DELEGATION OF POWERS**

To nominate proxies for the delegation of powers with joint signing authority provided such powers are granted to other Company Directors or to Company employees at the level of Manager.

# SIGNATURE

To sign all Company correspondence concerning the deeds as per the powers conferred, attaching to their signatures the words "esprinet S.p.A." or alternatively "Esprinet S.p.A." and respectively: "The Chief Executive Officer" and "The Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer".

# D. MANAGING DIRECTOR VALERIO CASANI (CFO)

# **D1. WITH INDIVIDUAL SIGNATURE**

# RELATIONS WITH STATE AND QUASI-STATE BODIES AND RELATIONS WITH INSTITUTIONS

To represent the Company with the various ministries, state or quasi-state bodies, local authorities, chambers of commerce, social security and pensions agencies, anti-trust authorities, privacy authorities, CONSOB, Borsa Italiana S.p.A., the Bank of Italy and other similar authorities both in Italy and abroad. To receive, create and release cautionary deposits in dealings with government ministries, public debt offices, the Bank for Deposits and Loans, tax authorities, customs authorities, municipal authorities,



regional authorities and any other public entity both in Italy and abroad.

To represent the Company and execute contracts with the post office and telecommunications agencies.

To represent the company in dealings with institutional and non-institutional investors, as well as qualified operators as defined by Article 25 of CONSOB Resolution 11522/1998 as amended.

# COLLECTIONS

To request and receive collections of any sum owed to the Company under any right and for any reason and to issue receipts for total or partial collection.

To negotiate on receivables under dispute, granting discounts and rebates.

To make payments into the Company's bank and post office current accounts, cashing postal and telegraph orders, mandates, cheques and promissory notes and endorsing cheques for payment into such current accounts, bills of exchange but exclusively for collection, discount, receipt and protest, and issuing bank clearances.

# POST AND CERTIFIED EMAIL

To receive from post offices and transport companies all types of recorded delivery letters, parcels and objects, issuing the relevant receipts and releases.

To send and collect letters, packages and parcels, including recorded-delivery and insured items.

To send and receive letters and documents relating to the Company by means of Certified Email.

# INSURANCE

To stipulate private insurance contracts or mandates, including insuring credit, signing the relevant policies. To amend the said insurance contracts and reach agreements, in the case of a claim, on the amount of compensation due from the insurance company, and to issue receipts for the amounts received.

# PERSONNEL RELATIONS

To hire and dismiss employees, provided they are not in management positions.

To grant leave of absence, holidays and sabbatical periods to employees.

To grant promotion, salary increases, bonuses, rewards and fringe benefits of any type to employees, provided they are not in management positions, with the explicit exclusion of the possibility of granting promotions to managers.

# BANK, POST OFFICE AND SURETY TRANSACTIONS

To pay any sum owed by the Company up to a limit of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each individual operation, issuing cheques, making bank transfers including via computerised systems, collecting bills of exchange or direct debits and in general operating on the Company's current accounts or depending on the Company's cash resources or credit facilities with banks and in conformity with the contractual provisions regulating relationships with banks.

To issue promissory notes, accept drafts and in general carry out any promissory transactions up to a limit of  $\in$ 5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each individual transaction.

To carry out money transfers up to a limit of €10,000,000.00 (ten million euro) between Company current accounts, depending on the Company's cash resources or credit facilities with banks and in conformity with the contractual provisions regulating relationships with banks.

To carry out operations on the Company's post office accounts, issue cheques and also transfer cheques to third parties up to a limit of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each individual transaction.

To ask banks and/or insurance companies to issue guarantees up to the amount of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each transaction.

To open and close current accounts, to open credit facilities for importing goods against cash payments or against acceptance agreements, foreign currency deposits, foreign exchange operations, rentals, the use or disposal of safe deposit boxes, strong boxes and compartments of safes, and the creation or closure of safe deposits.

To stipulate agreements with banks for every form of banking operation, including the granting of credit facilities to the Company in various forms such as, for example, simple current account overdrafts, trade and financial discount credit lines, and the acceptance of drafts or advances in foreign currencies for all types of imports, with the specific exclusion of medium-term borrowing transactions including taking out loans.

To stipulate agreements with banks for carrying out operations aimed at neutralising foreign exchange risks on cash operations.

# **ISSUE OF GUARANTEES AND LETTERS OF PATRONAGE**

To issue guarantees to third parties up to the limit of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each operation and letters of patronage in favour of the Company's wholly-owned Italian and foreign subsidiaries.

# FACTORING OPERATIONS

To sign and terminate factoring contracts, sign credit disposals, collection mandates, advance and discount operations, set up guarantees and complete all forms of operations concerned with factoring, with the option of delegating authority for these powers to third parties.

# **DELEGATION OF POWERS**

To nominate proxies to delegate powers with separate signing authority.

# SIGNATURE

To sign all Company correspondence concerning the deeds as per the powers conferred, attaching to their signatures the words "esprinet S.p.A." or alternatively "Esprinet S.p.A." "The Managing Director" or alternatively "Chief Financial Officer".

# **D2. WITH JOINT SIGNATURE**

Valerio Casari, in his position as Managing Director with joint signature with Francesco Monti, in his position as Chairman of the Board of Directors, Maurizio Rota, in his position as Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer and Alessandro Cattani, in his position as Chief Executive Officer, are granted the following administrative powers to be exercised with the joint signature of at least two of them.

# BANK, POST OFFICE AND SURETY TRANSACTIONS

To pay any sum owed by the Company over the limit of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each individual operation, issuing cheques, making bank transfers including via computerised systems, collecting bills of exchange or direct debits and in general operating on the Company's current accounts or depending on



the Company's cash resources or credit facilities with banks and in conformity with the contractual provisions regulating relationships with banks.

To issue promissory notes, accept drafts and in general carry out any promissory transactions over a limit of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each individual transaction.

To carry out money transfers over a limit of €10,000,000.00 (ten million euro) between Company current accounts, depending on the Company's cash resources or credit facilities with banks and in conformity with the contractual provisions regulating relationships with banks.

To carry out operations on the Company's post office accounts, issue cheques and also transfer cheques to third parties over a limit of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro) for each individual transaction.

To ask banks and/or insurance companies to issue guarantees above the amount of €5,000,000.00 (five million euro).

# **DELEGATION OF POWERS**

To nominate proxies for the delegation of powers with joint signing authority provided such powers are granted to other Company Directors or to Company employees at the level of Manager.

# SIGNATURE

To sign all Company correspondence concerning the deeds as per the powers conferred, attaching to their signatures the words "esprinet S.p.A." or alternatively "Esprinet S.p.A." and respectively: "The Managing Director" or alternatively "Chief Financial Officer, "The Chairman of the Board of Directors", The Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer" and "The Chief Executive Officer".