



Joaquín Agut, CIRSA General Manager

CIRSA ANNOUNCES INCREASED OPERATING PROFITS

CIRSA has announced sales of €862 million and operating profits of €96 million for the first half of 2008, 22% over the first half of 2007. The Spanish multinational issued invoices for €432 million.

These results are due mainly to the replacement of slots on the Spanish market; the improved offer of gaming establishments, with multi-player roulettes and electronic Bingo; the general growth in earnings and improved management of Latin-American Casinos, and the optimisation of space in Bingo halls, with the introduction of new products.

The Casinos department is working on increasing the number of slots halls in Panama, Ecuador and Colombia and on renovating Casino Lima in Peru and Casino Marbella in Spain. A new complex in Rosario (Argentina) is also scheduled for inauguration in the second half of next year.

With regard to Bingo halls, by the end of the year CIRSA will have 20 in operation in Mexico.

These results will allow the company to continue its solid and stable growth and to consolidate its operating and strategic plans, aimed at Spain, Italy and Latin America.

HAS UNICUM DISAPPEARED?

The rumour is racing through the industry. It seems that Russian firm Unicum is to close operations shortly.

Some of the company's major executives have already left, including CEO Lyubov Loginova, Olga Ledkova and Yulia Nikitina, the last of whom was appointed PR Manager last July and has barely been with the company for two months.

The flames of the rumour are fanned by the company's decision not to participate at the Moscow, Mexico or Buenos Aires fairs or any other events this year, and to stop advertising in the sectors main journals.

Certain suppliers, with whom Unicum still has pending payments, are taking the rumour very seriously indeed.

We hope that the situation is cleared up soon and that Unicum honours its business commitments as it always has.

SOUTH-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT APPROVES INTERNET GAMING

The South African government has approved new legislation governing Internet gaming, understanding that the lack of regulation is causing considerable tax losses to the national coffers. According to the South-African National Gaming Bureau, revenues from all forms of gaming, not including Internet, increased to US\$ 13,500 million in 2006-07 compared to \$6200 million in 2001-02.



FORTUNE PAI GOW POKER PROGRESSIVE™ JACKPOT HIT FOR OVER \$500,000

Shuffle Master informed that the progressive jackpot on its Fortune Pai Gow Poker Progressive™ table game hit twice during July. The first jackpot payoff occurred at Thunder Valley Casino, California, where a player was awarded over \$500,000. The second jackpot payout was awarded at the Rampart Casino, Las Vegas, where a player received over \$70,000.



The Gemini video slots in Casino Eden in Lima are occupied most of the time

CASINO TECHNOLOGY'S LATIN AMERICAN BRANCH MARKS FURTHER SUCCESS IN THE REGION

The representative office of Bulgarian firm Casino Technology, opened in Lima, Peru, last September under the name TransAtlantic Gaming, has made great progress in market expansion in a range of countries, including Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Uruguay, Panama and Mexico.

IGT INSTALLS NEW GAMES IN MINNESOTA

Grand Casino Hinckley and Grand Casino Mille Lacs, both in Minnesota, are the first gaming establishments to launch IGT's new "REELdepth" video games.

"The launch of the first games includes almost 70 IGT classics and several new AVP games. Operators investing in REELdepth games no longer have to carry out budgets to change the glass or rollers or to physically move or relocate machines in their gaming area", explained Ron Rivera, IGT Vice President of Sales for North America.



BALLY UPDATE

Bally Technologies has informed that the Seminole Tribe of Florida will implement Bally's TableView table-rating and player-tracking system at its six Casinos in south Florida.

Bally's award-winning TableView allows Casino staff to enter player ratings, request chip fills and credits and issue customer comps and markers in real time.



Enric Barba

ENRIC BARBA APPOINTED VICE PRESIDENT OF SECARTYS

Enric Barba, Managing Director of the B2B division of Cirsa Gaming Corporation, has been appointed Vice President of the electronic entertainment and leisure sector of Secartys, the Spanish Association of Exporters of Electronics and Computer Supplies.

Secartys was founded in 1968 and represents over 1200 electronics industries, including slot machines, electronic games, payment means and vending machines.

COPAG, HAPPY 100TH ANNIVERSARY!

Brazilian firm Copag, one of the world's leading playing card manufacturers, celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2008. The anniversary will be commemorated with a big party on 16 October next, in the company's original home town of Manaus, attended by executives, VIP clients, operators and representatives from the authorities.

In our next issue we will feature a full report on this important event.

COPAG exports its famous playing cards to the US and to several countries in Latin America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania.

Moreover, COPAG has carried out an intensive advertising campaign on leading sports network ESPN during the transmission of the World Series of Poker in the US, Canada and Latin America.



EGASA TO BUILD BIGGEST CASINO IN COLOMBIA

Proyectos de Ibero-América, part-owned by Spanish firm Egasa and Colombian company Unidelca, is to build the largest Casino in Colombia in Medellin.

The establishment will form part of the Gran Milla complex, which will also include a 5-star hotel, a spa, 165 offices, a shopping centre, a convention centre, restaurants and 159 apartments.

The Casino will stand on 5,500 m², will cost some US \$10 million and will give employment to some 3,000 persons.

The first reports are that the Casino will be built and fitted out in the Las Vegas style.

Julían González de Bedoya, Egasa Casinos Expansion and Development Manager, and María Eugenia Crivellini, delegate for Latin America of "EUROPEAN CASINOS-The Elite"



WMS INDUSTRIES REPORTS INCREASED EARNINGS

US company WMS Industries reported that its revenue from gaming operations increased by 33% in the fourth tax quarter, sending 8180 slots to gaming establishments world wide.

WMS, whose share price has increased on the New York stock exchange, has forecast earnings of over US\$700 million in 2009.



SUZO-HAPP GROUP NAMES EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR IN MACAU

The Suzo-Happ Group has selected Asia Pioneer Entertainment (APE) as its exclusive gaming distributor in Macau.

Marketing Suzo-Happ's broad product line, which includes toppers, illuminated pushbuttons, touch screens, Starpoint reels, Kortek monitors, MEI bill validators and FutureLogic printers, will allow Asia Pioneer Entertainment to offer local Casinos a one-stop shop for electronic games, technical service, components and parts and supplies.

In other news, Suzo-Happ has been chosen as distributor and representative for Accroser Technology gaming products in the US, Canada and Latin America.

Marcel Oelen, Suzo International Managing Director

