

PRESS RELEASE

Further details on Antonveneta agreement

Siena, 8 November 2007 - In connection with the agreement on the sale of Gruppo Banca Antonveneta to Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena by Banco Santander, MPS Group clarifies that the price for Gruppo Banca Antonveneta, excluding Interbanca, has been determined in €9 billion and will be paid in cash.

The transaction will be funded as follows:

- ca. 50% through an equity increase, to be offered to all existing shareholders;
- ca. 20/25% through the disposal of non strategic assets and the acceleration of the capital reallocation process on the “core business”;
- the remaining part through the existing cash and through the funding via other debt instruments (senior and subordinated). The payment of the price and the transfer of Banca Antonveneta shares will be executed once all the authorisations required by the applicable law are achieved.

Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena also clarifies that it will be assisted by Merrill Lynch International as lead financial advisor and by Mediobanca as co-advisor. In addition, Merrill Lynch International will advise MPS Group on the aspects related to the financing of the transaction