

EXPERT SYSTEM: RESULTS APPROVED FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018. GROUP REVENUES INCREASE TO € 28.7 MILLION WITH A FOURFOLD INCREASE IN EBITDA TO € 4.6 MILLION

• Principal consolidated results as at 31/12/2018:

- Sales revenues^{*} of € 28.7 million, +12.1% compared to 2017 (€ 25.6 million)
- Value of production of € 35.5 million, +8.2% compared to 2017 (€ 32.8 million)
- EBITDA of € 4.6 million, with growth of around € 3.6 million (+343%) compared to 2017 (€ 1.0 million) and EBITDA MARGIN of 16.2%
- Net Financial Position of € 12.4 million (€ 8.8 million as at 31/12/2017)

Modena, 26 March 2019

The Board of Directors of <u>Expert System S.p.A.</u>, a market leader in Artificial Intelligence, listed on the AIM Italia market, organised and managed by Borsa Italiana, today approved the Group consolidated financial statements and draft financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2018, which will be submitted for approval to the Ordinary Shareholders' Meeting on 17 April 2019 (first call) and, if necessary, on 18 April 2019 (second call).

Stefano Spaggiari, Chief Executive Officer of Expert System S.p.A., commented:

"For Expert System, 2018 was a year of great satisfaction both in terms of technology, with the confirmed global leadership of Cogito, and in terms of sales. We complied with guidance regarding turnover and EBITDA, which stands at 16.2% with a growth of 343%, in a gradually maturing market, where artificial intelligence is increasingly emerging as strategic leverage in terms of competitiveness and development. We saw good growth in the enterprise segment in Italy, Spain and the UK with the acquisition of significant new orders, and in the United States within the government sector. We consolidated the business model development process related to the sale of subscription licences compared to perpetual ones (the former now stand at 72%), registering a CAGR for 2016-2018 of 61.2% for this important aspect. These excellent

^{*} Sales net of change in inventories



results were also achieved by increasing the margins for Professional Services and, at the same time, optimising costs while leaving room for significant R&D investments and the development of new sales channels, which represent important assets within the corporate strategy."

PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC-FINANCIAL RESULTS IN THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018

Sales revenues^{*} totalled € 28.7 million (€ 25.6 million in 2017), up 12.1% thanks to an increase in sales of subscription licences and the good performance in Italy and abroad, accounting for 56% of revenues, with interesting results in the USA, UK and Spain. In particular, in Spain and in the UK (+95.1% and +63.6%, respectively, compared to 2017) the number of corporate clients increased, while in the USA, revenues for the government component increased (+66.4%) thanks to the maturation of the considerable investments made over recent years which are starting to have clear effects. There was also excellent performance in the domestic market, with a growth of +31.7% compared to the previous financial year. Regarding the revenue component from licences, the percentage of subscription licence sales increased considerably, with a value of 72% of the total licences in 2018 (41% in 2017). The Value of Production is € 35.5 million (€ 32.8 million in 2017), up 8.2%.

EBITDA stands at \in 4.6 million, with a significant growth of \in 3.6 million (+343%) compared to 2017 (\in 1.0 million), and also with a notable improvement in the EBITDA MARGIN, going from 4.1% in 2017 to 16.2% in 2018, thanks not only to an increase in revenues, but also to an improvement in operational efficiency and cost optimisation.

The **EBIT** value is negative by \notin 3.2 million, a significant improvement of around \notin 3.3 million compared to the result obtained in 2017 (negative by \notin 6.5 million), after amortisation, depreciation and provisions of \notin 7.9 million deriving mainly from \notin 5.4 million of investments in technological development, and \notin 2.3 million from the amortisation of consolidation differences arising from acquisitions made in recent years.

Expert System Group's **Net Profit/Loss**, with a negative value of \notin 3.8 million, improved considerably compared to the previous year (negative value of \notin 8.3 million), in part thanks to the improvement in

^{*} Sales net of change in inventories



financial management, which registered a result of \notin 97 thousand (negative value of \notin 2.2 million as at 31/12/2017), benefiting from intercompany net exchange gains of \notin 556 thousand (net intercompany exchange losses of \notin 1.7 million in 2017).

The **Net Financial Position** is \notin 12.4 million, an improvement on expectations (in fact, a range of \notin 12.9-13.6 million was forecast - see press release of 23 March 2018), compared to \notin 8.8 million as at 31/12/2017; this variation is mainly attributable to the \notin 2.6 million growth in current assets. **Equity** is \notin 15.0 million compared to \notin 19.3 million as at 31 December 2017.

PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC-FINANCIAL RESULTS OF EXPERT SYSTEM S.P.A. AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018

Sales revenues* of € 18.9 million (€ 15.0 million in 2017).Value of Production is € 23.1 million (€ 19.3 million in 2017).EBITDA is € 6.8 million (€ 3.3 million in 2017).EBIT is € 2.3 million (€ 0.0 million in 2017).Net Profit/Loss is positive by € 1.6 million (negative by € 1.1 million in 2017).Net financial position is € 13.1 million (€ 8.8 million as at 31 December 2017).Equity is € 38.8 million (€ 37.2 million as at 31 December 2017).

Proposed allocation of the profit (loss) for the year

The Board of Directors decided to propose to the Shareholders' Meeting the following allocation of profit (loss) for the year of \notin 1,584,789.18: \notin 27,818.70 to the legal reserve, \notin 218,907.38 to the exchange adjustment reserve and \notin 1,338,063.10 to the extraordinary reserve.

MAIN COMPANY EVENTS OF 2018

- *31 January*: GENERALI signs an agreement with Expert System to implement the potential of artificial intelligence into its work processes in Spain.
- *14 March:* Expert System joins a European project promoted and financed by EIT Digital, the community supporting digital transformation processes in EU countries, aimed at preventing cyberbullying by exploiting the potential of artificial intelligence.

^{*} Sales net of change in inventories



- *14 March*: Expert System is confirmed among the top 100 Knowledge Management companies. This prestigious accolade is given by the US magazine KMWorld to the best companies operating in the knowledge management industry.
- *9 April*: Cogito[®] among the leading artificial intelligence platforms in the world. Forrester adds Expert System to its new report *"Now Tech: AI-Based Text Analytics Platforms, Q2 2018".*
- 15 May: new leadership position in Artificial Intelligence. Confirming the technological leadership of Cogito[®] and a continuous commitment to innovation, Expert System improves its automatic knowledge acquisition functions using machine learning and semantics.
- 29 May: the development strategy continues with the launch of two products for Insurance companies, and the positioning of the Company in the artificial intelligence market is consolidated through verticalization of the offer in high-potential sectors.
- 31 May: according to Forrester, Cogito[®] is one of the leading social listening platforms in the world (monitoring, analysis and creation of strategies for web social listening to provide practical support for supplier assessment based on the functions offered).
- 4 June: the Board of Directors approves the "2018-2020 Stock Grant Plan" aimed at Expert System employees and its subsidiaries, with the resulting free-of-charge share capital increase of up to € 8,000, for a maximum of 800,000 new ordinary shares, and the "2018-2020 Stock Option Plan" aimed at members of the Board of Directors, employees, collaborators and consultants of Expert System and its subsidiaries, resulting in the proposal to increase the share capital against payment, in divisible form and with exclusion of option rights, up to € 1,260,000, with a maximum of 1,200,000 new ordinary shares. The appointment of a new independent director is also proposed, thus increasing the number of members of the Board of Directors from 7 to 8. The Board of Directors' proposals were approved by the Shareholders' Meeting on 11 July.
- 28 June: the second tranche of the Temis 2016-2020 Stock Grant Plan is allocated.
- *18 July:* Expert System is added to the Gartner Magic Quadrant for Insight Engines. The Company is once again confirmed among the top 13 companies in the world in 2018 for business information analysis and research activities.
- *9 August*: Forrester includes Expert System among those vendors which, thanks to advanced text analytics functionalities, place themselves at the heart of the convergence of Robotic Process Automation and Artificial Intelligence.



- *5 September*: consolidation of the partnership with Blue Prism, global leader in the Robotic Process Automation market.
- 18 September: Cogito[®] gains the prestigious accolade of the US magazine KMWorld dedicated to trend-setting products. This is the fourth year running that KMWorld has recognised the excellence and uniqueness of Expert System's technological approach.
- 20 September: Crédit Agricole Corporate & Investment Bank integrates Cogito[®] in its PanOptes analytical tool, aimed at automating the analysis and processing of public information flows as well as the management of unstructured content.
- *10 October*: Expert System and Dow Jones show the crucial role that artificial intelligence plays in the publishing industry, enabling the processing of huge volumes of content and guaranteeing immediate access, to the benefit of customers.
- *18 October*: second edition of the international Expert System event dedicated to artificial intelligence in the business world (Cogito AI Day). Guests in Paris: Forrester Research, Accenture, Belfius Bank, Swiss Re, Zurich, Crédit Agricole CIB and SEB Group.
- 8 November: Rabobank, the Dutch banking group specialising in financial services signs a partnership with Expert System, which continues its strategy of growth and international development, adding a new goal for Cogito[®] in the banking sector.
- 12 December: through the Cogito Lab in Madrid, Expert System partners two European research projects – DANTE and Trivalent – aimed at exploiting the potential of Cogito[®] in the analysis of texts to identify danger signs linked to terrorism.

EVENTS AFTER THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

- 10 January: AXA XL Risk Consulting, part of AXA Group one of the global leaders in the insurance sector, chooses Expert System's artificial intelligence to strengthen its Property Risk Engineering capabilities, through automation of the reading of property appraisals using natural language processing.
- *7 February*: the Board of Directors approves the framework resolution regarding the renewal of the intercompany financing plan in relation to subsidiaries.
- *15 March*: Expert System among the top 100 Knowledge Management companies. This is the fifth year running that the experts at KMWorld have awarded the Company this prestigious accolade.



• *19 March*: release of the new version of Cogito[®] announced. Once again, the full commitment to customer and partner requirements is confirmed, as well as the continuous attention to innovation.

BUSINESS OUTLOOK

For 2019, the Company confirms the growth trend that has characterised the last two years of business management; the results recorded in 2018 signal a significant time of positive discontinuity in terms of margins, confirming the effectiveness of the medium-long term strategies followed by the Company towards business expansion and the continuous improvement of the Cogito technology platform. The targets for 2019 declared in the previous financial year remain the same, supported by the gradual maturation of the reference market, by the acquisition of new clients of international standing, and by the ever-evolving partnerships with "third parties".

TREASURY SHARES

As at 31/12/2018, the Parent Company Expert System S.p.A. held 76,709 treasury shares. The change compared to the 141,139 treasury shares held as at 31/12/2017 is attributable to the assignment of 64,430 treasury shares following the maturity on 28/06/2018 of the second tranche of the Temis 2016-2020 Stock Grant Plan, previously approved by the Shareholders' Meeting of 28/06/2016.

OTHER RESOLUTIONS

The Board of Directors also approved, in accordance with the related parties procedure, conversion of financial receivables for recapitalisation of the 100%-controlled subsidiary Expert System France S.A. for € 0.3 million.

Finally, the plan to appoint a proxy to the administrative body was approved, in accordance with articles 2443 and 2420-ter of the Italian Civil Code, to increase the share capital and issue convertible bonds (also excluding option rights pursuant to article 2441, paragraph 5 of the Italian Civil Code) for an overall amount of \notin 10 million. The Board of Directors therefore agreed to convene the Ordinary and Extraordinary Shareholders' Meeting for approval of the above on 17 April 2019 (first call) and on 18 April 2019 (second call) at the Company's offices in Modena.



With regard to this proxy, Expert System intends to give itself operational flexibility in order to be able to raise funds, if necessary, so as to significantly accelerate Group growth across all the main markets it operates in, both directly and indirectly; market maturation is happening much faster than in the past and the potential to make larger investments than currently planned could be a key factor in guaranteeing the Group a higher than expected growth in revenues.

Notice of call

The notice of call will be published on 02 April 2019 in the "Italia Oggi" newspaper and the full version will be made available in the "Investor Relations" section of the website www.expertsystem.com.

The consolidated financial statements and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2018 will be made available to the public under the terms and conditions provided by AIM Italia Issuer Regulations, as well as on the Company's website, <u>www.expertsystem.com/it</u>, in the section "Investor Relations/Financial Reports."

This press release is available on the Company's website <u>www.expertsystem.com/it</u> and on <u>www.emarketstorage.com</u>.

Expert System

Leader in the cognitive computing and text analytics market, Expert System offers the most innovative artificial intelligence solutions for process automation and information management. Through its Cogito[®] technology, based on the combination of semantic comprehension and machine learning, we ensure that our partners and customers acquire the strategic knowledge to accelerate decision-making processes and maximise ROI: from customer care to compliance, from management of risk profiles to security and intelligence. The group has offices in Italy, France, Spain, Germany, UK, USA, and Canada, and its main business and government customers include: Zurich Group, Lloyd's of London, Intesa Sanpaolo, Chevron, Eni Group, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Department of Justice, French Interior Ministry and Economic and Finance Ministry, Wolters Kluwer, Ely Lilly, Sanofi, and others. The Company has been listed on the AIM market of Borsa Italiana since 2014 (EXSY:MIL).

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 www.expertsystem.com/it

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Attachments:

- Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31/12/2018
- Consolidated Income Statement for 2018
- Consolidated Net Financial Position as at 31/12/2018
- Expert System S.p.A. Balance Sheet as at 31/12/2018
- Expert System S.p.A. Income Statement for 2018
- Net financial position of Expert System S.p.A. as at 31/12/2018

It should be noted that the financial data reported are currently undergoing certification by the appointed Independent Auditors.



Consolidated Balance Sheet	31/12/2018	31/12/2017	Change
Net intangible fixed assets	14,733,649	16,944,056	(2,210,407)
Net tangible fixed assets	715,423	791,868	(76,444)
Equity investments and other non-current financial assets	4,568,003	3,826,254	741,750
Fixed assets	20,017,076	21,562,177	(1,545,101)
Short-term financial assets	4,775,574	4,583,074	192,500
Inventories	109,312	99,207	10,104
Receivables due from customers	15,792,097	12,384,149	3,407,948
Other receivables	5,321,954	6,018,231	(696,276)
Accrued income and prepaid expenses	577,090	582,304	(5,214)
Short-term operating assets	26,576,027	23,666,965	2,909,062
Trade payables	(2,807,819)	(2,224,541)	(583,278)
Payments on account	(236,256)	(869,024)	632,768
Tax and social security payables	(1,827,535)	(1,829,052)	1,517
Other payables	(2,074,263)	(2,583,753)	509,490
Accrued expenses and deferred income	(3,883,738)	(3,023,288)	(860,450)
Short-term operating liabilities	(10,829,611)	(10,529,658)	(299,953)
Net working capital	15,746,416	13,137,307	2,609,109
Employee severance indemnity	(2,143,307)	(1,876,192)	(267,115)
Tax and social security payables	-	-	-
Accrued expenses and deferred income after 12 months	(4,681,359)	(3,574,759)	(1,106,600)
Other medium and long-term liabilities	(1,456,729)	(1,183,398)	(273,331)
Medium-term liabilities	(8,281,396)	(6,634,350)	(1,647,046)
INVESTED CAPITAL	27,482,095	28,065,134	(583,038)
Shareholders' equity	(15,077,489)	(19,275,808)	4,198,320
Net medium/long-term financial position	(14,810,677)	(14,682,546)	(128,131)
Net short-term financial position	2,406,071	5,893,220	(3,487,149)
OWN EQUITY AND NET FINANCIAL DEBT	(27,482,095)	(28,065,135)	583,040



Consolidated Income Statement	31/12/2018	31/12/2017	Change
Sales revenues	28,697,152	26,136,230	2,560,922
Change in inventories	10,104	(527,733)	537,838
Own work capitalised	5,043,857	5,552,488	(508,631)
Sundry income	1,759,421	1,646,570	112,851
Value of operating production	35,510,534	32,807,555	2,702,980
Cost of operating materials and overheads	(12,305,363)	(12,451,604)	146,241
Value added	23,205,171	20,355,951	2,849,221
Personnel costs	(18,567,191)	(19,309,628)	742,437
EBITDA	4,637,981	1,046,323	3,591,658
Amortisation, depreciation and provisions	(7,866,532)	(7,542,356)	(324,176)
EBIT	(3,228,551)	(6,496,033)	3,267,482
Financial area result	97,296	(2,191,223)	2,288,520
Ordinary profit	(3,131,255)	(8,687,256)	5,556,001
Extraordinary area result	-	-	-
Pre-tax result	(3,131,255)	(8,687,256)	5,556,001
Income taxes	(649,631)	348,129	(997,760)
Net profit (loss)	(3,780,886)	(8,339,127)	4,558,241



Consolidated net financial position	31/12/2018	31/12/2017	Change
Bank deposits	7,880,364	11,221,661	(3,341,297)
Cash at bank and in hand	2,420	3,029	(609)
Cheques	-	10,000	(10,000)
Treasury shares	-	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents and treasury shares	7,882,784	11,234,690	(3,351,906)
Current financial assets	182,629	34,402	148,226
Bonds and convertible bonds (within 12 months)	-	-	-
Payables due to shareholders for loans (within 12 months)	-	-	-
Payables due to banks (within 12 months)	(4,925,611)	(3,910,091)	(1,015,520)
Payables due to other lenders (within 12 months)	(733,731)	(1,465,781)	732,050
Advances for overseas payments	-	-	-
Short-term portion of loans	-	-	-
Financial receivables	-	-	-
Short-term financial payables	(5,659,342)	(5,375,872)	(283,470)
Net short-term financial position	2,406,071	5,893,220	(3,487,149)
Bonds and convertible bonds (after 12 months)	(5,000,000)	(5,000,000)	-
Payables due to shareholders for loans (after 12 months)	-	-	-
Payables due to banks (after 12 months)	(8,124,081)	(7,846,031)	(278,050)
Payables due to other lenders (after 12 months)	(1,686,596)	(1,836,515)	149,919
Advances for overseas payments	-	-	-
Long-term portion of loans	_	_	-
Financial receivables	_	_	-
Net medium/long-term financial position	(14,810,677)	(14,682,546)	(128,131)
NET FINANCIAL POSITION	(12,404,606)	(8,789,326)	(3,615,280)



Expert System S.p.A. Balance Sheet	31/12/2018	31/12/2017	Change
Net intangible fixed assets	6,903,124	6,881,909	21,215
Net tangible fixed assets	582,182	629,668	(47,486)
Equity investments and other non-current financial assets	31,646,478	29,700,251	1,946,227
Fixed assets	39,131,783	37,211,828	1,919,955
Short-term financial assets	4,775,574	4,583,074	192,500
Inventories	0	39,209	(39,209)
Receivables due from customers	9,752,781	7,415,708	2,337,072
Other receivables	8,679,643	7,027,164	1,652,479
Accrued income and prepaid expenses	413,459	484,463	(71,003)
Short-term operating assets	23,621,457	19,549,618	4,071,839
Trade payables	(2,015,347)	(1,585,486)	(429,861)
Payments on account	(234,980)	(759,920)	524,940
Tax and social security payables	(1,201,166)	(965,347)	(235,819)
Other payables	(1,762,690)	(2,885,886)	1,123,196
Accrued expenses and deferred income	(908,668)	(1,230,651)	321,982
Short-term operating liabilities	(6,122,851)	(7,427,289)	1,304,438
Net working capital	17,498,606	12,122,329	5,376,277
Employee severance indemnity	(2,143,307)	(1,876,192)	(267,115)
Tax and social security payables	0	0	0
Accrued expenses and deferred income after 12 months	(2,141,052)	(1,118,738)	(1,022,313)
Other medium and long-term liabilities	(456,248)	(310,660)	(145,589)
Medium-term liabilities	(4,740,607)	(3,305,591)	(1,435,017)
INVESTED CAPITAL	51,889,781	46,028,567	5,861,214
Shareholders' equity	(38,754,161)	(37,187,045)	(1,567,116)
Net medium/long-term financial position	(13,642,341)	(13,492,536)	(149,805)
Net short-term financial position	506,720	4,651,013	(4,144,293)
OWN EQUITY AND NET FINANCIAL DEBT	(51,889,781)	(46,028,567)	(5,861,214)



Expert System S.p.A. Income Statement	31/12/2018	31/12/2017	Change
Sales revenues	18,977,922	15,529,468	3,448,454
Change in inventories	(39,209)	(571,692)	532,483
Own work capitalised	3,101,046	3,225,947	(124,901)
Sundry income	1,073,091	1,070,344	2,747
Value of operating production	23,112,851	19,254,067	3,858,784
Cost of operating materials and overheads	(8,275,135)	(8,202,213)	(72,922)
Value added	14,837,716	11,051,854	3,785,862
Personnel costs	(8,024,616)	(7,742,402)	(282,214)
EBITDA	6,813,100	3,309,452	3,503,648
Amortisation, depreciation and provisions	(4,541,857)	(3,274,897)	(1,266,960)
EBIT	2,271,243	34,556	2,236,687
Financial area result	199,380	(1,312,032)	1,511,411
Ordinary profit	2,470,622	(1,277,476)	3,748,098
Extraordinary area result	0	0	0
Pre-tax result	2,470,622	(1,277,476)	3,748,098
Income taxes	(885,833)	205,957	(1,091,790)
Net profit (loss)	1,584,789	(1,071,519)	2,656,308



Net Financial Position of Expert System S.p.A.	31/12/2018	31/12/2017	Change
Bank deposits	5,550,033	8,840,305	(3,290,273)
Cash at bank and in hand	2,144	2,796	(652)
Treasury shares			
Cash and cash equivalents and treasury shares	5,552,177	8,843,101	(3,290,925)
Current financial assets	8,400	8,400	0
Bonds and convertible bonds (within 12 months)			
Payables due to shareholders for loans (within 12 months)			
Payables due to banks (within 12 months)	(4,925,611)	(3,910,162)	(1,015,449)
Payables due to other lenders (within 12 months)	(128,245)	(290,325)	162,080
Advances for overseas payments			
Short-term portion of loans			
Financial receivables			
Short-term financial payables	(5,053,856)	(4,200,488)	(853,369)
Net short-term financial position	506,720	4,651,013	(4,144,293)
Bonds and convertible bonds (after 12 months)	(5,000,000)	(5,000,000)	0
Payables due to shareholders for loans (after 12 months)			
Payables due to banks (after 12 months)	(8,124,081)	(7,846,031)	(278,050)
Payables due to other lenders (after 12 months)	(518,260)	(646,505)	128,245
Advances for overseas payments			
Long-term portion of loans			
Financial receivables			
Net medium/long-term financial position	(13,642,341)	(13,492,536)	(149,805)
NET FINANCIAL POSITION	(13,135,621)	(8,841,522)	(4,294,098)