

Aksia Capital SGR announces the second acquisition of Aksia Capital V: Valpizza, leading player in the frozen pizza market

Aksia Group SGR with the fund Aksia Capital V invests in the frozen pizza sector by acquiring Valpizza. The development plan will allow the company to fully exploit its potential for expansion and consolidate the market position, growing also through add-on acquisitions.

Milan, 29 July 2020 - The independent private equity firm Aksia Group SGR SpA announces the acquisition of a relevant majority stake of Valpizza, a well-established player active in the production and commercialization of frozen pizza. This is the second investment of Aksia Capital V fund after the leader in dental clinics and polyclinics market, Primo Group.

Valpizza S.r.l., founded in 1992 in Valsamoggia (BO) by Mr. Vanes Biagi (who will maintain a stake of 20% of the company), occupies a **strong market position thanks to its reputation as a highly reliable supplier of frozen pizza base and topped pizza**. Since the foundation, the company has grown due to a significant focus on product, process innovation and technology. In 2019 the company registered a turnover of approximately Euro 20 million and an EBITDA margin in excess of Euro 4 million.

Today Valpizza boasts a state-of-the-art production plant of 7,400 sqm producing approximately 30 million pieces per year. Furthermore, the company has recently launched a new project for the construction of a new manufacturing facility with a total area of 11,000 sqm in order to satisfy the demand increase. The new plant will double the production capacity.

With the aim to further strengthen the existing managerial structure and allow the company to deliver the Business Plan, Aksia Group identified as **new CEO Marco Setti**, who has extensive experience and a strong commercial background in companies operating in the food sector and participated in the operation by investing a minority stake. Vanes Biagi will become the Chairman, mainly supporting in the evaluation and construction of the new production site.

«We decided to invest in a leading player in this market - says Marco Rayneri, Managing Partner of Aksia Group. Our development plan, together with the strengthening of the managerial structure and the consolidation of the company's business both in the domestic and international market, foresees further investments in production capacity, a new marketing and communication strategy and the launch of new products. Furthermore, we will also expand the company through acquisitions».

Aksia was advised by the lawyers Francesco Cartolano and Matteo Acerbi from the law firm **Giliberti Triscornia e Associati** for the legal aspects, by Leo de Rosa and Federica Paiella from the tax law firm **Russo De Rosa Associati**, by Marco Ginnasi and Enrico Perego from **EY** for financial and ESG aspects and by Alberto De Luca from **De Luca and Partners** for labor matters.

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