Press Release

Il Sole 24 ORE S.p.A.

Results as at 30 June 2026 were approved

IL SOLE 24 ORE GROUP CLOSES THE HALF-YEAR WITH A PROFIT OF EURO 1.2 MILLION

EBITDA AT EURO 11.3 MILLION, UP 6.7%

EBIT AT EURO 3.4 MILLION, UP 18.9%

- **Positive performance for databases, software and the Radiocor agency**
- **The push towards multimedia supports the Group's advertising sales, also thanks to the contribution of the new IlSole24OreTV channel and podcasts**
- **Reader growth in the Audicom Print 2026/1 survey: +4.5%**
- **The Group's total social audience rises to 10.4 million followers**

The 2025 Sustainability Report was also approved

THE INTEGRATION OF SUSTAINABILITY INTO THE GROUP'S STRATEGY WAS CONFIRMED

Milan, 30 July 2026 - The Board of Directors of Il Sole 24 ORE S.p.A., which met today under the chairmanship of Maria Carmela Colaiacovo, approved the Half-yearly financial report at 30 June 2026 and the 2025 Sustainability Report of Il Sole 24 ORE Group.

The positive trend in the results continues, with the Group closing H1 2026 with **improved operating margins and a net positive profit of Euro 1.2 million, up 17.7%** compared to the same period of 2025, despite the persistent difficulties in the Italian publishing market and a geopolitical and economic context still characterised by unpredictability and moderate growth outlooks.

In H1, Il Sole 24 ORE Group reported **consolidated revenues** of Euro 102.9 million (Euro 105.2 million in the same period of 2025), including Euro 42.4 million in **advertising revenues**, Euro 45.9 million in **publishing revenues** and Euro 14.6 million in **other revenues**. In detail, there was **growth** in **revenues from databases (+4.0%)** and **software (+70.4%)** thanks to the integration of AI services, the **training** business (**+28.9%**) and the **Radiocor press agency (+6.7%),** as well as the positive contribution of the new **IlSole24OreTV** channel and **podcasts**. These trends partially offset the decline in the exhibition sector, in distribution revenues from newspapers, books and magazines, and in advertising revenues.

The H1 2026 **gross operating margin (*ebitda*)** was a positive Euro 11.3 million, an increase of 6.7% compared to the same period in 2025, thanks to cost containment. The **operating profit *(ebit)*** for the first half of 2026 is positive at Euro 3.4 million, up 18.9% compared to Euro 2.8 million in 2025.

The **net profit** is positive at Euro 1.2 million, up 17.7% compared to the result of Euro 1.1 million in the first half of 2025.

The Group's **net financial position** at 30th June 2026 is a negative Euro 14.3 million, compared with a positive Euro 6.1 million at 31 December 2025. The change is mainly attributable to the repayment of the loan agreement acquired following the effectiveness of the reverse merger of Zenit S.p.A., which followed the completion of the voluntary public tender offer promoted by Zenit for the special category shares of Il Sole 24 ORE not held by Confindustria.

Equity amounted to Euro 17 million compared to Euro 36.6 million at 31 December 2025, mainly due to the impact of the reverse merger of Zenit S.p.A. combined with the performance of the results for the period.

As for **circulation figures**, the daily newspaper Il Sole 24 ORE for the period from January to May 2026 totalled (paper+digital) 107,728 average copies per day (-8.2% compared to the same period in 2025, with the market down -8.4%). As regards the data on copies sold of Il Sole 24 ORE, the ***Total Paid For Circulation*** for the first half of 2026 was determined as 215,757 copies **(up 31.8% compared to the same period in 2025),** including all multiple digital copies sold, but not declarable as distributed for ADS purposes and therefore not included in the relevant declaration.

Indicators were up for the portal **www.ilsole24ore.com**: in the period from January to June 2026, it recorded a daily average of **over 1 million unique browsers, up 16.7%** compared to the same period in 2025 (source: *Mapp Intelligence*). **Excellent results for the video component,** which recorded an average of 20.8 million monthly views, including live videos, **up 17.4%** compared to H1 2025.

The performance on *Social Networks* was also excellent: at the end of June 2026**, Il Sole 24 ORE** had a total fanbase of **6.4 million** followers, with steady growth on virtually all platforms. Il Sole 24 Ore was also confirmed in the first half of 2026 as the **first publisher in terms of** followers **on LinkedIn**, the social network dedicated to the professional world, with the native newsletter Management 24 (WhatsApp Web +15.3%, TikTok +16.0%, YouTube +8.9%, Instagram +9.3%, LinkedIn +3.7%, Facebook +4.4%, X-Twitter -3.0%; sources: *WhatsApp, YouTube Analytics, TikTok Analytics, Meta Analytics, Linkedin Analytics, X-Twitter Analytics*). These numbers are accompanied by the **total social audience** of **Il Sole 24 ORE Group**, including the social profiles of Radio 24, Radiocor, IlSole24OreTV, HTSI, 24 ORE Eventi, 24 ORE Cultura, Il Sole 24 ORE Professionale and L'Esperto Risponde, which in July 2026 rose to **10.4 million followers**.

Radio 24 marked an all-time record of listeners in Q1 2026 with 2,685,000 listeners, and in Q2 2026 it had 2,530,000 listeners on an average day, a figure stably above **2.5 million daily listeners**, confirming the public's strong appreciation of the broadcaster's editorial offering (source: Audiradio Q1 and Q2 2026). These figures are accompanied by the results of the innovative **Radio 24 - 4.0 platform**, which recorded an **average of 9.1 million page views per month** in the period January-June 2026; the number of **single users** reached a monthly average of **1.5 million** (source: *Mapp Intelligence – January/June 2026*).

During 2026, the activity of **24 ORE Podcast** saw further development through the creation of **24OrePodcast.com**, the new dedicated access point that enhances the offer of original podcasts from **Radio 24, Il Sole 24 Ore** and **the entire Group**.
In the period January-June 2026, **audio streams** (download and streaming on demand) of podcasts from Radio 24 and Il Sole 24 Ore, accessible through website and Radio 24 apps for

Mobile, Smart TV, Automotive devices, Smart Speaker Alexa, from the website and Il Sole 24 Ore App and the main third party platforms (Spotify, Apple Podcast, Amazon Music) were **56.8 million**, for a **monthly average of 9.4 million downloads** (sources: *January/June 2026, Audiometrix for the website and app, Spotify Metrix for Spotify, Apple Analytics for Apple, Amazon Analytics for Amazon*).

Initiatives in H1 2026

In January 2026, at the end of the newspaper's 160th anniversary celebrations held in 2025, the Group launched a major rebranding operation, which saw the introduction of a new name, a new visual identity and a new brand aimed at enhancing the evolution of the entire publishing group. The project involved the entire brand architecture, strengthening the unified identity of Il Sole 24 ORE Group and making the integration between the different publications, initiatives and business areas – newspaper, digital, radio, press agency, television, podcasts, events, training and professional services – more recognisable. The new brand system, accompanied by a contemporary and consistent graphic identity across all touchpoints, represents innovation, the connection between skills and the Group's ability to generate value through an integrated ecosystem of publishing brands and skills. The new name – Gruppo Il Sole 24 ORE – celebrates a history spanning over 160 years by bringing the newspaper back to centre stage, while the new logo represents the integration between tradition and innovation, combining newspaper pages with a heart of pixels, a metaphor for the Group's digital evolution and increasingly integrated multimedia identity. With the new logo and the new payoff - "Presenti al futuro" - Il Sole 24 ORE Group looks to the future as a dynamic organisation, capable of innovating without losing its solidity, authoritativeness and credibility.

In the first half of 2026, Il Sole 24 ORE Group launched three major projects in the name of multimedia, multi-channel and strategic innovation: the **new home page of Sole24Ore.com,** which enhances the **multimedia content** of all the Group's media, introduces **new formats** and the complete integration of **24 ORE AI**, a conversational assistant that opens the doors to the entire information assets of Il Sole 24 ORE; the renewal of the digital newspapers dedicated to professionals and the PA **Norme&Tributi Plus**, with a new content architecture and enhanced AI search; and the new **24 ORE NextMed** platform, previewed to the national and international business community at the Trento Festival of Economics, and officially launched in June 2026. **24 ORE NextMed** is a publishing and strategic platform dedicated to the wider Mediterranean area, with the aim of positioning Il Sole 24 ORE Group as a point of reference for businesses, institutions and stakeholders in the area. The project integrates a multimedia ecosystem with a permanent Observatory aimed at fostering analysis, discussion and networking on the main geopolitical and economic issues. Through content, research, events and business intelligence activities, 24 ORE NextMed strengthens the Group's role as an enabler of relations and a promoter of dialogue between Europe, Africa, the Balkans and the Gulf countries, helping to enhance Italy's strategic centrality in the Mediterranean.

24 ORE NextMed marks a new phase in **the internationalisation strategy of Il Sole 24 ORE Group**, which in the first half of 2026 supported Italian companies with new publishing initiatives and services dedicated to foreign markets: **the Italy-Japan Observatory**, created from the experience of Expo Osaka 2025 to explore economic opportunities between Italy and Japan, and **ExPAnD**, the platform in collaboration with Confindustria that supports companies and professionals in the analysis of export opportunities through up-to-date data and indicators.

The first half of 2026 also saw the progressive development of the **IlSole24OreTV** television project through an enrichment of content with original productions and editorial collaborations with market leaders and an increasingly integrated distribution **on digital terrestrial, streaming, FAST and OEM platforms**, culminating in the acquisition of a new **DTT** number: from 24 June, IlSole24OreTV moves to **channel 63**. This is a strategic move that strengthens the channel's accessibility, recognisability and centrality in the national television offering.

The coverage by the multimedia and cross-media platform ***24ORE Salute*** continues. It has become a point of reference for companies, institutions and citizens on the topics of health, medicine, research and healthcare thanks to its ability to combine the authoritativeness, reliability and informative power of the information from Il Sole 24 Ore, Radio 24 and Radiocor with the planning of all areas of the Group. The **implementation of AI in the professional databases** of Il Sole 24 Ore, already adopted by more than **9,000 customers**, and in the new Valore24 AI Office solution chosen by **more than 3,000 customers**, continues successfully. Finally, the success of the **Trento Festival of Economics** was confirmed; this is the flagship event among those organised by the Group, with 45,000 attendees in the venues, over 3.2 million views (+52% vs 2025) and more than 2.1 million single users reached on the official social media channels, plus 1 million views of the live streams on the Sole 24 Ore website.

The first half of 2026 also saw the commitment to content production recognised with **three important awards**: the ***Digital News Report* 2026,** conducted in 48 countries by the Oxford University Reuters Institute, certified **Il Sole 24 ORE as the leading daily newspaper in Italy in terms of reliability** for the **ninth consecutive year**.

In June, the **Audicom Print 2026/1** survey was published, which measures the **readership** of daily newspapers and periodicals. Il Sole 24 Ore, with **698,000 readers** on the average day, was ranked in the top positions for best performance among national newspapers, recording **+4.5%** compared to the previous period, a significant growth also confirmed in the comparison with the same period **(+3.1%**). This result was achieved, on the one hand, by keeping **print readers stable**, which is particularly important in a scenario marked by the closure of newsagents and the general decline in print sales, and on the other hand, by recording a **double-digit increase in readers of the digital replica**, amounting to **+13%**. The figure has an even more positive connotation, taking into account the national context in which the readership of newspapers fell by 2.7% compared to the immediately preceding survey (Audicom Sistema Audipress 2025/III) and by 6.4% compared to the year-on-year survey (Audicom Sistema Audipress 2025/I).

Finally, as part of the 20th edition of the **NC Awards** organised by ADC Group, the Group's CEO, Federico Silvestri, was awarded the *Media Person of the Year* award for leading the transformation of Il Sole 24 ORE Group through rebranding on the occasion of the newspaper's 160th anniversary, the launch of TV and the integration of multimedia and artificial intelligence, building a unique publishing ecosystem and strengthening the Group's role in the country's economic, institutional and cultural landscape.

2025 Sustainability Report

The Board of Directors approved the 2025 Sustainability Report, prepared on a voluntary basis according to the GRI Sustainability Reporting Standards 2021. In 2025, Il Sole 24 ORE Group consolidated its sustainability journey with concrete results, confirming the integration of sustainability into the Group's strategy through measurable objectives and a development model aimed at creating shared value for people, the environment and the community.

On the people front, the enhancement of human capital continues to be a priority: the Group, with 734 employees, **53% of whom are women**, **renewed the** UNI/PdR 125:2022 **Gender Equality Certification** and invested in skills development with **5,352 hours of training** and the involvement of **over 700 people** in the **Corporate Academy** programmes dedicated to digital, cybersecurity and artificial intelligence.

In the environmental field, the Group **reduced energy consumption by 5.6%** compared to the previous year; **63% of the energy** purchased from the grid comes **from renewable sources** with a Guarantee of Origin, and a **new photovoltaic system** has come into operation at the Milan office, in addition to the one already present on the roof of the building. In terms of responsible **paper** management, 5,243 tonnes of paper were used in 2025, a **reduction of 7.4%** compared to 2024. **The pink paper** used by the Group comes from **suppliers with recognised certifications** – FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) and/or PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) – guaranteeing that the wood originates from forests managed responsibly according to environmental, social and economic criteria.

As far as cultural and social impact is concerned, 2025 also confirmed **the Group's ability to generate positive impacts** across all its areas of activity, continuing to promote knowledge and awareness on sustainability issues through editorial content, radio programmes, podcasts, publications, professional platforms and research projects. This includes initiatives such as the **Sustainability Channel of IlSole24Ore.com** and **the ESG Observatory on listed SMEs**, which help to spread knowledge and awareness on the main issues of the sustainable transition; the health information and social utility platform **24 ORE Salute**; the editorial coverage of **Alley Oop** on the issues of diversity and inclusion; the activities of **HTSI** dedicated to social and cultural transformations; the programmes of **Radio 24**; and the specialised offer of the **Professional Area** through SMART24 ESG, SMART24 HSE, publications, courses and discussion formats dedicated to sustainability.

Through **24 ORE Cultura** and **24 ORE Eventi**, the Group has also strengthened dialogue with local areas and communities, promoting opportunities for discussion, participation and shared growth, such as the **Trento Festival of Economics**, with 682,000 participants in person and digitally, which dedicated numerous meetings in the Festival and Fuori Festival programmes to the topics of sustainability, the energy and digital transition, healthcare and demography.

In particular, in 2025, **24 ORE Eventi** carried out **ten initiatives** that were particularly relevant from an ESG perspective , dedicated to inclusion, human capital, innovation and sustainability. Together, they involved 715,451 participants and 1,414 speakers, of whom 39% were women and 27% were under 50 years of age.

In 2025, **24 ORE Cultura** organised 12 exhibitions, with over 480,000 visitors, equipped with **measures dedicated to accessibility and inclusion**.

Finally, the Report highlights the strengthening of ESG governance through the 2025-2027 Sustainability Plan, which translates the Group's strategic priorities into measurable objectives and indicators, confirming the commitment to create lasting value for people, communities, territories and stakeholders.

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