NOT TO BE RELEASED, PUBLISHED OR DISTRIBUTED, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, IN WHOLE OR IN PART IN OR INTO THE UNITED STATES, AUSTRALIA, CANADA OR JAPAN OR ANY OTHER JURISDICTION WHERE SUCH RELEASE, PUBLICATION OR DISTRIBUTION WOULD BE UNLAWFUL

This document and the information contained herein do not contain or constitute an offer to sell securities, or a solicitation of an offer to purchase or subscribe securities, in the United States, Australia, Canada or Japan or any other jurisdiction where such an offer or solicitation would require the approval of local authorities or otherwise be unlawful (the "Other Countries"). Any public offering will be conducted in Italy pursuant to a prospectus, duly authorized by the Commissione Nazionale per le Società e la Borsa ("Consob"), in accordance with applicable regulations. Neither this document nor any part of it, nor the fact of its distribution may form the basis of, or be relied on in connection with, any contract or investment decision in relation thereto. The securities have not been registered and will not be registered in the United States under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), or pursuant to the regulations in force in Other Countries. The securities may not be offered or sold in the United States, unless such securities are registered under the Securities Act, or an exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act is available. Il Sole 24 ORE S.p.A. does not intend to register any portion of the Offer in the United States.



## **Press Release**

## PURCHASE AGREEMENT CONCLUDED WITH PALAMON ON TRAINING BUSINESS UNIT

Milan, 29 November 2017 - Il Sole 24 ORE S.p.A. (the "Issuer", the "Company" or "Il Sole") announces that today, Palamon Capital Partners LP ("PCP") and the Issuer have executed a purchase agreement concluded on 8 August 2017 and disclosed through the press release issued on 9 August 2017 on the disposal by the Company of a 49% interest (the "Interest") in Business School24 S.p.A. ("BS24"), a newly-formed company and transferee on 1 September 2017 of the business unit specialized in training activities (the "Training Business Unit") on behalf of the Issuer.

The Interest, as a result, has been transferred to Education Acquisition Limited, wholly owned by the Palamon funds and appointed as purchaser by PCP, in exercise of the right stipulated under the purchase agreement. Il Sole cashed in 36.7 million euro from the transfer, as the first tranche of the disposal consideration (totaling 40.8 million euro), while the residual amount of 4.1 million euro will be collected at the latest by 2023.

It should be noted that the transaction is a pivotal element in the capital and financial plan launched by the Board of Directors of the Issuer last spring; the plan envisages the provision to the Company of capital resources totaling 70 million euro, approximately 50 million euro of which arising from the capital increase with pre-emptive rights offer approved by the Shareholders' Meeting of the Issuer on 28 June 2017 and launched by the Company on 30 October 2017, which is expected to be completed next 30 November.

NOT TO BE RELEASED, PUBLISHED OR DISTRIBUTED, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, IN WHOLE OR IN PART IN OR INTO THE UNITED STATES, AUSTRALIA, CANADA OR JAPAN OR ANY OTHER JURISDICTION WHERE SUCH RELEASE, PUBLICATION OR DISTRIBUTION WOULD BE UNLAWFUL

As a result of the transaction, the share capital of BS24 is currently held 51% by the Issuer and 49% by Education Acquisition Limited, without prejudice to the purchase rights in favour of Education Acquisition Limited and the disposal rights in favour of the Company, as set out in the agreements between the parties and explained in the Issuer's registration document published pursuant to law and made available at the Il Sole headquarters in Via Monte Rosa 91, Milan, as well as on the website www.gruppo24ore.ilsole24ore.com.

Franco Moscetti, Chief Executive Officer of the 24 Ore Group, said: "The agreement signed today marks the start of a solid partnership with Palamon Capital Partners; thanks to its specific focus on training, it will further enhance Business School24. The company is already a highly positive, healthy and growing business, which can now take advantage of the complementary nature of the two major shareholders to speed up its growth further."

## **Media Contacts:**

Investor Relations:

Raffaella Romano - Tel: 02 30223728; e-mail: investor.relations@ilsole24ore.com

Press Office Manager 24 ORE Group:

Ginevra Cozzi - Mob. 335/1350144, e-mail: ginevra.cozzi@ilsole24ore.com