PRESS RELEASE

BANCA SISTEMA GROUP: PRONTOPEGNO IMPROVES THE PURCHASE OF THE PAWNSHOPS PORTFOLIO OF THE GROUP CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI ASTI

- **The growth plan of ProntoPegno continues with the opening of the fourteenth branch in Asti**

- **Gold/jewerly backed loans, confirming to be a product of the modern circular economy, certifies itself as the easiest and safest financial instrument to obtain an immediate loan**

Milan, 18th June 2021

The board of directors of Banca expresses satisfaction with the completion of the purchase, by the subsidiary ProntoPegno, of the credit portfolio of the CR Asti Banking Group (Cassa di Risparmio di Asti S.p.A. and Biver Banca - Cassa di Risparmio di Biella and Vercelli S.p.A). Continuing with the implementation of the industrial plan, ProntoPegno, after the recent openings in Parma and Brescia, will inaugurate the new Asti branch in Via Leonardo Botallo 9 on Tuesday 22 June.

The new branch, aimed at giving continuity to the offer of gold/jewerly backed loans for Piedmontese citizens who will also have the historic Turin branch at their disposal, will be open on Tuesday and Thursday at the following times: from 8.30 AM until 1.45 PM and 3.00 PM until 4.15 PM. The branch will also remain operational during the month of August.

The pawnshops of the CR Asti Banking Group are historical ones that have their roots in the Renaissance and in the following centuries. In particular, the pawnshop of Asti was founded in 1575 by the will of its bishop, Monsignor Domenico Della Rovere; the one of Biella in 1586 on the initiative of the Confraternity of San Cassiano. The pawnshop of Vercelli is the most recent, founded in 1759.

The opening of the fourteenth Italian branch of ProntoPegno demonstrates the strong growth trend of gold/jewerly backed loans, a financial instrument born in the Middle Ages and changed over time to become a product of the modern circular economy. By giving mostly superfluous, often obsolete, and no longer fashionable items as collateral, you get the liquidity you need immediately for the needs of modern daily life.

According to the monitoring data centre of the company, the number of insurance policies done in the gold/jewerly backed loans sector in Italy in the past year has increased by 30%, as well as the renewal and the number of people that have redeemed their valuables; while only 2% of the assets obliged with ProntoPegno end on auction showing the relevance of gold/jewerly backed loans in **satisfying the necessity of immediate and transitory liquidity,** even for extra expenses, and the subsequent redemption capacity by customers. **98% of the obliged assets come back in the hands of the owner.**

The warranty of the loan is the asset itself, which consist mainly of gold, but also branded watches and silverware and the amount of the loan is defined based on the needs of the clients and the value of the asset, established by a surveyor, without the urgency of any creditworthiness or asset investigation. The gold/jewerly backed loans remains the banking product that allows to obtain a loan in less than 10 minutes. In this way, the client can immediately get the formalized amount of money based on the given asset and at the end of the loan usually get the belongings back, returning the charges and interests due over the period. The length of the loan can be 3, 6, 12 months and can be renewed.

"The Banca Sistema Group is the first Italian banking operator in the management of the historic pawnshops, wanted in the Middle Ages by the Catholic Church and today brought back to life also through the use of technologies that facilitate the use of this immediate financing instrument." Commented ***Giuseppe Gentile, ProntoPegno's General Director.*** *"Only 2% of the loans are not repaid and the assets are auctioned. This low percentage allows us to confirm that pledged credit remains one of the consumer lending products with the lowest level of NPLs. "*

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ProntoPegno S.p.A.
ProntoPegno S.p.A. is a company owned 75% by Banca Sistema and 25% by the Banking Foundations Cassa di Risparmio di Cuneo, Cassa di Risparmio di Alessandria and Fondazione Pisa, dedicated to pledged asset lending, which went into operation on 1 August 2019. Gruppo Banca Sistema started to engage in pledged asset loans at the beginning of 2017, combining the credentials of a solid bank with the advantages of a specialist keen on innovating and growing to offer more value to its clients, in terms of professionalism and timeliness. To take advantage of the growth prospects that have emerged since starting this business, the Bank has decided to transfer its pledged asset loans business to a dedicated company: ProntoPegno S.p.A. ProntoPegno, the gold/jewelry-backed lending unit of Gruppo Banca Sistema is today active across the national territory with 14 branches: Asti, Brescia, Civitavecchia, Firenze, Mestre, Milano, Napoli, Palermo, Parma, Pisa, Roma, Rimini and Torino https://prontopegno.it

Gruppo Banca Sistema
Banca Sistema, founded in 2011 and listed in 2015 on Borsa Italiana's Star segment, is a financial company specializing in the purchase of trade receivables from the PA and tax credits, it engages in the salary- and pension backed loans business by purchasing loan pools and through the direct origination of the QuintoPuoi product. The gold/jewelry-backed lending business is carried out via the fully owned company ProntoPegno S.p.A. The bank offers also deposit products to a base of about 35 thousand customers, with an offering that includes current accounts, deposit accounts and securities accounts, in addition to other services as credit management and recovery, bank guarantees and security bonds, PA receivables certification and e-billing. With head offices in Milan and Rome, Banca Sistema is also present in Bologna, Pisa, Napoli, Palermo, Rimini, Torino, Firenze, Mestre, Parma, Civitavecchia, Brescia and Asti, has 273 employees and relies on a multichannel structure.