

## PRESS RELEASE

**HOFI Group and Eccellenze Funerarie Group owned by Michael J. Cozzolino conclude a partnership for the strategic development of the two groups in the funeral infrastructure sector in the area between Veneto and Friuli-Venezia Giulia.**

Milano, Brugnera, 20 February 2024 – HOFI spa (“HOFI”), Concordia srl (“Concordia”) and the Eccellenze Funerarie Group (“Eccellenze Funerarie”) signed a strategic partnership agreement to include Eccellenze Funerarie in the HOFI Group, with Michael J. Cozzolino becoming an HOFI shareholder.

Eccellenze Funerarie combines the most authoritative brands, with a long operating history, in the area between the provinces of Pordenone, Treviso and Venezia. The Group was born from an initiative of the company Frè, headquartered in Brugnera, thanks to the acquisitions of Zampieri, based in Motta di Livenza, and Canzian, present in the Gorgo al Monticano municipality, followed by Dal Ben, secular company and Busato, operating in San Donà and Musile di Piave. Frè also owns majority shares in Dotta, in the Salgareda municipality and Ponte di Piave and in Da Dalt, in the Vittorio Veneto. Eccellenze Funerarie also owns an elegant funeral home in Gorgo al Monticano. Eccellenze Funerarie completed 2023 with revenues in excess of 2,5 million euros with over 500 services offered to its clients.

HOFI is the first Italian funeral holding, founded in 2019 by Augens Capital, private equity investment firm, and the Cerato family to consolidate the most qualified funeral providers and strengthen their competitiveness. Today, HOFI is controlled by a group of prestigious institutional investors, including Antin Infrastructure Partners, Augens Capital and Columbia Threadneedle, as well as members of the management team and prestigious families active in the sector that support the innovative industrial project and finance the group.

HOFI and Eccellenze Funerarie decided to join their efforts to face future challenges. Michael J. Cozzolino and his team, with the solid support of the Group, will support the growth and develop a strategy to realize new social infrastructure and complete acquisitions of companies that share the same values of the group, founded on the quality and ethics of the service.

“We are glad of the agreement reached with Michael J. Cozzolino and we welcome him in HOFI Group also as a new shareholder” said Marco Mantica, President of HOFI. “Our project will leverage the deep experience of Eccellenze Funerarie to continue the consolidation of Veneto and Friuli-Venezia Giulia where HOFI is already present in Treviso and Rovigo with a leadership position”.

“We believe in this profession and continue to invest through HOFI”, declared Michael J. Cozzolino, founder of Eccellenze Funerarie, “we have been among the first to build a Funeral Home in Veneto and we will shortly begin the construction of the Domus Anima in the Pordenone area, our second Funeral Home. The funeral sector needs to keep up with social developments. To be able to offer the best service to families in the tough and delicate moment of the mourning, a constant update of skills and social infrastructure is required. We follow the client 360’ from the funeral service to the hereditary succession and to the final real estate consultancies. I believe that the synergy with HOFI and the best companies of the sector is the correct strategy to face a market in rapid evolution”.

In the investment in Eccellenze Funerarie Group, HOFI was assisted by the law firm LMS, Sampietro for the labour law issues and by Advanced-Consulting for fiscal matters, whilst the Cozzolino family was assisted by the lawyer Mauro Princivalli from Padova and by the Covre law firm of Brugnera.