

Gurit strengthens strategic position and further improves profitability in FY 2010

- Net sales of CHF 311.6 million represent a slight growth of 2.7% at constant exchange rates including acquisition effects
- Operating EBIT margin of 8.0%; Group EBIT margin of 10.5%
- Strong strategy deployment strengthens offering and position in growth markets of Asia
- Proposed distribution of CHF 15 per bearer share out of reserves from capital contributions, exempt from withholding tax

- Annual Report available online at <http://investors.gurit.com/publicationsdownloads.aspx>
- Analyst/media conference and webcast today at 09:30 a.m. CEST
- Annual General Meeting on April 29, 2011

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Zurich/Switzerland, March 28, 2011. Gurit (SIX Swiss Exchange: GUR), a leading developer and manufacturer of high-end composite materials and technologies, reports strong earnings figures for FY 2010: With an operational EBIT margin of 8%, Gurit achieved its earnings guidance. Including one-time contributions Group EBIT equates to 10.5% and EBITDA to 14.8% of net sales. The net result for 2010 rose to CHF 24.9 million from CHF 20.9 million reported for the prior year. Based on the net-debt free balance sheet, the significant strategic steps achieved in 2010 and the promising business outlook for the current year and beyond, the Board of Directors proposes to the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders scheduled for April 29, 2011, to distribute CHF 15 per bearer share out of reserves from capital contributions. This distribution is exempt from withholding tax.

The net sales of CHF 311.6 million represent a 2.7% increase at constant year-to-date December 2010 translation rates. In reported Swiss francs, sales decreased slightly by 0.9%. Excluding the acquisitions made in 2009, Gurit's target market sales would have declined by 13.2%. Two major impacts in the Wind Energy market were the main reason why Gurit's net sales development did not recover the way the industry and Gurit itself had expected: On the negative side, sales were hit by low shipments of pre-impregnated glass and carbon fibre materials to Wind Energy customers in Europe and the US as a consequence of the economic challenges in those areas. On the positive side, Gurit's core material strategy started to gain momentum, in particular in Asia, but could not yet offset the lower demand from the European Wind Energy customers.

Strong earnings performance in 2010

The strong earnings performance was achieved despite the unsatisfactory sales development which also does not yet fully reflect the significant strategic progress made during the year under review. After having achieved its 8-10% EBIT target defined in 2007 for the first time at half-year, Gurit closed the year with an operational EBIT margin of 8.0%, a Group EBIT margin including one-time contributions of 10.5% and an EBITDA margin of 14.8%. Thanks to Gurit's flexible business model, tight cost controls on all levels as well as significantly lower tax pay-

ments in China, Gurit closed the year with a net income of CHF 24.9 million, up 19.2% over the prior year. Earnings per fully diluted bearer share rose from CHF 44.87 in 2009 to CHF 53.45 for 2010.

A year of strategic investments and successful strategy implementation

2010 was a year of important investments. Gurit invested CHF 22.7 million in property, plant and equipment and another CHF 5.7 million in R&D. 2010 saw the completion of a new tooling facility in China, the set up of a new PVC production capability and the market launch of a comprehensive PVC core material range, the begin of PET core material production in China, and the extension of the kitting services. Additionally, 2010 saw the market launch of an innovative rotor blade repair system and the start of the global roll out of a combined engineering and materials package in Marine. All these investments strengthen the Group's business model in the various target markets and will contribute to profitable sales growth in the future. With these strategic measures Gurit is progressing steadily to serve the target markets globally with a full offering in Wind Energy, Tooling and Marine and a tailor-made product offering in Transportation (Aerospace, Automotive and Rail). Gurit concentrates its investments on global growth areas. The Group has for this very reason strongly focused on the Asian markets over the past two years to benefit from the growth potential of Asian clients, to shorten the supply chains, and to differentiate itself from competition with a lower cost base.

Wind Energy reports net sales of CHF 158.5 million. Compared with the prior year, this represents a decrease of 19.5% at constant ytd rates. The sales generated with structural core products increased sharply during 2010 supported by a strong demand especially in China/Asia. This positive trend could, however, not yet offset the low shipment volumes of prepregs to traditional customers in Europe and America due to market conditions but confirms that the strategy implementation of the last three years has been successful. Gurit's strategy to go global and to vividly expand its structural core product range to include all relevant material categories (CoreCell, PVC, PET and Balsa wood) and to offer value adding kitting capabilities has successfully positioned the Group as a global partner to the world-wide Wind Energy industry. Today, Gurit has an offering for all customers in the Wind Energy market irrespectively of the manufacturing process they employ and is gaining new customers steadily. Three years ago, Gurit was primarily a prepreg supplier to the European Wind Energy industry.

Tooling witnessed a weaker 2HY due to a more hesitant order inflow from Chinese customers but saw continued growth in 2010 over 2009 and closed the year with sales of CHF 43.4 million. Based on the new facility inaugurated in summer and the integration into the Gurit Group, the mould export business developed very well in the second half of 2010. Red Maple, the tooling business of Gurit, is the biggest, independent and fully integrated quality mould specialist world-wide. For 2011 we expect to see a solid recovery of the Chinese market and a growing international export business.

Transportation developed solidly and predictably and reported net sales of CHF 55.0 million. The slight decrease versus the previous year is mainly attributable to the strategic decision to discontinue the production of pultruded lamellas and to the currency translation effects into Swiss francs. Gurit successfully expanded its position in aerospace both with materials for aircraft interiors as well as increas-



ingly with materials for structures. In addition Gurit continues to build its promising business in automotive and rail.

Marine achieved net sales of CHF 53.6 million. On a year-over-year basis, sales increased by 24.4% which is mainly due to the integration of High Modulus. The global marine market is only beginning to recover and Gurit expanded in 2010 its sales and marketing reach globally to benefit from a more solid upturn in the future. Based on its global presence and expanded marketing reach and with its innovative offer combining marine engineering services and a full materials package (B³ SmartPacs), Gurit is addressing apart from its traditional strong position in superyachts and race boats both new boatbuilding areas as well as new boat segments such as production boats, commercial and military vessels.

Proposed distribution of CHF 15.00 per bearer shares out of reserves from capital contributions; exempt from withholding tax

Based on the solidly funded balance sheet featuring an equity ratio of 57.2%, the significant strategic steps achieved in 2010 and the resulting promising business outlook for the current year and the longer-term future, the Board of Directors proposes to the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders scheduled for April 29, 2011, to pay out a distribution of CHF 15 per bearer share out of reserves from capital contributions. This distribution is exempt from withholding tax.

Outlook

In 2011, Gurit should benefit from the investments made in the past years, the implemented strategic moves and a more thorough market recovery in its target markets. Gurit expects to see growing sales in all its target markets in the current year and is determined to maintain the regained level of profitability. The operational EBIT margin target of 8 to 10% of sales remains the key guidance going forward as the continued sales volatility mainly in the Wind Energy activities makes it difficult to reliably forecast the sales development.

Publication of Annual Report and Media/Analyst conference today

Parallel to this press release, Gurit has also published its Annual Report 2010 and the presentation slides discussing the year-end 2010 results in more detail online in the investor relations section of the Gurit website www.gurit.com at <http://investors.gurit/publicationsdownloads.aspx>. Later today, Management will discuss the results at a joint media and analyst conference in Zürich, starting at 09:30 a.m. CET. The presentations will be in English. The conference will take place at SIX Swiss Exchange, Convention Point, Selnu Strasse 30, CH-8021 Zürich. The presentation will also be accessible as a webcast on <http://investors.gurit.com/ir-home.aspx> where a recorded version will later be archived.

Annual General Meeting of Shareholders

The Annual General Meeting of Shareholders takes place on April 29, 2011 at 16:30 CEST at the Hotel Seedamm Plaza, Pfäffikon SZ, Switzerland. The invitation to the Annual General Meeting is also available for download at <http://investors.gurit.com/default.aspx>

Net sales in CHF thousand	2009	2010	% change	% change at const. DEC 2010 rates
Wind Energy	205,442	158,481	-22.9	-19.5
Tooling	0	43,381	-	-
Transportation	59,576	54,972	-7.7	-3.2
Marine	42,273	53,581	26.7	24.4
TARGET MARKET SALES	307,291	310,415	1.0	4.6
Other	7,061	1,161	-83.6	-82.1
TOTAL GROUP SALES	314,352	311,576	-0.9	2.7
Operational EBIT	18,129	24,804	36.8	
Group EBIT	38,049	32,713	-14.0	
Profit for the period	20,923	24,930	19.2	
Operating Cash flow	56,222	16,312	-71.0	
CapEx (PPE)	9,720	22,747	134.0	
Tax rate	37.0%	15.8%		
Equity ratio	55.1%	57.2%		

Financial Calendar 2011

April 29, 2011	16:30 CEST after trading hours	Annual General Meeting at Seedamm Plaza, Pfäffikon SZ Sales Q1 and AGM decisions
September 9, 2011	before trading hours 09:30 CEST	HY results 2011 press release Online publication of Half-Year Report on www.gurit.com Live analyst/media conference In Zürich and Webcast
October 28, 2011	before trading hours	Sales Q3

Please consult the financial calendar available in the investor relations section of the Gurit website at <http://investors.gurit.com/default.aspx> for any updates or changes.

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Sign-up for email alerts is available at <http://investors.gurit.com/news-alert-subscription.aspx>

On Gurit: The companies of Gurit Holding AG, Wattwil/Switzerland, (SIX Swiss Exchange: GUR) are specialised on the development and manufacture of advanced composite materials and related technologies featuring bespoke physical and chemical characteristics. The comprehensive product range comprises fibre reinforced prepreps, structural core materials, gel coats, adhesives, resins and consumables as well as certain finished parts. Gurit supplies growth markets in Wind Energy, Tooling, Transportation and Marine. The international Group has production sites and offices in Switzerland, Germany, the UK, Canada, Spain, Australia, New Zealand, the USA, India, Singapore and China.