

Both divisions consolidate positions as technology leaders and systems suppliers –

Proposal for unchanged dividend payment of 24%

Wattwil April 19, 2002. Net sales of the Gurit-Heberlein Group increased by 14.8% to CHF 339.0 (previous year 295.3) million. Since the strategic decision to part company with its automobile business (a 50% interest in Gurit-Essex), Gurit has selectively expanded its Industrial Applications and Health Care operations to bring in new sources of revenue worth around CHF 100 million. Group-wide Gurit posted a solid EBIT margin of just under 10%. Together with positive financial earnings, the comparable result for the fiscal year, excluding third-party interests, was up 14.7% to CHF 31.2 million. Gurit-Heberlein AG reported a profit for the fiscal year of CHF 15,0 million. An unchanged dividend payment of 24% or CHF 24 per listed bearer share will be proposed to the Annual General Meeting on May 23, 2002.

In the Health Care division, the political and economic events of the second half of 2001 were scarcely felt; sales were up by 9.6%, EBIT by 12.9%. In the course of the year, the international standing of Coltène/Whaledent as an all-round dental care supplier improved significantly. Following the inclusion of rotating instruments (Diatech) as well as a broad range of disposable endodontic products and special dental cotton products (Roeko), Coltène now largely covers the entire range of products required by dental surgeons and technicians. In the medical sector, Medisize posted successes with its own respiratory product lines but also performed well as a partner in engineering and clean-room production of disposable medical products. Trading activities in the health care sector can look back on a good year both in Germany and in Switzerland.

The Industrial Applications Division was unable to reach the targets it had set itself for the second half of the year. The fiber technology sector faced a marked reluctance to invest in capital goods, particularly in the Asian markets. Both sales volume and margins in special synthetics (for the ski and snowboard industry) and advanced composites came increasingly under pressure. Although Division sales were up by 22.8% (mainly as a result of acquisitions), EBIT fell to CHF 13.4 million. Together with the advanced composites activities of AIK Elitrex (acquired on March 1, 2002) and the development unit Sulzer Composites taken over effective as at May 1, 2002, IMS Plastics and Stesalit are increasingly tackling markets jointly as Gurit Material Systems.

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Key figures from the Gurit-Heberlein Group Financial Statement:

Group income statement (in CHF 000s)

| | | 2001 | 2000* | Change in % |
|--|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Net sales | Group | 339.0 | 295.3 | 14.8 |
| | of which: Health Care | 167.5 | 152.8 | 9.6 |
| | Industrial Applications | 165.8 | 135.0 | 22.8 |
| | Others/Consolidation | 5.7 | 7.5 | |
| EBIT | Group | 33.6 | 42.9 | -21.7 |
| | of which: Health Care | 19.3 | 17.1 | 12.9 |
| | Industrial Applications | 13.4 | 18.9 | -29.1 |
| | Others/Consolidation | 0.9 | 6.9 | |
| Financial earnings | | +4.6 | -9.8 | |
| Tax | | -6.6 | -5.4 | |
| Group result (incl. third-party interests) | | 31.6 | 27.7 | 14.1 |
| Third-party interests | | -0.4 | -0.5 | |
| Group result (excl. third-party interests) | | 31.2 | 27.2 | 14.7 |

* on a comparable basis (excl. Gurit-Essex)

Group balance sheet (in CHF m)

| | 31.12.2001 | 31.12.2000 |
|---|---------------|--------------|
| Cash at bank and in hand | 350.5 | 723.6 |
| Receivables and inventories | 149.7 | 130.6 |
| Fixed assets | 175.9 | 137.5 |
| Total assets | 676.1 | 991.7 |
| Short-term borrowings | 89.8 | 114.7 |
| Bond loan | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Long-term borrowings | 71.6 | 128.8 |
| Total borrowings | 261.4 | 343.5 |
| Total equity (incl. third-party interests) | 414.7* | 648.2 |
| Minority interests | -3.0 | -3.2 |