

**First Information on the Fiscal Year 2000****Geberit Records Sales Increase to CHF 1,209 Million**

**Jona, January 16, 2001 – The Geberit Group increased its consolidated sales to CHF 1,208.5 million in fiscal 2000. This corresponds to a 1.5% growth. The increase after currency adjustments is 3.0%. Despite impaired sales growth against the strong prior year, the Group Executive Board expects a significant increase in net income. The financial statements will be published at the media conference on March 21, 2001.**

With market conditions steadily deteriorating since mid-year, primarily in its major market Germany, the Geberit Group with consolidated sales of CHF 1,208.5 million generated a growth of CHF 17.8 million or 1.5% in the past fiscal year. The sales growth was affected by a markedly weakened Euro during the course of the year. Sales growth after currency adjustments amounted to 3.0%.

In the fourth quarter Geberit with CHF 256.4 million recorded a slight decline in sales of 2.9%. However, after currency adjustments a 1.2% increase in sales over the excellent prior year period was achieved.

The market situation in Germany was particularly difficult, mainly in the new Federal States. The cumulative decline in sales in local currency was 4.9% (7.4% expressed in CHF). Although Germany with a 38.8% contribution to Group sales (prior year: 42.5%) still is the largest individual sales market, its importance for the Group has again decreased. Outside Germany a substantial sales growth of 8.9% in local currency and of 8.1% in CHF was generated. Strong sales increases were recorded in local currency in the core markets United Kingdom 18.0%, Italy 13.7%, Austria 5.9% and the Netherlands 5.5%. In Belgium sales grew by 3.0%, in Switzerland by 2.3% and in France by 1.1%. Well above-average growth rates were achieved in the markets of Eastern Europe and outside Europe.

Among the product lines, drainage systems at 7.1% and water supply systems at 4.3% recorded the strongest growth. Sales in the installation systems segment declined by 2.3%, as a result of the large German share, while flushing systems experienced a 3.1% decrease. Sales in the DoucheWC product line grew by 6.5%.

For the whole year, the Group Executive Board expects above-average operating results and a very significant increase in net income. On the occasion of the media conference on March 21, 2001 in Zurich the financial statements 2000 and further information on the past fiscal year will be announced.

With respect to the year 2001 the Group Executive Board is confident, although the prospects in Germany currently cannot be predicted with any certainty. With a steady improvement of all business processes, the introduction of new innovative products and a continued internationalisation an increase in the growth rate and progressive rise in net income over the prior year are expected.

As European market leader the Geberit Group is a global provider in the area of sanitary technology and employs a staff of approximately 4,250 worldwide.