

First Information on the Fiscal Year 2001

Geberit generates sales of CHF 1,165 million

Jona, 15 January 2002 – **In an increasingly difficult market environment, the Geberit Group has generated consolidated sales of CHF 1,165 million in the fiscal year 2001. Expressed in Swiss Francs, this corresponds to a 3.6% decrease. In local currencies, sales declined by 1.0% against the prior year. Despite weaker sales and provisions of approximately CHF 6 million, the Management expects good results for 2001 which however will be below the previous year. The financial statements and the annual report 2001 will be published at the financial media conference on 21 March 2002.**

As expected, business has not recovered in the fourth quarter. However, with a currency-adjusted decline against the prior year of -1.7% there was a slight improvement over the third quarter, while a decrease of 4.3% was recorded in Swiss Francs.

In the total fiscal year consolidated sales of CHF 1,165.1 million were generated corresponding to a 3.6% decline. The strengthening of the Swiss Franc during the course of the year had an additional impact on sales. Expressed in local currencies, the decrease in sales was only 1.0%. Thus the Company has shown a high degree of stability.

Market conditions in Germany were difficult and the decline in sales, after currency adjustments, amounted to 9.1%. The contribution to Group sales fell from 38.8% in 2000 to 35.5%. Outside Germany a 4.1% growth was recorded. Except for the United Kingdom, where sales declined by 1.1% in local currency, a growth was recorded in all other core markets, namely 6.7% in Belgium, 5.1% in Italy, 4.3% in the Netherlands, 3.6% in France, 2.0% in Switzerland and 1.0% in Austria.

Outside the eight Geberit core markets, sales grew 8.8% in local currencies to CHF 133.8 million which corresponds to a contribution of 11.5% (prior year: 10.3%) to Group sales. This result was due to the strong performance in the other parts of Western Europe (+18.2%) as well as Central and Eastern Europe (+16.3%) and is in line with the internationalisation strategy pursued by the Company.

Media release

For 2001 the Management anticipates operating results to remain on a high level. However they will be below previous year's results and will include provisions in the amount of approximately CHF 6 million as a result of the reduction of staff announced in December.

The financial statements and the annual report for 2001 will be published at the financial media conference on 21 March 2002 in Zurich.

Despite the continued strain on the economic situation, the Management anticipates a moderate sales growth and an improved net result for the current fiscal year.

As European market leader the Geberit Group is a global provider of systems in the area of sanitary technology and employs a staff of approximately 4,200 worldwide.