

First Information for the Fiscal Year 2002**Significant Growth at Geberit**

Jona, 16 January 2003 – **Thanks to solid organic growth and two acquisitions the Geberit Group grew markedly by 9.3% in the fiscal year 2002. After currency adjustments sales increased by 12.2%. Consolidated Group sales amounted to MCHF 1'273 (prior year MCHF 1'165). On this basis, management expects a substantial increase in results. The financial statements and the complete annual report for 2002 will be published on the occasion of the financial media conference on 20 March 2003.**

With 4th quarter sales of MCHF 286.4 (+16.7%), the increasingly positive business trend in 2002 was sustained. After currency adjustments 4th quarter sales rose by +17.5% whereof +6.5% accounted for organic growth.

Sales generated in the total fiscal year amounted to MCHF 1'273.0 corresponding to a +9.3% rise (+12.2% after currency adjustments). Organic growth was +3.4% in Swiss Francs and +6.4% in local currencies.

Positive Growth in the Markets ¹⁾

In Germany, where the overall economic situation continues to be difficult, a satisfactory +2.9% increase was generated. The contribution to Group sales further declined to 32.4% (prior year 35.5%). Other major European markets also recorded a marked rise: France (+10.9%), the Netherlands (+9.3%), United Kingdom (+5.6%), Italy (+4.9%). Austria, not least as a result of the acquisition of Huter, achieved a +30.4% increase. Organic growth in this market amounted to +6.9%. In Belgium a growth of +2.8% was generated, while sales in Switzerland (-0.1%) remained on the prior year level.

The other markets saw a very strong growth of +65.7%. Excluding the effect of acquisitions, sales in these countries rose by +26.5%. The contribution of these markets to Group sales amounted to 16.8% in 2002 (prior year 11.5%). In particular, in Asia, Southern and Eastern Europe as well as in the USA – there also as a result of the acquisition of Chicago Faucet Company in July 2002 – sales have grown substantially. Thus the internationalisation of Geberit's activities is successfully continued. It creates an increasing independence of the economic development in the large European markets.

Based on this positive development of sales, management expects the operating results and earnings per share to rise significantly for the total fiscal year 2002.

1) Figures in local currencies

New Management and Organisational Structure

A new management and organisational structure has been implemented at the beginning of the new fiscal year. It will take into account the increasing internationalisation and enhance the market orientation and the momentum of the Geberit Group.

The new structure also involves a change in the Group Executive Board. Hans-Rudolf Völkin will leave the company at the end of January on his own will.

Albert M. Baehny (50) has joined the Group Executive Board in January. He has a degree in biology and started his career in R&D. A. M. Baehny held various marketing and sales functions within the chemical industry, among others at Dow Chemicals Europe and at Ciba Geigy. Before joining Geberit he was executive Vice President of the division "Wacker Specialities" at Wacker Chemie GmbH, Munich.

Headed by its chairman, Günter F. Kelm, the Group Executive Board consists of five Group divisions: two regional marketing and sales divisions, two product divisions and the finance division headed by Dr. Rudolf Huber. „Marketing & Sales Europe“ is headed by Albert M. Baehny. Paul Witschi is responsible for „Marketing & Sales International“. The two Group divisions „Sanitary Systems“, headed by Dr. Thomas Raible, and „Piping Systems“, headed by Randolph Hanslin, are in charge of the whole supply chain (product development, procurement, production).

In addition, Roman Sidler has been appointed head of Corporate Communications.

The financial statements and the complete annual report for 2002 will be published at the financial media conference on 20 March 2003 in Zurich.

As European market leader, the Geberit Group is a global provider in the area of sanitary technology with sales of CHF 1.3 billion and employs a staff of 4,500 worldwide.