

First information on the year 2008

Geberit's growth slowed in fourth quarter

Geberit AG, Rapperswil-Jona, January 20, 2009

The Geberit Group generated sales of CHF 2,455.1 million in 2008 (prior year: CHF 2,486.8 million). This corresponds to a decline of 1.3% in Swiss francs. In organic terms and in local currency, growth of 3.2% was achieved. For the year as a whole, Management anticipates operating margins slightly above those of the prior year and earnings per share on a par with the prior year. The financial statements and annual report for 2008 will be released at the analyst and media conference in Zurich on March 12, 2009.

Decline in sales in fourth quarter

As anticipated, the global economic crisis had a negative effect on sales during the fourth quarter. Sales in the last quarter of 2008 amounted to CHF 495.0 million, corresponding to a fall of 10.5% in Swiss francs or 3.5% organically in local currencies, in comparison to the prior year.

Cumulative sales growth for the year as a whole slowed accordingly. Sales fell by 1.3% to CHF 2,455.1 million; currency adjustments, however, resulted in a posted increase of 2.3%. On a comparative basis (organic/currency-adjusted) growth was only insignificantly below medium-term sales goals at 3.2%.

Prepared for difficult times thanks to broad geographic base¹⁾

Developments in the individual markets differed considerably over the course of the year. Sales in the European region increased by 2.6%. Accumulated growth was favorable in the United Kingdom/Ireland (+24.5%), Central/Eastern Europe (+12.9%), the Benelux countries (+9.9%), France (+8.5%), Austria (+6.6%) and the Nordic countries (+6.0%). Switzerland (+2.9%) also performed favorably. On the other hand, sales in the two major markets Germany (-2.5%) and Italy (-2.7%) declined. A decline of 9.3% was reported for the Iberian Peninsula. Double-digit growth rates were maintained in the Far East/Pacific (+20.4%) and Middle East/Africa (+19.0%) regions. America closed out the year on a positive note (+0.8%) despite a difficult environment.

Results at the same level as prior year

For 2008 as a whole, Management anticipates an operating margin (EBITDA) slightly above the prior year's level as well as earnings per share approximately equal to the high figure of the prior year, which was influenced by a positive extraordinary effect.

The financial statements and complete annual report for 2008 will be released at the analyst and media conference in Zurich on March 12, 2009.

1) all figures accumulated, in organic terms and local currencies

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As the European market leader in the field of sanitary technology, the Geberit Group is a global provider with sales of CHF 2.5 billion. It employs 5,700 people in 40 countries around the world.