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euro adhoc: Semperit AG Holding / other / Semperit AG Holding announces preliminary results for 2008: Further revenue growth

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. Revenue up 7.8% to EUR 655.3 million

. Difficult business environment expected in the 2009 financial year

For the Semperit Group, the 2008 financial year was characterized by massive raw material price increases and a rapid downturn in economic growth in the second half-year. Despite this difficult economic environment, the company succeeded in raising revenue by 7.8%, to EUR 655.3 million.

	2007	2008	Change in %
		preliminary	
Revenue in EUR million	607.8	655.3	+ 7.8
EBT in EUR million	59.6	58.1	- 2.5

In spite of repeated price increases, the drastic price rises for raw materials in 2008 could not be fully compensated for. In particular, price negotiations carried out with customers in the second half of the year were hardly

successful due to the impending downswing in the real economy. Accordingly, earnings before tax (EBT) decreased to EUR 58.1 million (previous year: EUR 59.6 million).

Massive increase in raw material prices

All divisions were faced with the challenge of coping with high raw material prices in 2008. Starting in the first quarter, there was a continuous price rise for natural and synthetic rubber. Whereas the price for natural rubber peaked in August and declined slightly afterwards, the prices for different types of synthetic rubber reached record levels at the end of October. Many other raw materials were also subject to a wave of price increases, such as chemicals, fillers and wires. As a result, the cost of materials as a percentage of operating revenues climbed from 55.5% in the previous year to 57.7% in 2008.

Development in the divisions

The Sempermed Division was not impacted by the overall cyclical development and therefore reported a 10.8% growth in revenue to EUR 242.8 million. Business in the Semperflex Division was quite dynamic in the first half of 2008, but was confronted with a lower level of orders in the third quarter and a slump in demand in the final months of the year. Nevertheless, Semperflex managed to raise revenue for the year by 2.6%, to EUR 166.0 million. The Semperform Division increased its total revenue by 6.8%, to EUR 119.0 million, although sales development varied according to segment. Revenue in the Sempertrans Division climbed from EUR 115.6 million in the previous year to EUR 127.5 million (+ 10.2%), which was based on the good demand for conveyor belts prevailing throughout 2008.

Outlook

The full impact of the global economic crisis is expected to be felt in 2009. With the exception of the Sempermed Division, which primarily focuses on products for the medical sector, management expects a decline in demand in all other segments.

The current state of the global economy will not leave Semperit unaffected. However, due to the good competitive position and a solid capital structure with a high equity ratio, the Management Board expects the company to emerge even stronger from this crisis and gain market shares. In 2008, the Semperit Group already implemented a series of measures designed to increase profitability through reduced fixed costs and further process optimization in its business operations. In addition, a decrease in raw material prices should relieve to some extent the tight material cost situation.

The final results will be presented on April 6, 2009.

end of announcement

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Further inquiry note:

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