



Herrliberg, April 13, 2010

## **MEDIA INFORMATION**

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First-quarter report 2010 (January – March 2010)

### **EMS Group:**

**Net sales and result at economic boom levels  
Shortages cause raw material prices to escalate  
Additional payment of a special dividend in 2010**

### **Course of business January – March 2010**

With its companies combined in the EMS-CHEMIE HOLDING AG and with global activities in the business areas **Performance Polymers** and **Fine Chemicals / Engineering**, the EMS Group achieved **net sales** to the amount of CHF 404 million (254) in the first three months of 2010. This is 59.1% higher than in the same period of the previous year. On a comparable basis (in exchange rate adjusted terms and with the same scope of consolidation), net sales again reached the record level of the first quarter 2008.

An improved economic environment and increasing customer inventory stocks again, as well as new business and increased market shares, had an extremely positive effect on net sales and result. This pleasing business development is, however, increasingly burdened by higher raw material costs and a negative development of the foreign currency rate of the Euro to the Swiss Franc.

EMS successfully achieved planned growth with new business in the main area of **Performance Polymers**. Worldwide market positions will be further improved - in the new growth markets China, India and Brazil also with the newly established sales and production locations. For EMS-GRIVORY, business is developing in an extremely pleasing way due to new metal replacement applications, especially in the automotive industry. Based on very high demand for high-temperature materials, EMS will start up a fur-

ther production line for these products during the current year. EMS-EFTEC further expanded its market positions worldwide and is profiting greatly from increasing automotive production in China.

The secondary business area **Fine Chemicals / Engineering** also reported positive business development. The integration of EMS-CHEMIE Neumünster (previously Nexis Fibers), purchased in 2009, has been completed for the most part.

## **Market evaluation**

As expected, the recovery of worldwide demand for consumer and investment goods which became apparent in the second half-year of 2009, continued in the first three months of 2010. In the automotive industry, which is of significant importance to EMS, more vehicles were again sold and produced. In the first quarter of 2010, the number of vehicles sold in the traditionally major markets USA, Europe and Japan, was already again 34% higher than in the previous year, but was still 26% lower than 2008. The new growth markets, in particular China, continued to develop as expected very strongly.

As anticipated, the insufficient worldwide raw material capacities are causing shortages. As a result, raw material prices are increasing in an exorbitant manner. Highest prices similar to those in 2008 are being requested. To ensure its own margins, EMS has also had to increase sales prices to customers.

## Development of net sales / Key financial figures

January – March 2010

In million CHF	2010 (Jan-Mar)	%-dev. prev.year	2009 (Jan-Mar)
<b>Net sales EMS Group</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>+59.1%</b>	<b>254</b>
- In local currencies		+61.6%	
- With the same scope of consolidation <sup>1), 2)</sup>		+55.8%	
<b>- Performance Polymers</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>+54.7%</b>	<b>212</b>
- In local currencies		+57.2%	
- With the same scope of consolidation <sup>1)</sup>		+57.2%	
<b>- Fine Chemicals / Engineering</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>+81.0%</b>	<b>42</b>
- In local currencies		+83.4%	
- With the same scope of consolidation <sup>2)</sup>		+49.1%	

<sup>1)</sup> The company "EFTEC Aftermarket GmbH" was sold on January 20, 2010.

<sup>2)</sup> "EMS-CHEMIE (Neumünster) GmbH & Co KG" (previously "Nexis Fibers AG") was taken over as per November 16, 2009.

## Outlook

EMS expects a sustained recovery of the worldwide economy, whereby China will continue to stand out as "locomotive". It must be expected that the general trend towards increased inventory stocks (not least due to increasing raw material costs), will continue until the middle of 2010 and will generate additional demand at all levels of the supply chain.

The current shortages in the raw material markets may, however, grow more acute over the next months. EMS is therefore expecting further increases in raw material prices. As a result, prices for secondary products will also increase. Higher inflation and a slowing of the economic development are possible results of this trend.

As long as the relation of interest rates does not change, the exchange rate of the Euro to the Swiss Franc, which is of great disadvantage to EMS as an exporting company, will probably not improve sustainably.

EMS will continue without change to follow its successful strategy of expansion of speciality business in the main area of Performance Polymers and expansion of worldwide market positions.

For the **whole year 2010**, EMS expects considerably higher **net sales** and a higher **net operating income (EBIT)** than in the previous year. This will be due, above all, to the massively improved first half year compared to the previous year.

## **Payment of a special dividend in 2010**

EMS consistently pursues a policy of result and liquidity-oriented profit distribution. Funds not required for operations are returned to the shareholders.

At the media conference on February 12, 2010, EMS announced the intended distribution of an ordinary dividend of CHF 5.00 (5.00) per share.

On February 15, 2010, EMS sold all treasury shares held with a total value of nearly CHF 130 million, to the EMESTA HOLDING AG. In view of the therefore very high liquid resources, the consistent high free cash flow and the high level of equity, the Board of Directors of EMS-CHEMIE HOLDING AG has decided to propose, at the Annual General Meeting on August 14, 2010, in addition to the **ordinary dividend** of CHF 5.00, payment of a one-off **special dividend** to the amount of CHF 5.00. Consequently, in 2010 a total dividend of CHF 10.00 per share is intended to be paid. Payment is planned from August 20, 2010.

## Schedule

EMS announces net sales figures on a quarterly and the consolidated net sales and income results on a half-year and full-year basis.

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|--|-----------------|
| - Media conference / Half-year report 2010 | July 9, 2010    |
| - Annual General Meeting 2010              | August 14, 2010 |
| - Third-quarter report 2010                | October 2010    |
| - Media conference / Annual results 2010   | February 2011   |
| - First-quarter report 2011                | April 2011      |

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