

Press Release

Bossard Group

Sales for Q4 and for fiscal year 2009

Sales increase in fourth quarter indicates a reversal of the downtrend

In the fourth quarter of 2009 the market environment either stabilized further or improved noticeably, particularly in Europe and Asia. Despite this, however, the worldwide economic crisis still impacted on Bossard Group's sales development in the fourth quarter. Sales totaled CHF 95.2 million, down 24.5 % on Q4 of the prior year. In local currencies sales decreased by 20.7 %. Thus, for the first time since the recession, sales were up on the result for the previous quarter. This very satisfactory development was better than anticipated and suggests the beginning of an upturn.

In the 2009 business year Bossard Group reached total sales of CHF 395 million. Year-on-year this was a decrease of CHF 170.7 million or 30.2 %. In local currencies sales fell by 28.6 %.

Europe

The first signs of more stable demand in the third quarter of 2009 were confirmed by sales development in the last three months of the year. Although total sales of CHF 54.6 million were 20.6 % lower than in Q4 of the prior year, they reached the same level as in the third quarter of 2009. A return to more stable demand is also apparent in the noticeably lower sales fluctuations compared to the entire year. Total sales for 2009 amounted to CHF 224.5 million; in Swiss francs this was 32.7 % lower than for 2008 and in local currencies it was down 30.5 %.

America

Demand in North America was noticeably weaker in Q3 2009 – partially for seasonal reasons, but it stabilized at a low level in Q4. Sales dropped in Q4 2009 from USD 34.6 million to USD 22.8 million, a sales decrease of 34.2 %. Total sales in North America for 2009 amounted to USD 102 million, 29.4 % lower than in the prior year.

Asia

The positive signs of an upturn in demand continued in the fourth quarter of 2009. Compared to Q3, sales were up by almost 14 % to CHF 17.6 million. The sales in Swiss francs, compared to Q4 of the prior year, increased 3.3 % or in local currencies even by 10.2 %. For the entire year sales in Asia totaled CHF 59.9 million. Thus, compared to 2008, sales in Swiss francs fell by 20.9 % or in local currencies by 18.4 %.

Prospects

The outlook is more favorable given the developments over the past few months. Some price increases in the procurement market and longer supply times underscore this assessment. It would, however, be premature to anticipate an early and broad-based recovery in the industrial sector.

The definite financial statements and annual report for 2009 will be published in time for the financial analysts' meeting and press conference to be held on March 10, 2010 in Zurich.

Gross Sales 4rd quarter (unaudited)			change in %	
in CHF million	2009	2008	in CHF	in local currency
Europe	54.6	68.8	-20.6%	-20.7%
America	23.0	40.2	-42.8%	-34.2%
Asia	17.6	17.0	3.3%	10.2%
Group	95.2	126.0	-24.5%	-20.7%

Gross Sales January - December (unaudited)			change in %	
in CHF million	2009	2008	in CHF	in local currency
Europe	224.5	333.7	-32.7%	-30.5%
America	110.6	156.3	-29.2%	-29.4%
Asia	59.9	75.7	-20.9%	-18.4%
Group	395.0	565.7	-30.2%	-28.6%

For further information please contact:

Stephan Zehnder, CFO

Phone +41 41 749 65 86

E-mail investor@bossard.com

www.bossard.com

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Company profile:

Bossard is a fastening technology and logistics company operating globally. Its full-service package focuses on fasteners and includes worldwide sales, technical and engineering support, and inventory management. Its customer base is made up of local and multinational industrial companies. The Group has 1,400 employees in more than 50 locations worldwide.