



Burckhardt Compression AG
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Burckhardt Compression results for fiscal year 2006: Another strong increase in order intake, sales and earnings

Burckhardt Compression, one of the world's leading manufacturers of reciprocating compressors, reports another set of good results with its first full-year accounts (closing March 31, 2007) since its IPO. Order and sales growth was well into the double digits again. EBIT and net profit grew even faster, almost doubling the corresponding figures reported for the previous year. In the 2007 fiscal year, sales are expected to grow by 25-30% in view of the high order backlog and the increase in production capacity with a further increase in profits.

Incoming orders exceeded the 400 million mark for the first time ever and stood at CHF 408.2 million, a gain of 26% over the corresponding prior-year figure. Orders for new machines amounted to CHF 311.3 million (+28%) while the service business (CSS) received new orders worth CHF 96.9 million (+20%). The relevant markets for Burckhardt Compression continued to grow. Global demand for reciprocating compressors increased considerably during the past year.

Sales for the year rose by 27% to CHF 266.7 million. Sales growth was generated by both the new machine business (+32% to CHF 173.6 million) and the service activities (+18% to CHF 93.1 million). Gross profit of CHF 99.2 million was 50% higher than the previous-year figure.

Burckhardt Compression managed to improve its operating performance once again, building upon the already impressive results achieved in the previous year. Operating profit (EBIT) advanced 88% to CHF 55.6 million and net profit was up by 82% to CHF 40.2 million. The corresponding margins were 21% at the EBIT level and 15% at the bottom line. Earnings per share increased by 82% to CHF 11.80. The equity ratio rose from 37% in the previous year to 40% at the end of the reporting year.

Higher order volume requires increase in capacity

In order to handle the significantly higher order volume the decision was taken during fiscal year 2006 to expand the capacities in Winterthur and Pune (India). Burckhardt Compression created 74 new jobs during the course of the reporting year, bringing the total number of employees to 712. Additional workshop, warehouse and office space was leased and capital spending plans were moved forward. A new phase of expansion at our plant in India entered the implementation stage.



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Outlook

In light of the high order backlog and the increase in production capacity, Burckhardt Compression expects sales to grow by 25-30% in the current fiscal year (ending March 31, 2008) and profits should also further increase. Although investment activity among our customers has remained high, an overall increase in order intake is not expected during the current fiscal year because fewer large projects are in the project pipeline this year.

Dividend – Board of Directors

The Board of Directors will propose a dividend of CHF 3.00 per share at the General Meeting on July 7. This is in line with the payout ratio of 25% that was announced at the time the half-year results were published. Shareholders will also be asked to elect Urs Leinhäuser, the CFO of Rieter, as a new director to complete the company's Board of Directors.

About Burckhardt Compression

Burckhardt Compression is one of the market leaders in the field of reciprocating compressor technology and the only manufacturer that offers a complete range of Laby® (labyrinth piston), process gas, and hyper compressors. Burckhardt compressors are used in a wide range of applications in the chemical and petrochemical industry, in refineries, in air separation systems, and for gas transport and storage. Its products are used to compress, cool or liquefy gas, for example hydrocarbon or industrial gases.

Its customers include multinational companies in the oil, gas, petrochemicals and chemicals industries. In addition to its thriving new installation business, a major driver of the company's success is its global service network, which generates a substantial share of company revenues. This global network enables Burckhardt Compression to offer comprehensive customer support services, such as delivery of top-quality components, servicing of compressor valves, complete system overhauls, engineering services and the fulfillment of comprehensive maintenance contracts.

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Key figures at a glance

CHF million	2004 business year*	2005 business year*	2006 business year*	Change 2005/2006
Order intake	205.7	323.5	408.2	+ 26%
Sales	168.2	210.4	266.7	+ 27%
Gross profit	50.1	66.0	99.2	+ 50%
Operating income (EBIT)	21.6	29.6	55.6	+ 88%
As a % of sales	12.8%	14.1%	20.8%	
Profit for the period	17.9	22.1	40.1	+ 82%
As a % of sales	10.6%	10.5%	15.0%	
Total assets	150.7	181.0	270.1	+ 49%
Shareholders' equity	43.2	66.1	108.3	+ 64%
As a % of total assets	28.7%	36.5%	40.1%	
Earnings per share (in CHF)	5.28	6.50	11.80	+ 82%
Number of employees (end of fiscal year)	542	638	712	+ 12%

* April 1 to March 31