



Burckhardt Compression AG
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Burckhardt Compression results for the first half of 2007: Still positive trend with above-average profit growth

Burckhardt Compression, one of the world's leading manufacturers of reciprocating compressors, presents another set of good results with its interim accounts for 2007. Growth rates for order intake, sales, gross profit, EBIT and net profit for the six months from April to September 2007 were again in the high double digits compared to the prior-year figures. These key figures are also projected to be well above last year's results for the year as a whole.

Orders received during the first half amounted to CHF 250.7 million, a 16% increase over the year-ago figure. Incoming orders in the new machine business advanced 22%. New orders in the service business, which had experienced a surge in orders for major spare parts during the year-ago period, stabilized as expected at a high level (-1%).

Sales increased by 53% year-over-year to CHF 182.4 million. New machine sales rose by 82% while service revenues were up 1%. Gross profit rose by 43% to CHF 63.0 million. The first half of the year saw only a minimal increase in selling, general and administrative expenses, leading to a 70% jump in operating income (EBIT) to CHF 42.2 million. Both net profit and earnings per share advanced 84% to a pleasing CHF 32.8 million and CHF 9.66, respectively.

Capacity expansion program near completion

The project to expand capacity in Winterthur and Pune (India) that was announced one year ago has largely been completed. Due to this expansion the number of staff increased by 14% or 96 persons (28 of whom by acquisition), bringing the total headcount to 772. The acquisition of MT Sealing Technology Inc during the period under review was another step in the expansion of the compressor components business.

Strategic partnership

A strategic partnership was established with MAN Diesel, the world's leading provider of large-bore diesel engines, in October 2007. The diesel propulsion system developed by MAN Diesel for LNG (liquefied natural gas) vessels can be operated with either ecological natural gas or heavy fuel oil. The fuel gas compressor system of Burckhardt Compression delivers boil-off gas that is injected into the diesel engines. This cooperation creates significant market opportunities for Burckhardt Compression.



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Change at executive level

Chief Financial Officer Harry Otz will be leaving the company in the third quarter of 2008 to take on a new professional challenge abroad. The search for his successor has already been initiated.

Positive outlook

Trends in all market segments in which Burckhardt Compression is active are still going strong. Orders received for the 2007 business year are expected to exceed the record-high level reported in the previous year. Full-year sales are projected to advance 30% with significant increases in gross profit, operating income and profit for the period.

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. These 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. Burckhardt Compression 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 for the first half (April – September 2007) of fiscal year 2007

in CHF million	Business year 2006 (April 2006 – March 2007)	First half 2006 (April – Sept. 2006)	First half 2007 (April – Sept. 2007)	Change first half 2006/07
Order intake	408.2	215.5	250.7	+ 16%
Sales	266.7	119.5	182.4	+ 53%
Gross profit	99.2	44.2	63.0	+ 43%
Operating income (EBIT)	55.6	24.8	42.2	+ 70%
As a % of sales	20.8%	20.8%	23.1%	
Profit for the period after minority interests	40.1	17.8	32.8	+ 84%
As a % of sales	15.0%	14.9%	18.0%	
Balance sheet total	270.1	220.7	312.5	+ 42%
Shareholders' equity	108.3	85.1	131.5	+ 55%
As a % of total assets	40.1%	38.6%	42.1%	
Earnings per share (in CHF)	11.80	5.24	9.66	+ 84%
Headcount	712	676	772	+ 14%