

Press Release March 30, 2006

A Successful 2005 for Solvias

Sales growth in Europe and North America, as well as disproportionate growth in licensing revenue, led to an increase in total revenues of around 10% to 52 million Swiss francs. Along with the rise in demand for services and products there was a marked increase in the utilization of capacities.

Efforts made in research and development over recent years paid off in terms of licenses. A catalysis project for the enantioselective production of a pharmaceutical active ingredient with Merck Inc. (USA) was particularly successful, leading to a specific license with a corresponding transfer of know-how.

In Switzerland, we had to continue our efforts to make up for the expiration of a major project. However, operational turnover in the rest of Europe and in North America was extremely gratifying and increased well above expectations, with growth rates of 22% and 39% respectively, compared with the previous year. In Europe, all service and product divisions contributed to growth, while in North America, the growth was dominated by polymorphism, salt, and crystallization programs, the analysis of biopharmaceuticals, as well as catalysis and synthesis services.

In order to run catalyst research and development even more efficiently and to be in a position to make cooperation with customers more attractive, Solvias invested several million Swiss francs in a commercial high-throughput system (HTS) for «asymmetric hydrogenation and C-X coupling». This enables up to a thousand high-pressure screening tests to be performed a week. Their evaluation allows us to reliably identify optimal catalysts and reaction conditions for manufacturing chemical and pharmaceutical products.

For the current year, we anticipate slightly increasing operational turnover and the first quarter 2006 fulfills expectations.



Solvias is a privately held company located in Basel/Switzerland. With over 230 highly qualified employees we support the research and development of new drug substances and the optimization of manufacturing processes for pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies worldwide. Solvias' customers benefit from a wide range of experience in catalysis, asymmetric synthesis, custom synthesis, process R&D, polymorphism screening, salt selection, and analytical services.

As a privately held company, Solvias does not release its profit figures. This press release is also available on our homepage: www.solvias.com

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