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- . Revenue rose by 8.1% to EUR 492.0 million
- . EBIT improved by 1.4% to EUR 47.0 million

The perceptible slowdown in the world economy and the ongoing significant price rises on global raw material markets have led to a considerable deterioration of the conditions under which Semperit operates. Despite this difficult business environment, Semperit once again succeeded in increasing total revenue. Earnings were negatively affected, in particular by the high costs of raw materials, in the third quarter.

	1-9/2007	1-9/2008	Change in %
Revenue in EUR million	455.1	492.0	+8.1
EBIT in EUR million	46.4	47.0	+1.4
EBT in EUR million	41.3	46.2	+12.0
Net profit for the period in EUR million	29.9	31.4	+5.1

In the first three quarters of 2008, total revenue amounted to EUR 492.0 million, a rise of 8.1% from the previous year. This increase is chiefly related to higher sales levels and also in part to selling price increases. Earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) improved by 1.4% in the period January-September 2008, to EUR 47.0 million. However, due to rapid price increases for raw materials, third quarter EBIT was lower than the comparable figure of the preceding year. Higher costs could only be partially passed on to customers, and with a time delay. Earnings before tax climbed by 12.0% above last year's level, to EUR 46.2 million, as a consequence of the improved financial result. Net profit for the period was up 5.1%, to EUR 31.4 million.

Performance of the divisions

The Sempermed division reported a 5.7% increase in revenue in the first nine months of 2008, to EUR 172.9 million. The improvement achieved in the third quarter is related, among other reasons, to selling price increases being made effective and the relatively strong US dollar, which had a positive effect due to the consolidation of Semperit's business in euros. Earnings before tax (EBT) of the Sempermed division improved by 24.8%, from EUR 9.1 million in the previous year to EUR 11.3 million in the first three quarters of 2008.

Growth of the Semperfex division slowed down in the first three quarters of 2008 as a response to global economic trends. On balance, total revenue rose by EUR 6.4 million, to EUR 129.4 million. Earnings before tax totalled 13.9 million, 13.3% below the previous year's level of EUR 16.1 million.

In the first nine months of 2008, total revenue of the Semperform division amounted to EUR 92.8 million, an increase of 8.1%. Earnings before tax fell by 3.4% year-on-year, to EUR 12.9 million (previous year: EUR 13.4 million).

The Sempertrans division posted strong growth in the first three quarters, with revenue climbing by 17.5%, to EUR 97.0 million. Earnings before tax rose by EUR 1.6 million, to EUR 10.4 million (previous year: EUR 8.8 million).

Outlook

A considerable decline in demand is expected in Europe and the USA in cyclical business areas. Significant losses in incoming orders have already been acknowledged in those segments that serve the construction and investment goods industries. However, the less cyclical business segment Sempermed has yet been unaffected.

Further inquiry note:

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