

Preliminary figures for fiscal 2008

€ in millions Unaudited figures	2008	2007 pro forma	Growth in %	Growth in %, const. currencies
Sales revenue	368.0	375.9	-2.1%	+0.8%
• Europe ¹⁾	222.7	216.4	+2.9%	+4.5%
• North America ¹⁾	82.2	94.7	-13.2%	-6.6%
• Asia Pacific ¹⁾	51.7	52.2	-0.9%	+1.0%
• Other Markets ¹⁾	11.4	12.5	-9.3%	-9.1%
EBITA ²⁾	40.1	49.7		
EBITA margin ²⁾	10.9%	13.2%		
Net profit ²⁾³⁾	17.3	26.1		

¹⁾ According to customers' location ²⁾ For 2007: underlying ³⁾ Excluding amortization

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US market environment is showing signs of improvement

Extraordinary effects, especially de-stocking measures, at leading US biopharmaceutical companies affected the supplier industry in North America, mainly during the first half of 2008. Thus, revenue growth for the Sartorius Stedim Biotech Group (SSB) was soft for the fiscal year. In Europe, sales showed solid development; in Asia, revenue growth was rather flat. Compared to the competition, SSB performed well under these adverse market conditions. Meanwhile, the above mentioned extraordinary effects are phasing out and the North American market environment is showing signs of improvement.

Profitability at a robust level

SSB achieved a robust EBITA margin of 10.9%, although its operating earnings decreased in 2008 as a result of weak sales revenue development in North America and unfavourable currency exchange rates. Business with single-use products contributed the largest share of earnings. The financial result decreased from -€8.9 million to -€12.5 million, especially due to valuation effects regarding currency exchange rate hedging instruments. Net profit after minority interest and excluding amortization totalled €17.3 million (2007: €26.1 million). This corresponds to earnings per share of €1.02 (2007: €1.55).

Strong financial position

Reflected by an equity ratio of 57.0% and a gearing of 0.4, the financial position of the Sartorius Stedim Biotech Group has remained strong. In the third quarter of 2008, SSB has closed a 5-years syndicated loan agreement with a total volume of €220 million, which secures its financial needs for the next years.

Outlook for 2009

As experienced so far, SSB as a supplier to the pharmaceutical industry is not much affected by general cyclical trends. Therefore, company management plans to achieve growth for SSB in 2009. However, in view of the ongoing high uncertainty regarding the further development of the global economy, management still does not consider it possible to make a reliable forecast about SSB's business development in 2009.

Sartorius AG increased stake in SSB by 1.5 percentage points

SSB's majority shareholder, Sartorius AG, has announced that it has purchased another 1.5% of shares and now holds approximately 71.1% of the shares in Sartorius Stedim Biotech S.A..

This press release contains statements about the future development of the Sartorius Stedim Biotech Group. We cannot guarantee that the content of these statements will actually apply because these statements are based upon assumptions and estimates that harbor certain risks and uncertainties.

Conference Call and Webcast

Joachim Kreuzburg, CEO and Chairman of the Board of the Sartorius Stedim Biotech Group, will discuss the results with analysts and investors on Wednesday, February 11, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. Central European Time (CET), in a teleconference. You may dial into the teleconference starting at 2:45 CET at the following numbers:

Germany: +49 (0)69 5007 1317;

France: +33 (0)1 70 99 42 98;

UK: +44 (0)20 7806 1967;

USA: +1 718 354 1391.

The dial-in code is: 2415076; to view the webcast or presentation, log onto www.sartorius-stedim.com

A profile of Sartorius Stedim Biotech

Sartorius Stedim Biotech is a leading provider of cutting-edge equipment and services for the development, quality assurance and production processes of the biopharmaceutical industry. Its integrated solutions covering fermentation, filtration, purification, fluid management and lab technologies are supporting the biopharmaceutical industry around the world to develop and produce drugs safely, timely and economically. For next generation processes, Sartorius Stedim Biotech focuses on single-use technologies and value-added services to meet the rapidly changing technology requirements of the industry it serves. Strongly rooted in the scientific community and closely allied with customers and technology partners, the company is dedicated to its philosophy of "turning science into solutions" on a daily basis.

Headquartered in Aubagne, France, Sartorius Stedim Biotech is listed on the Eurolist of Euronext Paris. With its own manufacturing and R&D sites in Europe, North America and Asia and a global network of sales companies, Sartorius Stedim Biotech enjoys a worldwide presence. Its key manufacturing and R&D site is in Germany. The company employs over 2,300 people, and in 2008 generated sales revenue of 368.0 (preliminary figures) million euros.

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