

### **LANXESS presents first results of realignment to shareholders**

- **Three-phase realignment delivers first savings**
- **EBITDA pre exceptionals in fiscal 2014 improves by nearly 10 percent**
- **Dividend proposal of EUR 0.50**
- **Good start to fiscal year 2015**
- **Lawrence A. Rosen and Dr. Matthias Wolfgruber up for election as new members of the Supervisory Board**

**Cologne** – At the Annual Stockholders' Meeting of specialty chemicals company LANXESS, held in Cologne's LANXESS arena, Chairman of the Board of Management Matthias Zachert looked back on fiscal 2014 and presented the first results of the company's three-phase realignment program. "In 2014, we made good progress on the way back to success," said Zachert.

The first phase, which focused on improving the competitiveness of the company's business and administrative structure, has largely been completed. From the end of 2016, LANXESS will benefit from savings of around EUR 150 million annually.

The company has initiated first measures associated with the second phase of the program, targeting the optimization of its production network. With the third phase, LANXESS seeks to improve the competitiveness of its business portfolio. Currently the company is holding talks with potential partners for cooperations in the rubber business.

#### **Operating result improved in fiscal 2014**

Despite the difficult business situation, the company improved its operating result in fiscal 2014. While sales declined slightly by 3.5 percent to around EUR 8 billion, EBITDA pre exceptionals increased

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by 9.9 percent to EUR 808 million. Net income improved by EUR 206 million to EUR 47 million.

The Board of Management and the Supervisory Board proposed a dividend of EUR 0.50 per share at the Annual Stockholders' Meeting. This amounts to a total dividend payout of around EUR 46 million.

### **Good start to the current year**

LANXESS got off to a good start in the first quarter of the current fiscal year. While sales were stable compared with the previous year at around EUR 2 billion, EBITDA pre exceptionals rose by 11.7 percent to EUR 229 million in the first quarter.

This increase was mainly attributable to lower raw material costs and positive currency effects, especially the strong U.S. dollar. "But the results also show that our realignment efforts are increasingly taking effect. This demonstrates that we are on the right path," said Zachert.

Net income fell by 12.0 percent year-on-year to EUR 22 million, reflecting exceptional charges for the realignment measures.

### **Outlook: Realignment remains in focus**

The Group anticipates that the favorable developments from the first quarter, especially those involving currency effects and savings from the realignment, will continue over the course of the year. Hence, LANXESS increased its guidance for full year 2015 and expects EBITDA pre exceptionals to come in between EUR 820 million and EUR 860 million.

"In 2015, we will set the course for the future of our company. In 2016, we plan to complete our realignment," Zachert said. "We should then have the ability to return to growth mode, step by step. Our goal is to expand our position in less cyclical businesses."

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### Elections to the Supervisory Board

The Annual Stockholders' Meeting is also electing new stockholder representatives to the Supervisory Board of LANXESS. Rainer Laufs and Robert J. Koehler will both be leaving the board at the close of this year's Stockholders' Meeting. The Supervisory Board proposed Lawrence A. Rosen, member of the Board of Management of Deutsche Post AG, and Dr. Matthias Wolfgruber, chairman of the Management Board of Altana AG, for election as new members of the Supervisory Board.

Additionally, Dr. Friedrich Janssen, Dr. Rolf Stomberg, and Theo H. Walthie are standing for re-election to the Supervisory Board for a term ending with the Annual Stockholders' Meeting in 2020.

Stomberg will be proposed to the new Supervisory Board as a candidate for the chairmanship of the Supervisory Board. One year ago, Claudia Nemat was elected to the Supervisory Board for a term ending with the Annual Stockholders' Meeting in 2019.

The elections of the employee representatives to the Supervisory Board were concluded on April 15, 2015. Gisela Seidel, Hans-Jürgen Schicker, Werner Czaplík, Hans-Dieter Gerriets, Thomas Meiers and Ralf Sikorski were elected at that time.

LANXESS is a leading specialty chemicals company with sales of EUR 8.0 billion in 2014 and about 16,300 employees in 29 countries. The company is currently represented at 52 production sites worldwide. The core business of LANXESS is the development, manufacturing and marketing of plastics, rubber, intermediates and specialty chemicals. LANXESS is a member of the leading sustainability indices Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI World and DJSI Europe) and FTSE4Good.

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#### Forward-Looking Statements.

This news release may contain forward-looking statements based on current assumptions and forecasts made by LANXESS AG management. Various known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors could lead to material differences between

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## News Release

the actual future results, financial situation, development or performance of the company and the estimates given here. The company assumes no liability whatsoever to update these forward-looking statements or to conform them to future events or developments.

### Information for editors:

All LANXESS news releases and their accompanying photos can be found at <http://press.lanxess.com>. Recent photos of the Board of Management and other LANXESS image material are available at <http://photos.lanxess.com>. The latest TV footage, audiofiles and podcasts can be found at <http://multimedia.lanxess.com>.

You can find further information concerning LANXESS chemistry in our WebMagazine at <http://webmagazine.lanxess.com>.

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