

28 April 2004

Report for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2004

## KRONES rides the upturn

1<sup>st</sup> quarter sees increased order bookings, sales revenues and profits

The year has started well for KRONES. Despite gloomy prognoses for the German economy, the world's market leader for beverage filling and packaging machinery benefited increasingly from the global upturn in the year's first quarter. Three large orders - one from the American brewing group Anheuser Busch, one from Danone for bottling Evian water, and one from Beer Thai in Thailand (one of the biggest orders in KRONES' entire history) – exemplify a perceptible uptrend.

As corporate investment levels began gradually to recover, KRONES experienced buoyant demand for its machines, lines and services during the first three months of the ongoing business year. Order bookings rose by 8.0 % on a like-for-like basis to reach EUR 406 m (preceding year: EUR 376 m).

Sales revenues in the KRONES Group during 2004's first quarter, at EUR 388 m, were 6% up on the preceding year's figure (EUR 367 m). Against the background of a significantly worse price situation than in the previous year, profits after taxes were 3 % up at EUR 16.3 m.

For 2004 as a whole, KRONES is anticipating new bests for its business figures.

The very good business outlook and the prospect of the AGM's approving the conversion of KRONES' preference shares into ordinary shares had already boosted the prices of the shares traded on the MDAX, up by a substantial 25 % since the beginning of 2004 to reach their highest level for many years.



		1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2004	1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2003	Change
Sales revenues	EUR m	387.8	367.0	5.7%
Profit after taxes	EUR m	16.3	15.9	2.5%
Order bookings accumulated	EUR m	405.7	376.0	7.9%
Orders on hand as per 31.03.04	EUR m	637.2	622.9	2.3%
Investments	EUR m	7.7	12.6	-38.9%
EBIT	EUR m	26.8	28.3	-5.3%
Cash flow	EUR m	25.8	25.6	0.8%
Earnings per share *	EUR	1.55	1.51	2.6%
Employees on 31.03.04				
KRONES domestic		7,230	7,256	-0.4%
KRONES group		8,655	8,701	-0.5%

\* diluted/undiluted

***The KRONES Group - a brief profile:***

*The KRONES Group, headquartered in Neutraubling/Upper Palatinate, plans, develops and manufactures machines and complete lines for bottling, canning and packaging operations in the beverage, food, chemical, pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries. It has plants in Neutraubling, Nittenau, Flensburg, Freising and Rosenheim.*

*Besides KRONES AG (MDAX), the group comprises the production subsidiaries Steinecker (brewing technology), Sander Hansen (pasteurisers), Syskron (process automation) and Kosme (machines for the lower speed range) plus more than 40 companies abroad, who also assure comprehensive service support during a line's entire lifetime. With 8,690 employees, the group's turnover was a good 1.4 billion euros in 2003.*

You will also find this press release for downloading on the internet under <http://www.krones.com>.