

Press release

METALL ZUG GROUP reports solid annual result

Zug, 23 March 2009 – The METALL ZUG GROUP performed well in 2008 and succeeded yet again in increasing sales in all business units – all in all by 26% to CHF 808.6 million. The operating result of CHF 90.5 million almost reached the previous year's level, which was at a good CHF 94.2 million. However, the financial result suffered from financial market turbulence: a net income of CHF 31.8 million was achieved compared to CHF 84.6 million in the previous year.

The METALL ZUG GROUP increased sales to CHF 808.6 million, which is a growth of 26.0% compared to the previous year (2007: CHF 641.5 million). Organic growth in local currencies amounted to 4.9%. Acquisition effects – especially due to the acquisition of the Schleuniger Group at the beginning of the year – contributed 22.5% to this increase while currency exchange factors reduced group sales by 1.4%.

The operating result (EBIT) of CHF 90.5 million almost reached the previous year's good value of CHF 94.2 million (-3.9%).

Net income decreased by 62.4% to CHF 31.8 million, thus reflecting the turbulence in the financial markets which made the financial result suffer.

Stephan Wintsch, managing director of METALL ZUG AG, comments on this as follows: «Considering the increasingly difficult economic environment in 2008, we are satisfied with the current operating result.»

The board of directors will propose that the general meeting of shareholders pay an unchanged dividend of CHF 20.25 million.

