

Trading update for the first quarter of 2009

- Compared to the fourth quarter of 2008, sales fell slightly by 3.1%.⁽¹⁾
- Rising sales in Bedding and Insulation (building).
- Overall recurrent EBITDA up on the fourth quarter of 2008.
- Strong adaptation measures to face up to the difficult economic climate.

Trading report

Sales were down 18.7% compared to the first quarter of 2008.⁽¹⁾ Although 2008 got off to a strong start, this positive trend was abruptly curtailed by the economic crisis which came to a head in the fourth quarter. With a fall in sales of only 3.1% compared to the fourth quarter of 2008, the decline is less marked.

Whereas Automotive and Flexible Foams lost ground, Insulation and Bedding recorded a positive trend compared to both the first and fourth quarters of 2008.

Thanks to the effect of the adaptation measures (see below), the Group achieved a significant improvement in its profitability (recurrent EBITDA) compared to the fourth quarter.

(1) The trend in sales indicated is based on a comparable consolidation method.
(The consolidation method for Proseat (Automotive) has been changed as of 2009 from full consolidation to proportional consolidation (51%)).

Flexible Foams

Compared to the fourth quarter of 2008, sales of Flexible Foams were down 3.8% (-19.7% compared to the first three months of 2008). This was attributable to lower volumes, especially in the technical foams division (including products for the automotive market and industrial capital goods). On the other hand, the volumes destined for the mattress sector continued to do quite well.

The integration of the activities recently taken over in Norway, Finland and Estonia (cf. Brekke Industrier) is going according to plan.

Bedding

Despite weak consumer confidence, Bedding managed to hold its own. Sales during the first quarter even rose by 4.8% compared to the fourth quarter of 2008 and were 2% up compared to the same period last year. Only Switzerland experienced a difficult first quarter, although business is picking up.

Insulation

During the first three months, the performance of the Insulation sector was up to expectations. Sales of the building insulation division rose by 1.2% (compared to both the first and fourth quarters of 2008). Despite the traditionally calmer construction activity during the first quarter of the year, the demand for insulation products remains high as a result of stricter insulation standards, higher energy prices and growing social environmental awareness of the need for constantly more and better insulation.

The new insulation plant opened in June 2008 in Stoke-on-Trent (United Kingdom) continues to perform well, showing a positive trend for the future.

The industrial insulation segment rose in the first quarter by 8.6% compared to the fourth quarter of last year (-11.6% compared to the same period last year).

Automotive

During the first three months of 2009, sales fell within Automotive by 13.0% compared to the fourth quarter of the previous year (on a comparable basis). Since 1 January 2009, Proseat (seat cushions) has been proportionally consolidated (51%) (until 2008, Proseat was fully consolidated with a minority interest of 49%).

The decline is mainly attributable to lower volumes (in interior solutions), the loss of sales in the exteriors division as a result of the sale of the portfolio of specialised compounds to BASF (end of 2008) and the fact that in January 2009 a large number of car manufacturers remained closed. During March, however, a slight improvement in market demand was recorded.

Adaptation measures

To be able to face up to the various challenges in the current turbulent market environment, Recticel makes every effort to act as fittingly as possible. Planned investments and costs are scaled down where appropriate.

In addition to the planned reorganisations (see press release of 6 March 2009), the Group has introduced redundancies wherever necessary, cut down on outsourcing as far as possible and established short-time working schemes (4/5^{ths}) at various locations in Belgium, Germany and Sweden for employees and executives.

Financial calendar

Annual General Meeting	12.05.2009
Share quoted ex-coupon	26.05.2009
Payment of dividend (coupon Nr 15)	29.05.2009
Announcement of results for first half of 2009 (before stock exchange opening)	28.08.2009
Third quarter trading update 2009 (before stock exchange opening)	10.11.2009

For additional information

RECTICEL - Olympiadenlaan 2, B-1140 Brussels (Evere)	
<u>PRESS</u>	<u>INVESTOR RELATIONS</u>
Mr Jan De Moor Mobile : +32 475 42 78 26 Tel: +32 2 775 18 95 demoor.jan@recticel.com	Mr Michel De Smedt Mobile: +32 479 91 11 38 desmedt.michel@recticel.com

Recticel in a nutshell

Recticel is a Belgian Group with a strong European dimension, but also operates in the rest of the world. Recticel has some 120 establishments in 27 countries.

Recticel contributes to daily comfort with foam filling for seats, mattresses and slat bases of top brands, insulation material, interior comfort for cars and an extensive range of other industrial and domestic applications.

Recticel is the Group behind well-known bedding brands, including Beka, Epeda, Lattoflex, Literie Bultex, Schlaraffia, Sembella, Swissflex, Superba and Ubica. The Insulation division supplies high-quality thermal insulation products under the well-known brand names Euowall, Powerroof and Powerdeck.

Recticel is driven by technological progress and innovation, which has led to a revolutionary breakthrough at the biggest names in the car industry.

Recticel achieved sales to a value of EUR 1.6 billion in 2008.

Recticel (NYSE Euronext: REC.BE – Reuters: RECTt.BR – Bloomberg: REC.BB) is quoted on NYSE Euronext in Brussels.



The press release is available in English, Dutch and French on the website www.recticel.com