

DSM Press Release

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Q1 2005 operating profit EUR 188 million, up 44% from Q1 2004

- Sales up 4% from Q1 2004.
- Operating profit* 44% higher than in Q1 2004.
- Net profit from ordinary activities up 35% from Q1 2004.
- NeoResins acquisition completed; integration started.
- Q2 operating profit expected to be higher than in Q1 2005 and substantially above Q2 2004 level (EUR 152 million).

in EUR million	first quarter		
	2005	2004	+/-
Net sales	1,984	1,902	4%
Operating profit from ordinary activities plus depreciation and amortization (EBITDA)	310	250	24%
Operating profit from ordinary activities (EBIT)	188	131	44%
- Life Science Products	24	22	9%
DSM Nutritional Products	63	46	37%
- Performance Materials	67	42	60%
- Industrial Chemicals	43	24	79%
- Other activities	-10	-5	
- divested activities of DSM Bakery Ingredients	1	2	
Net profit from ordinary activities excluding exceptional items	131	97	35%
Net result from exceptional items	-	-33	
Net profit	131	64	105%
Per ordinary share in EUR:			
- net earnings from ordinary activities	1.33	0.95	
- net earnings	1.33	0.61	
Average number of ordinary shares (x million)	95.8	95.8	

* In this report, 'operating profit' is understood to be operating profit from ordinary activities excluding exceptional items.

Q1 2005 operating profit EUR 188 million, up 44% from Q1 2004

General

DSM posted an *Operating profit* of EUR 188 million in the first quarter of 2005, up EUR 57 million from the first quarter of 2004. *Net profit from ordinary activities* was EUR 131 million, an increase of 35% compared with Q1 2004. *Net profit* doubled compared with the first quarter of the previous year, when the net profit was negatively influenced by an exceptional item.

Commenting on the results, Peter Elverding, Chairman of the DSM Managing Board, said: *"We are satisfied with the development of our results for the first quarter. Our profitability has clearly improved. We will continue to work hard on innovation and productivity enhancement to further improve our profitability level."*

"We managed to consolidate last year's good volume growth and were able to raise prices. What I find particularly favourable is the positive development at Performance Materials, while Industrial Chemicals and DSM Nutritional Products also posted fine results."

"The development of the dollar and the prices of raw materials continue to be uncertain factors in our markets. If market conditions remain at the first-quarter level, the perspectives for DSM's results in 2005 remain positive."

Net sales

<i>in EUR million</i>	first quarter	
	2005	2004
Life Science Products	337	374
DSM Nutritional Products	463	471
Performance Materials	564	472
Industrial Chemicals	409	364
Other activities	133	131
Divested activities of DSM Bakery Ingredients	78	90
Total	1,984	1,902

Q1 2005 sales increased by more than 4% compared with the first quarter of 2004. Having increased strongly in 2004, sales volumes remained virtually unchanged while prices were clearly higher, leading to a 3% sales increase on balance. DSM NeoResins' contribution to sales (from 2 February onwards) was more than 2%. Exchange rate developments had an effect of -1%.

Operating profit

The operating profit for the first quarter was EUR 188 million, up 44% compared with the first quarter of 2004. DSM Nutritional Products and the Performance Materials and Industrial Chemicals clusters performed clearly better than in the first quarter of 2004.

Business review

Life Science Products cluster

<i>in EUR million</i>	first quarter*	
	2005	2004
Net sales including intra-group supplies	351	402
Operating profit plus depreciation and amortization	55	59
Operating profit	24	22

* Excluding divested activities of DSM Bakery Ingredients

Sales of this cluster (excluding divested activities) were down 13% from the first quarter of 2004 as sales volumes were lower on balance (due mainly to the closure of the phenol activities in Rotterdam (the Netherlands) and the chemical synthesis activities in Greenville (USA) and to lower volumes at DSM Anti-Infectives) and prices were also lower on balance. DSM Food Specialties saw its sales and operating profit improve considerably, due among other things to higher sales volumes. In the other business groups, the effect of lower sales was to a large extent compensated for by structural cost reductions that had been achieved.

On 13 April, DSM and Gilde Investment Management announced that they had concluded an agreement on DSM's sale of the greater part of the activities of DSM Bakery Ingredients to Gilde. The agreed transaction price is EUR 197.5 million. In this and subsequent quarterly reports, these activities will be presented separately in the results and in the balance sheet. Net sales of these activities in the first quarter of 2005, including intra-group supplies, amounted to EUR 78 million (2004: EUR 92 million), and operating profit plus depreciation and amortization amounted to EUR 5 million (2004: EUR 6 million).

DSM Nutritional Products

<i>in EUR million</i>	first quarter	
	2005	2004
Net sales including intra-group supplies	468	471
Operating profit plus depreciation and amortization	92	75
Operating profit	63	46

Sales were stable; the effect of the lower dollar exchange rate and price declines for some products was virtually compensated for by an increase in sales volumes.

In *Human Nutrition and Health*, volumes were stable at slightly lower prices. The *Animal Nutrition and Health* business posted higher volumes than last year, when there was an outbreak of avian flu in Asia, but selling prices were under pressure.

The operating profit was substantially higher due to the lower level of fixed and variable costs resulting from the successful implementation of the VITAL integration and transformation project.

Performance Materials cluster

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<i>in EUR million</i>	first quarter	
	2005	2004
Net sales including intra-group supplies	568	477
Operating profit plus depreciation and amortization	93	62
Operating profit	67	42

Sales were up 19% due to the contribution from DSM NeoResins (+9%, two months) and higher selling prices for all business groups. The operating profit for the cluster improved, mainly due to higher margins. All business groups in the cluster contributed to this performance, with DSM Elastomers and DSM Dyneema in particular showing a strong increase in profits.

DSM NeoResins' sales and EBITDA developed in line with expectations. The integration process got off to an energetic start.

Industrial Chemicals cluster

<i>in EUR million</i>	first quarter	
	2005	2004
Net sales including intra-group supplies	458	404
Operating profit plus depreciation and amortization	64	43
Operating profit	43	24

Sales of this cluster on balance increased substantially compared with the first quarter of 2004, due mainly to considerably higher selling prices for caprolactam. DSM Fibre Intermediates recorded a very strong increase in its operating profit compared with Q1 2004, continuing the upward trend of previous quarters. DSM Melamine's results improved compared with the end of 2004 and were comparable to the level of the first quarter of 2004. DSM Agro's operating profit was lower, mainly due to lower margins for ammonia and a shift in volumes due to a late start of the fertilizer application season.

Other activities

<i>in EUR million</i>	first quarter	
	2005	2004
Net sales including intra-group supplies	135	131
Operating profit plus depreciation and amortization	1	5
Operating profit	-10	-5

The operating profit of the Other activities cluster was lower than in the first quarter of last year due to the costs of a number of projects.

Net profit

Net profit was up EUR 67 million (105%) from Q1 2004 (when the net profit was influenced by an exceptional item) and stood at EUR 131 million.

Net finance costs in the first quarter of 2005 amounted to EUR 12 million, which is EUR 4 million less than in the first quarter of 2004. The decrease was mainly a result of the decrease in interest charges due to a lower level of borrowings and a lower dollar exchange rate.

At 27%, the *Effective tax rate* in the first quarter of 2005 was higher than in Q1 2004 (22%). This increase was due to a decrease in the proportion of income elements taxed at a low rate.

Net profit from ordinary activities amounted to EUR 131 million, up EUR 34 million (35%) from the first quarter of 2004.

Net earnings per share from ordinary activities available to holders of ordinary shares increased by 40%. This increase is higher than that of the Net profit from ordinary activities because of the buy-back of cumulative preference shares C at the end of 2004 and the associated decrease in the dividend on the cumulative preference shares in 2005.

Balance sheet

The DSM NeoResins acquisition has temporarily been recognized under Financial assets at the acquisition price of EUR 515 million. In the presentation of the figures for the second quarter, DSM NeoResins will be recognized as a consolidated company.

Cash flow, capital expenditure and financing

The cash flow (net profit plus depreciation) in the first quarter amounted to EUR 253 million, an increase of EUR 70 million compared with the first quarter of 2004. At EUR 56 million, capital expenditure (excluding acquisitions) was substantially lower than the level of depreciation (EUR 122 million) and slightly below the level of Q1 2004 (EUR 66 million).

Net debt increased by EUR 675 million in Q1 2005 and stood at EUR 1,016 million. The increase in net debt was due to the acquisition of NeoResins in early February 2005, the increase in working capital and the repurchase of shares to service option rights.

Workforce

The workforce on balance increased by 185 compared with year-end 2004. As a result of the acquisition of NeoResins, the workforce increased by 631. Restructuring measures and attrition were responsible for a decrease of 446, of which 145 at DSM Nutritional Products and 165 in the Life Science Products cluster.

Outlook

Market conditions remained robust in the first quarter of 2005, enabling DSM to raise the prices of a number of its products.

DSM is confirming the indication it gave in February with regard to the year 2005 as a whole. If the business environment continues to develop in line with 2004 and the first quarter of 2005, the prospects for an increase in DSM's financial results are definitely positive. However, European producers may see themselves confronted with the negative effects of a further weakening of the dollar versus the euro. Moreover, the continuing volatility of raw material prices and possible pressure on economic growth in Europe and the USA are risk factors for the chemical industry.

Based on current insights, DSM foresees continuing good market conditions for the second quarter of 2005. The Q2 2005 operating profit is expected to be higher than that for Q1 2005 and thus substantially higher than the Q2 2004 level (EUR 152 million).

Heerlen, 27 April 2005

The Managing Board of Directors

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Important dates:

Publication of second-quarter results:	Wednesday, 27 July 2005
Interim dividend 2005:	Thursday, 11 August 2005
Publication of third-quarter results:	Thursday, 27 October 2005
Annual report 2005:	Thursday, 9 February 2006
Annual General Meeting:	Wednesday, 29 March 2006

For more information

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Forward-looking statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements. These statements are based on current expectations, estimates and projections of DSM management and information currently available to the company. The statements involve certain risks and uncertainties that are difficult to predict and therefore DSM does not guarantee that its expectations will be realized. Furthermore, DSM has no obligation to update the statements contained in this press release.

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Consolidated statement of income

first quarter of 2005			in EUR million	first quarter of 2004		
ordi- nary acti- ties	excep- tional items	total		ordi- nary acti- ties	excep- tional items	total
1,984	-	1,984	net sales	1,902	-	1,902
310	-	310	operating profit plus depreciation and amortization (EBITDA)	250	-50	200
188	-	188	operating profit (EBIT)	131	-50	81
-12	-	-12	net finance costs	-16	-	-16
176	-	176	profit before taxation	115	-50	65
-48	-	-48	tax	-25	17	-8
1	-	1	profit of associates	2	-	2
2	-	2	minority interests	5	-	5
131	-	131	net profit	97	-33	64
131	-	131	net profit	97	-33	64
-4	-	-4	dividend on cumulative preference shares	-6	-	-6
127	-	127	net profit available to holders of ordinary shares	91	-33	58
253		253	cash flow	216		183
122		122	depreciation and amortization	119		119
		56	capital expenditure			66
		520	acquisitions			-
			per ordinary share in EUR*:			
1.33		1.33	- net earnings	0.95		0.61
		2.60	- cash flow			1.85
		95.8	average number of ordinary shares (x million)			95.8
		95.6	number of ordinary shares, end of period (x million)			95.8
		24,389	workforce at end of period			**24,204
		7,768	of which in the Netherlands			**7,553

* After deduction of dividend on cumulative preference shares.

** At year-end 2004

The financial information set out in this quarterly report has not been audited.

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Consolidated balance sheet

<i>in EUR million</i>	31 March 2005	*31 December 2004
<i>non-current assets</i>		
intangible assets	458	452
property, plant and equipment	3,711	3,812
financial derivatives	192	213
other financial assets	656	133
other non-current assets	741	718
	-----	-----
total	5,758	5,328
<i>current assets</i>		
inventories	1,430	1,348
receivables	1,628	1,643
financial derivatives	10	38
current investments	99	4
cash and cash equivalents	590	1,263
assets held for sale	252	-
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total	4,009	4,296
total assets	9,767	9,624
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<i>in EUR million</i>	31 March 2005	*31 December 2004
<i>group equity and liabilities</i>		
shareholders' equity	5,172	5,039
minority interests	21	22
	-----	-----
total	5,193	5,061
provisions	996	1,020
long-term borrowings	1,273	1,274
financial derivatives	37	32
other non-current liabilities	63	64
	-----	-----
total	2,369	2,390
short-term borrowings	585	527
financial derivatives	12	26
current liabilities	1,541	1,620
liabilities held for sale	67	-
	-----	-----
total	2,205	2,173
total liabilities	9,767	9,624
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capital employed	5,686	5,635
group equity / total assets	0.53	0.53
net debt	1,016	341
net debt / group equity plus net debt	0.16	0.06

* The balance sheet as at year-end 2004 is the balance sheet adjusted for IFRS including financial instruments (IAS 32 and IAS 39). Compared with the annex to the annual report, part of the hedging instruments have been reclassified from current to non-current assets.

The financial information set out in this quarterly report has not been audited.

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Statement of cash flows

<i>in EUR million</i>	first quarter	
	2005	2004
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	1,267	1,215
<i>Operational activities:</i>		
- net profit plus depreciation and amortization	253	183
- change in working capital	-184	65
- other changes	-66	16
	-----	-----
Cash flow from operational activities	3	264
<i>Investing activities:</i>		
- capital expenditure	-56	-66
- acquisitions	-520	-
- divestments	4	1
- other changes	-4	-3
	-----	-----
Net cash used in investing activities	-576	-68
Dividend	-	-
Net cash used in financing activities	-5	-56
Effects of changes in consolidation and exchange differences	-	4
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Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	689	1,359

Statement of changes in Shareholders' equity

<i>in EUR million</i>	first quarter	
	2005	2004
Shareholders' equity at beginning of period	5,039	5,094
<i>Changes:</i>		
- net profit	131	64
- dividend	-4	-118
- exchange differences	47	34
- repurchased shares	-75	-
- repurchased shares used in servicing option rights	40	-
- other	-6	2
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Shareholders' equity at end of period	5,172	5,076

The financial information set out in this quarterly report has not been audited.

Restatement of 2004 quarterly figures in connection with transition to IFRS

	Q1 2004	Q2 2004	Q3 2004	Q4 2004	year 2004
Net sales					
Life Science Products	494	486	490	515	1,985
DSM Nutritional Products	471	490	479	470	1,910
Performance Materials	477	506	515	515	2,013
Industrial Chemicals	404	426	439	478	1,747
Other activities	131	119	133	102	485
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Subtotal	1,977	2,027	2,056	2,080	8,140
Intra-Group supplies	-75	-69	-93	-71	-308
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	1,902	1,958	1,963	2,009	7,832
EBITDA					
Life Science Products	65	66	62	64	257
DSM Nutritional Products	75	87	88	80	330
Performance Materials	62	66	67	54	249
Industrial Chemicals	43	51	61	52	207
Other activities	5	9	2	12	28
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Total	250	279	280	262	1,071
Operating profit					
Life Science Products	24	24	21	26	95
DSM Nutritional Products	46	54	58	44	202
Performance Materials	42	44	46	33	165
Industrial Chemicals	24	30	38	28	120
Other activities	-5	0	-10	0	-15
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Total	131	152	153	131	567
Net finance costs	-16	-12	-16	-13	-57
Tax	-25	-28	-24	-24	-101
Profit of associates	2	2	3	3	10
Minority interests	5	1	3	2	11
Exceptional items	-33		2	-99	-130
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Net profit	64	115	121	0	300

Compared to the annex included in the 2004 annual report, net sales have been adjusted downward by an amount of EUR 54 million. This reflects the elimination of internal supplies to newly consolidated joint ventures.