

### HeidelbergCement shows global growth despite weakness in the US and UK

**Germany:** HeidelbergCement has released details of its financial figures for the January-June 2008 operating period. For the first six months of 2008 HC achieved Euro6.9bn in turnover (up from Euro4.2bn in 2007). Net profit for this six month period was Euro1.7bn, up 29% for 2007.

One of the reasons for this increase was the purchase of Hanson, in addition to strong performance in eastern Europe, central Asia, Indonesia, China, Africa and Turkey.

Cement and clinker sales volumes rose by 8% to 44.4Mt, with growth strongest in the Australia-Africa group area, followed by Europe. Sales volumes in North America were impaired, mainly as a result of a weak construction market. Deliveries of aggregates more than trebled, reaching 145.4Mt. In addition, ready-mix concrete sales volumes increased by 81.5% to 22.2Mm<sup>3</sup>.

### Holcim lowers 2008 outlook after 66% drop in net profit

**Switzerland:** Holcim has lowered its full-year outlook after reporting a 66% drop in second-quarter 2008 net profit, hit by high raw-material costs and a slowdown in the US construction industry.

Net profit fell to Euro432m from Euro1.3bn a year earlier, when the figure was boosted by a Euro808m divestment. Sales were down 4.8% to Euro4.3bn. Analysts noted that business in North America was surprisingly weak and that slowing growth in India burdened Asia. The company said it is maintaining its long-term target of 5% annual internal growth in EBITDA earnings.

### Semapa H1 net drops 22% to Euro55.7m

**Portugal:** Portuguese conglomerate Semapa, which controls paper producer Portucel and cement maker Secil, posted a 22% drop in first-half 2008 net profit following 2007's one-off gain. Semapa's net profit fell to Euro55.7m in H1 2008 after Euro71.5m in the previous year. EBITDA earnings fell 20% to Euro185.1m.

### Intensiv-Filter Austria GmbH founded

**Austria:** Intensiv-Filter has strengthened its presence in south eastern Europe, by establishing a new Austrian subsidiary – Intensiv-Filter Austria GmbH – located in Grieskirchen. The aim of the company is to serve the customers locally in the south eastern European region and to expand the resources of Intensiv-Filter worldwide. In addition to companies in Brazil, India and Korea, Intensiv-Filter Austria GmbH is the third European subsidiary outside Germany.

In an official announcement, Thomas Blüggel, director of the founding company, said: "The south eastern European region is one of the most promising areas in the world. Part of our strategy is to develop core competences [in this region] with our own employees. Our subsidiary in Austria is intended to enhance our bond with the region, to develop rapidly after it establishes itself and to expand our business."

The new managing director (MD) of Intensiv-Filter Austria is Joachim Thiele (pictured) who has many years of experience in

### Samson – goes from strength to strength

**Europe:** In the last few months B&W has received several orders for the delivery of its Samson™ Feeders to the European cement industry, including the following projects:

- Titan Cement Company placed an order for one Samson (1600x11m) for handling pozzolan, gypsum, limestone and slag with a capacity up to 300t/h at its Zlatna Panega cement mill in Bulgaria;
- Elite Cementos (Spain) ordered one Samson to handle clinker, gypsum and limestone at 750t/h;
- Cemex in Latvia placed an order with B&W for one Samson to be installed at its Broceni plant. The machine will be used to transport coal at 75t/h;
- Cemex Spain ordered a Samson to handle alternative fuels at 70m<sup>3</sup>/h;
- Four identical Samson units will be supplied to Volyn Cement and YugCement (Ukraine). Once in operation the machines will handle coal at a rate of 200t/h. A further Samson will be supplied via Aumund Fördertechnik to the CRH Podilsky plant in Ukraine.

### First construction round of Cemex's terminal at Liepaja Port, Riga, completed

**Latvia:** The first round of construction of the Cemex cement terminal at Liepaja Port has been completed, according to Cemex public relations manager Eriks Matulis. The project is being implemented by Cemex in conjunction with the Liepaja Port company Liepajs Osta LM.

The new premises will become part of the Cemex network of terminals. Total investments in the project are estimated at Euro9.7m, with Cemex contributing Euro7.2m.

The construction of the cement terminal in Liepaja began in November 2007. The cement terminal is fully automated and can handle up to 250t of cement per hour. After the second round of the construction of the terminal concludes in September 2008, it will also be able to export cement. The terminal's total annual handling capacity will be 500,000-800,000t.



Intensiv-Filter Austria's new headquarters



Joachim Thiele

filter technology, including that from within Intensiv-Filter. For many years he was also the MD at Intensiv-Filter's sister company Infastaub GmbH.

## Dyckerhoff's Ukrainian output increase

**Ukraine:** Ukrainian plants belonging to Dyckerhoff Zement boosted production 7.7% to 1.33Mt of cement in the first half of 2008 compared to the same period of 2007. The Yugtsement plant increased production 11.8% to 546,700t in the half, while Volyn Cement raised output 4.9% to 778,400t.

Yugtsement increased production 13.7% to 115,100t in June 2008, while Volyn Cement reduced output 3.3% to 142,700t.

## Lafarge reassures truck drivers

**UK:** Lafarge has said that switching between 50,000 long-distance truck journeys a year to rail will result in no job losses among drivers as a result. Lafarge says its employed drivers and sub-contractors will be moved from deliveries of silo cement – which will now go by rail – to deliveries of packed cement.

Lafarge's 48 new rail wagons were part of a £5m expansion plan at its Hope Works in Derbyshire. The company says making the move will cut 6800 local truckloads each year from the Hope Valley site, with only one additional train journey a week to carry the increased tonnage.

The primary role of the new rail wagons will be to carry cement in 22-wagon loads from the Hope Works to depots in the south east. The cement will then be taken to its final destination by truck.

## Holcim Romania sees 2008 turnover up 22%

**Romania:** The Romanian unit of Holcim expects its turnover to rise by up to 22% on the year in 2008, from Euro280.9m in 2007, CEO Markus Wirth said on 18 August 2008. Holcim Romania's turnover grew by an annual 28% in 2007.

The company set aside an investment budget of Euro135 m for 2008 for projects including modernisation of production technology, environment protection and labour safety. Holcim Romania also announced its intention to acquire local building materials producers, as well as expand through greenfield investments.

The company invested a total of Euro515m in Romania by the end of 2007, divided between a new Euro95.0m cement plant in northwestern Alesd as well as Euro60.8m and Euro35m for cement production facilities in southern Campulung and northwestern Turda, respectively.

## Turkey's Akçansa targets US\$715m turnover in 2008

**Turkey:** Turkish cement producer Akçansa is targeting revenue of over US\$715m in 2008, the general manager of the company Hakan Gurdal said. The company, which is owned by Sabanci Holding and HeidelbergCement Group, had sales of Euro400m in 2007.

Akçansa's first-half 2008 net profit fell 31% to Euro40.6m as sales rose 18% to Euro234.7m. The company will make investments of Euro13.8m in the second half of this year, and plans Euro20.7m in energy investments in 2009, Gurdal said.



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