



Media release

CALIDA breaks even in first half-year

Though the market environment remains difficult, CALIDA was able to break even in the first six months of the current year – the first time it has done so since 1998. During the period under review the company generated an operating cash-flow of CHF 1.2 million and net profit of CHF 0.2 million on sales of CHF 62.1 million.

CALIDA has posted an operating profit of CHF 0.3 million for the first half-year of 2003. This compares with an operating loss of CHF 4.0 million recorded for the same period in the previous year. The corporate result improved from a CHF 3.8 million loss to a net profit of CHF 0.2 million. The liquidity situation also continues to improve. Operating cash-flow came to CHF 1.2 million (previous year: CHF -1.1 million). Owing to the exceptional disposal of certain fixed assets in 2002, free cash-flow was down slightly at CHF 1.0 million (previous year: CHF 1.3 million).

Net indebtedness for the first half-year – the period which sees the highest seasonal financing requirement – was CHF 1.0 million (previous year: CHF 17.4 million), while the company's equity capital ratio rose to 64.4 percent (previous year: 59.5 percent).

As forecast, half-year sales fell by 9.4 percent to CHF 62.1 million. The decline in sales has slowed significantly.

During the first six months, CALIDA further expanded its CALIDA monobrand stores and CALIDA brand shops in department stores and at other important clients. In Switzerland new CALIDA stores were established in Chur, Pfäffikon and Herzogenbuchsee. More new CALIDA branches will follow in the second half of the year in Basel and Winterthur. In Germany, shop-in-shops were opened in Karstadt

department stores in Munich, Düsseldorf, Dresden, Frankfurt, Bremen, Dortmund, Karlsruhe, Mühlheim and Nuremberg.

Sales are likely to be weaker year-on-year in the second half as well. Rigorous cost management and further operational improvements will have a positive effect on the earnings performance.

About the CALIDA Group: CALIDA is the clear market leader in its home market of Switzerland, with a market share of more than 20 percent and brand awareness of 99.4%. In its second core market, Germany, the company's market share is 3 percent, with awareness of the CALIDA brand at 50 percent. CALIDA is active on various European markets and aims to establish itself as a major European brand. Shares in CALIDA Holding are listed on the SWX Swiss Exchange.

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CALIDA Holding AG

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