

Jenoptik: +32.5 % in Order Intake

Jena, Germany (at) – The Jenoptik Group posted a leap in results in the 1st quarter 2010 compared with the same quarter in the previous year. The reasons for this are the markedly improved order situation, in particular in the semiconductor industry, and the positive impact of the cost reduction measures introduced in 2009.

Whilst sales at € 115.2 million (prev. year € 117.7 million) still showed a slight fall, the Group operating result increased to € 4.0 million (prev. year € 0.4 million). The Group EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization) grew by 36.4 percent to € 10.4 million over the same quarter in the previ-

ous year (prev. year € 7.7 million). With the financial result remaining at virtually the same level as in the previous year, earnings after tax rose to € 0.4 million (prev. year minus € 2.7 million).

The continuing recovery in the semiconductor industry over recent months was important for the Jenoptik Group. This and strong demand in the medical lasers business once again produced a positive result for the quarter in the Lasers & Optical Systems segment, said Jenoptik boss Michael Mertin. Jenoptik also won a number of key major orders, e.g. in the Traffic Solutions division, some of which will also be accounted for in the 2010 fiscal year.

In the 1st quarter 2010 the Jenoptik Group achieved order intakes totaling € 145.6 million (prev. year € 109.9 million), a plus of 32.5%! This figure includes a number of major orders, including that in the sum of more than € 12 million for traffic safety systems outside Europe. The order intake increased in all three segments. The growth in the order intake in comparison with the volume of sales as at March 31, 2010 led to a sharp rise in the order backlog compared with the end of 2009. This came in at € 368.8 million (31.12.2009: € 339.4 million).

The general outlook for the year 2010 was positive. Sales of the Jenoptik Group in the 2010 fiscal year are expected to be up

slightly on the figure for 2009, with a significant rise in the Group EBIT. In numbers, sales for 2010 should come in at between € 475 and € 500 million and the Group EBIT is expected between € 15 and € 25 million, the net profit for the year should be positive. These forecasts remain subject to a continuation in the recovery by the semiconductor industry. Besides that, the main driving forces for an improvement in business performance are seen in photovoltaics, medical technology as well as in the areas of traffic and security, supported by the stable Defense & Civil Systems segment.

www.jenoptik.de

Q-Cells SE Reaches Positive EBITDA

Bitterfeld-Wolfen, Germany (at) – On May 11, Q-Cells SE published its figures for the first quarter 2010. In spite of closing of the older production lines at the Thalheim site by end of last year, the overall production volume at 174 megawatt peak (MWp) was above the value of the fourth quarter 2009 (161 MWp).

Sales in the amount of € 232.3 million were slightly above the value of the previous year's quarter (€ 224.6 million), but below those of the fourth quarter 2009 (€ 251.3 million). This expected development is related to the new crystalline module business, which will start during the second quarter 2010. These modules need to initially be produced from solar cells; correspondingly part of the cell production of the first quarter was not available for external deliveries.

For the first time since the first quarter 2009, Q-Cells SE could show a positive result before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) with the amount of € 18.8 million. The operative result (EBIT) was € -9.3 million and thus clearly above the values of the previous quarters (Q3 2009: € -163.8, Q4 2009: € -274.5 million). Adjusted by ramp-up costs of the productions in Malaysia (production started in 2009) and of subsidiary Solibro GmbH, this resulted in a figure of € -1.0 million for Q1 2010. Due to the higher wafer sourcing prices of the previous year, which still had an effect during the first quarter 2010 in view of existing inventories, this still contains a negative effect of approx. € 8 million.

www.q-cells.com

Michael Kaschke: New Chairman of Advisory Board

Oberkochen, Germany (cb) – Effective April 1, 2010, Michael Kaschke, Member of the Executive Board of Carl Zeiss AG, became the new Chairman of the Advisory Board at Carl Zeiss Vision. Kaschke is a Member of the Executive Board and CFO of Carl Zeiss AG. At Carl Zeiss Vision, the world's number two eyeglass provider, he has replaced Advisory Board Chairman Arne Frank by rotation. The two shareholders of Carl Zeiss Vision Holding GmbH, Carl Zeiss AG and the private equity company EQT, will continue to be equally represented on the Advisory Board.

Michael Kaschke is also Chairman of the supervisory board of Carl Zeiss Meditec.



FIGURE: Michael Kaschke, Chairman of Advisory Board at Carl Zeiss Vision. (Courtesy of Carl Zeiss AG)

www.zeiss.de

OWIS GmbH Celebrates 30th Anniversary

Staufen, Germany (kp) – OWIS GmbH celebrates its anniversary and can look back on 30 years of wide experience and dynamic development. It began in 1980 with only three employ-

ees in a small workshop and a light guiding idea. Today, the family-run company counts 50 employees and has a comprehensive product range of high-precision components for the

optical beam handling and positioning systems. OWIS is represented in more than 30 countries worldwide through sales agencies. The complete development, production and as-

sembly facilities are located at OWIS headquarters in Staufen.

www.owis.eu

Fraunhofer: Growth During the Crisis

Munich, Germany (kp) – Despite the global economic crisis, the financial volume of the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft reached an all-time high of € 1.6 billion in the past year. This represents a 15 percent increase. In 2009, approximately 900 new jobs were created, too. Overall, the number of employees rose to 17,150.

“The financial volume is comprised of the ongoing budgets for contract research – as the critical area for research and development services – defense research and expansion investments,” as CFO Alfred Gossner explains the figures. During fiscal year 2009, historic all-time highs were achieved in all three areas. The volume of contract research recorded a € 49 million expansion to € 1.34

billion. In the defense research sector, the budget of € 87 million was more than twice as high as the prior year. Expansion investments equaled € 190 million, and surpassed last year’s level by € 118 million, which is attributed foremost to the economic stimulus programs of the federal and state governments.

Compared to 2008, earnings from business declined. “Given a ten percent decline, the effects of the crisis were not felt as strongly as in machine and systems construction, critical industries to the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft,” Gossner indicates. “The sharp increase in public project revenues was able to compensate for diminishing economic earnings.” Revenues equaling € 317 million were re-

alized in fiscal year 2009 from projects with the federal and state governments.

In fiscal year 2009, Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft attained income in the amount of € 156 million from projects with international partners (excluding licensing fees). Project income from the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission rose by 7 % to € 64 million, a relatively stable European industrial business counted 48 million Euro. The revenues from USA-based projects declined by 16 %, to € 28 million; of this, Fraunhofer-USA generated € 18 million. The international financial crisis also expressed itself in the declining earnings from Asia. These dropped by 15 %, to € 13 million.

The licensing of patents contributed € 78 million to the Fraunhofer income in the last year. In fiscal year 2009 alone,

675 new inventions were applied for from the Fraunhofer institutes. The volume of active proprietary rights and industrial property rights applications increased to over 5,200.

The defense research area was enhanced in fiscal year 2009 by the three institutes of the former Research Institute for Applied Natural Sciences (FGAN e.V.). The budget increased by € 49 million to € 87 million. This corresponds to a five percent share of the entire financial volume of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft.

Expansion investments are infrastructure measures that are financed by the federal government and by the federal states. Altogether, the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft invested € 190 million (2008: € 72 million) in institutional buildings and the technical equipment at its institutes.

www.fraunhofer.de

mso jena is now Optics Balzers Jena

Balzers, Liechtenstein (cb) – Optics Balzers, a leading supplier of optical thin-film components and assemblies, is continuing its growth. With its acquisition of “mso jena Mikroschichtoptik GmbH” in Jena, Germany, it is expanding its competencies and manufacturing technologies into a unique portfolio. Thanks to its new Optics affiliate in Jena, the Liechtenstein-based company now has a product site in the EU. In syner-

gy with the high competencies available in Balzers and its dense international distribution organization, new market opportunities are being unlocked. mso jena was one of the first companies to apply optical broadband monitoring for controlling coating processes. One of its special capabilities is to apply optical filters to 8-inch wafers with photodetectors.

www.opticsbalzers.com

New Director at the Max Born Institute

Berlin, Germany (kp) – Marc Vrakking has been appointed as a new Director at the Max Born Institute (MBI) for Nonlinear Optics and Short Pulse Spectroscopy and as a Professor of Physics at the Freie Universität Berlin. He belongs to the pioneers of attosecond time-resolved laser spectroscopy. Vrakking takes over the division of Ingolf Hertel. In addition to Vrakking, Wolfgang Sandner and Thomas Elsäßer are also Directors at MBI.

At MBI Vrakking, who is from the Netherlands, wishes to ex-

pand his research on time-resolved spectroscopy with attosecond pulses. For example, he also plans to turn his attention to surfaces. Marc Vrakking takes a particular interest in young scientists. He is Coordinator of the Initial Training Network ATTOFEL (Ultrafast Dynamics using Attosecond and XUV Free Electron Laser Sources) which is sponsored by the EU 7th Framework Programme.

www.fv-berlin.de





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LPKF Receives the 2010 Hermes Award

Garbsen, Germany (kp) – The idea is impressive: add Printed Circuit Board (PCB) tracks to existing plastic parts and they take on additional electronic functions. For realizing this idea and developing it to series capacity, LPKF Laser & Electronics AG was recognized with the Hermes Award at the opening ceremony of the Hannover Messe 2010. The prize was awarded by a top-class panel of judges from the press, politics and business.

LPKF relies on a special process to turn simple injection molding components into sophisticated electronics components. A special additive is added to the plastic. The subsequent laser process activates this additive, producing a micro-rough surface. Finally, cop-



FIGURE: LPKF was recognized with the Hermes Award at the opening ceremony of the Hannover Messe 2010. (Courtesy of LPKF)

per, nickel or gold are added during electro-plating.

Structuring three-dimensional components alone is already a challenging task. LPKF developed a new type of laser system, which handles this job with four simultaneous lasers. This elimi-

nates the time previously required for rotating the component, the machining speed is increased by a five-fold, and all this with improved precision.

The nomination was based on a package including the method and the laser system.

The new systems, available since the summer of 2009, allowed the production capacity in its current main application field of cell phone antennas to be increased from 20 million in 2009 to 100 million for 2010. LPKF is also seeing increasing demand in other fields such as the automotive industry, medical technology and electrical engineering.

LPKF Laser & Electronics AG manufactures machines and laser systems used in the production of electronics, medical technology, the automotive industry and in the production of solar cells. About 20 percent of the employees work in research and development.

www.lpkf.de

The New DPG President Comes from Berlin

Bad Honnef, Germany (kp) – The Deutsche Physikalische Gesellschaft (German Physical Society) has a new president. Wolfgang Sandner takes over this honorary position for the next two years from Gerd Litfin, who shall assume the function of DPG Vice-President.

Wolfgang Sandner is Director at the Max Born Institute for Nonlinear Optics and Short Pulse Spectroscopy and Professor at the Technische Universität Berlin. His research activities are focused on the interaction of matter with high-power laser light.

Wolfgang Sandner heads the DPG at a time in which science is increasingly concerned with the major challenges of our society such as energy, climate, mobility, security and health, extending beyond the boundaries of disciplines and national borders. Without a basic knowledge of physics this would be impossible for all disciplines. "The DPG therefore also sees a particular responsibility in providing physical facts and methods as an objective basis for political decisions" stated Sandner. This is, however, only possible



FIGURE: New DPG president Wolfgang Sandner (left) together with Gerd Litfin. (Courtesy of DPG/Jan Röhl)

when society and politics cooperate on a long term basis: "We must ensure that the quality of school education as well as teaching and research at German universities are maintained at a high international standard", says Sandner. The DPG president states, that the Master degree must become the standard qualification in Physics, of equal value to the former Diploma.

www.dpg-physik.de

Eight New National Centers of Competence for Research in Switzerland

Bern/Zurich, Switzerland (kp) – Federal Councilor Didier Burkhalter announced the launch of eight new National Centers of Competence for Research (NCCRs). These will be set up with the long-term support of the executive boards of the Universities of Bern, Geneva, Zurich, the EPF Lausanne (2) and the ETH Zurich (2). The Universities of Bern, Geneva and Lausanne will be involved additionally as co-leading houses in four of the new NCCRs. The Confederation is allocating CHF 30 million per year for the eight new NCCRs between 2010 and 2013.

The launch of eight new NCCRs is the result of a call for project submissions made by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) in 2008. In line with the funds available for creating new NCCRs, the Federal Department of Home Affairs (FDHA) decided to set up these NCCRs, because in addition to their scientific excellence these meet the important condition of relying on long-term support within the development plans of their individual universities. Two NNRCs in

Physical Sciences are located at the ETH Zurich. The projects with the titles "Quantum Science and Technology" and "Molecular Ultrafast Sciences and Technology" (MUST) are funded with a total of 34.4 million francs (about € 24 million).

Klaus Ensslin, Professor at the Laboratory for Solid State Physics, ETH Zurich heads the NFS "Quantum Science and Technology". The program with several participating Swiss Universities has a running time of four years (2011–2014) and is funded by CHF 17.1 million (about € 12 million).

The project MUST is headed by Ursula Keller, Professor at the Institute of Quantum Electronics, ETH Zurich, and Thomas Feurer, Professor at the Institute of Applied Physics, University of Bern; the "Leading House" is the ETH Zurich. In total, 15 Swiss research groups of different disciplines work together on MUST, with Federal funding of CHF 17.3 million from 2010–2013.

www.sbf.admin.ch, www.ethz.ch

Prize Winner of the Innovation Award Laser Technology 2010



FIGURE: One Highlight of the International Laser Technology Congress AKL'2010 was the presentation of the Innovation Award Laser Technology 2010. From left to right: Reinhart Poprawe, Andres Gasser, Elke Weiss, Frank Boekhoff, Guido Pethan, Stefan Kaielerle, Hans-Jörg Bullinger, Ulrich Berners (back row); Gerhard Backes, Jürgen Dupré, Hermann Lembeck (middle row); Claus-Rüdiger Haas, Alexander Schell, Daijun Li, Keming Du (first row). (Courtesy of AKL e.V./ELI)

Aachen, Germany (kp) – The Innovation Award Laser Technology 2010, initiated by the associations Arbeitskreis Lasertechnik e.V. and the European Laser Institute ELI has been conferred on May 5th in Aachen's town hall. Hans-Jörg Bullinger, president of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft and dinner speaker of the awarding ceremony, conferred the 1st prize of the Innovation Award Laser Technology 2010 provided with 10,000 Euro prize money to Keming Du and his team of the EdgeWave GmbH, Würselen, Germany for the development of Q-switched INNOSLAB lasers for high quality micro-processing. The prize winner Keming Du has been furthermore awarded the title of AKL Fellow and ELI Fellow. The trophy for the prize winner and the certificates for Keming Du and the other project management team members Claus-Rüdiger Haas, Alexander Schell, and Daijun Li were handed over by Ulrich Berners, president of the Arbeitskreis Lasertechnik AKL e.V. and Stefan Kaielerle, president of the European Laser Institute ELI.

INNOSLAB lasers represent a new laser class which is suitable for a large variety of applications in different sectors of industry

and research. With his features INNOSLAB lasers enable a variety of challenging applications with added value such as micro-processing of glass, scribing, edge deletion, high throughput thin film structuring, and pumping of dye lasers.

The prize for the 2nd place has been conferred to Jürgen Dupré and his team of Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd. & Co. KG, Dahlewitz and Oberursel, Germany. The innovation consists in a new repair technique for aero-engine components using Laser Metal Deposition.

The prize for the 3rd place has been conferred to Hermann Lembeck and his team of the MEYER WERFT Laserzentrum GmbH, Papenburg, Germany. The innovation consists in Laser hybrid welding of thick sheet metals with disk lasers in ship-building industry.

Over 250 guests of the 500 participants of the International Laser Technology Congress AKL'10 attended the awarding ceremony.

The Innovation Award Laser Technology is a European research prize awarded at 2-yearly intervals.

www.innovation-award-laser.org



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