



**PRESS RELEASE
HELM GROUP 2010**

OUTLOOK FOR THE YEAR 2011

2010 was a good year for the chemicals industry. The industry experienced a surge in production that had not been witnessed since 1976, exceeding most expectations. With double-digit growth rates both in production and sales, this industry segment managed to overcome the financial markets and economic crisis surprisingly fast. The HELM Group also managed to benefit from this trend to the full extent.

Key performance data of the HELM Group:

- Figures in EUR million -

	2010	2009	
<u>SALES REVENUES</u>			
- Global sales	7,957	4,928	+ 61%
- thereof: foreign sales	4,490	2,716	+ 65%

EARNINGS expectations

- Consolidated net profit after taxes	56.6	46.6	+ 21%
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With expected consolidated net income of € 56.6 million (€ 46.6 million), HELM AG achieves the third-best result in the Company's history after several exceptional boom years. HELM AG plans to use the income earned to further consolidate its finances and provide for its ongoing future independence.

Following construction phases lasting for several years, it was possible to successfully commission the new production participations in Jubail, Saudi-Arabia, with the products of acetic acid and vinyl acetate monomer as well as on the island of Trinidad with the products of melamine and liquid fertilizer urea ammonium nitrate early in the year 2010.

In the field of pharmaceuticals, HELM succeeded in establishing a further mainstay in the field of generic product development with a holding in the Argentinean company Amarin Technologies S.A. Based on the successful experience in marketing the transdermal generic "Fentanyl patch", in future HELM will be responsible on behalf of Amarin for international marketing and will thus extend its involvement in this sophisticated field in terms of science, patent law and technology.

Following several years of targeted extension of our crop protection activities, especially in Latin America, resounding successes were achieved in Brazil, Mexico and Argentina. By means of own registrations of herbicides, pesticides and insecticides as well as local

distribution via our three subsidiaries, we have reached a stage that will enable us to ensure successful operations for the future, too.

At the locations of Richter-Helm BioLogics in Hanover, Hamburg and Bovenau, the production of biosimilars was successfully expanded with our joint venture partner Gedeon Richter, of Budapest. We have made good progress both in the field of contract processing and in our own development of two products against osteoporosis and hepatitis C.

Our policy of in-depth research into products and markets has enabled us to record further expansion. Our targeted marketing policy is shaped by our approach based on being top of the class in few fields rather than mediocrity in mass.

2010 was an eventful year for the shareholder family Schnabel. On 9 June 2010, the architect of HELM AG, Prof. Dr. h. c. Hermann Schnabel, passed away at the age of 89. He had purchased the company in 1950 and created the solid foundations for the successful development of HELM AG. For 34 successful years, Hermann Schnabel was at the helm of the HELM organisation.

On 1 January 2012, Mr Hans-Christian Sievers, aged 46, will become the new CEO of HELM AG. He has already been in the Company's service since 1985; of this time, he spent 13 years with the subsidiary HELM de México, S.A., Mexico City. Since 1 January 2001, he has a member of the Executive Board of HELM AG, responsible for the business division HELM-International.

Mr Sievers will be the successor to Dieter Schnabel who, after 43 years in the operational business, will become a member of the Company's Supervisory Board.

The approach embarked on in recent years of focusing on the Company's core markets and selected products is also being consistently followed this year. We had a good start to the early months of 2011; accordingly, we anticipate that a similarly good end-of-year result will be recorded as in the year 2010. The new volumes from the production holdings in Trinidad and Saudi-Arabia as well as the new source of supply in Qatar lead us to expect that sales revenues and earnings will remain high.

The full modernisation of the HELM building in Nordkanalstrasse is scheduled to begin in mid-2011. With a modernisation volume of € 15-20 million, the facade, building technology and premises will be revamped in the following three years, with operations continuing as usual.

By renting a further four floors in the building opposite in Spaldingstrasse, we plan to do justice to accommodating the increasing number of employees – the workforce at HELM AG has grown by just under 20% in the past five years. The Company's headquarters in City-Süd will remain the head office of the family enterprise. The global workforce consists of 1,366 (1,342) employees, excluding production holdings.

Despite the political and social turmoil and the geophysical and nuclear disaster, we are confident of our ability to achieve solid annual financial statements.