

Press release

31 March 2005

Gruppo Ceramiche Ricchetti Spa: Board of Directors Approves 2004 Accounts

A 1.6 million euro dividend was proposed, equal to 0.03 euro per ordinary share. Dividends will become payable on May 26, 2005; the ex-dividend date is May 23, 2005

Ricchetti Group consolidated results are:

- Production value: 309.4 million euros (314.5 million euros in 2003)
- EBITDA margin: 8.94% (8.81% in 2003)
- EBIT margin: 2.62% (1.89% in 2003), including 3.3 million euros as extraordinary costs and provisions
- Reduced losses: 2.7 million euros (4.6 million euros in 2003)
- Net financial borrowing: 108.7 million euros (100.1 million euros in 2003), due to the reclassification of 12.8 million euros of Mediobanca ordinary shares in to long term assets. Without this operation, Net Financial Borrowing would have decreased to 95.9 million euros.

Parent company Gruppo Ceramiche Ricchetti S.p.A. results are:

- Production value: 147.4 million euros (150.1 million euros in 2003)
- EBITDA margin: 8.51% (8.73% in 2003)
- EBIT margin: 2.85 (3.43% in 2003), was influenced by 2.3 million euros worth of provisions and extraordinary costs (1.26 million euros in 2003)
- Profit: 3.5 million euros (4.3 million euros losses in 2003)

Gruppo Ceramiche Ricchetti's Board of Directors today approved the 2004 accounts.

The consolidated results of the Group show total production value of 309.4 million euros, (314.6 million euros in 2003). In this comparison the sale of a building (at 6.7 million euros in Q1 2003) should be considered.

EBITDA margin is 8.94% (8.81% in 2003). EBIT margin is 2.62% (1.89% in 2003), considering stock provisions of 2.3 million euros and 1 million euros as extraordinary costs relating to the restructuring of the Swedish subsidiary company CC Hoganas Byggkeramik AB.

Losses were reduced to 2.7 million euros, from 4.6 million euros in 2003.

Net Financial Borrowing is 108.7 million euros, (December 31, 2003 100.1 million euros). The increase was due to the reclassification of 12.8 million euros of Mediobanca ordinary shares in to long term assets. Without this operation, Net Financial Borrowing would have decreased to 95.9 million euros.

The results of parent company Gruppo Ceramiche Ricchetti S.p.A. shows production value of 147.4 million euros (150.1 in 2003).

Per ulteriori informazioni alla stampa contattare:

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EBITDA margin is 8,51% (8,73% in 2003). EBIT margin is 2,85% (3,43% in 2003), due to the negative impact of a 0.435 million euro provision (0.26 million euros in 2003) to cover losses from companies within the group, of 1.3 million euros stock provisions (1 million euro in 2003), of 0.642 million euro provisions due to deletion of some assets adjustments and due to changes in the Italian Fiscal Law.

Profits are 3.6 million euros, (4.3 million euros losses in 2003).

Oscar Zannoni, President and CEO of Gruppo Ceramiche Ricchetti Spa, explained:

“Notwithstanding the stable market conditions, in 2004 Gruppo Ceramiche Ricchetti continued to widen the product offering to enable us to offer the global market a complete and competitive product range. The decline in the sales volumes was balanced by an increase in the average price per unit of product. This has limited the decrease of the revenues compared to other producers and demonstrates the ability of Ceramiche Ricchetti to offer a product for which the market acknowledges a higher price, and therefore a higher value. In addition, during 2005 the Company will continue the process of the specialization of the manufacturing facilities in order to achieve production and managerial synergies for the benefit of the different brands of the Group, ensuring not only a reduction in the cost of production, but also an increase in the flexibility in the product supply chain, being this more and more a competitive advantage as customer service and a tool to decrease inventory stock .”

The Board of Directors examined the status of the adoption of the new IAS/IFRS accounting rules. The new rules will be adopted in the half year report 2005.

Consolidated Accounts 31.12.2004

(thousands of euros)

ASSETS	31-12-2004	31-12-2003
Intangible assets	5.114	7.298
Fixed assets	101.551	114.427
Financial assets	23.203	10.012
Total non-current Assets	129.868	131.737
Inventories	132.454	120.128
Accounts receivable	81.871	91.319
Current financial assets	7.058	20.056
Cash & cash equivalents	6.869	8.104
Total current Assets	228.252	239.607
Prepayments and accrued income	1.878	1.719
TOTAL ASSETS	359.998	373.064
Equity	125.061	127.838
Provisions for liabilities and charges	9.794	10.328
Provision for staff termination pay	18.710	18.369
Debt towards Shareholders	4.600	6.900
Financial debt	122.662	128.240
Other accounts payable	77.577	80.081
Accrued charges and deferred income	1.594	1.308
TOTAL LIABILITIES	359.998	373.064

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INCOME STATEMENT	31-12-2004	%	31-12-2003	%
Revenues from sales and services	295.264	95,40	306.361	97,40
Total production value	309.405	100,00	314.530	100,00
Total production costs	301.303	97,38	308.598	98,11
Operating profit - EBIT	8.102	2,62	5.932	1,89
+ Depreciation, amortisation and write-downs	19.550		21.792	
EBITDA	27.652	8,94	27.724	8,81
Share Income	657	0,21	-	-
Interest income (expense), net	-8.313	-2,69	-9.359	-2,98
Financial assets adjustments, net	990	0,32	1.400	0,44
Extraordinary income (expense), net	-530	-0,17	-204	-0,06
Profit before taxes	904	0,29	-2.230	-0,71
Taxes	3.838	-1,24	2.525	-0,80
Profit to minority interests	-196	0,06	-197	0,06
Net profit (loss)	-2.738	-0,88	-4.558	-1,45

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Parent company accounts 31.12.2004

(thousands of euros)

ASSETS	31-12-2004	31-12-2003
Intangible assets	464	734
Fixed assets	56.364	55.568
Financial assets	85.992	89.605
Total non-current Assets	142.820	145.907
Inventories	67.490	58.663
Accounts receivable	65.748	70.758
Current financial assets	1.807	1.528
Cash & cash equivalents	2.618	3.323
Total current Assets	137.663	134.272
Prepayments and accrued income	551	457
TOTAL ASSETS	282.034	280.636
Equity	117.542	114.010
Provisions for liabilities and charges	4.906	2.674
Provision for staff termination pay	16.108	15.846
Debt towards Shareholders	-	2.300
Financial debt	94.713	95.680
Other accounts payable	48.312	49.759
Accrued charges and deferred income	454	368
TOTAL LIABILITIES	282.034	280.636

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INCOME STATEMENT	31-12-2004	%	31-12-2003	%
Revenues from sales and services	136.432	92,57	147.492	98,23
Total production value	147.382	100,00	150.143	100,00
Total production costs	143.187	97,,15	144.998	96,57
Operating profit - EBIT	4.195	2,85	5.145	3,43
+ Depreciation, amortisation and write-downs	7.995		7.964	
EBITDA	12.190	8,51	13.109	8,73
Share Income	5.065	3,44	2.438	1,62
Interest income (expense), net	-4.274	-2,90	-5.439	-3,62
Financial assets adjustments, net	-2.870	-1,95	-5.076	-3,38
Extraordinary income (expense), net	6.609	4,48	321	0,21
Profit before taxes	8.724	5,92	-2.610	-1,74
Taxes	5.193	-3,52	1.727	-1,15
Net profit (loss)	3.531	2,40	-4.338	-2,89

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