Press release from SCHMOLZ+BICKENBACH AG

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SCHMOLZ + BICKENBACH AG:
Interim Management Statement as at 31 March 2012

SCHMOLZ + BICKENBACH AG issues today its first Group Interim Management Statement for the first quarter of 2012:

Business development

		1/1/2012-31/3/2012	1/10/2011-31/12/2011	Change to Q4 2011 (in %)	1/1/2011-31/3/2011	Change to Q1 2011 (in %)
Revenue	million EUR	1,027.1	922.2	+11.4%	1,057.2	-2.8%
EBITDA	million EUR	73.1	47.7	+53.2%	80.1	-8.7%
EBITDA Margin	%	7.1	5.2	+36.5%	7.6	-6.6%

In the first quarter of 2012, the development in the demand for our products varied considerably according to region. While demand in the European markets continues to be subdued by the uncertainty resulting from the international financial and economic crisis, in the North American market we could attain further increases in sales volumes and revenue through the commissioning of the new forging and steelmaking plant of A. Finkl & Sons Co.

Compared to last quarter 2011 revenue increased by EUR 104.9 million (+11.4%) and operating profit before depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) by EUR 25.4 million (+53.2 %); EBITDA margin improved from 5.2% to 7.1%.

Despite the difficult market conditions, in total there was only a marginal decline in revenue of 2.8% to EUR 1,027.1 million (Q1 2011: EUR 1,057.2 million) in the first quarter of 2012 relative to the same period last year. The slightly lower volumes and the continuing pressure on margins in Europe caused EBITDA to decrease by 8.7% to EUR 73.1 million (Q1 2011: EUR 80.1 million). However, further cost reductions allowed us to achieve an EBITDA margin of 7.1% (Q1 2011: 7.6%).

Financial position

After the usual rundown in inventories at year-end, operating working capital at the end of the first quarter increased again due to seasonal effects and was the main cause of an increase in net financial liabilities of 5.2% to EUR 905.5 million (31.12.2011: EUR 860.4 million). The planned issue in mid-May 2012 of a bond for a nominal value of EUR 300 million would broaden the financing basis and further optimize the maturity structure.

SCHMOLZ + BICKENBACH AG
Providing special steel solutions

Changes in the Board of Directors and announcement of dividend

By decision of the General Meeting, Roland Eberle (CH) and Dr. Marc Feiler (DE) were elected new members of the Board of Directors. The General Meeting also decided to pay a dividend of CHF 0.10 per share from the capital contribution reserves, corresponding to a total dividend payment of EUR 9.8 million.

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