

GEA reports 50 percent rise in Group earnings in the first quarter

Bochum, May 8, 2008 – GEA Group Aktiengesellschaft continued its successful performance in the first quarter of 2008 driven by the ongoing stability in the growth of its business, and its concentration on enhanced profitability. Earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) amounted to EUR 77.1 million, representing a 19.8 percent increase relative to the first quarter of 2007 (EUR 64.3 million). EBIT in the core segments was boosted by 35 percent. The EBIT margin in the core segments consequently rose by 83 basis points, from 6.5 percent to 7.4 percent. Both core segments of Energy and Farm Technology and Process Technology contributed to these profitability gains.

"We raised first-quarter earnings per share to EUR 0.27, which is an increase of around 50 percent. Our primary objective is to create value for our shareholders. This is why we have repositioned the Group in recent years, and this policy is now proving its long-term worth. We are confirming our outlook for the 2008 and 2009 business years based on the very high order backlog levels we have already recorded, and the continued growth potential in our central business areas of food, energy, as well as climate and environment," commented Juerg Oleas, Chairman of the Executive Board of GEA Group Aktiengesellschaft.

Order intake of the GEA Group grew to EUR 1,444.4 million (2007: EUR 1,381.3 million). Excluding the Thermal Engineering Division, where order intake of over EUR 200 million was around the previous year's level, order intake in the core segments was up 10 percent year-on-year. Growth in the highly profitable component-based divisions was particularly strong. Sales in the core segments rose 19.7 percent to EUR 1,120.6 million (2007: EUR 935.9 million). Consolidated sales totaled EUR 1,189.6 million following EUR 1,055.6 million in the first quarter of 2007.

The Executive Board of GEA Group Aktiengesellschaft assumes the Group will report growth in order intake of 5 to 10 percent in 2008, reflecting the fact that its business is largely resistant to the economic cycle. Excluding acquisitions, sales are expected to rise by 10 percent in 2008 and by a further 5 to 10 percent in 2009. At the same time, it is anticipated that the EBIT margin in the core segments will increase by 70 to 80 basis points, to reach over 10 percent by 2009.

GEA Group consolidated data for Q1 2008 (in EUR million)

	Q1 2008	Q1 2007
Order Intake		
Energy and Farm Technology	451.8	424.3
Process Technology	924.9	845.9
Other	67.7	111.1
Total	1,444.4	1,381.3
Sales		
Energy and Farm Technology	363.2	339.2
Process Technology	757.4	596.7
Other	69.0	119.7
Total	1,189.6	1,055.6
EBIT		
Energy and Farm Technology	20.1	17.4
Process Technology	62.5	43.8
Other	-5.5	3.1
Total	77.1	64.3
% of sales	6.5	6.1
Earnings before tax	68.0	51.8
Net income	49.5	33.0
- Net income on continued operations	49.5	31.6
- Net income on discontinued operations	-	1.4
Earnings per share (EUR)	0.27	0.18
- of which on continued operations	0.27	0.17
- of which on discontinued operations	-	0.01
Net position ^{1/2}	-54.6	362.4
Capital expenditures incl. finance leases	40.0	15.0
Employees at balance sheet date ³	20,128	17,897

¹⁾ Including Plant Engineering in 2007

²⁾ Net position = cash and cash equivalents + securities - bank debt

³⁾ Full-time equivalents (FTE's), excl. apprentices/trainees and inactive employees

GEA Group Aktiengesellschaft is an international technology group that focuses on the specialty mechanical engineering areas of process technology and components. Consolidated sales were EUR 5.2 billion in 2007. The company's workforce comprised over 20,000 employees as of March 31, 2008. The GEA Group is a market and technology leader in 90 percent of its business areas. GEA Group is listed in the German MDAX share index (G1A, WKN 660200).