Letter to Shareholders

3rd Quarter 2005/06

voestalpine GROUP - KEY FIGURES

according to IFRS; in millions of euros			
	Q1–Q3 2005/06 4/1–12/31/2005	Q1–Q3 2004/05 4/1–12/31/2004	Change in %
Revenue	4,858.3	4,172.4	16.4
EBITD	812.1	576.5	40.9
EBITD margin (in %)	16.7	13.8	
EBIT	547.0	349.2	56.6
EBIT margin (in %)	11.3	8.4	
Profit before tax	507.0	312.2	62.4
Profit for the period form continuing operations	371.7	214.9	73.0
Profit for the period	371.7	210.3	76.8
Earnings per share from continuing operations (Euro)	9.28	5.32	74.4
Investments	389.1	369.2	5.4
Depreciation and amortisation	265.1	227.3	16.6
Equity	2,448.2	2,053.5	19.2
Net financial debt	506.2	793.1	-36.2
Net financial debt in % of equity	20.7	38.6	-46.5
Employees excl. apprentices	23,443	22,753	3.0
Capital Employed	3,367.6	3,598.5	-6.4



LETTER FROM THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Ladies and Gentlemen.

In our Letter to Shareholders at the end of the first half of the year, we stated our goal of closing out the 2005/06 business year with group sales revenues of over Euro 6 billion and an operating result of more than Euro 600 million. Based on the figures now at hand for the first nine months of the business year, it is becoming apparent that we will not only meet these expectations, but rather surpass them-significantly.

This is particularly gratifying because this means that during the current business year, we are once again increasing the performance figures of the group, after just experiencing the most successful business year in our history in 2004/05.

In recent years, the voestalpine Group has proceeded consistently towards extending the value-added chain-and we will continue to do so in coming years just as consistently. This means that, building on our expertise in steel-we will further expand our position as the European and global top player in clearly defined product niches. The success of this strategy-which has now also been confirmed by accordingly positive results, particularly in the Divisions Railway Systems and Profilform, but increasingly also in the Division Automotive-precludes any return to being a pure steel business. Also for this reason, we do not see our Group as a player in the ongoing consolidation process in the steel industry, a process that is driven very much by the tonnage mentality of the commodity producers. Rather, the world of the voestalpine Group is focused on niche products of the highest value, on staking our claim to a leadership position in terms of know-how, quality and technology, on providing our shareholders with sustained, value-enhancing growth, and on providing our customers with products of the highest quality and our personnel with an attractive place to work. The prerequisite to all of this is for us to safeguard the independence of the Group over the long term, which is something we consistently strive to do-most recently by again increasing the equity share of our employees, from 10.3% to 12.5%.

Linz, February 17, 2006

Wolfgang Eder

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Josef Mülner

Robert Ottel

Franz Hirschmanner

Wolfgang Spreitzer

OVERVIEW OF KEY FIGURES

In the first three quarters of the 2005/06 business year, the voestalpine Group again not only significantly increased both sales and result as compared to the record figures of the 2004/05 business year but again improved all key financial figures.

The details of this development are as follows*:

- The sales revenue went up by 16.4% from EUR 4,172.4 million to EUR 4,858.3 million.
- EBITD (profit from operations before depreciation) rose by 40.9% from EUR 576.5 million to EUR 812.1 million, while the EBITD margin rose from 13.8% to 16.7%.
- During the first three quarters of 2005/06, EBIT (profit from operations) was at EUR 547.0 million thus rising by 56.6% as compared to the previous year (EUR 349.2 million). The EBIT margin therefore improved from 8.4% to 11.3%.
- The **EBT** (profit before tax) came to **EUR 507.0 million**, thus going up by 62.4% compared to the figure in the last business year (EUR 312.2 million).
- The profit for the period rose by 76.8% from EUR 210.3 million to EUR 371.7 million.
- For the first three quarters of 2005/06, the **earnings per share** came to **EUR 9.28** compared to EUR 5.32 during the same period of the last business year (+74.4%).
- The equity of the voestalpine Group went up by 19.2% from EUR 2,053.5 million to EUR 2,448.2 million, while, at the same time, the net financial debt went down by 36.2% from EUR 793.1 million to EUR 506.2 million. Thus, the gearing ratio (net financial debt in percent of equity capital) dropped from 38.6% as of December 31, 2004 to 20.7%.
- All major Group companies posted clearly positive results in the first three quarters of 2005/06.
- As of 31 December 2005 the voestalpine Group had **23,443 employees**. Compared to the end of 2004, this means that the number of employees rose by 3.0%.

*Income statement and employees of 2004/05 were adjusted with regard to the discontinued operation.

BUSINESS PERFORMANCE IN DETAIL

All four divisions of the voestalpine Group increased their **sales revenue** compared to the first three quarters of the previous business year. The Divisions Railway Systems (+19.5%), Steel (+18.3%), and Profilform (+15.1%) each achieved very noticeable growth, but also the Division Automotive showed an upswing in sales revenue of 9.1% that was significantly above last year's level.

Compared to the third quarter of 2004/05, relevant contributions to sales revenues and earnings due to first-time consolidation of the following companies were included in the Group accounts: In the Division Railway Systems, the Indian companies VAE VLN Industries Private Ltd. and Digvijay Steels Private Ltd, as well as SST Signal & System Technik GmbH and CONTEC GmbH Transportation (both in Germany); in the Division Automotive, the companies Polynorm van Niftrik B.V (Netherlands), HTI Maschinen- und Apparatebau GmbH, and the voestalpine Vollmer Group (both in Germany); and in the Division Profilform, the Nedcon Group (Netherlands).

With a **profit from operations** of EUR 547 million, the voestalpine Group has already by the end of the third quarter—almost reached the EBIT figure of EUR 552.5 million posted for the entire 2004/05 business year. In this context, is should be highlighted that the Division Railway Systems improved its operating result by 104.7%, thus more than doubling last year's figure; the EBIT margin rose from 7.2% to 12.3%. After the first three quarters, the Division Steel showed an operating profit that was increased by 67.7% compared to the same period of the previous year, thus improving its profitability in the equal period significantly from 8.9% to 12.6%. The operating result of the Division Profilform rose slightly above the very high level it had shown last year with a minor increase of 0.2%; the concurrent marked rise in sales revenue, however, resulted in a dip in the EBIT margin from 11.6% to 10.1%. Because of the continuing difficult economic situation of the automotive industry, the EBIT margin of the Division Automotive in the first three quartes decreased from 4.7% to 4.1%.

The raw materials and energy costs that remained very high adversely affected the operating result of the Group overall during the third quarter, as had been the case in the previous two quarters.

The operating results of the four divisions of the Group mirror the varying **business performance**. The **Division Steel** operated in a market environment that continues to be favorable; delivery of larger quantities and the fact that prices were higher overall than last year, enabled the division to substantially increase both its sales and earnings. However, the development of quarterly and semi-annual contracts has been characterized by some pressure on the prices.

As far as business with the automotive industry was concerned, it was characterized by continuing high demand primarily in the premium segment that is relevant for the voestalpine Group. Ongoing demand for sophisticated steel grades and heavy plates in the energy sector (offshore and pipeline projects) remained stable at a high level. The development in the building and home appliances segments was satisfactory, although showing a slightly decreasing price tendency.

Division Steel

In millions of euros	Q1-Q3 2005/06 4/1-12/31/2005	Q1-Q3 2004/05 4/1-12/31/2004
Sales	2,603.7	2,200.2
EBITD	474.3	318.9
EBITD margin (in %)	18.2	14.5
EBIT	329.0	196.2
EBIT margin (in %)	12.6	8.9
Employees excl. apprentices	9,738	9,473

The significant improvement of the **Division Railway Systems** was due partly to the segment tracks/switches, which was a result of the revival of demand in Europe and the ongoing good development on the overseas markets, in which the Group has consistently expanded its presence during the past few years. Furthermore, the performance of the segments high-quality wire (with the automotive industry as the core market) and seamless tubes (with the oil and gas industries as core markets) was outstanding throughout the entire period. Despite a somewhat weaker demand resulting from adverse economic conditions, it was possible to maintain the prices for wire at a high level as a result of the consistent strategy with regard to quality, while earnings and quantities for seamless tubes reached a historic high in the course of the current business year.

Division Railway Systems

In millions of euros	Q1-Q3 2005/06 4/1-12/31/2005	Q1-Q3 2004/05 4/1–12/31/2004
Sales	1,403.7	1,175.2
EBITD	232.5	136.6
EBITD margin (in %)	16.6	11.6
EBIT	172.7	
EBIT margin (in %)	12.3	7.2
Employees excl. apprentices	6,757	6,577
Employees excl. apprentices	6,757	6,577

The development of the **Division Automotive** is characterized by two very different trends: Those segments that are not competing directly with the in-house activities of automobile manufacturers (OEMs) are recording a very satisfactory development. This applies particularly to the areas of laser-welded blanks and security components/precision tube products. The situation is different, however, in those segments which are especially impacted by the employment policy-motivated insourcing trends among the OEMs, i.e. the areas of stamping activities and tool manufacturing. To avoid a long-term under-utilization, the capacities and structures are currently being adjusted to the changed market situation. The required financial measures have been taken into account in the present figures.

Against the backdrop of the OEMs' increased level of insourcing activities, the strategic focus, which has been emphasized since 2004, on know-how-intensive sectors with a high potential for future development (for example, structural elements and components from new materials) and profitable niche segments, which are not covered by the OEMs themselves, is becoming increasingly important. The feasibility of this strategy is proven by the excellent development posted by the companies acquired in the previous year, to which these conditions exactly apply.

Division Automotive

In millions of euros	Q1-Q3 2005/06 4/1-12/31/2005	Q1-Q3 2004/05* 4/1-12/31/2004
Sales	620.2	568.4
EBITD	60.0	57.7
EBITD margin (in %)	9.7	10.1
EBIT	25.4	26.9
EBIT margin (in %)	4.1	4.7
Employees excl. apprentices	3,920	3,654

* Income statement and employees retrospectively adjusted by discontinued operations.

In the **Division Profilform**, the performance during first three quarters was particularly gratifying for the subsidiaries in Great Britain and the United States, which produce primarily special products and supply the British building industry and the North American aviation industry. The storage technology segment, with its locations in Austria, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, and Russia, performed well as a result of stable demand in Europe and North America. Performance in the commercial vehicle sector also continued to be positive. The trend in the segment of standard tubes and sections was weaker because it came under pressure as a result of increased imports to Europe and continuing high prices for prematerial.

Overall however, the Division Profilform continued to perform well in the second half of the 2005/06 business year.

Division Profilform

Q1-Q3 2005/06 4/1-12/31/2005	Q1-Q3 2004/05 4/1–12/31/2004
593.5	515.7
82.3	78.4
13.9	15.2
60.2	60.1
10.1	11.6
2,669	2,710
	593.5 82.3 13.9 60.2 10.1

The **crude steel production** of the voestalpine Group during the first three quarters of 2005/06 was 4.73 million tons; compared to the previous year (4.37 million tons), this means an improvement by 8.3%. The Division Steel accounted for 3.65 (last year: 3.21) million tons of the total production volume, while the Division Railway Systems accounted for 1.08 (last year: 1.03) million tons.

ACQUISITIONS

There were no acquisitions during the third quarter of 2005/06. The acquisitions made in the course of this business year were already described in detail in the Shareholder's Letters for the first quarter and the first half of 2005/06.

These were, in the switches segment of the Division Railway Systems, the acquisition of a majority stake in the two German companies CONTEC GmbH (51%) and SST Signal & System Technik GmbH (80%), as well as the Indian joint venture Rahee Track Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (51%). At the beginning of the business year, the Division Automotive took over the Vollmer Group and HTI GmbH (both in Germany).

INVESTMENTS

During the first three quarters of the 2005/06 business year, the investments of the **voestalpine Group** came to EUR 389.1 million. Compared to the previous year (EUR 369.2 million), this corresponds to an increase of 5.4%.

The renewed escalation of investment activities, which had already been quite extensive during the past two years, is largely a result of the new rail rolling plant in Donawitz, a major investment by the **Division Railway Systems**. This is currently the most modern rail rolling plant worldwide. With this EUR 66 million investment, the voestalpine Group is continuing to consolidate its leading position as a supplier of the highest quality special rails. The plant launched production in late January 2006, ahead of the originally scheduled date.

In the **Division Steel**, the implementation of the second stage of the major investment program "Linz 2010" is completely on schedule. The implementation will, for the most part, be completed by the summer of 2007; the construction of the core units, the vacuum plant 3, cold rolling mill 3, hot-dip galvanizing plant 4, and push-pickler, is going according to plan, both with regard to schedule and costs. The second stage of the "Linz 2010" program has a total investment volume of EUR 1 billion.

Additionally, the expansion of the Steel Service Center (SSC) in Linz has been completed, and the construction of a new SSC in Poland has begun. In January 2005, the newly constructed center for training and continuing education "Forum. Future," which represents an investment of roughly EUR 12 million, was opened; its core is the largest and most modern apprentice workshop in Austria. This new center is a step toward accommodating the increased demand for qualified employees in the technical sectors in connection with the expansion of the location within the scope of the "Linz 2010" investment program. A number of minor modernization and expansion investments were made at various locations in the **Division Automotive**, with the intention of accommodating the increased strategic focus on the profitable niche segments that require sophisticated technology.

In June 2005, the **Division Profilform** started operation of the new production hall for special sections in Vyskov, Czech Republic, as well as a production facility for industrial storage systems in Vyshniy Volochek, Russia, which was erected together with a local partner.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

In order to be able to satisfy the customer requirements in the R&D sector that are becoming more and more specific, the **voestalpine Group** is continuing to accelerate the implementation of application-oriented test facilities. Here, materials and components are examined in true-to-the-original simulators under real-life conditions, in order to gain new insights regarding the optimization of process and production technologies, for example, wheel-rail simulators, stone chip simulators, as well as testing facilities that simulate the individual steps of processing a certain material (for instance, forming and coating techniques).

Furthermore, the next generation of the "corrosion protection primer", a special coating for plates, is being developed in the **Division Steel**. At this time, more than 500,000 tons of such highly processed and refined products are being supplied—mainly to the automotive industry.

Besides, continued development of production technology in the steel and the rolling plants during the past few months have enabled us to produce sour gas-resistant pipe steels in the hot wide strip mill, something that was previously possible only in heavy plate mills. The advantage of this innovation is in the more cost-effective production and in the improved product characteristics of sour gas-resistant steel of the greatest purity, particularly for use in the oil and natural gas industries.

In the **Division Railway Systems**, development of the components has been completed and the market launch of the "installation-ready switches (turnout systems)" is under way. These switches are completely premounted and are distinguished by a number of advantages, such as, shorter idle periods and improved installation modalities. This development is yet another demonstration of the worldwide technology leadership of the Division Railway Systems in the switches and turnout systems sector. The R&D focus of the **Division Automotive** are cross-divisional activities, with a special focus on new materials and materials combinations. An important, joint project with the Division Steel is the "Ultraform" project in the sector of press-hardened steel grades, where the divisions are working on the production and forming of high strength hot-forming steel grades for the automotive sector.

The **Division Profilform** is also making an important contribution to the project "ProAuto" that is working on the processing of new, highly tensile steel grades for the sections segment of the automotive sector.

OUTLOOK

For the 2005/2006 business year, the voestalpine Group will, for the first time, show sales of significantly over EUR 6 billion. The operating result (EBIT) should total nearly EUR 700 million. These figures already take account of the higher costs incurring in the fourth quarter for logistics and energy due to the harsh winter, the higher levels of personnel expenses relative to the first nine months of the year, and the very significant increase in the price of zinc seen over the last several months.

This recent, significant improvement of sales and operating results, by contrast with the previous business year, is being driven by excellent trends in the Divisions Railway Systems and Steel, by a stable positive business performance in the Division Profilform and further improvements in performance of the Division Automotive relative to previous year.

voestalpine SHARE

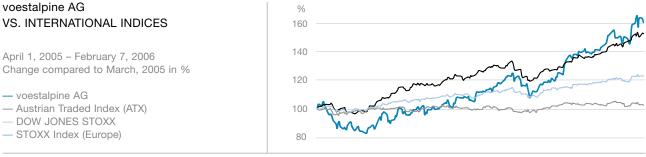
PRICE PERFORMANCE

The voestalpine share already showed a very positive development during the first half of the 2005/06 business year with an increase in the share price of almost 20%, but by the end of the third quarter it again climbed significantly, closing as of 29 December 2005 (the last trading day on the Vienna Stock Exchange during the period under review) with a price of EUR 85.15, which, compared to the price at the beginning of the business year (EUR 61.30), corresponds to an increase of 39%.

Compared to the initial offering price at the time of the IPO in October 1995 (EUR 20.71), the price of the voestalpine share has more than guadrupled in the ten years it has been listed on the stock exchange. During the first two quarters, the price performance was influenced by the ahead-ofschedule conversion of the ÖIAG (Austrian State Holding Corporation) exchangeable bond issue, which had been issued in September 2003, to free float shares, while the development during the third guarter of the business year was characterized by both the excellent base figures of the Group and by the strong performance of steel stocks in general.

Comparing it to the most important stock exchange indexes, the overall development of the price of the voestalpine share during the first nine months of the 2005/06 business year was considerably higher than the growth rates of both the U.S. Dow Jones Stoxx Index and the European Stoxx Index. Furthermore, in the third quarter, the voestalpine share even surpassed the ATX, the leading Austrian index, that has climbed to a new historical high.

This gratifying development has continued in the fourth guarter of 2005/06, with the share reaching a new all-time high at a closing price of EUR 98.00 on 1 February 2006.



SHAREHOLDER STRUCTURE

The ownership structure of voestalpine AG is currently as follows:



Largest individual shareholders:

OÖ Invest GmbH & Co OEG	> 15%
Employee participation	10.3%
Oberbank AG	7.7%
Goldman Sachs Group Inc.	> 5 %

SHARE INFORMATION

Share capital	EUR 287,784,423.30 divided into 39,600,000 non-par value shares
	Shares in proprietary possession as of 31 December 2005: 58,874
ISIN	AT0000937503
Reuters	VOES.VI
Bloomberg	VOE AV

CLASS OF SHARES

Common bearer shares, details in euros	
Highest market price April 2005 through December 2005	85.15
Lowest market price April 2005 through December 2005	49.20
Share price as of December 31, 2005	85.15
Market capitalization as of December 31, 2005*	3,366,926,879

* Basis: total number of shares minus repurchased shares.

BUSINESS YEAR 2004/05

Details in euros	
Earnings per share	9.44
Dividend per share	1.50 + 0.60 Bonus
Book value per share	54.79

PROJECTED SCHEDULE FOR 2006

June 8, 2006	Publication of the operating result of the 2005/06 business year	
July 5, 2006	Annual General Shareholders' Meeting	
July 10, 2006	Ex dividend date	
July 17, 2006	Dividend payment date	
August 11, 2006	Publication of the operating result of the first quarter of 2006/07	
November 13, 2006	Publication of the operating result of the first half of 2006/07	

Regular analyses regarding the development of the price of the voestalpine AG share are prepared by the following institutions:

CAIB, Vienna. BHF-BANK, Frankfurt. Credit Suisse, London. Deutsche Bank, Vienna. Erste Bank, Vienna. Exane BNP Paribas, Paris. Goldman Sachs, London. HSBC, London. JP Morgan, London. Merrill Lynch, London. Morgan Stanley, London. Raiffeisen Centrobank, Vienna. Steubing AG, Frankfurt. UBS, London. Cantor Fitzgerald, London. Norddeutsche Landesbank, Hanover.

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voestalpine AG FINANCIAL DATA 12/31/2005 ACCORDING TO IFRS

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

In millions of euros		
	12/31/2005	3/31/2005
A. NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	2,242.5	2,166.6
Goodwill	246.7	217.4
Other intangible assets	63.5	48.9
Investments in associates	57.5	57.8
Other financial assets	102.1	113.7
Deferred tax assets	73.8	70.0
	2,786.2	2,674.3
B. CURRENT ASSETS		
Inventories	1,292.1	1,224.8
Trade and other receivables	1,076.2	1,110.4
Other financial assets	303.4	182.2
Cash and cash equivalents	431.7	177.5
	3,103.3	2,694.9
TOTAL ASSETS	5,889.6	5,369.2

IFRS-Comment:

• First-time application of "IAS 19 – corridor recognition directly in equity" in business year 2005/06; adjustment of previous year according to IAS 8.

• Income statement 3rd quarter 2004/05 retrospectively adjusted by discontinued operations

EQUITY AND LIABILITIES

In millions of euros		
	12/31/2005	3/31/2005
A. EQUITY		
Share capital	287.8	287.8
Capital reserves	470.8	451.8
Retained earnings and other reserves	1,630.5	1,337.4
Equity attributable to equity holders of the parent	2,389.2	2,076.9
Minority interest	59.0	47.8
	2,448.2	2,124.7
B. NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Pensions and other employee obligations	469.5	466.8
Provisions	30.1	24.8
Deferred tax liabilities	68.9	69.9
Financial liabilities	852.7	697.4
Trade and other payables	4.3	3.0
	1,425.6	1,261.8
C. CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Provisions	402.4	360.8
Financial liabilities	710.0	619.6
Trade and other payables	903.4	1,002.3
	2,015.8	1,982.7
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	5,889.6	5,369.2

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

	4/1-12/31/2005	4/1-12/31/2004	10/1-12/31/2005	10/1-12/31/2004
Revenue	4,858.3	4,172.4	1,595.8	1,448.4
Cost of sales	-3,751.8	-3,305.9	-1,228.8	-1,127.2
Gross profit	1,106.5	866.5	367.0	321.2
Other operating income	120.0	118.2	42.4	59.7
Distribution costs	-330.0	_304.1	-112.9	_105.1
Administrative expenses	-219.9	217.6	-76.8	80.5
Other operating expenses	-129.5	-113.8	-44.2	
Profit from operations (EBIT)	547.0	349.2	175.5	155.8
Share of profit of associates	9.0	8.6	1.9	
Finance income	35.7	31.3	14.0	14.8
Finance costs	84.7		-32.3	30.6
Profit before tax (EBT)	507.0	312.2	159.1	139.3
Income tax expense	-135.2	-97.3	_47.8	35.5
Profit for the period from continuing operations	371.7	214.9	111.3	103.8
Discontinued operations	0.0	-4.6	0.0	0.7
Profit for the period	371.7	210.3	111.3	104.5
Attributable to:				
Equity holders of the parent	366.7	205.6	110.1	103.7
Minority interest	5.1	4.7	1.2	0.8
Basic earnings per share from continuing operations (Euro)	9.28	5.32		
Diluted earnings per share from continuing operations (Euro)	8.91	5.32	_	-

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT

In millions of euros		_
	4/1-12/31/2005	4/1-12/31/2004
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Profit for the period	371.7	210.3
Adjustments	257.1	255.7
Changes in working capital	-12.7	-130.7
Cash flows from operating activities	616.2	335.3
Cash flows from investing activities	-484.9	-366.1
Cash flows from financing activities	128.0	-29.9
Net decrease/increase in cash and cash equivalents	259.4	-60.7
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	177.5	196.6
Net exchange differences	-5.2	0,0
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	431.7	135.9

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

In millions of euros		_
	4/1-12/31/2005	4/1-12/31/2004
Equity at April 1	2,124.7	1,906.1
Profit for the period	371.7	210.3
Dividends	-86.6	-67.6
Convertible bond	19.1	0.0
Retrospective amortisation of actuarial gains/losses	0.0	-26.7
Own share acquired/disposed	-0.2	-3.3
Currency translation	8.1	-11.7
Hedge accounting	5.8	-0.8
Other changes	5.5	1.1
Equity at December 31*	2,448.2	2,007.4

* incl. minority interest

Letter to Shareholders 3rd Quarter 2005/06

IMPRINT

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