



# REXEL Q1 2008

SOLID FIRST QUARTER

May 15, 2008

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# AGENDA Q1 08 RESULTS

- Q1 08 at a glance
- Business highlights
- Financial review
- A more powerful and resilient Rexel
- Q&A

# Q1 08 at a glance

## Solid first quarter 2008

	<u>Q1 2008</u>	<u>vs. Q1 2007</u>
Sales	€2,516m	+3.1% constant basis & same days
EBITA*	€146m	+6.5% constant basis, excluding Q1 07 non-recurring items
In % of sales	5.8%	+30 bps
Net income	€62.5m	+27.2%
Working capital (in % of sales)	13.3%	-90 bps
Free cash flow before interest and tax paid	€122m	€197m including very strong Working Capital improvement at Gexpro following the acquisition and a €47m cash inflow from sale and lease-back in Switzerland in Q1 07

### 3.1% organic growth and robust profitability

\* In this presentation, EBITA is defined as operating income before other income & other expenses excluding estimated non-recurring net impact on stock from changes in the price of copper-based cable of circa -11 million EUR in Q1 07 and circa -4 million EUR in Q1 08. Comparisons with Q1 07 are made at Q1 08 constant scope of consolidation and exchange rates

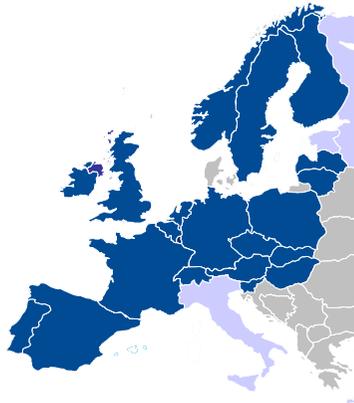
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# Good Q1 08 in all geographies

## Europe (49% of sales)

+3.7% vs Q1 07



## North America (43% of sales)

+1.2% vs. Q1 07



## Asia Pacific (8% of sales)

+8.2% vs. Q1 07



■ #1 or #2 market position □ Other presence

- Strong growth with small & medium contractors
- Success of gross margin levers
- Effective cost containment
- Negative calendar impact (working days)

### EBITA<sup>1</sup> margin vs. Q1 07:

**+10 bps**

- Sales growth driven by industrial segment
- Ongoing weakness in residential and residential-related commercial construction
- Continued cost reduction in the US
- Run-rate Gexpro synergies at 1.0% of sales

**+50 bps**

- Australia: buoyant activity in industry and mining
- Key accounts major growth drivers
- Continued growth in Asia, notably China

**+40 bps**

<sup>1</sup> Excluding Q1 07 favourable non-recurring items

# Business highlights

# Completion of Hagemeyer acquisition

## Transaction:

- ✓ Acquisition completed on March 25
- ✓ Delisting effective April 21, squeeze-out procedure underway
- ✓ Agreed sale of assets and asset swap expected before the end of Q3 08 as previously announced

## Financial consolidation:

- ✓ Q1 08 P&L and cash flow: No impact on operating income and net cash from operating activities. Hagemeyer retained entities consolidated from March 31
- ✓ Balance sheet at 31 March: consolidation of Hagemeyer retained entities
  - Hagemeyer Sonepar entities & Rexel Germany booked as "Assets held for sale"
  - Sonepar Sweden not yet consolidated

## Business integration:

- ✓ Broader European footprint, 50% more branches in Europe, reinforced market leadership in key countries
- ✓ Management teams in place and road maps defined in each country
- ✓ Confirmation of 2011 synergies of 1.5% of 2007 sales of Hagemeyer retained entities
- ✓ Confirmation of €75-85 million non-recurring implementation costs by 2011

# Accelerating expansion in Asia

- Reinforcement of Rexel's international leadership in China and S-E Asia with 2007 pro forma sales of c. €170 million
- Development strategy in S-E Asia:
  - ✓ Expansion in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand from central base in Singapore
  - ✓ Representative offices opened in India and Vietnam
- China: Acquisition of Suzhou Xidian
  - ✓ €38 million sales in 2007
  - ✓ 7 branches: 6 in Shanghai area, 1 in Beijing
  - ✓ Subject to approval by local authorities
- Suzhou Xidian's strong industrial focus means the 3 end-markets are now addressed in China

# Continued benefits from operating levers

## Top line levers

- E-Commerce: 6.7% of sales in Q1 08 from 5.6% of sales in Q1 07
- 16 branch openings: 8 in Europe and 8 in North America
- Key account development in North America (+3.9% in Q1 08)

## Gross margin levers

- Reduction of slow-moving inventories
- Pricing matrix improvement: roll-out in Italy
- Private label: double digit growth

## Cost optimisation levers

- Headcount down -1.1% vs. Q1 07 (-4.8% in US electrical divisions)
- Gexpro integration ahead of plan with only 15% of Transition Service Agreements remaining
- Working capital requirement: down 90 bps of sales vs. Q1 07

# Key Q1 08 business developments

## Europe

- Market share gains in France, particularly in the South (industrial and commercial end markets)
- Sales growth in the UK boosted by 5 branch openings over last 12 months
- High growth in Benelux following successful logistics and transportation reorganization in 2007

## North America

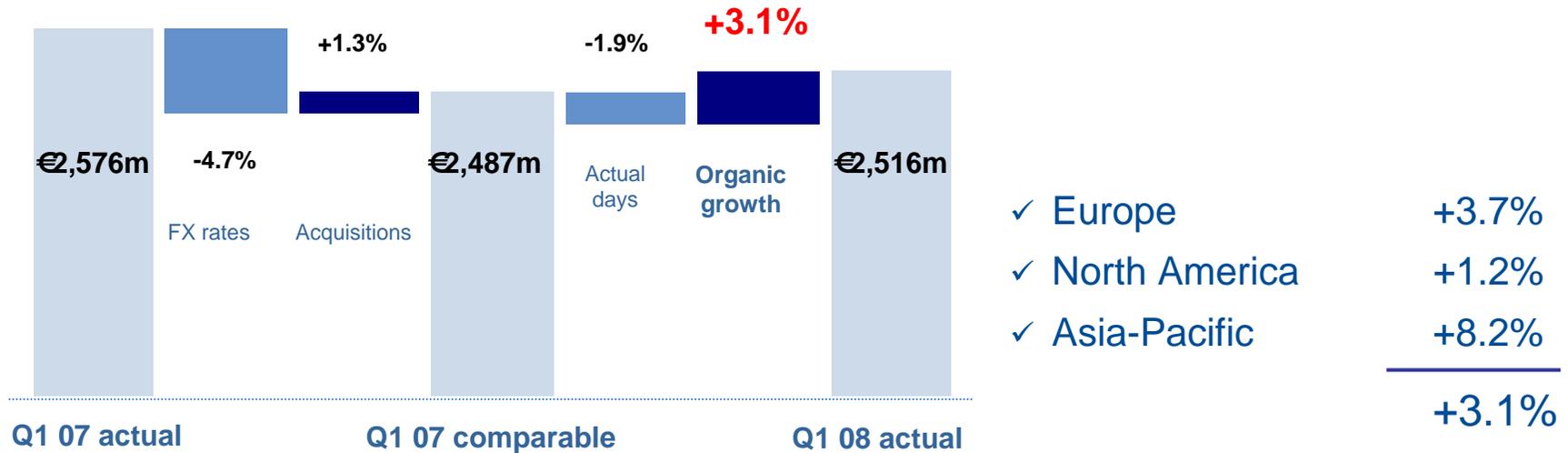
- “Customer acquisition” program in the US
- Roll-out of CLS commercial best practices (New-England, +13.8% sales growth in Q1 08)
- Dedicated “oil sands team” in Alberta

## Asia-Pacific

- Strong growth with industrial customers and national contractors in Australia
- High win rate of Gexpro industrial and commercial projects in Asia

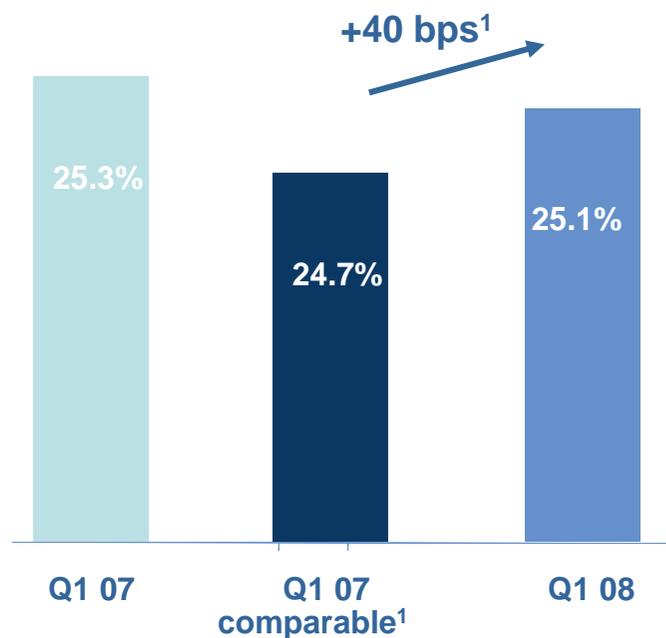
# Q1 2008 Financial Review

# Organic growth: +3.1% on a constant & same day basis



- Organic growth in all 3 geographical zones
- Contribution from the 7 bolt-on acquisitions completed in 2007
- Negative impact of currency fluctuations and fewer working days

# Gross margin raised to 25.1%



<sup>1</sup> excluding Q1 07 favourable non-recurring items

## Geographic Contribution

### Europe

- Favourable product & customer mix
- Improved supply chain organization
- Better purchasing conditions

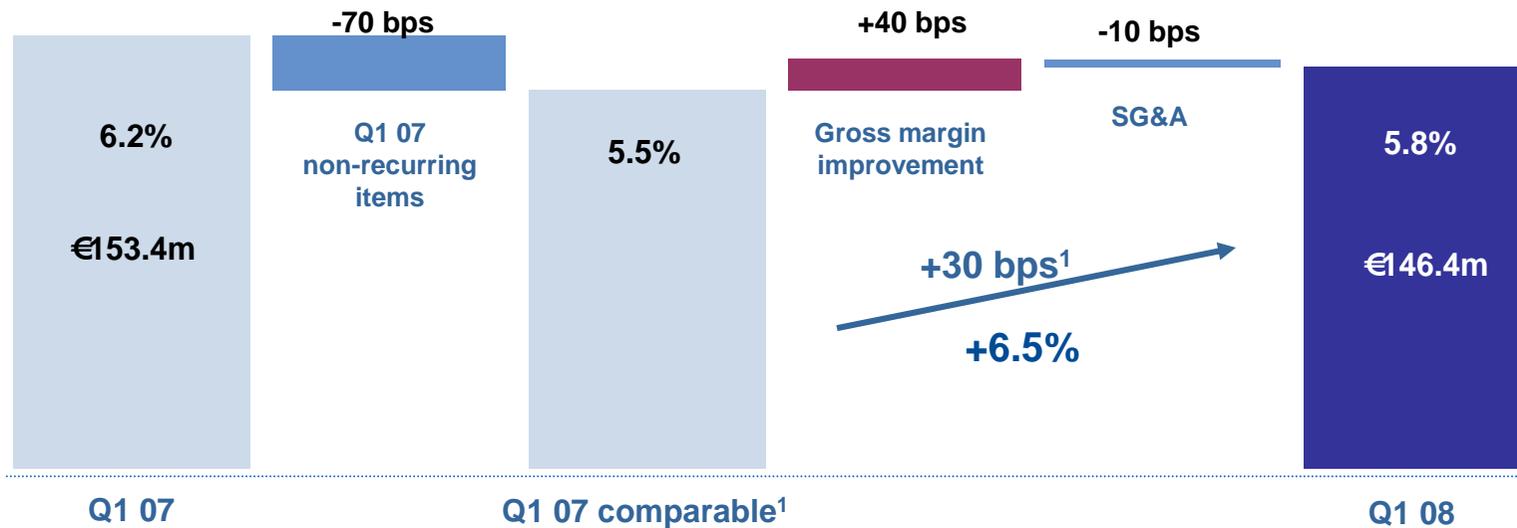
### North America

- Enhanced pricing discipline
- Better purchasing conditions
- Gexpro synergies at 1.0% of sales

### Asia-Pacific

- High sales growth in lower margin countries
- Stable margin in Australia: better purchasing conditions reinvested in growth with lower margin large accounts

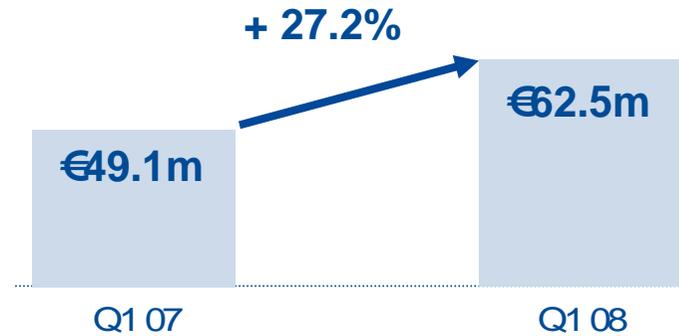
# EBITA margin at 5.8%



- Success of gross margin operating levers
- Pro-active headcount management
  - ✓ -4.8% vs. 31/03/07 in US electrical distribution
  - ✓ -1.1% vs. 31/03/07 at Group level
- High EBITA despite c.€8m unfavourable calendar effect

<sup>1</sup> excluding Q1 07 favourable non-recurring items

Net income: +27.2%



- Financial charges almost halved vs. Q1 07
- 5.0% average interest rate in Q1 08 (6.6% in Q1 07)
- 31% effective tax rate in Q1 08 (32.8% in Q1 07)

Note: IPO completed on April 10, 2007

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## Cash flow reflects further improvement in working capital

EUR million	Q1 08	Q1 07
<b>Adjusted EBITDA</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>173</b>
Copper Adjustment	(4)	(11)
EBITDA	160	162
Other operating revenues and costs	(7)	(2)
Change in working capital	(48)	4 <sup>1</sup>
Net CAPEX	17	32 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Free Cash Flow before interest and tax paid</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>197</b>
Net Interest paid	(30)	(54)
Income tax paid	(24)	(13)
<b>Free Cash Flow after interest and tax paid</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>129</b>

- Seasonally low first quarter
- Q1 07 marked by significant favorable one-off effects<sup>1, 2</sup>
- Reduction in working capital to 13.3% at 31/03/08<sup>3</sup> from 14.2% of sales at 31/03/07
- Gross Capex stable vs. 2007 at 0.7% of sales
- Asset disposals: €38.3m in Q1 08 (sale & partial lease-back of 4 regional distribution centres in France)

<sup>1</sup> Strong improvement at Gexpro following the acquisition

<sup>2</sup> Includes a €47.3m cash inflow from sale and lease-back in Switzerland

<sup>3</sup> 12.8% with Hagemeyer retained entities at 31/03/08

## Net debt breakdown

Net Debt Breakdown at March 31, 2008	
2008 Facility Agreement	4211
Securitisation	901
Financial Leases	97
Other Debt *	152
Cash	-596
<b>Total</b>	<b>4764</b>

- ✓ Weighted spread of Senior Credit  
+ Securitization < 150 bps
- ✓ Potential for additional securitization of part of Hagemeyer's receivables up to €600m
- ✓ Assuming completion of asset sales and swap for an estimated EV of €1.6 billion at 31.03.08:

⇒ **Net debt down to €3.2 billion**

\* Other Debts consisting mainly in Rexel Distribution indexed bond for 55.5 M€, local overdrafts for 53 M€ plus current intragroup position with REXEL Deutschland (to be sold) for 60 M€

## Leverage ratio well within 30.06.08 Senior Credit covenant

EUR million	March 31, 2008
<b>Net debt at closing currency exchange rates</b>	<b>4,764.4</b>
Pro forma net debt at average currency exchange rates	4,998.7
(-) Amount drawn from Facility C	(737)
<b>(=) Net debt as per covenant calculation (A)</b>	<b>4,261.7</b>
<b>LTM Adjusted EBITDA<sup>1</sup> (B)</b>	<b>991.7</b>
<b>Leverage Ratio (A) / (B)</b>	<b>4.30</b>
<b>Leverage ratio assuming completion of the asset sales and swap</b>	<b>3.78<sup>2</sup></b>

- ✓ EBITDA includes LTM contribution of all acquisitions, including Hagemeyer's Sonepar entities not yet divested
- ✓ Net debt is calculated with LTM average exchange rates and excludes Facility C (737 million EUR at 31.03.08)

### Leverage covenant

	30/06/08	31/12/08	30/06/09	31/12/09	30/06/10	31/12/10	30/06/11	31/12/11
<b>Covenant</b>	<b>4.90x</b>	<b>4.75x</b>	<b>4.75x</b>	<b>4.50x</b>	<b>4.25x</b>	<b>3.90x</b>	<b>3.50x</b>	<b>3.50x</b>

<sup>1</sup> Including €93.8 million contribution from Hagemeyer Sonepar entities and asset swap

<sup>2</sup> Assuming the completion of the transactions with Sonepar on 31 March 2008 for an estimated enterprise value of c. 1.6 billion EUR

## 2008 outlook confirmed

- In a challenging economic environment that shows some anticipated signs of softening, Rexel confirms its 2008 objectives presented on 31 March 2008, namely:
  - ✓ Limited revenue growth including bolt-on acquisitions compared to 2007<sup>1</sup>
  - ✓ Adjusted EBITA margin comparable to the 2007 level of 5.4%<sup>1</sup>
  - ✓ Working capital requirement as a percentage of sales and net debt to adjusted EBITDA ratio on track to reach mid-term objectives<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> At constant exchange rates, with a copper price around 7,500 USD / ton, taking into account a first quarter of Rexel on a stand-alone basis and the remaining 9 months with Hagemeyer retained entities and asset swap

<sup>2</sup> See Chapter 13 of the 2007 *Document de référence* registered by the *Autorité des marchés financiers* on April 30, 2008 under number R.08-046

# A more powerful and resilient Rexel

# Rexel fit to address a challenging environment

## End-markets trends



## Rexel's strengths

### Resilient business model

- Diversified end-market exposure
- Proven ability to flex cost base

### Business opportunities

- Gexpro production services
- Renewable energy applications
- Low consumption lighting

### Operating levers

- Continued margin expansion opportunities
- Confidence in Hagemeyer synergies

### Cash flow generation

- Proven capacity to deleverage
- Strong EBITDA to cash conversion

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# Rexel more powerful and resilient with Hagemeyer\*



- Stronger presence in significant and attractive European markets
- Increased resilience with more exposure to maintenance and renovation due to greater European weight
- Reinforced operating levers across the Group: key accounts, industrial services, private label, network integration, cost efficiencies
- Well identified synergies
- Integration process underway and implementation of action plans on a country-by-country basis

\* Estimated pro forma information

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# Q & A

# Financial Calendar & Contacts

## Financial Calendar

- **May 20, 2008**
  - Shareholders Meeting
  
- **July 31, 2008**
  - 7:30 AM CET:  
H1 08 results announcement
  - 10:00 AM CET:  
conference call

## Contacts

- **Investors & Analysts**
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# Appendices

## Appendix 1: Condensed Income Statement

IFRS, EUR million	Three months to March 31 <sup>st</sup>		
	2008	2007	Change
<b>Actual</b>			
Sales	2,516.2	2,576.2	-2.3%
Gross profit	627.1	638.3	-1.8%
As a % of sales	24.9%	24.8%	
Operating expenses (including depreciation)	(466.5)	(476.3)	-2.0%
EBITDA	160.5	162.1	-0.9%
As a % of sales	6.4%	6.3%	+10 bps
EBITA	142.5	145.2	-1.9%
As a % of sales	5.7%	5.6%	+10 bps
Other income & expenses	(11.9)	(1.3)	
Operating income	130.6	143.9	-9.3%
Net financial expenses	(40.0)	(70.8)	-43.6%
Pre-tax income	90.6	73.1	+23.9%
Income tax	(28.1)	(24.0)	+17.1%
Net income	62.5	49.1	+27.2%

EUR million	Three months to March 31 <sup>st</sup>		
	2008	2007	Change
<b>Constant and adjusted</b>			
Sales	2,516.2	2,487.5	+1.2% <sup>1</sup>
Gross profit	631.5	629.8	+0.3%
As a % of sales	25.1%	25.3%	-20 bps
Operating expenses (including depreciation)	(485.0)	(476.3)	+1.8%
EBITA	146.4	153.4	-4.6%
As a % of sales	5.8%	6.2%	-40 bps
EBITA excl. Q1 07 non-recurring items		137.4	+6.5%
As a % of sales		5.5%	+30 bps

\* Constant basis and same number of days: +3.1% in Q1 08

## Appendix 2: Condensed Balance Sheet

IFRS, EUR million	March 31, 2008	December 31, 2007
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Net intangible assets & Goodwill	4,572.5	3,294.3
Property, plant & equipment	364.2	272.1
Long term investments	141.2	76.8
Deferred tax assets	199.7	127.4
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>5,277.6</b>	<b>3,770.6</b>
Inventories	1,479.1	1,143.2
Trade accounts receivable	2,506.5	2,018.5
Other accounts receivables & Assets classified as held for sale	2,114.2 <sup>1</sup>	424.0
Cash and cash equivalents	595.7	515.2
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>6,695.5</b>	<b>4,100.9</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>11,973.1</b>	<b>7,871.5</b>

<b>EQUITY &amp; LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>3,257.2</b>	<b>3,227.3</b>
Interest bearing debt	5,128.4	1,999.1
Other non current liabilities	634.9	339.9
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>5,763.3</b>	<b>2,339.0</b>
Interest bearing debt + accrued interest	231.7	122.7
Trade accounts payable	2,041.4	1,659.3
Other current liabilities	679.6	523.2
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>2,952.7</b>	<b>2,305.2</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>8,715.9</b>	<b>4,644.2</b>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>	<b>11,973.1</b>	<b>7,871.5</b>

(1) Of which €1.6 billion assets classified as held for sale

## Appendix 3: Change in Net Debt

IFRS, EUR million	Three months to March 31st	
	2008	2007
EBITDA	160.5	162.1
Other operating revenues & costs	(6.7)	(1.7)
Change in Working capital	(48.5)	4.0
Net capital expenditures	16.6	32.3
<b>Free cash flow before interest and tax paid</b>	<b>121.9</b>	<b>196.7</b>
Net interest paid / received	(29.6)	(54.3)
Income tax paid	(24.4)	(13.0)
<b>Free cash flow after interest and tax paid</b>	<b>67.9</b>	<b>129.4</b>
Net financial investments	(2,947.4)	(16.4)
Change in equity	1.8	-
Dividends paid and other	(280.1)	(6.5)
<b>Decrease (increase) in net debt</b>	<b>(3,157.8)</b>	<b>106.5</b>
<b>Net Debt</b>	<b>4,764.4<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>3,794.5</b>

(1) Net debt would be €3,164 million assuming completion of the transactions with Sonepar on March 31, 2008, for an estimated enterprise value of €1.6 billion

## Appendix 4: Reconciliation between Rexel stand-alone and pro forma

Q1 08 in millions of euros	Rexel	Retained Hagemeyer entities and asset swaps	Other restatements related to these operations	Pro forma
Sales	2,516.2	819.2		3,335.4
Gross profit	627.1	186.1		813.2
<i>As a % of sales</i>	<i>24.9%</i>	<i>22.7%</i>		<i>24.4%</i>
Operating expenses (including depreciation)	(484.6)	(177.4)	(3.8)	(665.8)
EBITDA	160.6	16.2	0.0	176.8
<i>As a % of sales</i>	<i>6.4%</i>	<i>2.0%</i>		<i>5.3%</i>
EBITA	142.5	8.7	(3.8)	147.4
<i>As a % of sales</i>	<i>5.7%</i>	<i>1.1%</i>		<i>4.4%</i>
<b>Adjusted EBITA</b>	<b>146.4</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>159.0</b>
<b><i>As a % of sales</i></b>	<b><i>5.8%</i></b>	<b><i>1.5%</i></b>		<b><i>4.8%</i></b>
Other income & expenses	(11.9)	(14.3)	-	(26.2)
Operating income	130.6	(5.6)	(3.8)	121.2
Share of income from associates	-	0.7	-	0.7
Net financial expenses	(40.0)	0.6	(11.1)	(50.5)
Pre-tax income	90.6	(4.3)	(14.9)	71.4
Income tax	(28.1)	7.7	(1.7)	(22.1)
Net income	62.5	3.4	(16.6)	49.3

## Appendix 5: Pro forma sales and EBITA by geographic area

Geographic area In million €	Q1 08	Var Q1 08 / Q1 07 Constant <sup>1</sup>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>1,965.1</b>	<b>+4.9%</b>
<i>of which</i>		
<b>France</b>	617.4	+3.4%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	315.8	+1.3%
<b>Germany</b>	200.7	+11.4%
<b>Scandinavia</b>	226.3	+10.2%
<b>North America</b>	<b>1,053.1</b>	<b>+1.2%</b>
<b>Asia - Pacific</b>	<b>202.3</b>	<b>+8.2%</b>
<b>ACE and others</b>	<b>114.9</b>	<b>+16.5%</b>
<b>Group total</b>	<b>3,335.4</b>	<b>+4.2%</b>

(1) At constant scope of consolidation, exchange rates and same number of days

EUR million Q1 08	Europe	North America	Asia Pacific	Other	Total
<b>Sales</b>	1,965.1	1,053.1	202.3	114.9	3,335.4
<b>Adjusted gross profit</b>	502.9	232.2	51.4	35.0	821.5
<i>as a % of sales</i>	25.6%	22.0%	25.4%	30.5%	24.6%
<b>Adjusted EBITA</b>	99.1	46.2	12.4	1.3	159.0
<i>as a % of sales</i>	5.0%	4.4%	6.1%	1.1%	4.8%