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STRONG START TO THE YEAR WITH 8.3% SALES GROWTH IN FIRST QUARTER 2016

- **8.3% sales growth in local currencies to CHF 1,274.4 million**
- **Growth in all regions**
- **Four new factories and one national subsidiary opened**
- **Confirmation of targets 2016**

The dynamic growth trajectory continues in 2016 with a sales increase of 8.3% (previous year: 5.1%) and the setting of a new sales record of CHF 1,274.4 million for the first quarter. The more stable exchange-rate situation resulted in a modest currency impact (-1.7%) and very good sales growth in Swiss francs of 6.6%. Margins continued to develop positively in the first quarter 2016.

Jan Jenisch, CEO: "We are very pleased with how the business performed in the first quarter. Our investments in new products, national subsidiaries and factories paid off, while a sales increase of more than 8% represents an impressive continuation of our growth strategy. All regions contributed to the good start to the year, with double-digit sales growth in Argentina, Colombia, North America, Southeast Asia, the Pacific, Africa, the Middle East and our industrial business. We will be continuing our growth strategy as planned, with the opening of 6 to 8 new factories and 3 to 4 new national subsidiaries in the 2016 business year."

GROWTH IN ALL REGIONS

Sales in the EMEA region (Europe, Middle East, Africa) increased by 8.7% (previous year: 1.1%). Good growth rates were achieved in Southern Europe and the Middle East. The strongest sales growth was achieved in Africa, where there was an increase of more than 20%. Sika's presence in Africa consists of 16 national subsidiaries and 14 production locations. Demand in the Western European market is at a sound level. A new mortar factory was opened in Kryoneri, near Athens, while a new national subsidiary was opened in Kuwait – Sika's 13th in the Middle East.

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At 12.6%, it was the North America region that posted the strongest growth (previous year: 10.7%). Growth drivers include the more rapid expansion of supply chain and the investments in sales force in the growing metropolitan areas, together with robust construction activity. The number of production sites for mortar and concrete admixtures in North America was increased to a total of 20 in the past two years with four new factories in Denver, Atlanta, Philadelphia and Vancouver plus the acquisitions of BMI and Scofield.

With a sales increase of 4.0% in the first quarter of this year, growth in the Latin America region slowed from the 17.0% figure for the equivalent period of the previous year. In particular, the economic crisis in Brazil and a significant devaluation of some local currencies led to a downturn in business activity.

Growth in the Asia/Pacific region was increased to 4.3% (previous year: 2.5%). Significant, double-digit sales gains were once again achieved in Southeast Asia and in the Pacific. Market demand in China remained at a low but significantly more optimistic level than a year earlier. The first factory in Myanmar was opened in February 2016. Sika is positioning itself with a view to benefit from the construction boom in this burgeoning market through a new production site for concrete admixtures in the Yangon metropolitan region. The market expansion in Asia is completed by a new plant in Phnom Peng, Cambodia, which is also Sika's first manufacturing plant in that country.

OUTLOOK FOR 2016: CONTINUED GROWTH

The Strategy 2018 was successfully implemented in the first quarter, enabling our annual targets for 2016 to be confirmed. Sales growth of 6-8% is expected for the current business year, along with an above-average rise in margins. The growth strategy will continue in 2016 with the opening of 6 to 8 new factories and 3 to 4 national subsidiaries.

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NET SALES IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 2016

In CHF million	1/1/2015- 3/31/2015	1/1/2016- 3/31/2016	Year-on-year change (+/- in %)			
			in CHF	In local currencies ¹	Currency effect	Acquisition effect
By region						
EMEA	556.0	604.2	8.7	8.7	0.0	5.0
North America	157.6	184.1	16.8	12.6	4.2	0.8
Latin America	151.1	130.7	-13.5	4.0	-17.5	0.0
Asia/Pacific	225.0	234.6	4.3	4.3	0.0	2.3
Other segments and activities	105.6	120.8	14.4	14.2	0.2	0.0
Net sales consolidated	1,195.3	1,274.4	6.6	8.3	-1.7	2.9
Products for the construction industry	934.8	969.1	3.7	5.6	-1.9	0.9
Products for industrial manufacturing	260.5	305.3	17.2	17.9	-0.7	10.1

¹ including acquisitions

FINANCIAL CALENDAR

48th Annual General Meeting	Tuesday, April 12, 2016, 1 p.m.
Half-Year Report 2016	Friday, July 29, 2016
Results first nine months 2016	Thursday, October 27, 2016
Net sales 2016	Tuesday, January 10, 2017
Media conference/analyst presentation on full-year results 2016	Friday, February 24, 2017

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SIKA CORPORATE PROFILE

Sika is a specialty chemicals company with a leading position in the development and production of systems and products for bonding, sealing, damping, reinforcing and protection in the building sector and automotive industry. Sika has subsidiaries in 94 countries around the world and manufactures in over 170 factories. Its more than 17,000 employees generated annual sales of CHF 5.49 billion in 2015.