



DATE April 9, 2019
PAGE 1 / 4
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SUCCESSFUL START TO THE YEAR WITH 7.1% SALES GROWTH IN FIRST QUARTER

- **Sales growth of 7.1% in local currencies to CHF 1,644.8 million (+5.8% in CHF)**
- **Growth in all regions**
- **New mortar factory established in Senegal**
- **Announced acquisition of three companies: Parex, global, King Packaged Materials, Canada, and Belineco, Belarus**
- **Confirmation of outlook with sales target of at least CHF 8 billion in 2019**

Sika has continued its growth trajectory with a successful start to the 2019 business year, reporting a new sales record of CHF 1,644.8 million in the first quarter. This equates to an increase of 7.1% in local currencies. A negative currency effect (-1.3%) led to robust sales growth in Swiss francs of 5.8%.

Paul Schuler, Chief Executive Officer: "In a commercially challenging environment we have delivered sales growth of 7.1%, which represents a strong start to the new business year. The acquisition of Parex, which is expected to complete in the second quarter, will provide us with a first-class growth platform. Our organization is set up for the next level of growth, and we anticipate sales to exceed CHF 8 billion for the first time in 2019 as a whole."

GROWTH IN ALL REGIONS

In the first quarter of 2019, sales in the EMEA region (Europe, Middle East, Africa) increased by 8.2% (previous year: 10.2%). Business developed well in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland (DACH area). The countries of Eastern Europe and Africa posted double-digit growth rates. In Africa, the new national subsidiaries in particular significantly contributed to the strong growth. At the start of 2019, Sika announced the acquisition of Belineco, a polyurethane foam systems manufacturer based in Belarus. The takeover will further improve access to the East European market. In addition, Sika has invested in a mortar production facility in Senegal.

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE April 9, 2019
PAGE 2 / 4

The Americas region recorded growth of 4.8% (previous year: 12.2%). Numerous major construction projects have been delayed in the United States due to the ongoing shortage of skilled labor. In Mexico, the change in government has led to noticeable cost-cutting measures in the area of infrastructure. Business development in Brazil and Colombia was higher than average. In Canada, the acquisition of the King Packaged Materials Company in the reporting period brought a leading manufacturer of concrete repair systems into the Group.

Sales in the Asia/Pacific region rose by 2.8% (previous year: 3.9%). Double-digit growth rates were reported in two of the largest economies of Asia, namely China and India. By contrast, growth in the countries of Southeast Asia and the Pacific area was uneven, and in some cases even negative.

The Global Business segment recorded growth of 13.3% (previous year: 20.9%), 11.3% being attributed to acquisitions. In the Automotive area, Sika was further able to increase its market share in the first quarter and grow organically, despite the decline in car production figures worldwide. In particular, Sika is benefiting from the megatrends evident in modern automotive construction, which are dominated by electromobility and lightweight construction. New platforms and multi-material designs are opening up new avenues of growth potential for Sika.

OUTLOOK: SALES TARGET OF CHF 8 BILLION IN 2019

Sika expects sales to increase by 6–8% in 2019, in accordance with the Group's Strategic Targets 2020, and anticipates an over-proportional rise in profits. With the consolidation of Parex tentatively taking place in the second quarter, sales is set to exceed CHF 8 billion for the first time. The implementation of the Group's growth strategy will continue in 2019 with the opening of between seven and nine new factories, and the establishment of further growth platforms in the form of acquisitions. Details of the new Strategy 2023 will be presented at the Sika Capital Markets Day on October 3, 2019.

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE April 9, 2019

PAGE 3 / 4

NET SALES IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 2019

In CHF mn	1/1/2018- 3/31/2018	1/1/2019- 3/31/2019	Year-on-year change (+/- in %)			
			in CHF	In local currencies ¹	Currency effect	Acquisition effect
By region						
EMEA	691.5	723.8	4.7	8.2	-3.5	1.2
Americas	389.0	412.5	6.0	4.8	1.2	1.6
Asia/Pacific	257.7	266.2	3.3	2.8	0.5	0.0
Global Business	215.8	242.3	12.3	13.3	-1.0	11.3
Net sales consolidated	1,554.0	1,644.8	5.8	7.1	-1.3	2.5
Products for the construction industry	1,170.2	1,225.8	4.8	5.9	-1.1	1.2
Products for industrial manufacturing	383.8	419.0	9.2	10.8	-1.6	6.4

¹ including acquisitions

FINANCIAL CALENDAR

51st Annual General Meeting	Tuesday, April 9, 2019
Half-Year Report 2019	Thursday, July 25, 2019
Results first nine months 2019	Thursday, October 24, 2019
Net sales 2019	Tuesday, January 7, 2020
Media conference/analyst presentation on 2019 full-year results	Friday, February 21, 2020
52nd Annual General Meeting	Tuesday, April 21, 2020

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MEDIA RELEASE

DATE April 9, 2019
PAGE 4 / 4

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 protecting in the building sector and motor vehicle industry. Sika has subsidiaries in 101 countries around the world and manufactures in over 200 factories. Its more than 20,000 employees generated annual sales of CHF 7.09 billion in 2018.