

*Free for immediate publication*

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## **Sika - Growth continues in 3rd quarter**

During the period consolidated net profit developed gratifyingly in reaching a level 33.2% higher than in the prior year.

EBIT, earnings before interest and taxes, rose by 22.4% compared to the first nine months a year ago to CHF 189.1 mil. The EBIT margin increased from 9.1% to 9.8%.

In the first nine months of 2004 Sika's net sales totalled CHF 1,939 mil., an increase of 14.0% against the corresponding period a year ago. Currency adjusted, the gain amounted to 14.6%.

Expressed in Swiss francs, sales in the third quarter of 2004 were up 11.1%, 14.6% in local currencies.

Sika realized a CHF 80.0 mil operating free cash flow.

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## **Company Profile Sika AG**

Sika AG, based in Baar, Switzerland, is a leading global supplier of specialty chemicals. Sika offers process materials for sealing, bonding, damping, reinforcing and protecting of load-bearing structures in construction (buildings and infrastructure) and in industry (transportation, automotive, marine and appliances & equipment).

Sika's product line includes concrete admixtures, specialty mortars, sealants, adhesives, specialty acoustic and reinforcing materials, structural strengthening systems, industrial flooring and membranes.

Locally based operations in 66 countries with over 8'500 employees connect customers directly with Sika and guarantee for the success of all our partners. With this concept Sika achieves annual sales of approximately CHF 2.3 billion.

Visit the Sika website at [www.sika.com](http://www.sika.com).



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