

Press release

11 April 2003

Interim report
January-March 2003

Improved profitability and increased sales volumes

- Earnings per share increased by one SEK to 2.50 (1.50)
- Delivered volumes rose by 9 per cent
- Improved operating margin both in Profiles and Heat Transfer
- Increased market share for Heat Transfer
- Profit before tax improved by 66 per cent to MSEK 137 (82)

Sapa in brief	Jan-Mar 2003	Jan-Mar 2002
Net sales, MSEK	2,758	2,821
Operating profit, MSEK	151	101
Operating margin, %	5.5	3.6
Profit before tax, MSEK	137	82
Earnings per share, SEK	2.50	1.50
Deliveries, tonnes	76,790	70,660
Debt/equity ratio	0.31	0.41

"The combination of increased volumes and improved productivity is shown in a continued strong increase in profit and improved profitability in difficult market conditions. In the US we continue to gain market share despite an uncertain market situation. Heat Transfer's positive development continues and the large investment in Finspång is now showing a return", comments Staffan Bohman, President and CEO of Sapa.

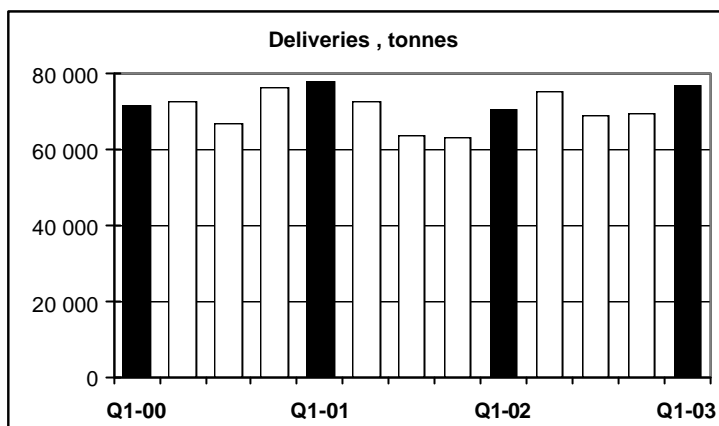
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This report is also available on Sapa's website: www.sapagroup.com. A slide presentation of this release can be downloaded as a PDF-file. Select Financial Information/Quarterly Reports.

January-March 2003

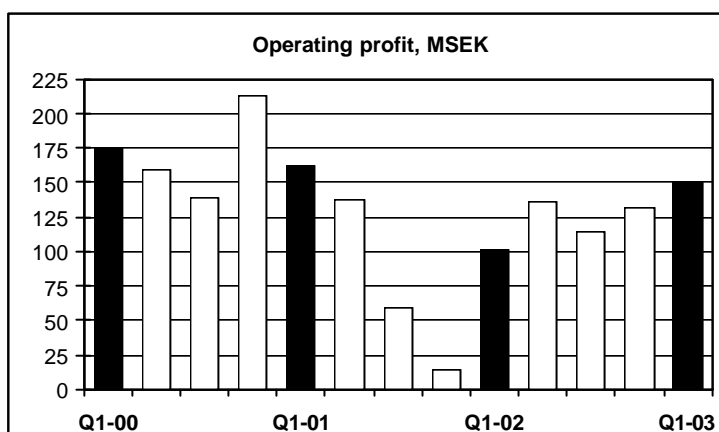
Net sales for the Group during the period amounted to MSEK 2,758 (2 821).

Currency effects from translation of foreign subsidiaries to SEK had a negative effect on net sales of 5 per cent. Lower raw material price of aluminium metal in European currencies, caused by a weaker dollar, meant a further decrease in net sales. Delivered volumes of aluminium products increased by 9 per cent, mainly through the strong development of Heat Transfer, but also Profiles in the US continued to increase their sales volumes and



market share. The Group's aspiration to increase the value-added operations is reflected in the considerable increase in the value added. The value added margin rose by 4 percentage points to 50 per cent.

Operating profit for the period improved by 50 per cent to MSEK 151 (101). The currency effect from translation of foreign subsidiaries to SEK had a negative effect of MSEK 11. The improvement in operating margin continued in the first quarter and reached 5.5 per cent (3.6), the highest margin since quarter 4, 2000. The improvement trend of the Group's profitability is largely a result effect of recent years efficiency programs and the investments carried out within Heat Transfer.



The European market for aluminium profiles as a whole continued to be weak during the first quarter of the year and there are no signs indicating that a real improvement is imminent. In a market that does not grow, Sapa has kept its market share. There are however regional differences. In France, which experienced a decline in demand from the building and construction sector, Sapa increased volumes for the new big press in Albi. The utilisation is however still too low to give a satisfactory result. Holland experiences a weak demand and considerable competition. Despite this the Dutch profiles operation managed to show a strong improvement in profit. In the UK the year commenced with a weakened demand from all sectors except the building industry, but Sapa's profiles operation in UK nevertheless showed an improved operating profit. In a decreasing German market the German profiles operation also improved its profit. The Polish profiles operation continues to develop well. The focus on growing the value-added operations has been successful. There was also an increase in volumes as a consequence of a slightly improved home market and an increase in export.

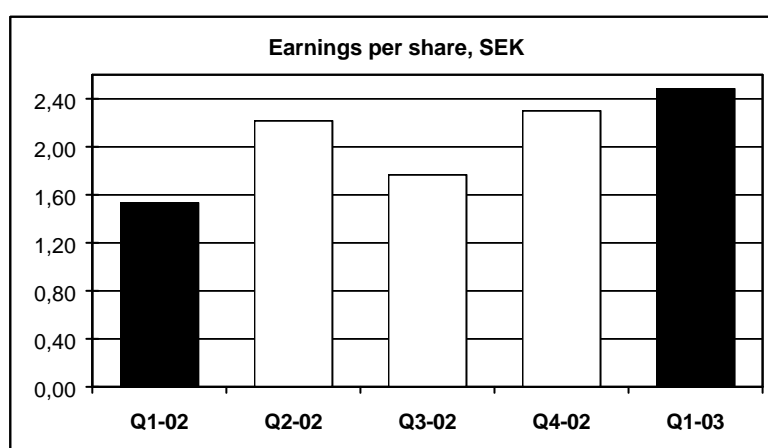
Sapa	Jan-Mar 2003	Oct-Dec 2002	July-Sept 2002	Apr-June 2002	Jan-Mar 2002
Net Sales, MSEK	2,758	2,689	2,642	2,937	2,821
Operating profit, MSEK	151	132	114	136	101
Profit before tax, MSEK	137	124	99	122	82
Operating margin, %	5.5	4.9	4.3	4.6	3.6
Deliveries, tonnes	76,790	69,870	69,190	75,300	70,660

The general economic uncertainty in the US also affects the market for aluminium profiles. This has especially impacted demand from the transport industry, whilst the building and construction sector has held up relatively well. Sapa Inc. has through active market efforts increased delivered volumes by 5 per cent, which more than compensates for the pressure on margins that the tough market conditions have brought about. Effects from an improved cost structure and higher productivity is seen in the value added per employee, which improved by 11 per cent.

Heat Transfer continues the positive profit trend that started after the summer last year. Demand from the market for heat exchange material is good and delivered volumes increased. The large investment that was carried through in Finspång has brought with it an improved productivity and a higher yield in the production, which gives positive effects on the result. The Chinese operation showed delivery and production records in the first quarter and experiences a continued strong demand from the market.

The development of Sapa's Strategic Business Segments is proceeding well. The co-ordinated efforts within the respective segments Automotive, Building Systems and Mass Transportation have led to several interesting commercial opportunities. Within Automotive, an active collaboration with Pressweld, the recently acquired UK subsidiary, is ongoing.

The financial net improved to MSEK -14 (-19), which led to an increase in profit before tax of 66 per cent to MSEK 137 (82). The tax cost for the Group amounted to MSEK 45 (27), corresponding to a tax rate of 33 per cent (33). Earnings per share increased by one SEK to 2,50 (1,50).



ACQUISITION

Heat Transfer

During the period the remaining 4.05 per cent of the shares in Sapa Heat Transfer (Shanghai) Ltd were acquired. The consideration amounted to MSEK 6,3, compared with a book value on the minority share of MSEK 4,2.

Remi Clayes Aluminium

Sapa AB has reached a preliminary agreement to acquire the main owner Aluclaeys Finance NV's 54.9 per cent stake in the Belgian group Remi Claeys Aluminium. Remi Claeys Aluminium is listed on Euronext Brussels. The parties have agreed on an indicative price of EUR 27,8 per share, subject to a due diligence and certain other conditions. A subsequent binding agreement will be submitted for approval by relevant competition authorities. The price corresponds to a value for 100 per cent of the shares in Remi Claeys Aluminium of approximately MEUR 77. An acquisition would also involve the assumption of the existing net debt, which at year-end 2002 amounted to approximately MEUR 80. Following an acquisition of the majority stake Sapa will launch a mandatory take over bid on the remaining shares held by the public.

Remi Claeys Aluminium is one of Europe's largest independent producer of aluminium profiles, aluminium profile based building systems and welded aluminium tubes, with branches mainly in Benelux, France and Germany. The Group's net sales in 2002 amounted to MEUR 293 and the operating margin was 4,5 per cent. The Group has approximately 1,100 employees.

The operations of Remi Claeys Aluminium fits well with the strategic direction of Sapa and strengthens and complements Sapa's position within profiles, building systems and Heat Transfer. An acquisition would also reinforce the market positions of Sapa particularly in Benelux, France and Germany.

FINANCING, CASH FLOW AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY

The Group's net debt to equity ratio at the end of the period was 0.31 (0.41), a strengthening that comes from last years strong cash flow from the operations. Cash flow after investments (excluding company acquisitions/divestment) for the period amounted to MSEK -126 (59), a deterioration caused by an increase in working capital, mainly due to seasonally higher deliveries during the latter part of the quarter compared with the last quarter of 2002.

Net debt of the Group at the end of the period was MSEK 1,209 (1,607), of which interest bearing loans were MSEK 1,874 (1,997) and liquid assets MSEK 665 (390). The lower net debt led to an improvement in the financial net to MSEK -14 (-19). The interest coverage ratio was 6.2, exceeding the Group's long-term condition of a minimum of 3.0.

During the period shareholder's equity increased by MSEK 39. Repurchase of own shares (see below) has reduced shareholder's equity by MSEK 5. Translation differences, which are handled in accordance with the Group's finance policy, have through a stronger krona had a negative effect on shareholder's equity by MSEK 47.

INVESTMENTS

Group investments during the period amounted to MSEK 49 (86). Depreciation (excluding amortisation of goodwill) amounted to MSEK 100 (100). No major investment projects are ongoing.

PERSONNEL

The average number of employees during the year was 6,574 (6,510). Of the increase 112 comes from Pressweld, which was acquired in November 2002.

THE SAPA SHARE

The closing price for the Sapa share at the end of the period was SEK 160, compared with SEK 160 SEK at the end of 2002. During the same period the Stockholm exchange all-share index fell by 7.6 per cent.

OTHER

Repurchase of shares

Within the frame of the repurchase programme, which is in place to secure the issue of personnel options, 31,200 shares have been repurchased during the period. Cumulatively a total of 533,530 shares had been repurchased at the end of the period. The repurchased shares represent 1.4 per cent of the total number of shares. The number of outstanding shares by the end of the period was 36,634,878.

OUTLOOK

The economic conditions continue to be uncertain, without any indications for improvement in the near future. Despite this the development of the profit is expected to continue positively during the remainder of the year.

*Sapa AB (publ)
Stockholm 11 April 2003*

STAFFAN BOHMAN
President and CEO

The report also includes:

- Group Income statement in summary
- Group Balance sheet in summary
- Group Key financial figures
- Changes in Shareholders' Equity
- Group Cash flow
- Segment reporting
- Accounting principles

Report Dates 2003

Interim Report Q2	18 July 2003
Interim Report Q3	17 October 2003

Full Year report 2003	February 2004
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This report has not been audited by the Company's auditors.

THE SAPA GROUP

Consolidated income statements, MSEK	Jan-Mar 2003	Jan-Mar 2002	Jan-Dec 2002
Net sales	2,758.4	2,821.3	11,089.7
Cost of goods sold	-2,190.4	-2,332.6	-8,982.4
Gross profit	568.0	488.7	2,107.3
Selling and administrative expenses	-414.9	-387.9	-1,640.5
Other operating revenues/expenses	-2.0	0.0	16.2
Operating profit	151.1	100.8	483.0
Financial items	-14.5	-18.8	-56.0
Profit after financial items	136.6	82.0	427.0
Income tax	-44.9	-27.3	-141.9
Minority interest in net profit	-0.2	1.2	0.0
Net result	91.4	55.9	285.1
Earnings per share, SEK	2.50	1.50	7.85
Earnings per share after dilution, SEK	2.50	1.50	7.80

Consolidated balance sheets, MSEK	31 March 2003	31 March 2002	31 Dec 2002
Intangible fixed assets	964.1	1,141.1	1,001.2
Tangible fixed assets	2,545.7	2,729.6	2,625.7
Financial fixed assets	29.1	94.6	27.1
Inventories	1,459.8	1,449.4	1,423.3
Current receivables	2,524.6	2,502.1	2,222.8
Liquid funds	664.6	389.9	747.2
Total assets	8,188.0	8,306.7	8,047.3
Shareholders' equity	3,918.1	3,921.7	3,878.7
Interest-bearing liabilities and provisions	1,873.5	1,997.3	1,834.7
Interest-free liabilities and provisions	2,396.4	2,387.6	2,333.8
Total shareholders' equity and liabilities	8,188.0	8,306.7	8,047.3

Key figures and other information¹	Jan-Mar 2003	Jan-Mar 2002	Full Year 2002
Return on shareholders' equity, %	8.4	3.6	7.5
Average number of outstanding shares, '000	36,646	36,517	36,339
Earnings per share, SEK	2.50	1.50	7.85
Earnings per share after dilution, SEK	2.50	1.50	7.80
Shareholders' equity per share, SEK	106.95	107.60	105.80
Return on capital employed, %	10.2	6.0	9.0
Operating margin, %	5.5	3.6	4.4
Capital turnover rate, Multiple	2.1	2.0	2.1
Equity/assets ratio, %	48	47	48
Debt/equity ratio	0.31	0.41	0.28
Net debt, MSEK	1,209	1,607	1,088
New and replacement investments, MSEK	49	86	303
Average number of employees	6,574	6,510	6,526

¹Key ratios calculated based on rolling twelve-month values

THE SAPA GROUP

Changes in shareholders' equity, MSEK	Jan-Mar 2003	Jan-Mar 2002
Opening balance	3,878.7	3,976.2
Translation differences	-47.4	-93.7
Conversion of convertible bonds / redemption of warrants	0.1	-
Repurchase of shares	-4.7	-16.7
Dividend	-	-
Net result	91.4	55.9
Outgoing balance	3,918.1	3,921.7

Cash flow, MSEK	Jan-Mar 2003	Jan-Mar 2002	Jan-Dec 2002
Operating profit	151.1	100.8	483.0
Depreciations	115.1	116.7	448.2
Other items not affecting liquidity	0.3	-11.1	-84.8
Interest received/paid	-19.2	-37.3	-67.1
Income tax paid	-28.1	-18.5	-100.9
Change in working capital	-297.6	-13.5	148.9
Cash flow from ongoing operations	-78.4	137.1	827.3
New and replacement investments	-48.9	-86.1	-302.9
Company acquisitions/divestments	-6.3	-	-32.5
Sales of fixed assets and changes in financial fixed assets	0.8	7.6	67.1
Cash flow after investments	-132.8	58.7	559.0
Financing	64.9	-661.8	-557.2
Share issue/repurchase of shares	-4.6	-16.7	-70.9
Dividend	-	-	-182.3
Cash flow	72.6	-619.8	-251.4

Segment reporting MSEK	Jan-Mar 2003	Jan-Mar 2002	Jan-Dec 2002
Group Net sales	2,758	2,821	11,090
Where of			
Profiles	2,171	2,293	8,863
Heat Transfer	536	462	1,977
Other and eliminations	51	66	250

Accounting principles

This interim report has been prepared in accordance with the Swedish Financial Accounting Standards Council's recommendation RR20, interim reporting. The application of the current recommendations from 2003 has not had any influence on the company's result and position for earlier periods. Sapa accounts for business segments as primary segment and geographical areas as secondary segment according to RR 25, Segment reporting. The business segments Profiles and Heat Transfer are reported combined.