

Louvain-La-Neuve, Belgium
August 29th 2006

CARMEUSE GROUP Interim results as of June 30th, 2006

1. Net turnover reached € 481.5 million compared to € 416.9 for the first six months of 2005.
2. Recurrent EBITDA was at € 98.0 million, while first half year 2005 reached € 94.1 million.

OPERATIONS

The activity during this second quarter and for this first half year has been sustained by strong demand in volumes associated with favourable market pricing conditions.

Said environment, after adjustment to neutralize the impact of foreign exchange rates currencies, lead to a 12% increase of the turnover – i.e. € 481.5 million – compared to the same period in 2005.

However, even if positive, the evolution of the operating profit and EBITDA did not reach the same percentage of increase due to very high energy prices.

In line with the scheduled plan, our capital expenditures increased by some 50% compared to the same period of last year.

FINANCE

The partial debt redemption that occurred in the second half of 2005 led to a decrease of the net interest charges – at € 17.9 million – compared to 2005. The reduction has however been mitigated by the increase of the interest rates in the financial markets both in Europe and in North America.

Linked to the present intensive capital expenditures program, the debt of the group remained stable.

NET RESULT

The share of the group in the net result reached € 31.8 million, at comparable level as the net result of 2005 for the same period. However, after excluding non recurring results of both years, the net 2006 result progresses positively by some 7% compared to last year.

PERSPECTIVES AND DEVELOPMENT

The management is continuously following the evolution of energy prices and of the steel sector, being our major end-market. This last one is expected to somewhat slowdown within coming months.

End of July, Carmeuse North America acquired Rockwell Lime, a Wisconsin based company producing dolomitic lime, hydrate products and aggregates. This move is designed to reinforce and diversify our products range.

Carmeuse Group is a worldwide leader in the extraction and processing of high calcium limestone and dolomitic stone into lime and lime-related products for industrial and commercial customers. Lime is used in multiple aspects of our everyday life. (steel, construction, agro-food, paper, chemicals, plastics, carpets, paints, pollution control, water treatment, ...)

Carmeuse is present in about 80 sites across Western Europe (in Italy, Belgium, the Scandinavian countries, France and the Netherlands and Estonia), Central and Eastern Europe (Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Turkey) and North America (the United States and Canada) and Africa (Ghana).