INTERIM ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

THIRD QUARTER 13/14

bene

BENE
Q3 2013/14

FOREWORD BY THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Dear shareholder,

Following several quarters in which Bene pursued an aggressive growth strategy — with a significant negative impact on its bottom line — the Bene Group has been undergoing a phase of comprehensive change since January 2013. As part of its pursuit of the restructuring concept presented at the start of the year, Bene has since been consistently implementing measures to reduce costs and increase income. The heart of the restructuring plan centres on measures that are intended to increase Bene's profitability over the long term. In line with this, we are also concentrating on managing the mix of products and projects in our core markets of Austria and Germany as well as in highly profitable markets with great potential for growth, including Western Europe and the Middle East. An agreement on restructuring financing was reached with the banks at the beginning of the third quarter, representing a further important milestone on the road to an all-encompassing restructuring programme and a restoration to health for the Bene Group.

The figures published today on the first nine months of the current financial year show that the measures implemented are taking effect and essentially match the forecasts published in the middle of the year. Bene achieved balanced operating results (EBITDA) again for the first time in the third quarter of 2013/14 in a challenging environment for the international office furniture industry and in spite of the considerable strains imposed by implementation of the restructuring plans. At EUR 0.17 million, this key figure was significantly above the comparative figures for the first two quarters of this financial year, and was also up on the reference value of the previous year. As part of the restructuring concept and the concentration on markets with high growth levels, Bene implemented a controlled reduction of sales in the first three quarters by making changes in the sales process. With the combined effect of the challenging economic environment overall, which also resulted in projects being postponed by customers to subsequent quarters, sales therefore fell by around 20 % in the first three quarters of 2013/14.

Bene is represented via its closely linked global network, has top-quality products with a strong international brand and is highly respected by customers and architects, both in Austria and abroad. We were able to attract and implement a large number of highly profitable international orders on this basis in the first nine months. We have already achieved a great deal on our way towards a comprehensive renewal of the Bene Group, and are convinced that we will be able to implement the actions to restructure the Bene Group according to plan.

We would like to thank all of the Bene Group's customers, employees and shareholders for their support during this challenging period.

Best regards,

Michael Feldt,
Management Board
Sales & Marketing

Rudolf Payer,
Management Board
Operations & Finance

INTERIM ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE THIRD QUARTER

ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Economic growth in the eurozone fell sharply in the third quarter of 2013. Economic output in the **eurozone** for instance fell by 0.4 % compared with the previous year's period. In the same period GDP only rose by 0.1 % compared with the previous quarter and as such was below that of America and Japan. Positive signals came primarily from Germany, with growth of 0.3 %. France on the other hand reported a fall in GDP of 0.1 %. Growth in the eurozone economy is also only expected to be below average in subsequent quarters, despite extremely low interest rates and reasonable global demand.

Following a period of stagnation in the first half of 2013 the **Austrian** economy grew 0.2 % in real terms in the third quarter compared with the previous quarter, representing an increase of 0.7 % compared to the same period in the previous year. This was primarily due to an increase in consumption by private households and to increased investments. Further economic growth by 0.5 % is also expected for the fourth quarter of 2013.

Significant impetus for growth came from foreign trade, even though exports only increased 0.2 % in the third quarter of 2013 compared with the previous period. The continuing decline in demand within the Internal Market also placed a strain on imports, which only rose 0.1 % compared with the previous period.

Net value added in Austria grew in real terms by 0.3 % on the previous period, primarily as a result of positive momentum from building construction and from the service areas and other economic services.

Germany recorded a rise in GDP in the third quarter of 2013 (+0.3 %), which was primarily due to increased consumer spending by private households and to increased investments in equipment and constructions. Economic output was also up in Germany in the third quarter of 2013 compared with the previous year (+1.1 %).

GDP in **Great Britain** rose by 0.8 % in the third quarter of 2013 compared with the second quarter of 2013, representing the largest increase since the second quarter of 2010. There was also an increase in economic growth compared with the previous year. GDP, for instance, increased by 1.5 % compared with the previous year's period.

GDP in **Russia** rose in the third quarter by 1.2 % in a year-on-year comparison. The Central Bank left its base rate unchanged even though economic growth remained below expectations. However, the Russian government expects growth in GDP of 1.8 % by the end of 2013.

The economies of the countries in **Central and East Europe** made a noticeable recovery in the third quarter of 2013, in particular in Hungary, Poland and Romania.

In **China** the economic growth of 7.5 % in the second quarter of 2013 rose to 7.8 % in the third quarter of 2013. An economic-stimulus package from the Chinese government also appears to be partly responsible for this upturn. However, the International Monetary Fund expects growth of just 7.6 % for the full year 2013 and of 7.3 % for 2014.

Sources include: Wirtschaftsblatt, Austrian Institute of Economic Research, Austrian Federal Statistical Office, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

ESSENTIAL KEY EARNINGS FIGURES

in EUR '000	Q1-Q3 cumulative 2013/14	Q1-Q3 cumulative 2012/13	Change	Change in %
Sales	124,824	153,929	-29,105	-18.9%
EBITDA	-8,219	2,219	-10,438	N.A.
EBITA	-16,031	-4,212	-11,819	N.A.
EBIT	-17,965	-4,212	-13,753	N.A.

in EUR '000	Q3 2013/14	Q3 2012/13	Change	Change in %
Sales	42,543	53,160	-10,617	-20.0%
EBITDA	173	-976	1,149	117.7%
EBITA	-2,527	-3,107	580	18.7%
EBIT	-4,461	-3,107	-1,354	-43.6%

The Bene Group was able to **achieve balanced operating results** (EBITDA) in the third quarter of the current financial year, despite ongoing difficulties in the competitive environment and further strains from the restructuring measures being implemented. As such this key figure was not only significantly above the first two quarters of this financial year, it was also up on the same value for the previous year.

The Bene Group reduced sales by around 20%, as planned. The crucial reason for this was the Group's decision to concentrate on markets with strong growth and focus on sales activities for projects with high margins.

The sales details on the essential markets are as follows:

in EUR '000	Q1-Q3 cumulative 2013/14	Q1-Q3 cumulative 2012/13	Change	Change in %
Austria	30,042	38,531	-8,489	-22.0%
Germany	35,985	42,072	-6,087	-14.5%
UK	12,235	16,028	-3,793	-23.7%
Russia	10,188	16,979	-6,791	-40.0%
Other markets	36,373	40,319	-3,946	-9.8%
BENE GROUP	**124,824**	**153,929**	**-29,105**	**-18.9%**

Bene was able to implement additional crucial steps towards a sustained turn-around in the area of costs and margins. **Expenditure on materials and services rendered** for instance was reduced from 47.3 % of operating performance in the first nine months of the previous financial year to 45.9 % going forward.

Similar positive developments took place in the area of **personnel expenses**, which saw a positive EUR 4.2 million reduction in the first three quarters despite the strains from the restructuring measures. Personnel expenses fell from 47.3 % to 41.9 % relative to operating performance. The number of employees in the Group was reduced to 1,172 as at the reporting date from 1,380 individuals (31 October 2012) and 1,387 (31 January 2013), respectively. In addition to the restructuring measures, this development is also due to the lower workload at the plant in Waidhofen/Ybbs.

Bene also made savings in the area of **other operating expenses**, which was reduced by EUR 2.3 million compared with the first nine months of the previous year. This is all the more remarkable considering the significant charges from the restructuring activities in the current financial year which are contained here (particularly consultation costs).

In total, the effects described resulted in a drop in **EBITDA** from EUR 2.2 million in the first three quarters of the previous year to EUR -8.2 million in the current financial year. A separate inspection of the third quarter of 2013/14 reveals that Bene was able to achieve balanced operating results here again for the first time with EBITDA of EUR 0.17 million.

Depreciation and amortisation increased by EUR 1.4 million on the previous year, essentially due to unscheduled write-offs necessitated by the restructuring. Furthermore the goodwill capitalised in the consolidated balance sheet in the third quarter of 2013/14 was subjected to the annual impairment test and as a result impairment expenses of EUR 1.9 million (previous year: EUR 0.0 million) were recognised with effect on net income.

Based on both of these special effects outside of ordinary business operations the **EBIT** for the first nine months of 2013/14 deteriorated disproportionately from EUR -4.2 million the previous year to EUR -18.0 million in the current financial year.

Investment expenditure in the first nine months was essentially limited to replacement investments on account of the subdued market environment and narrow financial options. Expenditure decreased as a result of this by EUR 4.4 million to 2.7 million compared year-on-year.

The Group's liquidity situation developt satisfactorily. Despite the EBITDA figure which was clearly negative, the Group's **net debt** since the last balance sheet date only increased by EUR 9.0 million to EUR 64.1 million. Debt even fell slightly compared with the reference date in the middle of the year. The Bene Group therefore remains able to manage and meet its liquidity requirements in full and on time. On a positive note there has not yet been any need to call upon the new funds promised by the financing banks as part of the restructuring, as the operating cash-flow was strong enough to finance ongoing business.

In the course of its sales restructuring, BENE AG ended its joint venture for the Asia Pacific region because the start-up losses of the joint venture were considerably higher than assumed in the original business plan, and the sales revenues did not develop as planned. The APAC area contributed EUR 5.3 million to consolidated sales revenues, thereby making a loss (earnings on ordinary activities) of EUR -3.8 million. The imputed loss includes special write-offs for the joint-venture's assets of EUR 0.6 million. As a result of the discontinuation of business operations the five existing joint-venture companies will be deconsolidated in the 4th quarter of 2013/14. The derecognition of the assets and debts will result in a book loss of around EUR 0.6 million.

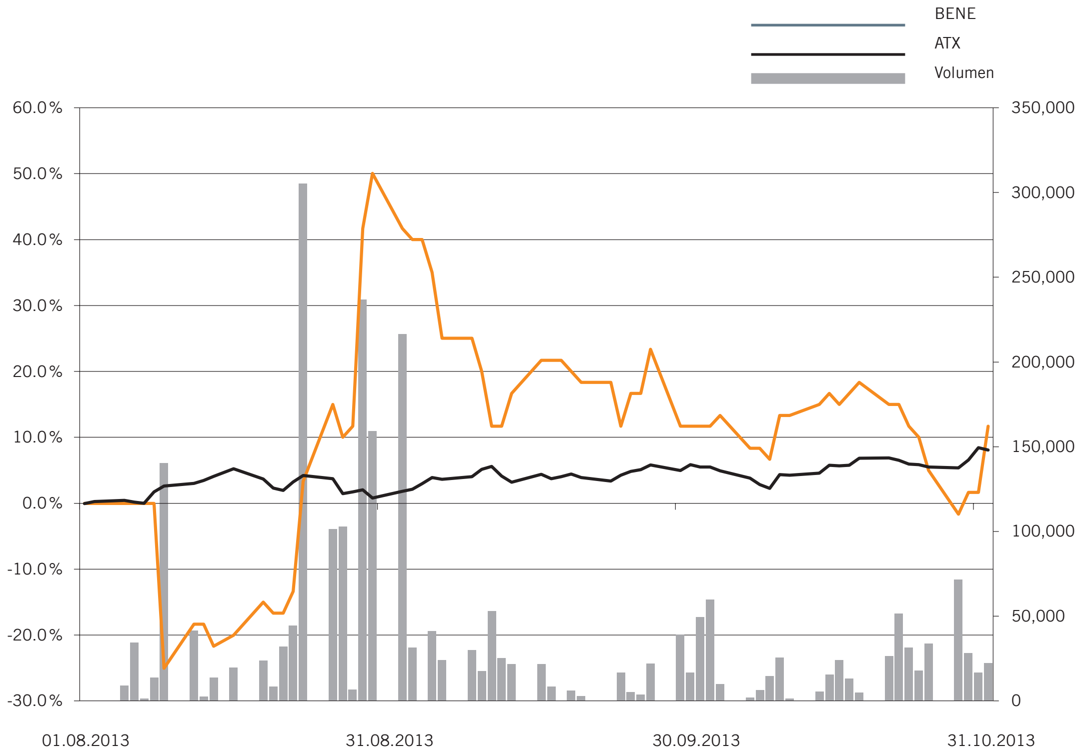
The **outlook** for the 2013/14 financial year remains virtually unchanged. The Bene Group will not achieve a positive EBITDA overall for the 2013/14 financial year on account of the losses incurred in the first three quarters. Sales for the full year will be slightly below EUR 170 million — following a consistent focus on highly profitable orders and markets plus postponement of projects into the next financial year by customers. All liquidity requirements remain secured based on the Group's cash forecast.

Note
This report also contains statements about possible developments in the future that have been made based on the information that is currently available. These statements, which reflect the Management Board's current assessment of future events, cannot be considered guarantees of future performance and pertain to risks and uncertainties that are difficult to predict. There is a wide variety of reasons why actual results or circumstances could differ considerably from those assumptions on which the statements were based.

BENE SHARES

BENE
Q3 2013/14

Bene has been listed on the Vienna Stock Exchange since 3 November 2006 in the Mid Market Continuous segment. This makes Bene the only office furniture company on the Vienna Stock Exchange and it is one of a handpicked group of listed office furniture companies in Europe.

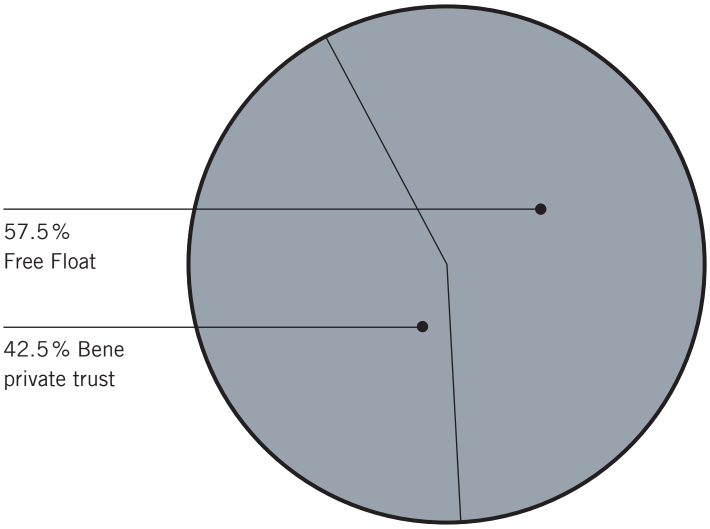


PRICE MOVEMENTS AND TRADING VOLUMES

The share price registered a total increase of 11.67% in the third quarter of 2013/14 as a result of the announcement of the agreement for financial restructuring of the Group with the financing banks (ATX: 8.03%). The highest closing price in the reporting period was EUR 0.90 (30 August 2013) and the lowest was EUR 0.45 (9 August 2013).

Over the course of the third quarter of the 2013/14 financial year average trading volume stood at 36,909 shares. The highest daily turnover was 305,400 shares on 23 August 2013 and the lowest was 1,000 shares on 1 August 2013.

SHAREHOLDER STRUCTURE



ISIN code:	AT00000BENE6
Stock Exchange:	Vienna Stock Exchange, Mid Market Continuous
Type of shares:	Ordinary no-par bearer shares
Total number of shares:	24,347,352
Authorised capital:	EUR 9.0 million
Other stock exchanges:	None
Indices:	Mid Market Continuous, WBI, VÖNIX
Ticker symbol:	BENE
Research coverage:	Hauck & Aufhäuser
Free float:	57.5 %

INVESTOR RELATIONS

The Bene Group feels committed to take account of the requirements of the capital markets for transparency. To this end it supports active and transparent communication to give its stakeholders a true and fair picture of the company's situation. That is why Bene undertakes to comply with the Corporate Governance Code in the version issued in July 2012.

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