

VBG GROUP AB (publ) in Vänersborg is the Parent Company of an international engineering Group with wholly-owned manufacturing and sales companies in Europe, India and the USA. The Group's operations are divided into two business areas, VBG GROUP TRUCK EQUIPMENT and RINGFEDER POWER TRANSMISSION, with products that are marketed under strong, well-known brands. The VBG GROUP's Series B share was first listed on the stock exchange in 1987 and is currently traded on Nasdaq OMX Nordic Exchange Mid Cap.

## INTERIM REPORT January – March 2009

- **The Group's net turnover declined by 34 per cent to SEK 251.0 M (381.4)**
- **Operating profit fell by 77 per cent to SEK 14.9 M (64.2), with an operating margin of 5.9 per cent (16.8)**
- **Profit after financial items decreased to SEK 13.4 M (63.9)**
- **The Group's profit after tax decreased to SEK 9.9 M (45.1)**
- **Earnings per share decreased to SEK 0.80 (3.61)**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Q1 2009</b>	<b>Q1 2008</b>	<b>Full year 2008</b>
Net turnover, SEK M	<b>251.0</b>	381.4	1,376.7
Operating profit, SEK M	<b>14.9</b>	64.2	123.1*
Operating margin, %	<b>5.9</b>	16.8	8.9
Profit after financial items, SEK M	<b>13.4</b>	63.9	108.6
Profit margin, %	<b>5.3</b>	16.8	7.9
Profit after tax, SEK M	<b>9.9</b>	45.1	73.1
Earnings per share, SEK	<b>0.80</b>	3.61	5.85
Return on capital employed (ROCE), cumulative, %	<b>6.8</b>	37.4	16.1
Return on equity (ROE), cumulative, %	<b>5.9</b>	32.6	12.2
Equity/assets ratio, %	<b>54.8</b>	58.2	56.0

\* Includes nonrecurring item of SEK -46 M

## **Managing Director's statement**

### **Extreme market situation for VBG GROUP TRUCK EQUIPMENT**

The first quarter of 2009 to a great extent involved adapting the organization and the business operations to the extreme market situation currently prevailing for VBG GROUP TRUCK EQUIPMENT.

The measures that have been adopted to reduce costs have enabled us in a relatively short time to lower our break-even point sufficiently to adjust to the lower sales and thereby to continue reporting an operating profit.

In our assessment the market will bottom out during the second quarter.

We will therefore continue to focus on the cost side, but we are also working continuously to maintain a positive cash flow from the business and ensure access to liquidity. It then feels reassuring to note that the Group's financial position is strong and access to liquidity is sustainably good.

During the current year we will prepare the business area for the future, and we are currently implementing the previously approved structural improvements whereby all production of trailer couplings is being concentrated to the plant in Vänersborg.

We are also considering and planning for further rationalization measures to create an even more flexible and efficient production structure.

In the short perspective we have implemented layoffs, with state support, in our production plants in Belgium and the Czech Republic, and during the month of April we also signed a layoff agreement for the plant in Vänersborg.

### **Continued strong earnings in RINGFEDER POWER TRANSMISSION**

Certain segments of the business area have naturally been negatively affected by the global financial crisis, but turnover has nevertheless been kept at a good level. A contributing factor to this was the acquisition of the Gerwah Group, which was incorporated in the business area from the start of the year. The integration work has just begun and is expected to continue on a varying scale throughout the year.

Being able to report an operating margin of over 15 per cent in the first quarter must be regarded as a strong achievement.

### **Full year 2009 is difficult to predict**

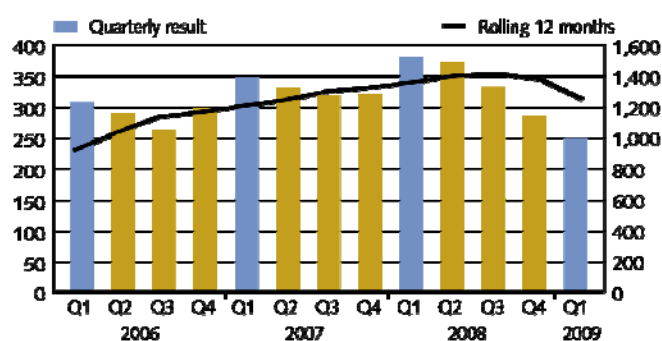
Creating any great hopes that the full year 2009 will be a good year financially would be misleading. Our objective is to manage our operations in such a way that we are cost-conscious in the short term at the same time as we are prepared to make investments that create a platform for profitability in the long term.

Anders Birgersson  
Managing Director and CEO

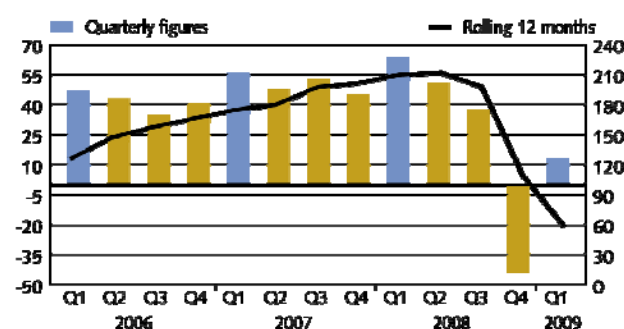
Group trend (SEK M)	Q1 2009	Full year 2008	Q4 2008	Q3 2008	Q2 2008	Q1 2008	Full year 2007	Q4 2007	Q3 2007	Q2 2007
Net turnover	251.0	1,376.7	286.7	333.8	374.8	381.4	1,323.3	322.6	320.3	331.7
Operating profit/loss	14.9	123.1*	-36.4*	41.6	53.7	64.2	213.2	49.1	55.0	50.1
Operating margin, %	5.9	8.9	-12.7	12.5	14.3	16.8	16.1	15.2	17.2	15.1
Profit/loss after fin. items	13.4	108.6	-44.1	38.1	50.7	63.9	201.5	44.9	52.5	48.2
Profit margin, %	5.3	7.9	-15.4	11.4	13.5	16.8	15.2	13.9	16.4	14.5
Profit/loss after tax	9.9	73.1	-31.4	24.7	34.7	45.1	133.1	27.4	34.5	32.3
Earnings/loss per share, SEK	0.80	5.85	-2.51	1.98	2.77	3.61	10.64	2.19	2.76	2.58
ROCE (cumulative), %	6.8	16.1	16.1	29.8	33.7	37.4	34.0	34.0	35.0	35.6
ROE (cumulative), %	5.9	12.2	12.2	23.9	28.5	32.6	28.3	28.3	31.4	32.9
Equity/assets ratio, %	54.8	56.0	56.0	58.9	56.8	58.2	56.3	56.3	50.7	49.0

\* Includes nonrecurring item of SEK -46 M

### Net turnover, SEK M



### Profit after financial items, SEK M



## Consolidated turnover and earnings

The turnover of SEK 251.0 M (381.4) entails a decrease of more than 34 per cent compared with the same period last year. The actual volume decrease was 42 per cent, since a much weaker Swedish krona affected the translation of sales in foreign subsidiaries positively by 6.0 per cent.

Operating profit declined by 77 per cent to SEK 14.9 M (64.2), with an operating margin of 5.9 per cent (16.8). Profit after financial items was SEK 13.4 M (63.9), giving a margin of 5.3 per cent (16.8).

The consolidated profit contains Group-wide overheads of SEK 3.1 M (3.6), which have not been allocated to the operating profits of the different business areas. Earnings per share after tax declined to SEK 0.80 (3.61).

Return on capital employed was 6.8 per cent (37.4) and return on equity was 5.9 per cent (32.6). The Group's equity/assets ratio declined compared with the end of last year, amounting to 54.8 per cent (56.0).

### **Capital expenditures**

The Group's capital expenditures during the first quarter amounted to SEK 98.4 M (5.0), of which SEK 94.6 M pertained to acquired net assets and goodwill attributable to the acquisition of the Gerwah Group.

### **Financial position**

Equity increased during the first quarter to SEK 680.2 M (664.7 at the turn of the year) and was affected by SEK 5.6 M in differences in the translation of net assets in foreign currencies.

The equity/assets ratio declined slightly during the first quarter to 54.8 per cent (56.0).

Cash and cash equivalents amounted to SEK 88.1 M at the end of the period (68.0), with an additional SEK 106.0 M in credit facilities granted but not utilised.

The Group's interest-bearing net debt fell by SEK 5.7 M during the period, amounting to SEK 195.4 M at 31 March (201.1).

The ratio of interest-bearing net debt to equity was 0.29 at the end of March (0.30 at 31 December 2008).

### **Cash flow**

Cash flow from operating activities amounted to SEK 101.4 million (40.3). Capital expenditures during the period amounted to SEK 77.3 M (8.8). The Group amortised loans and reduced current financial liabilities by a total of SEK 4.9 M. Net cash flow during the period was SEK 19.2 M (10.7).

### **Personnel**

On 31 March 2009 there were 508 employees (432) in the VBG GROUP, including 162 (169) in Sweden. During the first quarter of 2009 the Group employed an average of 460 persons (426). Of these, 155 (162) were active in Sweden. The cost of salaries and social security contributions was SEK 72.6 M (65.0).

### **Per share data**

Earnings per share for the period amounted to SEK 0.80 (3.61). Equity per share at 31 March 2009 was SEK 54.41, compared with SEK 45.86 one year earlier.

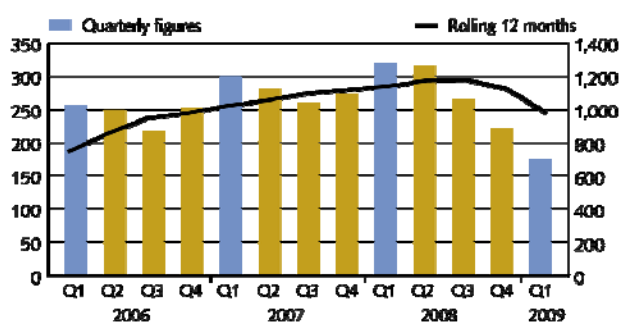
## VBG GROUP TRUCK EQUIPMENT

- Turnover decreased by 46 per cent to SEK 174.7 M (320.7)
- Operating profit fell by 90 per cent to SEK 5.6 M (55.6)

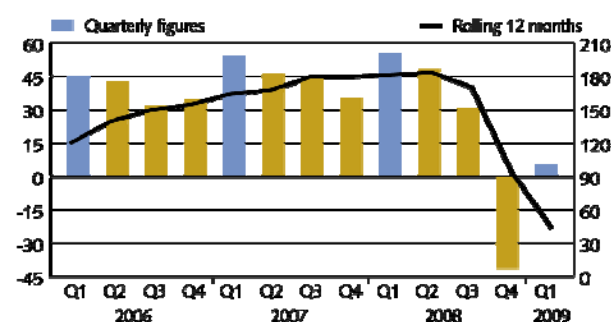
VBG GROUP TRUCK EQUIPMENT (SEK M)	Q1 2009	Full year 2008	Q4 2008	Q3 2008	Q2 2008	Q1 2008	Full year 2007	Q4 2007	Q3 2007	Q2 2007
Net turnover	174.7	1,123.7	221.0	265.8	316.2	320.7	1,116.9	273.8	260.8	281.5
Operating profit/loss	5.6	93.5*	-41.4*	31.0	48.3	55.6	179.7	35.2	44.1	46.1
Operating margin, %	3.2	8.3	-18.7	11.7	15.3	17.3	16.1	12.9	16.9	16.4

\* Includes nonrecurring item of SEK -46 M.

### Net turnover, SEK M



### Operating profit, SEK M



VBG GROUP TRUCK EQUIPMENT's turnover declined by 45.5 per cent to SEK 174.7 M (320.7) during the first quarter. The actual reduction in volume amounted to 50 per cent, since a weaker Swedish krona during the quarter affected the translation of turnover in foreign subsidiaries positively by 4.5 per cent.

The transport market in Europe was extremely sluggish during the first quarter, and the big truck and trailer manufacturers are stuck with large stocks of finished vehicles, which has had a great negative impact on sales in the business area. The fact that the business area has a well established aftermarket, especially within the trailer couplings product area, nevertheless had a damping effect on the decline in sales.

The sharp decline in turnover by SEK 146 M resulted in a decline in operating profit by SEK 50 M to SEK 5.6 M (55.6) with a margin of 3.2 per cent (17.3). This is, however, SEK 1 M better than the operating profit for the fourth quarter of 2008 (before restructuring costs), despite the fact that quarterly sales were SEK 46 M lower. This indicates that the vigorous cost-cutting measures that were undertaken have had the intended effect and that the break-even point has thereby been lowered. The concentration of the manufacture of all trailer couplings to the plant in Vänersborg is proceeding according to plan, which means that the project will be completed during the fourth quarter this year.

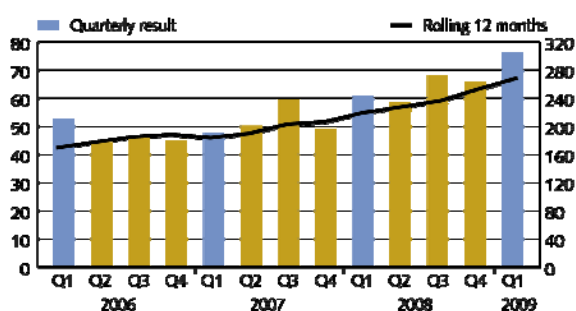
Turnover by market (SEK M)	Q1 2009	Full year 2008	Q4 2008	Q3 2008	Q2 2008	Q1 2008	Full year 2007	Q4 2007	Q3 2007	Q2 2007
Sweden	41.3	201.7	45.1	43.7	55.8	57.1	197.3	53.0	38.6	50.3
Other Nordic countries	29.6	146.0	37.6	29.4	36.7	42.3	145.7	36.1	30.4	38.8
Germany	45.4	354.1	59.3	91.1	105.8	97.9	358.7	87.4	89.9	87.7
Rest of Europe	49.6	365.8	69.6	81.9	103.6	110.7	364.6	88.8	82.8	96.4
Rest of world	8.8	56.1	9.4	19.7	14.3	12.7	50.6	8.5	19.1	8.3
Truck Equipment	174.7	1,123.7	221.0	265.8	316.2	320.7	1,116.9	273.8	260.8	281.5

## RINGFEDER POWER TRANSMISSION

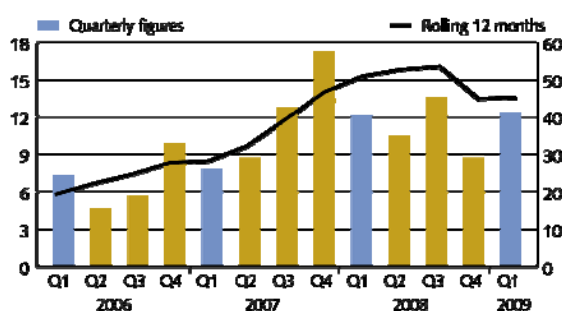
- Turnover increased by 26 per cent to SEK 76.3 M (60.7)
- Operating profit increased by 2 per cent to SEK 12.4 M (12.1)

RINGFEDER POWER TRANSM. SEK M	Q1 2009	Full year 2008	Q4 2008	Q3 2008	Q2 2008	Q1 2008	Full year 2007	Q4 2007	Q3 2007	Q2 2007
Net turnover	<b>76.3</b>	253.0	65.7	68.0	58.6	<b>60.7</b>	206.4	48.9	59.4	50.2
Operating profit	<b>12.4</b>	44.9	8.7	13.6	10.5	<b>12.1</b>	46.6	17.3	12.8	8.7
Operating margin, %	<b>16.3</b>	17.7	13.2	20.0	17.9	<b>20.0</b>	22.6	35.4	21.5	17.3

Net turnover, SEK M



Operating profit, SEK M



The business area reported a strong first quarter of 2009. Turnover increased by 26 per cent to SEK 76.3 M (60.7), of which SEK 15.2 M derives from the Gerwah Group, which was acquired at the turn of the year. The integration of Gerwah is proceeding according to plan and will continue for most of 2009. Operating profit rose slightly to SEK 12.4 M (12.1), while the operating margin decreased to 16.3 per cent (20.0).

Turnover by market (SEK M)	Q1 2009	Full year 2008	Q4 2008	Q3 2008	Q2 2008	Q1 2008	Full year 2007	Q4 2007	Q3 2007	Q2 2007
Europe	<b>33.8</b>	99.2	23.6	24.9	24.9	<b>25.8</b>	79.6	19.7	23.5	18.0
North America	<b>35.3</b>	115.2	32.0	31.9	25.5	<b>25.8</b>	97.6	22.9	26.1	24.6
Rest of world	<b>7.2</b>	38.6	10.1	11.2	8.2	<b>9.1</b>	29.2	6.3	9.8	7.6
Power Transmission	<b>76.3</b>	253.0	65.7	68.0	58.6	<b>60.7</b>	206.4	48.9	59.4	50.2

## Parent Company

VBG GROUP AB's operations are primarily focused on managing, developing and coordinating the Group. The assets in the Parent Company consist primarily of shares in subsidiaries and trademarks. The company also owns the industrial property in Vänersborg as well as certain plant and equipment that is rented by the subsidiary VBG GROUP TRUCK EQUIPMENT AB.

The objective is that the Group's intellectual property in the form of trademarks and other rights should be gathered in the Parent Company. VBG GROUP AB focuses on maintaining and developing all the Group's trademarks and rights.

The Parent Company's net turnover pertains primarily to intra-Group services, licence revenues and rentals and amounted to SEK 5.4 M during the first quarter of 2009 (5.3). The loss after dividends from Group companies and financial items was SEK 3.0 M (profit: 9.9).

## Tentative acquisition plan

The acquisition of the Gerwah Group has been completed effective as of 1 January 2009 and with final negotiations concerning the purchase consideration in April 2009.

Measurement at fair value for certain asset items has not yet been concluded, so the following acquisition plan is tentative:

Purchase consideration	<b>SEK '000</b>
- compensation to seller	71,025
- direct costs in conjunction with the acquisition	<u>4,550</u>
Total purchase consideration	75,575
Fair value of acquired net assets	<u>-27,989</u>
<b>Goodwill</b>	<b>47,586</b>

Factors that have contributed to goodwill are the market share contributed by GERWAH and the important synergies that are expected to be achieved with existing operations in the RINGFEDER POWER TRANSMISSION business area.

The assets and liabilities included in the acquisition are as follows:

	<b>SEK '000</b>	
	<b>Fair value</b>	<b>Acquired book value</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	1,522	1,522
Property, plant and equipment	28,887	28,887
Trademarks	17,923	0
Licences	246	246
Inventories	24,104	24,104
Receivables	10,424	10,424
Liabilities	- 50,151	- 50,151
Deferred tax liabilities, net	<u>- 4,966</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>27,989</b>	<b>15,031</b>

## Accounting principles

The VBG GROUP applies International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as adopted by the EU in its consolidated accounts. This report has been prepared in accordance with IAS 34, Interim Financial Reporting, and the Swedish Annual Reports Act.

The Parent Company's financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the the Swedish Annual Reports Act and RFR 2.1.

The accounting principles that have been applied in the preparation of this report, as well as definitions of key figures etc., are described in Note 1 of VBG GROUP AB's annual report for 2008.

New accounting principles in 2009:

### *IFRS 8*

The implementation of IFRS 8 has not given rise to any other segments than those previously reported as primary segments according to IAS 14.

### *Revised IAS 1 – Presentation of Financial Statements*

The standard introduces the "Statement of Comprehensive Income", which shows all items relating to revenue and expenses that were previously accounted for in equity, either in a single statement or in two integrated statements. The Group has chosen to present the Statement of Comprehensive Income in two integrated statements.

## Risks and uncertainty factors

The Group's and the Parent Company's significant risk and uncertainty factors include business-related operational risks in the form of commodity risks, product risks, development risks, intellectual property risks, environmental risks and political risks. To these can be added financial risks such as financing risks, liquidity risks, interest rate risks, currency risks and credit and counterparty risks.

For a more detailed description of the Group's risks and risk management, see VBG GROUP AB's annual report for 2008, Note 2.

## Outlook for 2009

The company makes no forecast.

**Financial information**

Interim report 6 months	20 August 2009
Interim report 9 months	21 October 2009
Year-end report 2009	17 February 2010
Interim report 3 months 2010	27 April 2010
Annual General Meeting 2010	27 April 2010

Vänersborg, 12 May 2009

**VBG GROUP AB (publ)****Anders Birgersson**

Managing Director and CEO

This report has not been subject to review by the company's auditors.

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<b>Consolidated Income Statement and Statement of Comprehensive Income – Highlights</b> (SEK M)	<b>Q1 Jan-Mar 2009</b>	<b>Q1 Jan-Mar 2008</b>	<b>Full year</b>
<b>Net turnover</b>	<b>251.0</b>	<b>381.4</b>	<b>1,376.7</b>
Cost of goods sold	-152.8	-238.7	-935.2*
Selling expenses	-56.3	-47.9	-205.5
Administrative expenses	-23.4	-22.9	-94.8
Research and development costs	-4.8	-5.1	-21.0
Other operating income/expenses	1.2	-2.6	2.9
<b>Operating profit</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>64.2</b>	<b>123.1</b>
Net financial items	-1.5	-0.3	-14.5
<b>Profit after financial items</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>63.9</b>	<b>108.6</b>
Tax	-3.5	-18.8	-35.5
<b>Profit for the period **</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>73.1</b>
Depreciation and amortisation charged to profit	-9.0	-7.6	-30.4
** Attributable to:			
Parent Company shareholders	9.9	45.1	73.1
Earnings per share after tax	<b>0.80</b>	<b>3.61</b>	<b>5.85</b>
Number of shares at end of period <sup>1</sup> ('000)	12,502	12,502	12,502
Average number of shares during the period	12,502	12,502	12,502
Number of own shares at end of period	1,192	1,192	1,192
Average number of own shares	1,192	1,192	1,192
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>			
Profit for the period	<b>9.9</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>73.1</b>
Translation differences pertaining to foreign operations	4.9	-5.8	99.1
Translation differences pertaining to hedge accounting for net investments in foreign operations	0.7	1.1	-9.2
<b>Other comprehensive income, net after tax</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>-4.7</b>	<b>89.9</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the period ***</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>163.0</b>
*** Attributable to:			
Parent Company shareholders	15.5	40.4	163.0

\* Includes nonrecurring item of SEK -46 M

The company has no outstanding warrants or convertibles.

<b>Consolidated Balance Sheet – Highlights</b> (SEK M)	<b>31/03 2009</b>	<b>31/03 2008</b>	<b>31/12 2008</b>
Goodwill	306.6	220.2	257.3
Other intangible assets	84.2	64.9	67.8
Property, plant and equipment	177.6	138.0	151.9
Long-term investments	5.2	2.1	13.6
Advance payment for business acquisition			84.9
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>573.6</b>	<b>425.2</b>	<b>575.5</b>
Inventories	333.7	244.4	309.1
Receivables	246.2	260.9	235.0
Cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments	88.1	55.0	68.0
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>668.0</b>	<b>560.3</b>	<b>612.1</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,241.6</b>	<b>985.5</b>	<b>1,187.6</b>
<b>Equity</b>	<b>680.2</b>	<b>573.3</b>	<b>664.7</b>
Interest-bearing non-current liabilities	164.4	139.3	176.2
Non-interest-bearing non-current liabilities	115.7	60.7	62.5
Interest-bearing current liabilities	60.2	37.9	92.9
Non-interest-bearing current liabilities	221.1	174.3	191.3
<b>TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,241.6</b>	<b>985.5</b>	<b>1,187.6</b>

<b>Changes in Group equity</b> (SEK M)	<b>3 mon 2009</b>	<b>3 mon 2008</b>	<b>Full year 2008</b>
<b>Opening equity according to Balance Sheet at 31 December</b>	<b>664.7</b>	<b>532.9</b>	<b>532.9</b>
Total comprehensive income for the period	15.5	40.4	163.0
Dividend			-31.2
<b>Equity at end of period</b>	<b>680.2</b>	<b>573.3</b>	<b>664.7</b>

<b>Cash Flow Statement – Highlights</b> (SEK M)	<b>3 mon 2009</b>	<b>3 mon 2008</b>	<b>Full year 2008</b>
<b>Cash flow from operating activities before changes in working capital</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>58.8</b>	<b>146.6</b>
Change in working capital	93.2	-18.5	-26.3
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>	<b>101.4</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>120.3</b>
Cash flow from investing activities	-77.3	-8.8	-114.0
Cash flow from financing activities	-4.9	-20.8	12.2
<b>Cash flow for the year</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>18.5</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at start of year	68.0	44.4	44.4
Translation difference, cash and cash equivalents	0.9	-0.1	5.1
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of period</b>	<b>88.1</b>	<b>55.0</b>	<b>68.0</b>
Unutilised overdraft facilities	106.0	139.9	117.6
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents available</b>	<b>194.1</b>	<b>194.9</b>	<b>185.6</b>

<b>Key figures for Group</b>	<b>3 mon 2009</b>	<b>3 mon 2008</b>	<b>Full year 2008</b>
Profit margin (ROS), %	5.3	16.8	7.9
Return on equity (ROE), %	5.9	32.6	12.2
Return on capital employed (ROCE), %	6.8	37.4	16.1
Equity/assets ratio, %	54.8	58.2	56.0
Visible equity per share, SEK	54.41	45.86	53.17
Cash flow per share (before change in working capital), SEK	0.65	4.70	11.72
Share price at end of period, SEK	50.25	118.00	51.00
Number of employees, average	460	426	432

<b>Parent Company Income Statement (SEK M)</b>	<b>Q1 Jan-Mar 2009</b>	<b>Q1 Jan-Mar 2008</b>	<b>Full year 2008</b>
<b>Net turnover</b>	5.4	5.3	31.8
Operating expenses	-8.0	-9.3	-29.8
<b>Operating profit/loss</b>	-2.6	-4.0	2.0
Net financial items	-0.4	13.9	104.3
<b>Profit/loss after financial items</b>	-3.0	9.9	106.3
Appropriations	-	-	-0.3
Tax	0.8	0.8	-3.0
<b>Profit/loss after tax</b>	-2.2	10.7	103.0

<b>Parent Company Balance Sheet (SEK M)</b>	<b>31/03 2009</b>	<b>31/03 2008</b>	<b>31/12 2008</b>
Other intangible assets	20.1	21.1	20.6
Property, plant and equipment	9.4	10.4	9.7
Long-term investments	563.2	491.5	491.5
Advance payment for business acquisition			84.9
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>592.7</b>	<b>523.0</b>	<b>606.7</b>
Receivables	49.9	13.3	44.9
Cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments	35.9	10.0	10.0
Total current assets	85.8	23.3	54.9
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>678.5</b>	<b>546.3</b>	<b>661.6</b>
<b>Equity</b>	<b>336.4</b>	<b>277.5</b>	<b>338.6</b>
Untaxed reserves	28.7	28.4	28.7
Provisions	7.7	11.9	7.6
Non-current liabilities	112.5	56.3	76.5
Current liabilities	193.2	172.2	210.2
<b>TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>	<b>678.5</b>	<b>546.3</b>	<b>661.6</b>