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Evonik more confident about full year after a strong first quarter

- Outlook 2021: Adjusted EBITDA of €2.1 billion to €2.3 billion
- Sales rise 4 percent in first quarter, adjusted EBITDA gains 15 percent
- Free cash flow almost triples to €312 million

Essen, Germany. Evonik is more positive about its earnings for the year as a whole after posting a strong first quarter. Higher demand worldwide and improved selling prices in the quarter led to an increase in sales and earnings. The three growth divisions – Specialty Additives, Nutrition & Care and Smart Materials – were the main driver, showing significant growth.

"A really good start has made us more optimistic for the year as a whole," said Christian Kullmann, chairman of the board of management. "As well as increasing earnings from last year, we even beat the pre-pandemic earnings from 2019. Our growth strategy is working."

For 2021, Evonik now expects adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (adjusted EBITDA) of between €2.1 billion and €2.3 billion. Previously the bottom end of the forecast range was €2.0 billion. The outlook for sales remains at €12 billion to €14 billion for the year. In 2020 Evonik posted adjusted EBITDA of €1.91 billion and sales of €12.2 billion.

In the first quarter adjusted EBITDA gained 15 percent to €588 million compared with the same quarter in 2020. Compared with the first quarter of 2019 the gain was 9 percent.

Sales rose 4 percent to €3.36 billion in the first three months compared with the first quarter in the previous year. Adjusted net income increased 32 percent to €239 million.

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Free cash flow almost tripled in the quarter to €312 million, boosted by the improved business performance, strict management of net working capital and lower tax payments. Free cash flow was also higher than the pre-pandemic level of €159 million in the first quarter of 2019.

"We posted the strongest first-quarter free cash flow since our stock market listing in 2013," said Ute Wolf, chief financial officer. "Our clear focus on growth in free cash flow is paying off."

Development of the divisions

Specialty Additives: The division's sales rose 6 percent to €907 million in the first quarter. Additives for the coatings industry were in much greater demand in all regions with sales in this area growing considerably. An increase in demand for durable goods boosted sales of additives for polyurethane foams for products such as mattresses or refrigerators. Demand for additives for the construction industry remained robust. Renewable energy products saw significantly more demand, especially in Asia. Adjusted EBITDA increased by 14 percent to €273 million.

Nutrition & Care: Sales at Nutrition & Care rose 4 percent to €780 million in the first quarter. Sales of essential amino acids remained stable. Products for the health and care sector benefited from good demand. In particular, active ingredients for cosmetic applications showed a continued positive development. Adjusted EBITDA improved by 21 percent to €143 million thanks to higher selling prices and active cost management.

Smart Materials: The division's sales improved by 6 percent to €909 million in the first quarter. In the area of inorganic products, the tire silica business benefited from a global economic upturn. Demand for products from the hygiene and care sectors as well as for environmental applications remained robust. The catalyst business benefited from the inclusion of Porocel, which was acquired in November 2020. High-performance polymers saw good demand from the automotive industry. Sales of polyamide

12 powder also increased. Adjusted EBITDA rose 4 percent to €173 million at the division.

Performance Materials: The division's sales fell by 1 percent to €580 million in the first quarter. Sales of C4 products rose as demand increased and selling prices climbed. The business development of the superabsorbents was affected by lower production output as a result of severe weather. Adjusted EBITDA rose from €18 million to €42 million.

Company information

Evonik is one of the world leaders in specialty chemicals. The company is active in more than 100 countries around the world and generated sales of €12.2 billion and an operating profit (adjusted EBITDA) of €1.91 billion in 2020. Evonik goes far beyond chemistry to create innovative, profitable and sustainable solutions for customers. About 33,000 employees work together for a common purpose: We want to improve life today and tomorrow.

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Excerpt from the income statement

in € million	1st quarter		
	2020	2021	Change in %
Sales	3,243	3,358	4
Adjusted EBITDA	513	588	15
Adjusted EBIT	273	336	23
Adjustments	-26	-28	
Financial result	-50	-21	
Income before income taxes, continuing operations	197	287	46
Income taxes	-57	-88	
Income after income taxes, continuing operations	140	199	42
Income after taxes, discontinued operations	-6	-7	
Income after taxes	134	192	43
thereof attributable to non-controlling interests	4	6	
Net Income	130	186	43
Adjusted net income	181	239	32

Division performance – 1st quarter

in € million	Sales			Adjusted EBITDA		
	2020	2021	Change in %	2020	2021	Change in %
Specialty Additives	852	907	6	239	273	14
Nutrition & Care	748	780	4	118	143	21
Smart Materials	858	909	6	166	173	4
Performance Materials	584	580	-1	18	42	133
Technology & Infrastructure	184	169	-8	34	29	-15
Enabling Functions, Other Activities, Consolidation	17	13	-24	-62	-72	-16
Group	3,243	3,358	4	513	588	15

Employees by division

	31.12.2020	31.03.2021
Specialty Additives	3,666	3,678
Nutrition & Care	5,295	5,281
Smart Materials	7,874	7,783
Performance Materials	1,639	1,810
Technology & Infrastructure	8,870	8,510
Enabling Functions, Other Activities, Consolidation	5,762	5,683
Group	33,106	32,745