

In managing its liquidity, DEUTZ focuses on free cash flow as a key performance indicator. Also, as a technology-oriented company, we consider the R&D ratio, which represents the ratio of research and development expenditure (less reimbursements) to revenue, to be a key management variable as part of our internal performance indicator system. On the basis of these KPIs, the Group's financial flexibility is subject to constant analysis in the form of a comparison between budget and actual so that we can take swift, appropriate action in the event of significant variances. One-off items are defined as material income and expenses that are exceptional and unlikely to recur.

In order to enable us to be proactive and respond promptly, DEUTZ has set up an early warning system based on the performance indicators. A monthly/quarterly reporting process enables the Board of Management to track changes in the performance indicators. This approach ensures that we can respond immediately to the latest business developments. At the same time, we operate a sound system of causal analysis to ensure that we minimise risks and make the most of opportunities. Three times a year we produce an annual forecast for all key performance indicators. In this way, we ensure optimum transparency in our business performance, benefiting both the Group and all stakeholders.

In addition to the financial performance indicators which form part of the management system described above, we also employ a range of other parameters to measure our economic performance. These include, but are not limited to, new orders received, revenue and unit sales on the income side, the working capital as at the reporting date with regard to tied-up capital, and earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA). Moreover, the Group net income and the DEUTZ AG statutory income in accordance with the German Commercial Code are significant factors for us as regards dividend payments.

### CONTINUOUS OPTIMISATION OF THE CONTROL SYSTEM

Regardless of fluctuations in the economic cycle, one of the DEUTZ Group's overriding aims is the continuous optimisation of its management systems. This essentially involves the annual planning of all specified performance indicators. This planning is based on both internal estimates of future business and benchmark figures from competitors. Each organisational unit prepares detailed plans for its area of responsibility, which are then coordinated with the management strategy. Both the specific unit sales and revenue targets and the customer and product-related targets (EBIT margins) are aligned with the operating units each year, taking groupwide objectives into consideration. This means that they are available at the relevant hierarchical level for use by the operational management.

We specify working capital targets for the individual companies in the DEUTZ Group in order to optimise the capital tied up in the business. These overall figures are then broken down and specific targets for inventories, trade receivables and trade payables are allocated to the relevant individual employees.

We are pursuing long-term growth objectives. In order to secure the financial basis for this, we have made the management of capital expenditure a central element in the management of tied-up capital: clearly specified budget figures set out the framework for the level of capital expenditure and development expenditure; actual requirements are derived from the medium-term planning of unit sales and the resulting requirements in terms of capacity and technologies. Annual budget meetings are held to coordinate individual projects, development expenditure and planned capital expenditure with the group-wide financial planning process and to record the outcomes. An additional detailed review is carried out before projects are actually approved. To this end, we use standard investment appraisal methods (internal rate of return, amortisation period, net present value, the impact on the income statement and cost comparisons). A project with an appropriate budget is only approved if there is a clear positive outcome from this investment appraisal.

## BUSINESS PERFORMANCE IN THE DEUTZ GROUP

### ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

**Global economic growth remained weak in 2015** As in previous years, the economy did not live up to expectations in 2015. Forecasts were successively lowered as the year progressed. The reporting year was shaped by various factors, including geopolitical crises, weak growth in emerging markets, lower prices for commodities, oil, gas and agricultural goods, quantitative easing (particularly by the European Central Bank [ECB]), the first interest rate hike carried out by the US Federal Reserve at the end of the year, strong exchange rate movements and waves of migration to Europe. These factors resulted in palpable uncertainty and a reluctance to invest, although European exports received a small boost from the weak euro exchange rate.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF)<sup>1)</sup> is expecting worldwide growth of 3.1 per cent for 2015 as a whole, which is below the 2014 level of 3.4 per cent. The eurozone economy expanded by 1.5 per cent in 2015, which is considerably stronger than the 2014 rate of 0.9 per cent. The German economy's growth was on a par with 2014 at 1.5 per cent. Spain's economic performance was very encouraging – despite the country only having emerged from recession in the previous year – with growth of

<sup>1)</sup> IMF World Economic Outlook, January 2016.