

EXTERNAL RISK

Market risk We operate in sales markets that are characterised by particular sensitivity to cyclical influences. This can have a negative impact on the financial position and financial performance of the DEUTZ Group. As well as having a direct effect on unit sales and revenue, this may also impact negatively on the value of the assets on our balance sheet. We operate in very cyclical markets in our main application segment, Mobile Machinery, and in our principal sales regions of Germany, western Europe and North America. Our objective is to continue to reduce this cyclicity from a regional and application segment perspective. One of the ways in which we are doing so is by continuing to focus further efforts on expanding our Agricultural Machinery application segment, as it follows a different economic cycle to the other application segments.

In the medium and long term, we seek to mitigate regional and application-related sales risks by aligning our development activities with our product strategy and by entering into alliances. Close alliances with key customers such as AB Volvo and AGCO are of considerable importance in enabling us to achieve these sales targets.

We are very well diversified and well positioned for the future in terms of the geographical and sectoral distribution of our customers. We supply the market-leading manufacturers in the various application segments. Despite the countermeasures that are in place, we cannot completely control the external risks. We therefore continue to categorise the market risk as 'moderate' because the economic situation in our sales markets remains volatile.

STRATEGIC RISK

Our business strategy is focused on expanding our customer and product base and on further globalisation and internationalisation. This strategy presents the DEUTZ Group with numerous opportunities but is, of course, also associated with risks.

We attempt to mitigate these risks by precisely analysing trends in our markets and by taking into account external market research. We also enter into close alliances with our major customers in the target markets. Finally, we closely monitor our strategic projects so that we are able to respond immediately to changes.

In view of the measures in place, we categorise the strategic risks with regard to the attainment of our financial targets in the coming year as 'moderate'.

OPERATIONAL RISK

Quality risk The DEUTZ Group is exposed to liability and warranty risks. Potential warranty claims and claims for compensation could have a negative impact on our financial position and financial performance.

We have set up local quality departments to ensure quality in all plants and relevant areas of the Group. These departments systematically analyse sources of errors and defects, optimise production processes, take action to minimise the risk in production start-ups and reduce warranty risks. A central quality management organisation ensures that standardised processes and methods are in place and carries out regular audits. In addition, DEUTZ has defined uniform standards for the selection of suppliers and, in close cooperation with the suppliers, continuously improves the quality of supplied parts. Regular certification audits and additional quality initiatives enable us to handle the significant technical complexity of engines and to satisfy the steadily increasing quality requirements of our customers.

Sufficient provisions are recognised on the balance sheet to account for warranty risks. In view of the precautionary measures that have been taken, we categorise any further quality risks that could negatively impact on our financial targets as 'low'.

Production risk Fluctuations in capacity utilisation in production that result from our level of dependency on the general economic situation can, like breakdown-related production delays, have a negative impact on profitability.

In order to avoid mistakes in planning and capital expenditure, the necessary production capacity is regularly reviewed and planned using different timescales: over a number of years as part of the medium-term planning process, which is revised each year, and for the following financial year as part of the budget planning process, which is then updated quarterly for the current year. Production programme meetings and capacity planning meetings are held monthly to ensure that our capacity is adjusted in line with sales. We are using temporary employment contracts more and more as a way of flexibly adjusting capacity to the level of orders on hand.

In view of the measures in place to avoid or minimise these risks, we categorise the level of production risk with regard to our financial targets as 'low'.