
Winterthur, March 4, 2020

2019 financial year: net result impacted by operating losses and high impairments in North America

In 2019, Autoneum grew organically by 2.5% and has thereby significantly outperformed the declining market. In Swiss francs, revenue rose slightly to CHF 2 297.4 million. However, as previously communicated, operational inefficiencies in North America and impairments on fixed assets in that region had a particularly strong impact on profitability and led to a net loss of CHF –77.7 million. The Board of Directors therefore proposes that no dividend be distributed for the 2019 financial year. Based on the new turnaround program launched in North America at the beginning of this year, significant profitability increases are expected for 2020.

2019 was an extremely challenging year for the automobile industry. The continuing weakness of the global economy, ongoing trade disputes and the increasing regulation of mobility impacted vehicle demand negatively. But 2019 was also a year of change for Autoneum internally. An in-depth analysis carried out by the new Group Management in the fall showed a need to reevaluate the Group's performance over the short- to medium-term. In Business Group North America, the operational and commercial problems have proven more extensive than originally assumed. As a result, the turnaround program launched in spring 2019 was replaced at the beginning of 2020 with a dedicated and far more comprehensive program for the North American sites.

Revenue growth despite a shrinking global market

As a result of weak demand, the number of light vehicles produced worldwide fell again sharply in 2019 compared to the previous year; whereby the decline of almost –6% was much steeper than in 2018. Thanks to numerous production ramp-ups and a favorable model portfolio, Autoneum generated organic revenue growth¹ of 2.5%, despite the global market cooling. Revenue consolidated in Swiss francs rose by 0.7% from CHF 2 281.5 million to CHF 2 297.4 million.

Profitability² impacted by operational inefficiencies and impairments

Operational inefficiencies in North America and impairments on fixed assets in this region were the main reason for the – first-ever – negative net result in 2019. In addition, the sharp drop in automobile production in Europe and China as well as associated lower utilization of production capacities in the affected Business Groups also burdened the Group's profitability. EBITDA excluding IFRS 16 effects decreased to CHF 126.0 million (2018: CHF 197.2 million), which corresponds to an EBITDA margin of 5.5% (2018: 8.6%). One-time charges from impairments in the amount of CHF –68.0 million had a negative impact on EBIT, reducing it to CHF –32.9 million (2018: CHF 114.1 million). Without these one-time charges, EBIT amounted to CHF 35.0 million. The EBIT margin

¹ Change in revenue in local currencies, adjusted for hyperinflation.

² The figures for the 2019 financial year include IFRS 16 effects.

excluding impairments was at 1.5% in 2019, and taking those into account the margin decreased to –1.4% (2018: 5.0%).

Lower equity ratio as a result of higher net debt

Continuing high operating losses throughout the year and impairments on fixed assets led to a net loss of CHF –77.7 million in 2019 (2018: net profit of CHF 74.7 million). The operating losses of Business Group North America and investments in fixed assets resulted in a negative free cash flow of CHF –9.9 million (2018: CHF –40.7 million). However, despite the lower result, free cash flow in 2019 was improved compared to the prior year. IFRS 16 also required a change to the recognition of leased property, plant and equipment and associated liabilities each in the amount of CHF 301.6 million. This reduced the equity ratio to 27.1% as of December 31, 2019. On a comparable basis, excluding IFRS 16 effects, the equity ratio was at 32.7%. Net debt excluding the IFRS 16 effects rose to CHF 355.2 million (December 31, 2018: CHF 283.7 million). With the two bonds issued in 2016 and 2017, the long-term credit agreement with a bank syndicate and two shareholder loans, Autoneum continues to be solidly financed.

Committed to the mobility of the future

In 2019, Autoneum again launched various innovative components that help automobile manufacturers to produce quieter, lighter and more environmentally friendly vehicles. The multifunctional, lightweight components are suitable for vehicles with all types of drives. This is a great advantage for car manufacturers in both pre-development as well as series production of models and makes Autoneum a sought-after supplier of acoustic and thermal management solutions. With battery undercovers made of Ultra-Silent, the Company has adapted this textile underbody technology for use in electric vehicles for the first time. These battery undercovers act as insulators helping to reduce sound that enters the passenger cabin as well as pass-by noise. Noise-reducing components are also essential in electric models. External and internal noise sources such as electric drive elements, fans and pumps are more audible in this vehicle category due to the lack of engine noise and therefore impact driving comfort. Thanks to their light weight, battery undercovers made of Ultra-Silent also help to ensure a greater driving range. In view of increasing pass-by noise regulation around the world, Autoneum now offers customers the multifunctional Alpha-Liner wheelhouse outer liner, which is highly effective in reducing tire noise and allows noise absorption to be customized for the specific requirements of the vehicle model. Made primarily of recycled PET fibers and fully recyclable, Alpha-Liner wheelhouse outer liners are particularly environmentally friendly.

Leading the way in digitalizing acoustic management

Autoneum is setting standards for automobile noise and heat protection not only with its innovative components and technologies, but also digitally, as the first automotive supplier in the world with a configurator for the acoustic management of vehicles. The online portal “Acoustic Garage” (acoustics.autoneum.com) is based on Autoneum’s unique simulation expertise and offers a comprehensive information and product experience on all aspects of noise protection in cars. Users – whether customers or end consumers – can configure a product package to their individual needs on the basis of selected criteria such as lightweight construction, sustainability and aesthetics. In this way, Autoneum helps vehicle manufacturers, ensuring optimal acoustics in future models.

New Group Management with strong operational expertise

In October 2019, the Board of Directors appointed two new members to the Group Executive Board: Matthias Holzammer and Bernhard Wiehl. Matthias Holzammer has taken over as CEO from Martin Hirzel, under whose tenure Autoneum became the internationally recognized market and technology leader in thermal and acoustic management that it is today. Matthias Holzammer demonstrated his operational expertise in various positions, among others as the long-standing Head of Business Group Europe, which he successfully restructured from 2012 on, transforming it into a highly profitable Business Group until his departure at the beginning of 2019. Also contributing to its transformation was Bernhard Wiehl, who succeeded Dr Martin Zwysig as CFO of the Company at the end of October 2019. Bernhard Wiehl was responsible for Finance & Controlling at Business Group Europe from 2013 to 2019.

At the beginning of 2019, Dr Alexandra Bendler succeeded Matthias Holzammer as Head of Business Group Europe. Since joining the Company in 2008, she has held various management positions, including Head of Group Strategy & Marketing and Head of Sales & Program Management for Business Group Europe. In North America, Greg Sibley assumed responsibility for the corresponding Business Group after a transition period on July 1, 2019 from Fausto Bigi, who had served as the interim Head since the beginning of 2019. With his extensive expertise in the areas of production, development and sales at leading automotive suppliers, Greg Sibley is ideally suited to tackling the current challenges in North America.

Board of Directors proposes waiver of dividend payment

In view of the significant net loss, the Board of Directors will propose to the Annual General Meeting on March 25, 2020 no dividend to be distributed for the 2019 financial year.

Business Groups

The drop in automobile production compared to the previous year led to a revenue decline of –5.6% in local currencies at Business Group Europe in 2019. Revenue in Swiss francs decreased by –8.5% to CHF 900.9 million (2018: CHF 984.5 million). The earnings were impacted not only by the volume-related loss of profitability, but also by the continued challenging labor market situation and a shortage of skilled employees especially in Eastern Europe. Driven by a weaker capacity utilization and despite a cost-savings program to reduce fixed costs that was implemented early on, EBIT in the reporting period dropped to CHF 51.0 million (2018: CHF 82.0 million), corresponding to an EBIT margin of 5.7% (2018: 8.3%).

In an equally declining market, Business Group North America increased its 2019 revenue by 7.2% on a currency-adjusted basis, mainly due to various production ramp-ups by German and Japanese vehicle manufacturers. In Swiss francs, revenue climbed to CHF 1 001.8 million (2018: CHF 921.8 million). In the 2019 financial year, Business Group North America recorded an EBIT of CHF –134.8 million (2018: CHF –8.2 million), which includes one-time charges from impairments of fixed assets of CHF –62.0 million. As the insufficient profitability in North America is not only limited to two loss-making US plants, a comprehensive turnaround program has been implemented at the North American sites at the beginning of 2020 that replaces the predecessor program that had been launched in spring 2019. It focuses on the solution of operational and commercial problems as well as the improvement of the cost structure.

In Asia, too, the corresponding Business Group succeeded in boosting revenue in a declining market. Driven by new and high-volume programs of European and Asian automobile manufacturers, Business Group Asia grew in local currencies by 8.1%. Revenue in Swiss francs rose to CHF 275.7 million (2018: CHF 260.3 million). Profitability has been significantly burdened by the expansion of capacity undertaken in recent years in line with the originally forecast growth of the Chinese market. This and the resulting one-time charges from impairments of fixed assets totaling CHF –6.0 million led to an EBIT of CHF 11.9 million (2018: CHF 18.9 million). Excluding impairments, the EBIT margin was at 6.5% (2018: 7.3%).

Business Group SAMEA (South America, Middle East and Africa) continued its growth path in the reporting year. Despite the market slump in this region, revenue in local currencies climbed by 32.7%, a result boosted by inflation. High-volume export programs in Turkey and South Africa as well as much higher production volumes compared to the previous year in the key SAMEA market of Brazil were key factors. Due to the strong depreciation of various relevant currencies, revenue consolidated in Swiss francs was up less remarkably by 12.8% to CHF 125.8 million (2018: CHF 111.5 million). Thanks to favorable capacity utilization, the Business Group generated an EBIT of CHF 10.7 million (2018: CHF 10.8 million). The EBIT margin was at 8.5% (2018: 9.7%).

Outlook

Autoneum expects revenue growth at market level in 2020. Based on the uncompromising focus on the turnaround and the implementation of corresponding measures in North America, the Company aims at significant increases in profitability and a slightly positive net result. Furthermore, a free cash flow in the mid double-digit million range is anticipated, which will have a positive effect on the net debt. Based on further operational and financial improvements in 2021 (“Year of Transition”), Autoneum expects a return to a sound profitability level in 2022.

Further information about the 2019 results as well as the Annual Report 2019 can be found at www.autoneum.com/2020/03/04/2019-annual-results.

At www.autoneum.com/media/subscription-media/ you can subscribe to the mailing list for media releases.

2019 Annual Results Media Conference

Today, March 4, 2020, 9.30 am

Location: Autoneum, Schlosstalstrasse 43, 8406 Winterthur, Switzerland

Important dates 2020

Annual General Meeting 2020	March 25, 2020
2020 Semi-Annual Results	July 28, 2020

For further information, please contact:

Investors and Financial Analysts

Bernhard Weber
Head Financial Services & IR
T +41 52 244 82 07
investor@autoneum.com

Media

Dr Anahid Rickmann
Head Corporate Communications & Responsibility
T +41 52 244 83 88
media.inquiry@autoneum.com

About Autoneum

Autoneum is globally leading in acoustic and thermal management for vehicles. The Company develops and produces multifunctional, lightweight components and systems for interior floor and engine bay as well as the underbody. Customers include almost all automobile manufacturers in Europe, North & South America, Asia and Africa. Autoneum operates 55 production facilities and employs around 13 000 people in 25 countries. The Company with its headquarters in Winterthur, Switzerland, is listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange (ticker symbol AUTN).

www.autoneum.com

Disclaimer

Autoneum is making great efforts to include accurate and up-to-date information in this document, however we make no representations or warranties, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy or completeness of the information provided in this document and we disclaim any liability whatsoever for the use of it. The information provided in this document is not intended nor may be construed as an offer or solicitation for the purchase or disposal, trading or any transaction in any Autoneum securities. Investors must not rely on this information for investment decisions. All statements in this report which do not reflect historical facts are statements related to the future which offer no guarantee with regard to future performance; they are subject to risks and uncertainties including, but not limited to, future global economic conditions, exchange rates, legal provisions, market conditions, activities by competitors and other factors outside the Company's control. The vehicle production figures for 2019 and forward looking are based on the latest estimates of IHS Markit.

Autoneum. Mastering sound and heat.

Financial highlights

CHF million	2019		2018		Change	Organic growth ¹
Autoneum Group						
Revenue	2 297.4	100.0%	2 281.5	100.0%	0.7%	2.5%
EBITDA	164.0	7.1%	197.2	8.6%	-16.8%	
EBITDA adjusted ²	126.0	5.5%	197.2	8.6%	-36.1%	
EBIT ³	-32.9	-1.4%	114.1	5.0%	-128.9%	
EBIT before one-time effects ^{3, 4}	35.0	1.5%	114.1	5.0%	-69.3%	
Net result ³	-77.7	-3.4%	74.7	3.3%	-204.1%	
Return on net assets (RONA) ^{3, 5}	-3.9%		7.8%			
Cash flows from operating activities	119.2		124.0			
Cash flows from operating activities adjusted ²	94.0		124.0			
Net debt at December 31	659.6		283.7			
Net debt at December 31 adjusted ²	355.2		283.7			
Number of employees at December 31 ⁶	13 128		12 946		1.4%	
BG Europe						
Revenue	900.9	100.0%	984.5	100.0%	-8.5%	-5.6%
EBIT ³	51.0	5.7%	82.0	8.3%		
BG North America						
Revenue	1 001.8	100.0%	921.8	100.0%	8.7%	7.2%
EBIT ³	-134.8	-13.5%	-8.2	-0.9%		
EBIT before one-time effects ^{3, 4}	-72.8	-7.3%	-8.2	-0.9%		
BG Asia						
Revenue	275.7	100.0%	260.3	100.0%	5.9%	8.1%
EBIT ³	11.9	4.3%	18.9	7.3%		
EBIT before one-time effects ^{3, 4}	17.9	6.5%	18.9	7.3%		
BG SAMEA⁷						
Revenue	125.8	100.0%	111.5	100.0%	12.8%	32.7%
EBIT ³	10.7	8.5%	10.8	9.7%		
Share AUTN						
Share price at December 31 in CHF	116.20		147.40		-21.2%	
Market capitalization at December 31	539.9		685.8		-21.3%	
Basic earnings per share in CHF	-20.82		11.83		-276.0%	
Dividend per share in CHF ⁸	-		3.60		-100.0%	

¹ Change in revenue in local currencies, adjusted for hyperinflation.

² Excluding IFRS 16 effects in 2019.

³ The figures for the 2019 financial year include IFRS 16 effects.

⁴ Without one-time effects from impairment of fixed assets.

⁵ Net result before interest expenses in relation to average shareholders' equity plus borrowings.

⁶ Full-time equivalents including temporary employees (excluding apprentices).

⁷ Including South America, Middle East and Africa.

⁸ As proposed by the Board of Directors and subject to the approval of the Annual General Meeting.