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## The Mikron Group's volume figures at the end of third quarter 2004

### Order intake remains high

At the end of the third quarter 2004, the Mikron Technology Group – a global player in the production equipment and components market – reported order intake worth CHF 333.5 million and sales of CHF 289.9 million. Incoming orders were thus around 31% higher than the previous year's figures, while sales were up 4%. The continued positive order intake trend will not be reflected in sales figures before the fourth quarter of 2004. For the second half of 2004, the Mikron Group expects to break even in its ongoing operating business (EBITA).

#### Key figures at end-third quarter 2004

CHF million	2004	2003 <sup>1</sup>	+/-	2003	+/-
<b>New orders</b>	333.5	254.1	31.2%	305.1	9.3%
- Production Equipment segment	239.1	163.7	46.0%	194.4	23%
- Components segment	94.9	91.1	4.2%	111.4	-14.8%
<b>Sales</b>	289.9	278.8	4.0%	328.6	-11.8%
- Production Equipment segment	189.1	189.1	0.0%	216.0	-12.5%
- Components segment	104.1	94.9	9.8%	117.8	-11.6%

<sup>1</sup> Adjusted on a like-for-like basis for the reporting year (BaldaMikron joint venture, Axxicon Mould Technology Division, Axxicon Moulds Faarevejle A/S and Mikron Tunsberg AS)

The Production Equipment segment benefited from continued robust demand from the automotive industry and the health and personal care industries. Pent-up demand for investments in industrial output now seems to be exhausted for the time being. The high order intake level of previous quarters is not expected to continue in the fourth quarter 2004.

In the Components segment, the Plastics Technology division lifted output in commercial production for a large order in the medical technology field. During the current business year, the division's results improved from month to month but remained below expectations overall.

Early October, Mikron paid back the last of its outstanding loans and is now debt-free. Its available cash and an agreement with the Swiss bank Credit Suisse will enable it to continue reinforcing its core activities.

**Additional queries and management interviews**

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### **Investor relations calendar 2005**

01.02.2005	“2004 volumes” media release
29.03.2005	“2004 annual results” media conference
19.04.2005	“Q1 2005 volumes” media release “General Meeting” media release
22.07.2005	“2005 half-yearly results” media release
25.10.2005	“Q3 2005 volumes” media release

*Except for the historical information contained herein, the statements in this press release are forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties.*

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