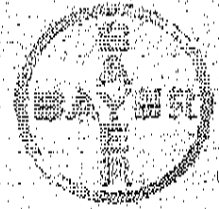


Bayer



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Investor News

Bayer proposes €0.50 dividend per share

Operating result improved in 2003 /
Balance sheet impacted by impairment charges as announced

Leverkusen Bayer AG's Supervisory Board today accepted the proposal of the Board of Management to recommend to the Annual Stockholders' Meeting on April 30, 2004, a dividend for fiscal 2003 of €0.50 per share. With some 730 million shares, this would represent a payout of €365 million. In 2002, a dividend of €0.90 per share was paid.

"We improved earnings from operations in 2003. However, our balance sheet was impacted by impairment charges announced in December prompted by the planned carve-out of certain chemicals and polymers activities. The dividend proposal takes account of these special items but remains in line with Bayer's dividend policy, which is based on the earnings capability of our business activities and our strong cash flow," said Werner Wenning, Chairman of the Board of Management of Bayer AG.

The Group's annual financial statements will be presented and discussed at the Spring Financial News Conference on March 18.

Leverkusen, March 11, 2004

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Forward-looking statements

This news release contains forward-looking statements based on current assumptions and forecasts made by Bayer Group management. Various known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors could lead to material differences between the actual future results, financial situation, development or performance of the company and the estimates given here. These factors include those discussed in our public reports filed with the Frankfurt Stock Exchange and with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (including our Form 20-F). The company assumes no liability whatsoever to update these forward-looking statements or to conform them to future events or developments.