

2004

Annual Report

Company Profile

BWT Best Water Technology was founded in 1990 through a management buy-out. Today, with 68 companies and 2,800 employees, it is the leading European water technology group.

BWT's aim is to capitalize on the increasing global market opportunities in the area of water treatment while making a substantial contribution to the responsible and sustainable handling of our planet's most essential and precious element, water.

BWT devotes its efforts to the entire water cycle, "from source back to earth". With its two business segments **Aqua Ecolife Technologies** and **Aqua Systems Technologies**, the Group offers customised, sustainable products and solutions in the areas of drinking water, process water, ultra-pure water, and waste water for individual homes, hotels, industry, and municipalities. With its third segment **Fuel Cell Membrane Technologies**, BWT is well positioned as a premier supplier of innovative membranes for fuel cells.

Aqua Ecolife Technologies (AET)

BWT "Water Technologies for a Better Life" are becoming increasingly essential in any ecologically aware and health-conscious household. Our environmentally friendly technologies for safety, hygiene, and health – such as BWT's limescale and corrosion protection devices and disinfection systems used in drinking water treatment – promise exceptional growth.

Aqua Systems Technologies (AST)

With the Christ Water Technology companies, the BWT Group is a competent partner for municipalities as well as industries, such as semiconductor, power, pharma & life sciences, and food & beverage.

Fuel Cell Membrane Technologies (FCMT)

Industrialisation of fuel cell technology is becoming a reality thanks to the revolutionary development of the high-performance FUMATECH proton exchange membrane on a non-fluorinated basis, and the equally unique range of capabilities of FUMATECH membranes based on fluoride. BWT "Water Technologies for a Better Life" not only open up a new future market, but also ensure sustainable mobility, communications, and heat and energy supplies.

All technologies for water treatment are part of the BWT product range, including filter, softener, water purifier, disinfection technologies such as UV and ozone, along with ion-selective membranes, electrodeionisation (EDI), ion exchangers, membrane technologies (reverse osmosis, nano-filtration, micro-filtration, ultra-filtration), and the innovative AQA total Energy technology – the first technology worldwide to offer an all-in-one solution for vitality, as well as protection against limescale and corrosion.

The BWT Best Water Technology Group is represented all across Europe with subsidiaries and affiliated companies. In the past years, BWT has also established or acquired subsidiaries to handle local markets in Asia, North and South America, and Southern Africa.

Building on our solid European market position, we are working consistently toward realising our vision:

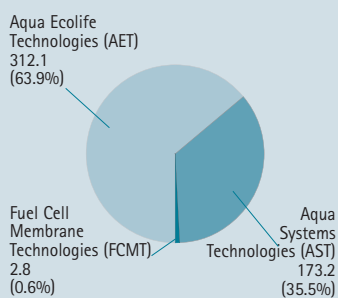
BWT – The Leading International Water Technology Group

		IAS	IAS	IAS
		2004	2003	2002
Consolidated group sales	€ m	488.1	416.0	431.0
EBIT	€ m	24.6	13.6	24.4
Earnings before tax	€ m	22.6	11.4	20.4
Consolidated earnings	€ m	16.8	7.7	15.2
Cash flow from result	€ m	30.0	21.2	32.0
Cash flow from operating activities	€ m	33.7	28.7	31.6
Number of shares*)	In 1000's	17,833.5	17,833.5	17,833.5
Earnings per share	€	0.94	0.43	0.85
Dividends and bonus per share	€	0.270	0.240	0.240
Investment in tangible and intangible assets	€ m	10.3	6.3	9.6
Shareholders' equity	€ m	137.5	124.3	123.4
Employees as of 31.12.	persons	2,780	2,688	2,466

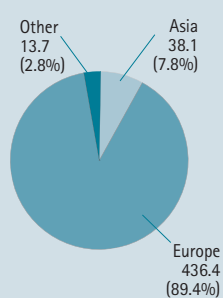
*) Previous years adjusted, 1:10 stock split in July 2000

Summary balance sheet	2004		2003	
	Mio. €	%	Mio. €	%
Fixed assets	137.2	36.6	130.6	37.1
Inventories	53.4	14.2	52.0	14.8
Receivables, prepaid expenses	163.4	43.6	153.2	43.5
Liquid funds	21.0	5.6	16.3	4.6
BALANCE SHEET TOTAL	375.0	100.0	352.1	100.0
Shareholders' equity	137.5	36.7	124.3	35.3
Minority interests	1.3	0.3	0.9	0.3
Accruals	69.3	18.5	67.3	19.1
Liabilities and deferred income	166.9	44.5	159.6	45.3

Sales 2004 by business segment
(in € million)



Sales 2004 by region
(in € million)



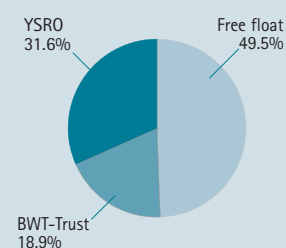
IAS	IAS	IAS	HGB	HGB	HGB	HGB
2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
419.5	399.0	245.3	229.1	190.5	168.9	179.6
26.1	25.2	18.7	20.2	13.9	9.8	11.7
21.4	22.2	14.8	18.6	15.8	16.8	13.9
15.2	15.4	9.3	14.4	12.8	12.2	9.6
28.8	25.4	17.2	20.9	19.7	18.0	16.2
4.3	27.9	2.6	-	-	-	-
17,833.5	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500
0.90	0.93	0.56	0.87	0.78	0.74	0.58
0.220	0.220	0.211	0.203	0.203	0.196	0.196
14.9	16.7	12.3	11.3	6.3	7.3	6.5
111.2	97.9	85.3	84.7	74.2	62.9	53.6
2,511	2,510	1,839	1,654	1,457	1,358	1,335

Share price*)	15.3.05	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
High	€ 27.95	27.84	14.84	29.81	42.50	40.60	19.35	19.84	17.22	10.57	12.28
Low	€ 25.99	15.25	8.60	8.39	21.90	13.04	12.93	13.15	9.05	7.63	6.90
Closing price	€ 27.55	27.84	14.79	9.65	24.50	35.35	13.35	18.89	14.24	8.13	7.52
P/E (closing price)	€ 29	30	34	11	27	38	24	22	18	11	13
Market value in € m	491	496	264	172	437	583	220	312	235	134	124

*) Pre-2000 years adjusted, 1:10 stock split in July 2000, IPO price 1992: € 7.45



Shareholder structure



Contents

Chairman's Statement	6
Group structure	8
Corporate bodies	10
Water	12
Pure water and clean energy	20
BWT – committed to the environment	23
Highlights 2004	26
BWT Value Strategy	27
Management report 2004:	
Economic environment	28
Industry environment	29
Business development	31
Segment reports:	
Aqua Ecolife Technologies	42
Aqua Systems Technologies	48
Fuel Cell Membrane Technologies	54
Aqua Finance	57
The BWT share	58
Investor relations	60

Group results 2004

Balance sheet	64
Profit and loss account	66
Cash flow statement	67
Shareholders' equity	68
Notes:	
Notes 2004	70
General notes	73
Accounting and valuation principles	76
Notes to the profit and loss account	80
Notes to the balance sheet	85
Notes to the cash flow statement	95
Proposal for profit distribution	100
Overview of material participations	101
Development of fixed assets	102
Auditors' report	104
Report of the Supervisory Board	105
Group locations	4; 106



BWT – the leading international water technology group



■ Aqua Ecolife Technologies (AET)



● Aqua Systems Technologies (AST)



▲ Fuel Cell Membrane Technologies (FCMT)

BWT – Water Technologies for a Better Life



Chairman's Statement

Today, the BWT - Best Water Technology-Group is Europe's market leader in water treatment. With its clear growth strategy, BWT is ideally positioned for a great future in the most exciting growth market of the 21st century, WATER.

H₂O, the world's most important compound, is the focus of our work. With its economically and ecologically optimized products and processes for the entire water cycle, "from the source back to Earth", BWT today is setting technology standards worldwide.



Andreas Weissenbacher, Chairman

The water treatment market is increasingly shaped by a process of concentration. Spectacular corporate takeovers characterized the year 2004. In 2004, the BWT Group continued to work consistently at implementing the Company's growth strategy focused on sustained increase of value.

Growth through innovation, growth through geographical expansion, as well as organic growth led to the most successful financial year in the company's 15-year history in a market that remains affected by signs of global recession.

Sales rose by 17.3% to € 488 million, EBITDA by 35% to € 37.8 million, EBIT by 80.7% to € 24.6 million, pre-tax earnings by 98.3% to € 22.6 million, and earnings after deduction of minorities' interests by 119.2% to € 16.8 million. At € 33.7 million, the cash flow from operating activities was 17.4% higher than in 2003. The cash flow from result was kept at a high level at € 30 million and, as planned, gearing was reduced to 54.4%. 11.4% of sales are attributable to organic growth, and 6.0% stem from acquisitions.

Earnings per share rose from € 0.43 to € 0.94. BWT shareholders should not just participate in the Company's asset growth but also in our operating success. This is why the Management Board will propose to the 15th Annual General Meeting on May 20, 2005 the payment of a dividend that has been increased by 12.5% to € 0.27 per share. The profit distribution is € 4.8 million or 28.6% of consolidated earnings.

With a performance of more than 88% over the course of 2004, the development of the BWT share price was particularly satisfactory. This means that BWT ranked 4th among the top performers on the Vienna Stock Exchange, which markedly outperformed all major international stock exchanges for the fourth year in succession. At the same time, the BWT share is benefiting from the growing global relevance of water treatment, which increasingly becomes a focus of attention for the financial community. This is also clear from the sector performance of water technology stocks, which outperformed all major international stock exchange indices for the first time in 2004.

In 2004, the Group succeeded in achieving double-digit growth rates in all three business segments - in the Aqua Ecolife Technologies segment, in the Aqua Systems Technologies segment, and in the Fuel Cell Membrane Technologies segment. Not only has BWT consolidated its market share in all major markets, but was able to even significantly expand it in most markets.

In line with our vision of becoming "the leading international water technology group", we have stepped up investment in internationalization of the Group.

The acquisition of 74% of the Irish company Waterman Ltd, now Christ Waterman, the purchase of 20% of Tenergy USA, now Tenergy Christ, the takeover of Benchem Belgium, the completion of joint ventures in China and India and the acquisition of Aqua Engineering South Africa as well as the establishment of Aqua Engineering Hungaria, together with investments in fixed assets amounted to a total investment of € 12.4 million. These measures provide the basis for the successful realization of the Preferred Supplier concept for globally operating key accounts.

Apart from growth through geographical expansion, growth through innovation is the most important pillar of BWT's value strategy. We therefore once again increased our high level of commitment in research and development in 2004. A total of € 12.3 million was invested in fundamental research and in product and process development. Unique results such as the new bi-polar replacement cartridge, the hygiene products such as PairOx and Dioxol, the electrodeionization module Septron 3000, the Vapotron and Multitron systems for pure steam generation, as well as proton exchanging nanoparticles for inorganic/organic multi-matrix membranes are all expression of the Group's outstanding technological leadership.

Increasing awareness of the limited availability of the precious resource for life and means of production, namely WATER, its unequal distribution on our planet, the lack of clean water supply and adequate hygiene, together with the rise in world population make WATER the growth market of the 21st century. This international market is both a responsibility and a challenge for BWT. It is the primary goal of our management team, who is working with commitment and prudence, to exploit the opportunities lying ahead of us to the fullest.

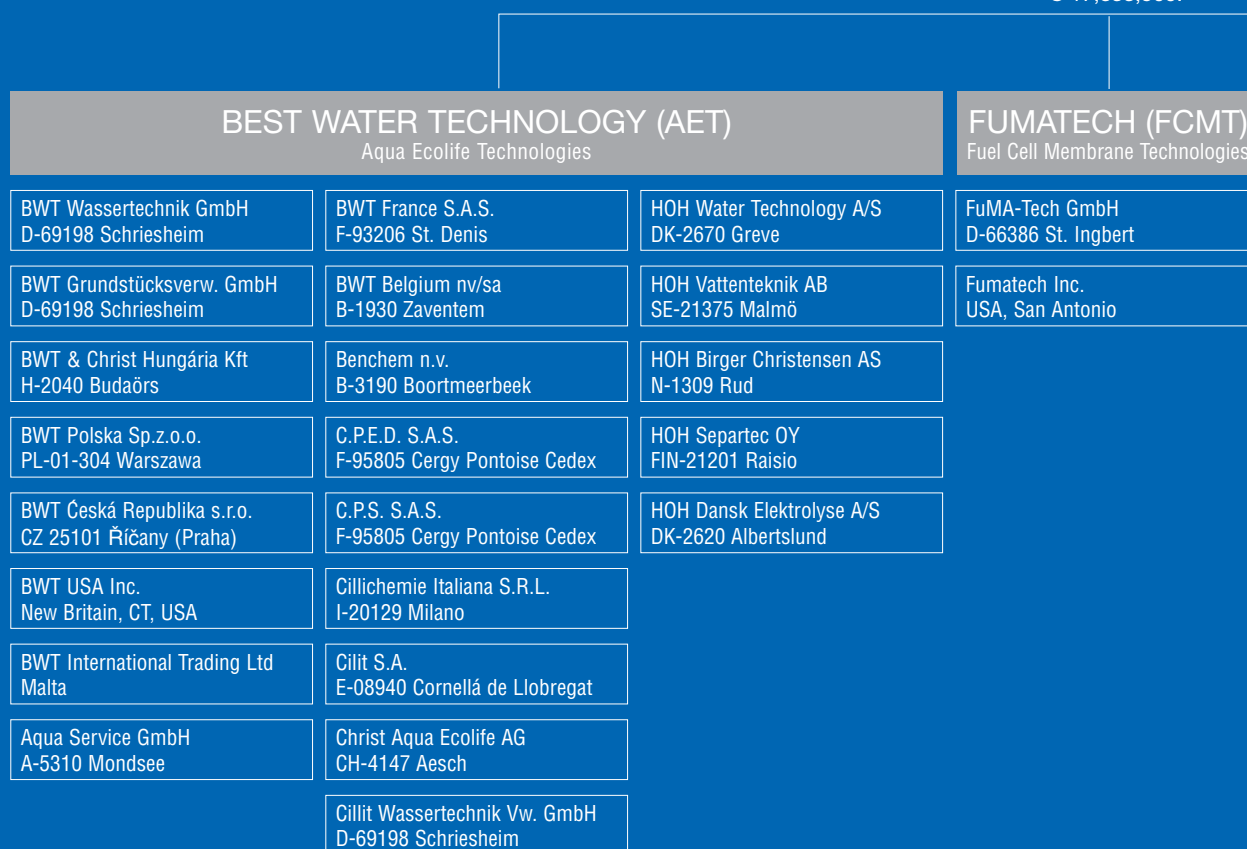
I should like to express my gratitude to all BWT's highly motivated and committed employees for their dedication to the dynamic growth of the BWT Group. I am proud of this Best Water Technology team.

We shall work on the realization of our vision of the leading international water technology group with a clear focus and by concentrating on our strengths. Together with our business partners, our employees, and our shareholders, we shall do our utmost to achieve this goal in the global market.

Esteemed shareholders, I would like to thank you and all our business associates for the confidence you have shown us to date. I promise to justify this with a sustained increase in shareholder value.

Your trust provides a vital foundation for our company.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Helmut Fiedler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.



GROUP STRUCTURE

As at December 31, 2004

CHRIST WATER TECHNOLOGY (AST)

Aqua Systems Technologies

Christ Pharma & Life Science AG CH-4147 Aesch	Christ Ultrapure Water AG CH-4147 Aesch	Van der Molen GmbH D-86438 Kissing	Aqua Engineering GmbH A-5310 Mondsee
Christ Nordic AB SE-21376 Malmö	Christ France S.A.S F-38920 Cedex	Van der Molen Production B.V. NL-1521 Wormerveer	Aqua Mérnökiroda Kft. H-2040 Budaörs
Christ Pharma & Life Science GmbH D-71665 Vaihingen	Christ-Kennicott Water Technology Ltd. UK-Wolverhampton	Van der Molen Brasil Ltda. CEP 20031-141 RJ Brasil	Aqua Engineering Beijing Office 100016 Beijing
Christ Waterman Ltd Dublin, Ireland	Christ Holland B.V. NL-2382 Zoeterwoude	Van der Molen (South Africa) Ltd. Johannesburg	Aqua Engineering SA (Pty) Ltd Johannesburg
Christ Nishotech Water Systems Pvt. Ltd Navi Mumbai, India (10%)	Christ Water Singapore Pte. Ltd. 609927 Singapore	Van der Molen (Asia) Ltd. 049712 Singapore	Hinke Tankbau GmbH A-4870 Vöcklamarkt
Christ Austar Ltd. Shanghai (50%)	Christ Water Technology Taiwan Co., Taiwan		Hinke Hungaria Kft H-7090 Tamási
Tenergy Christ Water LLC New Britain, CT, USA (20%)*	Christ Water Technology Ltd. Shanghai		
	Goema GmbH D-71665 Vaihingen		
	Tepro Project Engineering GmbH A-8501 Lieboch		

*Increased to 49% as of 16 March 2005

PHARMA & LIFE SCIENCE

ULTRA PURE WATER

FOOD & BEVERAGE

MUNICIPAL DRINKING
WATER & WASTE WATER



ANDREAS WEISSENBACHER
Chairman of the Executive Board
since 1990. Responsible for strategy,
R & D, IR, PR, and for the
business segments
Aqua Ecolife Technologies and
Fuel Cell Membrane Technologies.

GERHARD SPEIGNER
Chief Financial Officer
since 1996.

KARL MICHAEL MILLAUER
Chief Operating Officer since 2001.
Responsible for the business segment
Aqua Systems Technologies.

CORPORATE BODIES

SUPERVISORY BOARD

Leopold Bednar, Vienna
Chairman

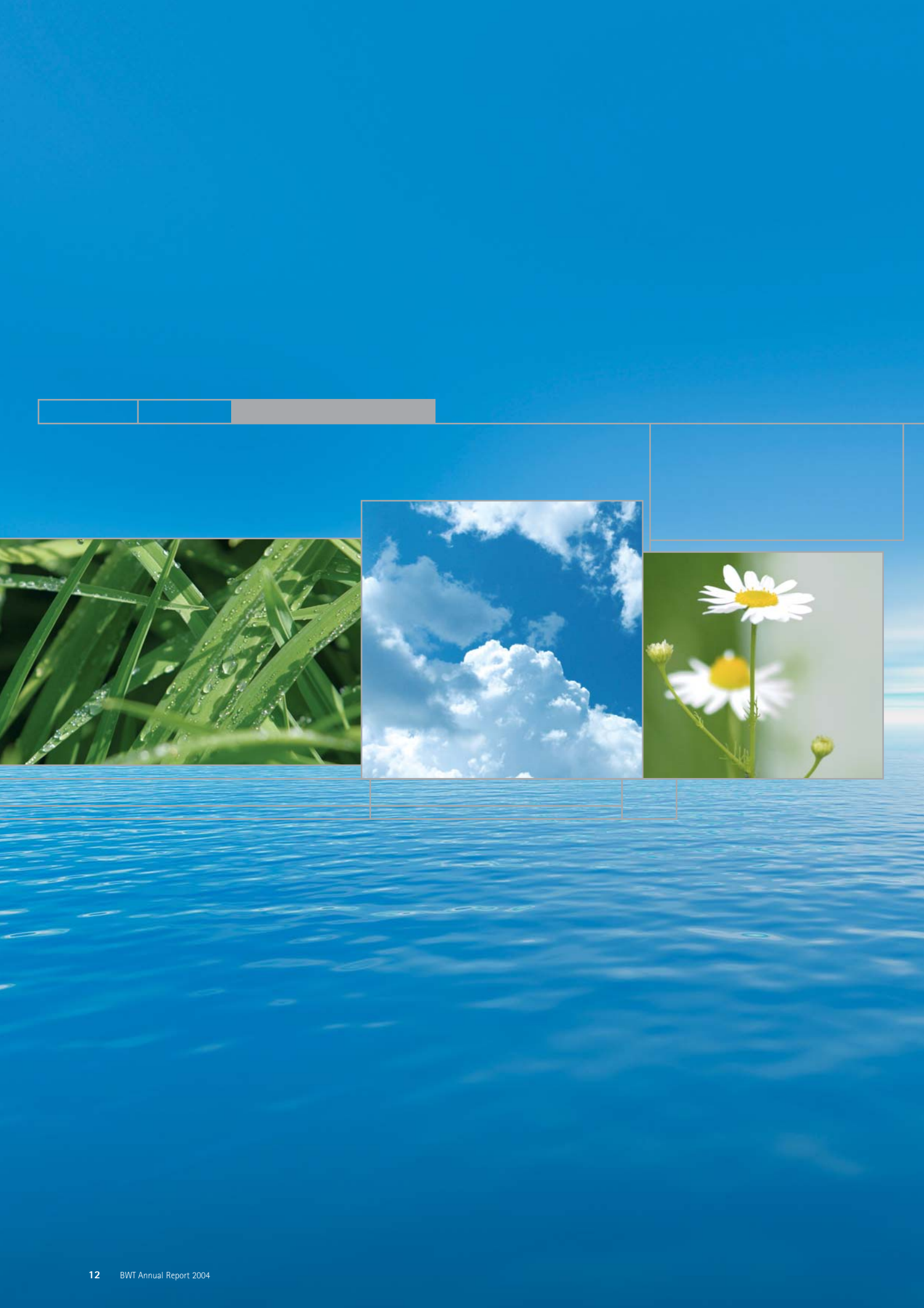
Wolfgang Hochsteger, Hallein
Deputy Chairman

Ekkehard Reicher, Oberalm

Gerda Egger, Golling

Serge Schmitt, Hagenthal-le-Bas, Frankreich

Klaus Reinhard Kastner, Gmunden



INNOVATIVE
TECHNOLOGIES
FOR THE ELIXIR OF LIFE —
WATER

Water - Challenge for mankind, corporate responsibility for BWT

Nothing but water...

Where ever we look - we see nothing but water. Seemingly there is an inexhaustible supply of water on our planet. The Earth's total water supply is estimated at 1.4 billion cubic kilometers. Of this figure, some 96.5% is attributable to the world's oceans, 1.7% to the polar icecaps and glaciers, a further 1.7% is groundwater, lakes and rivers, and the rest occurs as water vapor in the Earth's atmosphere.

The reality looks rather different:

Water is a scarce resource

- 2 billion people have no access to clean drinking water.
- 5 million people die from dirty drinking water every year.
- One in two inhabitants of developing countries suffers from water-related illnesses.

The blue planet

If we look at the earth from outer space, we see a unique sight: over 75% of our planet is covered in water, whether frozen or liquid. This vital element distinguishes the Earth from all the other planets in our solar system.



The Earth from outer space: the Blue Planet.

Water is the essence of life

This is why we search for water above all on other planets, in order to establish whether there is life there or whether there has been life.

Humans consist of roughly 60% water and other forms of life consist of up to 90% water. With humans, a loss of 15% of this water leads to death, and depending on the size of the person and the climatic conditions, he or she requires 3 to 5 liters of water a day.

Water has various characteristics without which life on earth would be impossible for humans, animals and plants. It exists in a solid, liquid and gaseous state. One of the characteristics of water that is vital to survival is that it is heaviest not in its solid state but at plus four degrees Celsius. If frozen water was heavier, ice would form on the bottom of seas and lakes, would slowly expand upwards and in doing so would destroy all organic life. But there is a constant exchange of water both between higher and lower water layers as well as horizontally (e.g. the Gulf Stream) when temperatures fluctuate.

Without the compound of one oxygen molecule and two hydrogen molecules as well as the specific characteristics of this precious liquid, there would be no life.

The United Nations warns of a global water crisis

The provision of water in sufficient quantity and of required quality is perhaps the greatest challenge of the 21st century. Two billion people are without access to sufficient drinking water and sanitary facilities. One in two people in developing countries suffer from water-related diseases. In developing countries, some five million people die of diseases that are connected to dirty drinking water every year. Worldwide, only around 5% of all waste water is subjected to a treatment process. Around 70% of all fresh water is used for the food production (chiefly irrigation). Overall, the extent and significance of the present fresh water problem carries with it the seed of a global, social and ecological crisis.

"Of all the social and natural resource crises we humans face, the water crisis is the one that lies at the heart of our survival and that of our planet Earth."

(UN World Water Development Report, March 2003)

As with all resources that are indispensable to life, demand for water is defined by the product population x per capita consumption. The difficulty lies in the fact that it is precisely those regions where the population is growing most rapidly where there is also the greatest accumulated demand for fresh water supply.

The imminent water crisis is the result of inadequate water management, rapid growth in the world population and changing climate conditions.

Global water supply:

	Volumen (1,000 km ³)	Percentage of the total water supply	Percentage of fresh water
Oceans, salt water seas	1,338,000	96.5	-
Polar ice, glaciers	24,064	1.74	68.7
Groundwater	23,400	1.7	-
Fresh water	(10,530)	(0.76)	30.1
Salt water	(12,870)	(0.94)	-
Soil humidity	16.5	0.001	0.05
Ground ice and permafrost	300	0.022	0.86
Lakes	176.4	0.013	-
Fresh water	(91.0)	(0.007)	0.26
Salt water	(85.4)	(0.006)	-
Atmosphere	12.9	0.001	0.04
Marsh water	11.47	0.0008	0.03
Rivers	2.12	0.0002	0.006
Biological water	1.12	0.0001	0.003
Total	1,385,984	100.0	100.0

Source: Gleick, P. H., 1996: *Water resources*.

Many other problems can be caused by local water crises.

- Water crises may force the local population to migrate and this can result in substantial migratory pressures both within countries and between them.
- By and large, water crises also lead to over-use of cross-border waters and therefore to an increase in regional conflicts that can escalate into "water wars".
- Local water crises can lead to desertification and consequently reinforce the green house effect and the reduction in biodiversity.

All this shows that even local water crises have immense global significance, which makes the water problem a problem for the entire community of nations.

Solving the water crisis is one of the biggest challenges facing mankind in the third millennium. Water will soon become more valuable than oil.

Water consumption is increasing rapidly worldwide

In the recent past, human consumption of water has increased dramatically worldwide. Water consumption in 1680 was estimated at 86 cubic kilometers. In 1900, this figure had risen to 522 cubic kilometers, in 1980 to 2,120 and in 2000 to 2,700 cubic kilometers. The forecast that human water consumption could triple once more in the next 30 years



is alarming. Then at least 40% of the world's population will live in countries that suffer from a chronic shortage of water. Today, already more than 50 countries suffer from a dramatic shortage of water.

Globally, some 70% of the water used by mankind is used in agriculture, industry uses 20% and households consume 10%. However, these figures fluctuate strongly from region to region and there are some countries that use up to 90% of water for agricultural purposes.

Agriculture

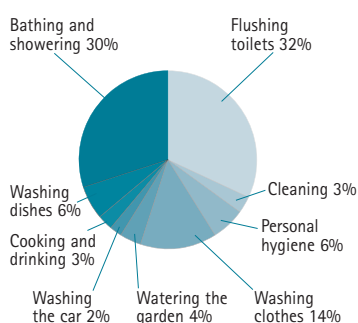
In recent years, global food production has risen sharply. The massive use of artificial fertilizers (particularly nitrates) and pesticides has therefore become a serious problem in all the world's regions. This not only damages the soil but the water that flows from these fields into river systems or into the groundwater is heavily polluted.

Increasing water consumption is also evident in stock farming. Above all, problems arise from the fact that today of five tons of grain produced in the world two tons are used as animal feed. If feed grain is cultivated in countries where a lot of water is required to produce the grain, the water consumption for a single steak can easily require 20,000 liters of water.

Industry

As mentioned, 20% of water consumed by mankind globally is attributable to the commercial and, above all, industrial sector. In many western countries, industrial companies have gradually switched to multiple use of water. In the mid 1950s for example, in the US paper industry water was used 2.4 times before being disposed of into rivers or sewage systems. But by the year 2000, this figure had been increased to 11.8 times. In the chemical industry, water was even used 28 times by this date. Despite this, water consumption that is hidden in industrial production remains high. For example, between 10,000 and 20,000 liters of water are used to produce a car.

In the western world, but also increasingly in southern countries, there are growing problems with chemical residues and, in particular, pharmaceutical residues that enter the water cycle and are not filtered out in waste water treatment plants, such as detergent residues and, above all, drug residues. Research has shown that male fishes in rivers downstream of modern waste water treatment facilities are becoming feminized, which is attributed to residues of drugs containing hormones. Therefore with regard to water problems connected with industry, account must be taken of both the production process and pollution from residues in waste water.



Household water consumption

Roughly one tenth of mankind's water consumption relates directly to consumption by households. The quantity consumed varies enormously in different regions of the world. While it amounts to 20 liters in rural regions in arid parts of Africa, it reaches 295 liters per day in the USA. At least 25 liters per day are needed for drinking, cooking and washing. In countries like Austria or Germany, daily per capita consumption stands at some 130 liters, which is 15 liters less than a year ago but 44 liters more than in 1950.

From the figures on the left it is clear in which areas water savings can be realized.

A lack of clean water as a cause of disease

In many countries where the water supply is inadequate, the lack of this precious liquid is a serious cause of disease. According to UNICEF, up to 1.3 billion people worldwide suffer from a lack of sufficient clean water, and more than 2 billion people have no access to adequate sanitary facilities.

A distinction must be made between diseases that are transmitted through water (many intestinal diseases and diarrhea), diseases that are caused by lack of water (many skin and eye diseases), diseases that are transmitted through water animals (for example bilharzia) and diseases that are transmitted by insects that breed in water (for example malaria). It must be assumed that several million adults and children die from avoidable diseases of this kind every year. In fact, around two million children die from diarrhea and malaria every year. Water related diseases are a cause for the impoverishment of many families.

Water and Sustainable Development

Agenda 21

An entire chapter is dedicated to the subject of water in the **Agenda 21**. The Agenda 21 is the charter for sustainable development that is binding for the international community of nations and comprises a comprehensive plan of action for every aspect in which mankind has a direct or indirect influence on the environment.

Johannesburg 2002

Special importance was also attached to water as a resource during the **World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)** in Johannesburg in August 2002. At this conference, the goal of halving the number of people without access to clean water by 2015 was formulated. Specific steps and the provision of the resources required to achieve this goal are now of crucial relevance. Whether this goal can actually be achieved by 2015 remains unclear, because no binding agreements were reached on who would assume which specific responsibility for achieving this target.

The International Year of Freshwater 2003

To further enhance awareness of the importance of water as a resource, the United Nations declared **2003 "The International Year of Fresh Water"**.

World Water Development Report

At this occasion, in March 2003 an initiative of 23 UN organizations published the **World Water Development Report** for the first time. Under the title **"Water for People, Water for Life"** a total of 11 major challenges are specified for mankind in connection with water. These include the following areas:

- An adequate supply of clean drinking water and hygienic removal of waste are essential for preserving human health. Some 80 per cent of all diseases in developing nations are due to inadequate access to clean drinking water!
- Water is the basis of the food supply for an ever-growing world population. With a predicted 8 billion people in 2025, agriculture must continuously increase yields to secure food for the developing nations.
- There is also increasing concern about the quality of water, which has become one of the most urgent problems for both industrialized and developing nations. Water sources are in some cases showing extreme burdens of a highly diverse range of pollutants. One of the causes is the global increase in urbanization.
- An adequate supply of water is also a prerequisite for many areas of industrial production, and hence for the economic growth of a country.
- In the industrial and commercial sectors, water for industrial use can in many cases be recycled. In developing countries in particular suitable water treatment technologies must be accessible when constructing new industrial infrastructures.

International Decade for Action "Water for Life" 2005 – 2015

World Water Day, March 22

"Water for Life" – UN declares Decade for Action

In order to point to the importance of protecting drinking water reserves, dealing responsibly with water resources, the challenges of effective water distribution, and the need for sustainable water management, the UN's General Assembly declared the decade from 2005 to 2015 the **International Decade for Action "Water for Life"** at its 58th meeting.

The aim of this decade, which officially started on **World Water Day** on March 22, 2005, is "to focus more closely on water-related questions at all levels and to implement water-related programs and projects". The aim is to place the significance of water as a resource more firmly on the public and political agenda. A special focus is dedicated to women because they are largely responsible for the water supply in developing countries.

The International Decade for Action "Water for Life" is the second time that water has been the subject of a UN decade. The UN declared the decade from 1981 to 1990 the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade with the aim of achieving an appropriate water supply and sanitary facilities for all people by 1990. The goal was missed by a long way.



Water – the Blue Gold of the 21st century

"No water – no future"

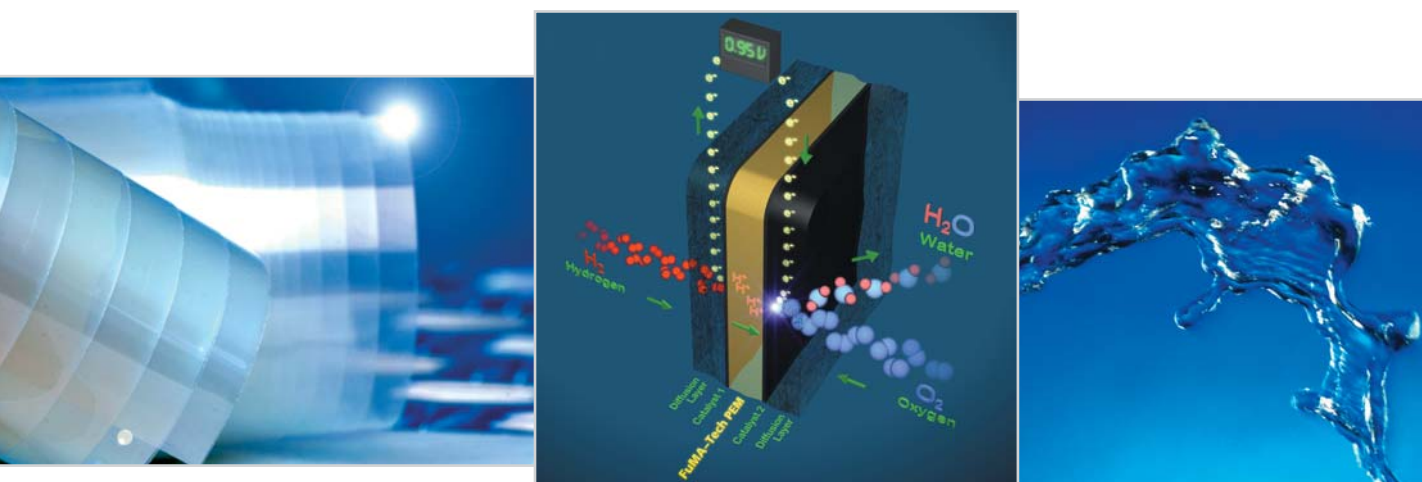
With these four words the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan reduced the struggle for water for all to a short, memorable formula.

Knowledge of this limited availability of water, coupled with the rapid increase in the world population are the key factors responsible for the growing awareness of the irreplaceable value of water.

The BWT Best Water Technology Group is aware of its great responsibility and makes an important contribution to the sustained protection of the natural resource water with its ecologically and economically optimized products and technologies.

World class solutions for water and power – Pure water and clean energy from hydrogen for a better future

BWT – Best Water Technology – is Europe's leading water technology group. The provision of clean water worldwide constitutes an important responsibility for BWT. In this connection, separation of materials, as the basic operation of chemical process technology, becomes a central technological platform. In particular, membrane filtration, as an innovative separation process, constitutes the most important basic operation. In membrane filtration processes such as reverse osmosis to desalinate water, or ultrafiltration



to purify water and sterilization, the water to be treated is forced through a membrane under pressure. The membrane then retains undesirable substances present in the water.

However, membranes can also support other technologies: for example, water can be electrically decomposed into its basic elements, hydrogen and oxygen, in a so-called membrane electrolysis cell. This decomposition of water is a completely reversible reaction, in which the gases combine to form water, releasing energy in the process.

Water is regarded as the basis of all life. In addition, energy guarantees a high quality for this life.

In a fuel cell, oxygen and hydrogen (separated by a proton conducting, gas impermeable membrane) combine to form water, releasing energy in the process. The fuel cell is therefore the optimal method for converting chemical energy directly into electrical energy and heat in an electrochemical process. The avoidance of any intermediate steps means that the fuel cell is unusually efficient.



Since hydrogen contains more than three times the energy of all fossil fuels such as wood, coal or oil, it constitutes an ideal source of energy. Furthermore, no harmful greenhouse gas is emitted when hydrogen is burnt, only water is created. Should we succeed in producing hydrogen through the decomposition of water by means of solar energy, wind power, atomic energy or renewable raw materials, this could make an important contribution to combating global warming. In addition, limited fossil fuels could be used primarily as a source of raw materials for the chemical industry and less as fuel.

For a long time, this principle, discovered by Sir William Robert Grove in 1839 and termed "cold combustion", was reserved for exotic applications, such as powering satellites. Now, it is increasingly being used in new and very attractive commercial applications.

These range from stationary electricity and heat generation in homes, mobile applications in cars, buses, ships, to replacing batteries in portable electronic equipment.

The energy converter for the 21st century

Fuel cells are now accepted worldwide as efficient and clean energy converters and are being researched by all leading companies with regard to their possible use. Synergies are anticipated, in particular, as a result of the great interest shown by the automotive industry and the electronics industry, which will lead to substantial cost reductions in the fuel cell units.

However, many questions on the manufacture, storage, warehousing and transport of hydrogen must be dealt with for a comprehensive market launch. This is why the hydrogen will be extracted by reforming fossil fuels during a transition period. Alternatively, hydrogen can be obtained from methanol for example.

In principle, a fuel cell works like a battery, with the difference that the fuel cell continues to generate electricity so long as fuel in the form of hydrogen or methanol is supplied. The fuel cell consists of two electrodes, a cathode and an anode, separated by an electrolyte. The electrolyte has the task of controlling the spontaneous combustion of hydrogen and oxygen known as the electrolytic gas explosion.

In a polymer-electrolyte-membrane fuel cell (PEMFC), the electrolyte is replaced by a proton conducting membrane that is impermeable for hydrogen and oxygen. Hydrogen (H₂) and oxygen (O₂) or air flow over the electrodes and are converted into water (H₂O) and heat, generating electricity in the process. The hydrogen is supplied to the anode, where it releases an electron (e⁻) at the catalyst layer, leaving a proton. The proton (H⁺) diffuses through the membrane, which is completely impermeable to gases. The electrons, as usable electrical energy, are routed back to the cathode via an external circuit. At the second catalyst layer on the cathode, the proton reacts with oxygen from the air to form the only waste product - water.

Future markets for fuel cell applications

The global market for fuel cells can be divided into three sectors - mobile, stationary and portable applications.

The greatest market potential is unquestionably attributed to mobile use in vehicles. However, it is here that the greatest technical, economic and logistical hurdles have to be overcome. Once the automotive industry has agreed on hydrogen as the fuel of the future, the particular problem of establishing a countrywide hydrogen infrastructure has to be solved, in addition to reducing the cost of fuel cell systems. With the exception of fleet vehicles, mass production of fuel cell vehicles cannot be expected before 2015 at the earliest.

In stationary applications, such as fuel cell co-generation power stations for apartment blocks, hydrogen will be obtained locally through reforming natural gas, biogas or liquid gas. The most important problem with regard to a successful market launch is the question of the reliability of these systems which are still very complex.

Portable applications are viewed as an entry-level scenario for fuel cells in the short term. In these small systems, the hydrogen can be transported in a pressurized cylinder or in a metal hybrid storage tank. However, legal questions regarding filling and transport, in aircraft in particular, still have to be clarified. This is why various manufacturers of electronic appliances are switching to methanol as a fuel. As Motorola has shown, this can be converted into hydrogen by reforming, or, as Samsung has shown, for example, this can be converted directly into electricity in a direct methanol fuel cell. The typical area of application ranges from cellular phones and notebooks to portable electricity generators for leisure use.

Increasing interest for commercial use of fuel cells

In 2004, far greater interest in the commercial use of fuel cells became apparent. Nevertheless, the total market for fuel cell membranes is estimated at only slightly over 100,000 m², of which the greatest proportion was used in prototypes for hydrogen fuel cells. The market share for direct methanol fuel cells should be well below 10% of the total market. However, the highest market growth is inferred for direct methanol fuel cells in portable applications. Accordingly, increased demand for membrane surfaces is expected here in the medium term.

The product range offered by BWT and FUMATECH covers all possible applications for fuel cells. However, the direct methanol fuel cell is particularly suitable for the use of non-fluoric embranes, which is why current developments in portable applications are viewed particularly optimistically.

An impressive demonstration of the current development status of portable power units, in particular, was provided at the FC Expo in January 2005 in Tokyo. The trade show had attracted 20,000 visitors, and BWT's subsidiary FUMATECH also enjoyed its greatest success with its high-performance fuel cell membranes at a trade show to date.

BWT – committed to the environment and mankind

The water cycle as sustainable corporate responsibility

Water is not a commodity that is readily available everywhere and at any time in the quality and quantity required. Furthermore, in our industrial age the demands on water are ever more increasing. We want the convenience of water at home in the form of high quality drinking water as well as for personal hygiene. In addition, water is an important factor of production in trade and industry.

Therefore we can no longer imagine life without water treatment. Demand for economical, complex water treatment solutions increases continuously. The basis for sustained growth in the global water market are the rising world population figures, as are more stringent water purity requirements in industry for process and waste water.

Wherever water is being used for specific purpose, it must be treated accordingly. Best Water Technology, Europe's leading water treatment group – offers technologies and processes that protect water from harmful elements and help to use water in a responsible, sustainable way. As a result, used water can be returned to the natural water cycle. This means that BWT also takes on a high degree of responsibility for nature and the environment, because we are convinced that ecological commitment should not be merely a matter of lip service.

BWT's responsibility is demonstrated by a comprehensive recycling strategy for selecting raw materials, construction and production, by ecologically friendly operations and process technology, and by a proven competence for ecologically optimized products and solutions.

Because the name BWT Best Water Technology commits us – to the environment, to the market, to our shareholders and employees – as Europe's leading water treatment group to dedicate our expertise to the protection of natural, fresh, clean water as a resource for mankind.

**Increasing demand
for water treatment**

**BWT takes responsibility
for the entire water cycle**



A demonstrated commitment to sustainable development

BWT's commitment to sustainable development is reflected above all in its considerable efforts in the field of research and development. Our goal is ongoing optimization of product and process technologies, based on environmental, social, and economic criteria.



This is why BWT seeks

- to develop environmentally and socially optimized technologies
- to manufacture durable, repair-friendly and environmentally sound consumer goods
- to use renewable energies and reduce the use of fossil fuels
- to reduce CO₂ by reducing energy demand and the use of raw materials and consumables
- to demonstrate social and ecological commitment which reaches beyond the core company objectives
- to support protection of biodiversity.

Proofs for this commitment are:

1. BWT quality management

The EU EMAS Regulation and the ISO 14001 series represent a standardized, comprehensive and systematic framework for industrial environmental and quality management. BWT works consistently to comply with environmental regulations, uses the best economically justifiable technology and is working on the standardized implementation of eco-audits. ISO certifications together with numerous product quality marks are demonstration that the high quality requirements of our guidelines are effectively implemented.

2. BWT makes a key contribution to a sustainable energy supply

In addition to providing pure water, the basis of all life, BWT is meeting the challenge of sustainable generation of clean energy to secure an equally high quality of life. Global climate protection requires controlled use of fossil fuels and the development of new technologies on the basis of renewable energies such as solar energy, wind energy, biomass, and finally hydrogen and fuel cells.

However, the dawn of the hydrogen era also requires generation of hydrogen from renewable energy in an environmentally friendly fashion and the efficient utilization of hydrogen for the generation of electricity and heat. Thus, using electricity, water can be broken down into its constituent elements of hydrogen and oxygen in a membrane electrolysis cell. Breaking down water is a completely reversible reaction, which means that a fuel cell can use the two gases to create electricity, heat and water.

Today, the fumion® polymers and fumapem® membranes from FUMATECH® are already used in the electrolysis of water and also in fuel cells, thus making a key contribution to a fast, efficient launch of a sustainable energy economy.

3. BWT has become the leading expert in the field of water hygiene

After intensive research and development work, BWT has launched visionary products which ensure or restore water hygiene.

BWT has developed a 3-phase hygiene management concept for water hygiene in buildings. To prevent water installations from Legionella bacteria, protection against particles, limescale and corrosion are essential. With the new AQA total Energy, which for the very first time offers protection against limescale, corrosion, and improved drinking water quality in one single device, BWT is setting new standards in drinking water treatment.

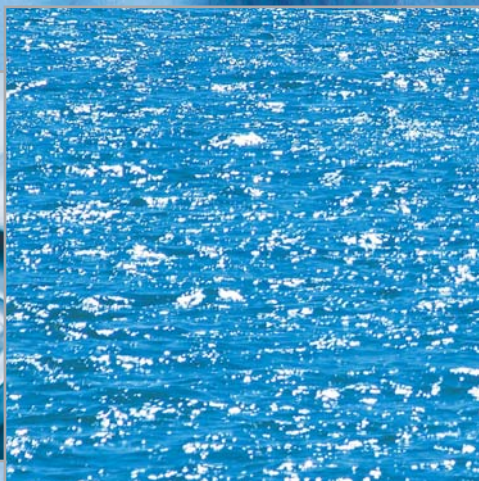
In order to restore water hygiene, and to disinfect cold and warm water systems continuously, BWT offers the Reaxan process, where chlorine dioxide offers effective long-term protection. BWT's B-SAFE filter is used to protect against Legionella bacteria at the point-of-use.

The chemical free PairOx process was developed specially for air-conditioning systems. The Coolzon process was developed specially to destroy bacteria in cooling water using ozone. The system can also be equipped with an optional chlorine dioxide unit (Coolzon plus) to improve its long-term effectiveness. The biocides that are normally used to destroy bacteria no longer have to be applied.

4. BWT makes an important contribution to chemical-free water treatment and industrial wastewater treatment

Environmental protection is the central consideration in developing technological solutions for customers in the Aqua Systems Technologies (AST) business segment as well. This is most apparent in industrial wastewater. Due to increasingly stringent environmental regulations, this area is growing very rapidly. Within the AST segment, the BWT Group offers water-recycling techniques which not only reduce water consumption dramatically, but also filter important minerals and other valuable substances out of process water and wastewater for reuse in the production process.

The companies in the AST business segment are leaders in drinking and wastewater treatment for municipal customers as well. Here, biological processes are increasingly being used along with physical and chemical methods. The AST segment is particularly aiming to achieve the required grade of purity of the process water with the minimum possible use of chemicals. Optimized process technologies substantially reduce the use of chemicals. This preserves the environment and has a positive impact on operating costs.



HIGHLIGHTS 2004

Sales and earnings at record high

Organic growth well above market development

Assets and financial position significantly improved

Dynamic internationalization of the Group

Excellent growth perspectives

VALUE STRATEGY

VISION

BWT – The Leading International Water Technology Group

STRATEGY

Growth

- through innovation
- through geographical expansion
- in existing markets with existing technologies

FINANCING

Long-term from own cash flow

Management Report 2004

Economic environment

As a result of the repeated sharp rise in the oil price and a slackening in the impetus provided by economic policies, the recovery in the global economy has slightly lost momentum since spring 2004. Nevertheless, global production again rose sharply and is expected to have achieved the highest growth rate for 4 years in 2004 as a whole. The sizable geo-economic momentum was also reflected in growth in world trade.

However, the type and extent of economic growth varied widely from region to region. While the USA reported a particularly pronounced rise in domestic demand, great internal momentum was accompanied by great external dynamism in China, which has become a center of global economic growth. Meanwhile, the economic recovery in the Euro zone, BWT's most important market, remained subdued. It was influenced by demand from abroad in particular.

In the course of the first six months, foreign trade contributed about half the increase in overall production. However, exports weakened after the middle of the year as global economic activity slowed. Over the year, domestic demand only increased very slowly, being depressed primarily by the high oil price. The lack of domestic momentum is an indication of fundamental structural problems, particularly in the large member states where there is no sign of any fundamental improvement. The deflationary impact of the oil price is gradually moderating in line with forecasts, and exports to the rest of the world will again increase more rapidly than recently, further appreciation in the value of the Euro has led to a deterioration in competitiveness. Furthermore, the impact of the oil price plus the high Euro will depress short term growth.

However, exports should again increase appreciably in the medium term. This is supported primarily by the sustained expansion in economic activity in important importing countries, not least in the new EU member states. Despite the reduced international competitive position resulting from the appreciation in the currency and the trend to increasing capacity utilization, commercial investment will slowly recover given more favorable sales prospects abroad. This is due predominantly to pent-up demand that has accumulated there. By and large, the global economy is clearly on the up, albeit at a far slower pace than in 2004.

In 2004, the Austrian economy grew by 1.9% thanks to strong export growth. In 2005, growth may well stand at a pleasing 2.4%, thanks largely to the second phase of tax reform. In 2006, a slight economic recovery in the Euro zone is expected. Major uncertainties remain regarding movements in the Euro's exchange rate; a further rise could slow down economic recovery more significantly. Growth in exports will be restricted by the strength of the Euro and a slowdown in global trade in 2005.

The increase in inflation linked to high prices for crude oil will reduce purchasing power somewhat. However, the second phase of tax reform will ease the burden on companies and is also expected to increase employee net incomes by 1.2% in real terms in 2005. Economic growth should be higher than in the Euro zone in 2005. In 2006, the deficit should, as assumed in the Stability Program, fall to around 1.8%. The anticipated economic recovery and the expiry of the investment allowance should have a positive impact on national finances, but on the other hand the tax reform will lead to a drop in income and corporation tax.

GDP real +/- % change on previous year	2003	2004	2005e
EU (15)	0.9	2.3	2.2
EU (25)	1.0	2.5	2.3
Austria	0.8	1.9	2.4
Germany	-0.1	1.9	1.5
Switzerland	-0.5	1.8	2.3

Source: EU Commission, Eurostat, OECD.

Consumer prices +/- % change on previous year	2003	2004	2005e
EU (15)	2.0	2.0	1.9
EU (25)	1.9	2.2	2.1
Austria	1.3	2.1	1.8
Germany	1.0	1.7	1.3
Switzerland	0.6	0.2	0.6

Source: EU Commission, Eurostat, OECD.

Unemployment %	2003	2004	2005e
EU (15)	8.1	8.1	8.1
EU (25)	9.1	9.1	9.1
Austria	4.3	4.2	3.9
Germany	9.6	9.7	10.0
Switzerland	4.0	3.8	3.4

Source: EU Commission, Eurostat, OECD.

Rapid growth of global water treatment market

Industry environment

Water treatment is one of the most important growth markets of the 21st century. The global market for water and waste water treatment is continuing to grow rapidly. Currently, the greatest investment and the most rapid growth is taking place in China and the countries of South East Asia, where both the required quantity and quality of water are completely unable to keep pace with the speed of economic growth.

The true extent of the geo-economic significance of this sector is only gradually being recognized. Since sources of natural fresh water are limited and at the same time water consumption is increasing rapidly worldwide, use of water treatment technology to produce high-quality drinking water and process water is becoming increasingly important. As a result, global demand for water treatment technology is growing correspondingly rapidly at 5% p.a. on average - in China even at 12%.

One driving force for the development of the water treatment sector is the regulatory environment. The World Health Organization (WHO) is responsible for formulating the parameters for the quality of drinking water, which must be implemented in European and national law. The most important legislation in this sector includes the European Drinking Water Directive and the Urban Waste Water Directive (UWWWD).

Drivers for growth: increasing world population and industrialization

The key global growth drivers include worldwide industrialization, the rising world population and the resulting increase in demand for food and drinking water, urbanization and associated water problems such as bacteria and pollution from pesticides and nitrates and the increasing accumulation of antibiotics and hormones in surface water in industrialized countries.

Against the background of the escalating global water crisis – caused on the one hand by the aging public and industrial water infrastructure, which cannot cope with the rapid growth in the world's population and the related challenges, and on the other hand by changes to the statutory framework, including more stringent environmental requirements – massive investment will be required worldwide.

At the same time, this situation is creating attractive new markets. Multinational corporations, in particular, recognize the enormous opportunities for growth and are increasing their activities in water treatment. In addition, there are also a large number of private strategic investors, who also want to secure a firm place in the future market of the 21st century – water.

Industry consolidation continues at rapid pace

The momentum of the consolidation process in the water treatment industry has therefore continued unabated in the past financial year. In 2004, the most significant takeovers included the acquisition of Wicor Industries by Pentair, the takeover of US Filter by Siemens, as well as the acquisition of Ionics by GE. Following these major corporate takeovers, the industry expects that the consolidation trend will continue at the same speed in 2005.

Attractive growth perspectives

The BWT Group's most important growth markets in geographical terms include the core European countries, the new EU member countries in Central Europe, and the rapidly expanding countries in South East Asia.

In Europe, above all, the building installation market promises interesting prospects – partly due to the new legal framework such as the EU Drinking Water Directive (DWD). In addition, awareness of drinking water quality is increasing among the population. Drinking water and process water hygiene, supported by the continuing security and health trend, offers additional growth potential.

Ever since its foundation in 1990, the Best Water Technology Group has taken on responsibility to develop, produce and market technical solutions for securing the supply of water as our planet's most essential resource and means of production on a sustained basis. In so doing, it focuses on economically and ecologically optimized products and processes which reduce or even avoid the use of chemicals. The prime goal of the BWT R & D team is resource efficient treatment technologies which conserve water and energy.

The Best Water Technology Group with its three business segments Aqua Ecolife Technologies, Aqua Systems Technologies and Fuel Cell Membrane Technologies has set itself the goal of fully capitalizing on global market opportunities while making a significant contribution to the resource conserving use of our most important element, H₂O, and a sustainable development of our planet.

Consolidated Group sales:
€ 488.1 million,
+17.3% on previous year

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT 2004

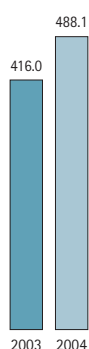
In 2004, the BWT Group increased its consolidated sales from € 416.0 million by +17.3% to a total of € 488.1 million, which is a record in BWT's corporate history. All business segments contributed to this pleasing increase, which is well above the growth in the market, thus confirming BWT's role as market leader, particularly in Europe.

In the Aqua Ecolife Technologies segment, which was responsible for 64% of Group sales in the past financial year, sales rose by +14.2% from € 273.3 million to € 312.1 million.

Following a weak year in 2003, the Aqua Systems Technologies segment generated sales growth of 22% to € 173.2 million and affirmed its good position in a market marked by consolidation.

Sales in the Fuel Cell Membrane Technologies segment - where BWT's subsidiary FUMATECH develops and distributes high-performance membranes for use in fuel cells - almost quadrupled through the supply of specialized membrane plants from € 0.7 to € 2.8 million.

Total consolidated sales (in € million)

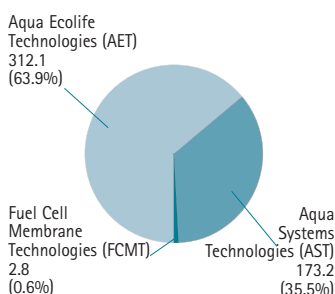


Sales* in € million	2004	2003	+/- %
Aqua Ecolife Technologies (AET)	312.1	273.3	+14.2%
Aqua Systems Technologies (AST)	173.2	142.0	+22.0%
Fuel Cell Membrane Technologies (FCMT)	2.8	0.7	+287.0%
Total	488.1	416.0	+17.3%

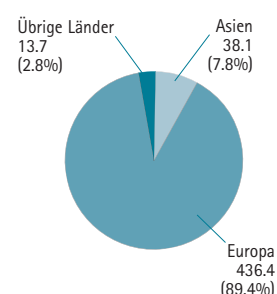
*Excluding intra-group sales

Europe is BWT's core market: in 2004, 89.4% of Group sales were generated in Europe (2003: 89.8%). BWT sees particular potential in the Asian markets where the Group realized 7.8% (2003: 7.1%) of its sales in 2004. The share attributable to other countries fell from 3.1% to 2.8%.

Sales 2004 by business segment (in € million)



Sales 2004 by region (in € million)



AET once again outperforms market development

The AET segment performed very positively with organic growth of 7.1%. Given that markets in Western Europe were affected by the economic slowdown, this is particularly remarkable. As a result, BWT has again outperformed the general market growth of approximately 5%. The increase in total sales in the AET segment was also due to the consolidation of the Scandinavian company HOH Water Technology, which was included in the consolidated financial statements for the first time as of July 1, 2003. This resulted in an acquisition-based increase in sales of 7.1%. BWT companies increased their sales in every country: by 7% in Austria, by 5% in Germany, by 7% in Scandinavia and by as much as 12% in France and Belgium. Growth in Southern Europe remained below average at 3% and in Eastern Europe at 4%. Service business rose by 23% and now constitutes 19% of AET sales.

AST significantly increases output

The AST segment, which was adversely affected by the postponement of investments in the semiconductor industry in 2003, again increased output significantly in the past financial year. Total sales amounted to € 173.2 million, which equates to a surge in sales of 22%. Organic growth stood at more than 18% with some 4 percentage points being attributable to acquisitions. 74% of AST sales were generated in Europe, 21% in Asia and 5% in the rest of the world.

The pharmaceutical and life science business segment achieved growth of 24% and at € 39 million represents 23% of sales, in the AST segment. The ultra-pure water segment, which encompasses activities in microelectronics, power plants and the treatment of industrial waste water, achieved sales of € 68 million thanks to major orders from the semiconductor industry, an increase of 45% on 2003. At € 25 million, sales to in the food and beverage industry, which is responsible for 14% of AST sales, were down on the previous year for accounting-related reasons. Sales to municipalities recorded a slight increase of 4% to € 16 million, and substantial incoming orders at the end of the financial year will provide for further growth in 2005. As in the AET segment, the service and spare parts business has posted above average growth: € 25 million or 15% of AST sales, which equates to an increase on 2003 of 31%.

The Group holding BWT AG achieved sales (under Austrian accounting rules) of € 55.0 million, a 2% increase year-on-year (€ 53.9 million).

Order intake 2004: € 507 million, +26.1% y.o.y.

For the first time in the company's history, the BWT Group received new orders totalling more than € 500 million in one financial year. At € 507 million, the previous year's figure of € 402.1 million was exceeded by 26.1%. While order intake rose by 10.1% in the AET segment, growth in the AST segment amounted to almost 63% to € 192 million.

Order book level as at December 31: € 123.7 million, +18.0% y.o.y.

The outstanding level of order intake allowed the order book level to rise to € 123.7 million as at 31 December 2004, compared with € 104.8 million at the end of 2003, which is an increase of 18% year-on-year. In the AET segment, the order book level was down on the previous year at € 35.9 million, while the order book level in the AST segment rose from € 69 million to € 88 million (+27%) compared with the previous year.

Marked improvement in earnings:
EBITDA € 37.8 million,
+35.0% y.o.y.

EBIT € 24.6 million,
+80.7% y.o.y.

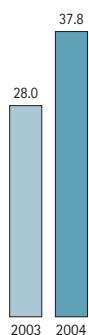
**Consolidated earnings less
 minority interests €16.8 million,**
+119.2% y.o.y.

The sharp rise in sales in all segments combined with effective cost management resulted in a surge in earnings in 2004. BWT Group EBITDA rose by 35% to € 37.8 million. At € 24.6 million, results from operating activities (EBIT) were 80.7% up on the previous year (€ 13.6 million), and consolidated earnings less minority interests even rose by 119.2% to € 16.8 million.

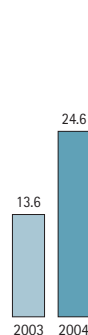
EBIT development by segment was as follows:

EBIT in € million	2004	2003	+/- %
Aqua Ecolife Technologies (AET)	30.8	25.0	+23.2%
Aqua Systems Technologies (AST)	-5.5	-10.2	+46.1%
Fuel Cell Membrane Technologies (FCMT)	-0.7	-1.3	+46.2%
Aqua Finance (AFI)	0.0	0.1	X
Total	24.6	13.6	+80.7%

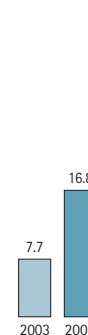
EBITDA
(in € million)



EBIT
(in € million)



Consolidated earnings
(in € million)



In the AET segment, EBIT rose by 23.2% from € 25.0 million to € 30.8 million, the EBIT margin consequently improved from 9.1% to 9.9% of sales. Increased sales in France, Germany and Austria as well as the successful turnaround in the HOH companies are mainly responsible for this gratifying growth in earnings.

In 2004, the AST segment was able to almost halve its operating loss thanks to the sharp increase in operating output. However, it failed to reach break-even - as had been planned - primarily due to a weak third quarter. Cost overruns and follow-up costs on ongoing and completed projects prevented a better result from industrial business, where the power plant segment, in particular, failed to meet expectations.

In the FCMT segment, the loss was cut from € 1.3 million to € 0.7 million. Intensive research on fuel cell membranes continued unabated. The improvement in results is due to the margin achieved in specialty membrane plants.

The cost of materials relative to sales, including inventory changes, increased within the BWT Group from 46.1% to 49.3%, due to strong growth in the AST segment.

Personnel costs rose by 9.3% compared with the previous year, with approximately half the increase being attributable to consolidating the HOH companies for the first time. In 2004, personnel costs were 29.1% of sales (previous year: 31.3%).

Write-downs fell by 8.5% from € 14.4 million to € 13.2 million. Amortization of goodwill in the Group amounted to € 3.1 million, as it did in 2003. The car fleet in Austria was switched from purchased vehicles to leased vehicles.

In 2004, other operating expenses increased from € 71.4 million to € 75.6 million with more than half the difference being attributable to the initial consolidation of HOH.

Financial result improved again by „Cash-Positiv-Program“

The financial result again saw very favorable development in 2004: the continuous reduction in financial liabilities as a result of the rigidly implemented BWT Cash-Positive Program led to interest savings of € 0.2 million. This was possible despite the partial switch from financing from Swiss francs to euro and a rise in interest rates in line with general market conditions. The average rate for external borrowing in the Group amounted to 3.02% at the reporting date compared with 2.71% in the previous year. At € 0.7 million, income from minority shareholders remained at the level of the previous year.

Record result in corporate history

Earnings before tax increased from € 11.4 million to € 22.6 million and were consequently 98.3% up on the previous year. The consolidated tax rate fell from 30.7% to 24.7%, which meant that the profit after tax more than doubled at € 17.0 million. The profit attributable to minority shareholders fell from € 214,000 to € 172,000.

Consolidated earnings were € 16.8 million in financial year 2004 and consequently achieved a record in the corporate history of the BWT Group. Earnings per share rose accordingly from € 0.43 in 2003 to € 0.94, while the number of shares remained unchanged at 17,833,500.

Dividend increased by 12.5% to 0.27 € per share

On the basis of the gratifying increase in earnings and in line with the dividend policy pursued over many years, the Management Board will propose a dividend increase of 12.5% on the previous year to € 0.27 per share at the 15th Annual General Meeting. This will mean a probable distribution of € 4,815,045 to shareholders, or 28.6% of consolidated earnings.

The Group holding BWT AG increased its operating result from € 6.2 million to € 6.6 million. The net profit fell from € 10.9 million to € 9.7 million because of lower income from investments and higher tax on earnings.

**€ 30.0 million cash flow from result,
+41.6% y.o.y.**

**€ 33.7 million cash flow from
operating activities,
+17.4% y.o.y.**

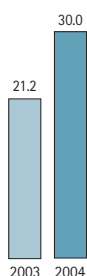
Gearing target reached at 54.4%

Financial position improved

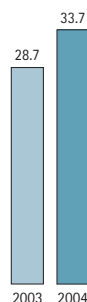
The improvement in earnings and working capital management is reflected in the assets position of both the BWT Group and the parent company BWT AG wider. Cash flow from result rose by 41.6% from € 21.2 million to € 30.0 million. Cash flow from operating activities again exceeded the previous year's figure of € 28.7 million by 17.4% to € 33.7 million, which is another record figure.

The strong cash flow enabled the BWT Group to reduce interest bearing liabilities once again in the past financial year 2004 while intensifying investment activities in comparison with the previous year (cash flow from investment was € -9.8 million compared with € -7.5 million in the previous year) and despite a dividend payment of € 4.3 million. As at December 31, 2004, net bank debt stood at € 74.7 million compared with € 78.3 million at the same point in the previous year. Gearing has therefore improved from 63.0% to 54.4%, which means the declared target of 55% was achieved. Group equity increased in 2004 by € 13.2 million to € 137.5 million, representing 36.7% of the balance sheet total (previous year: 35.3%). The balance sheet total rose by 6.5% to € 375.0 million.

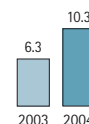
**Cash flow
from result
(in € million)**



**Cash flow from
operating activities
(in € million)**



**Investment
(in € million)**



The return on equity (ROE) increased from 9.2% to 17.3% and the return on capital employed (ROCE) doubled from 4.1% to 8.2%.

The parent company BWT AG increased its equity to € 81.9 million from € 76.6 million in the previous year. As at December 31, 2004, the equity ratio was therefore 57.4% of the balance sheet total (previous year: 54.6%). Bank liabilities were reduced from € 30.4 million to € 24.5 million.

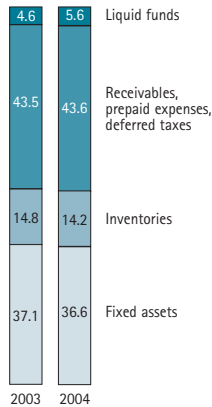
**€ 10.3 million investment in
intangible and tangible fixed assets,
+65% y.o.y.**

In the past financial year 2004, the BWT Group invested € 10.3 million in intangible and tangible fixed assets (without write-downs on goodwill), which meant that the previous year's investment total was exceeded by around 65%.

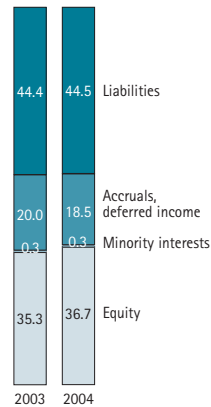
€ 6.3 million was invested in the Aqua Ecolife Technologies business segment, € 3.6 million in the AST segment and € 0.4 million in the FCMT segment. Investment mainly related to the Group's IT hardware and software equipment, and to replacements and modernization purchases in production and logistics.

Balance sheet structure

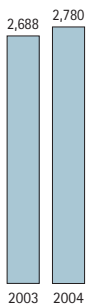
Assets (in %)



Liabilities (in %)



Personnel as at December 31: 2,780 people (previous year 2,688)

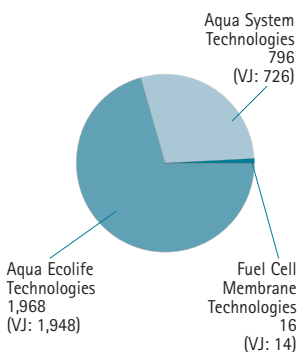


Personnel within the BWT Group increased to 2,780 people as at December 31, 2004 and were consequently 92 people up on the same point in the previous year. The expansion in operations in Asia with new subsidiaries in Taiwan and China, as well as acquisitions in Ireland and South Africa account for the majority of the increase.

The Aqua Ecolife Technologies segment employed a total of 1,968 people (previous year: 1,948) as at December 31, 2004, the increase related mainly to France and Eastern Europe, while 20 staff were made redundant at HOH as part of its reorganization. In the Aqua Systems Technologies segment, 796 people (previous year: 726) were employed, the increase is due to the new subsidiaries mentioned above. In the Fuel Cell Membrane Technologies segment, the number of persons employed was increased by 2.

In BWT AG, 304 people (previous year: 295) were employed as at the balance sheet date.

Personnel 2004 by business segments



The Management Board of BWT AG wishes to thank the highly committed BWT team for its extraordinary contribution to the successful ongoing development of the Best Water Technology Group in the future market of the 21st century: water treatment.

Research and Development

New, innovative water treatment technologies and continuous improvement of products and processes reflect BWT's Growth through Innovation strategy. The Best Water Technology product range demonstrates the Group's status as the leading innovator among the world's water treatment companies.

The BWT Group's commitment to research and development has been continuously intensified for a number of years. At its research facilities in France, Germany, Austria and Switzerland, the Group works hard at extending its market leadership through fundamental research and the development of new products and procedures as well as the enhancement of existing ones. Resource-preserving products and processes in line with the optimization of economic efficiency and ecology are the basis for market leadership and sustained growth.

We should like to cite certain developments of particular relevance in the 2004 financial year as examples:

- **The refill of an environmentally friendly replacement cartridge in a modern design**

In financial year 2004, the focus was on optimizing the lime scale protection series AQA total, which was launched in 1997. The product family was extended with the development of the type 4500 system. The AQA total replacement cartridge was redesigned for the entire series. The aim here was to make replacement simple and convenient. The new design focused on aspects of environmental protection, particularly reducing the cost of materials and transport. In the new AQA total, only the active unit and not the entire cartridge are replaced. At the same time, a distinctive, modern design was completed for the AQA total product series 1500 – 14000.

- **Continuous disinfection of drinking water**

In financial year 2004, activity was also focused on enhancing products and technologies to secure the quality of drinking water in buildings. The market launch of the chlorine dioxide production system REAXAN, which is used to disinfect drinking water continuously, took place in 2004. Chlorine dioxide is produced on site using the acid chlorite process and added to the drinking water in proportion to the volume flow rate. This system is particularly useful in killing Legionella bacteria and other pathogenic bacteria in buildings. The use of chlorine dioxide compared with sodium hypochlorite offers the advantage of better dissolution of biofilm, bacteria's actual habitat, the production of substances that have less impact on aroma and taste and are more effective in a wider pH range.

- **Continuous disinfection of cooling tower water**

The microbiological quality of cooling tower water is normally secured by the addition of biocides. In so doing, the biocides are administered in highly concentrated form and largely discharged using aerosols in the area around cooling towers where people breathe them in. Apart from exposing the air people inhale to biocides, their use cannot prevent the growth of biofilm on the cooling tower walls and fixtures, thus producing an optimal habitat for Legionella bacteria. This is why the BWT Coolzon process has been developed. In this process a cooling water component current is continuously filtered and subsequently ozonized. Because of its high oxidation potential, ozone breaks down biofilm and prevents bacteria, in particular, Legionella in cooling towers, from multiplying. The quantity of ozone added is measured continuously and adjusted to a preset target. Coolzon is an environmentally friendly process to disinfect cooling tower water without using chemicals.

- **Electrodeionization module SM 3000 to produce the purest water**

In 2004, the Septron range of electrodeionization modules was extended upwards with the development of the Septron SM 3000. The development of the module was initially envisaged for the Pharma business unit but – following a successful launch – enhancement of the SM 3000 series was concentrated on deployment in the Semicon business unit. Because of the high volume flows in the equipment, use of the module in the semiconductor industry requires a hydrodynamically optimized construction and a low specific energy charge (kWh/m³) while complying with stringent specifications for water quality.

The result is a module with a nominal output of 3 m³/h and an electrical energy requirement of 0.3 KWh/m³. The SM 3000 also meets the standards of purity for the water produced. In the semiconductor industry the values are geared to the detection limits of analytical appliances. For example, with ionic components, they are of the order of lower ppt (parts per trillion) and lower ppb (parts per billion) for organic impurities (TOC). The requirement for the hot water sanitation of the module was also successfully implemented. An application for a patent has also been submitted to protect this innovation.

- **WFI water with Vapotron and Multitron**

Vapotron and Multitron are systems for generating extremely pure steam, which is used in particular to manufacture WFI water. With the development of these systems, Christ is now in a position to complete WFI turnkey projects. The systems meet all the requirements of cGMP. They are distinguished primarily by very low energy consumption and can be operated with both hot steam and with electrical energy.

- **Fuel cells**

In 2004, applications were submitted for very important patents relating to the area of application of high temperature fuel cells operating at up to 160°C without water, which will allow chemical patent protection for a new connection class.

New membranes, which are now available as standard types, based on inorganic/organic nano-particles in multi-matrix technology that are distinguished by how little water and methanol they transport even with thin membranes are available in the area of application of direct methanol fuel cells for portable applications with low output.

To manufacture inorganic/organic multi-matrix membranes, proton conducting nano-particles with an extremely large surface and exceptional proton exchange capacity were developed in long and intensive collaboration with universities. These nano-particles can be adjusted to the requirements of various operating conditions by molecular structuring in terms of size, shape and surface and can be processed for the patent-protected mixed-matrix membranes. Cost-effective inorganic proton conductors were also developed and patented, which are excellent in a water-free environment due to a high proton exchange capacity, and therefore fully meet the requirements of a medium temperature fuel cell.

In 2004, an EU research project lasting several years to develop and test a non-fluoric hybrid membrane for operating at high temperatures was successfully concluded with a prototype.

With its future-oriented research and development work, BWT is continuing to set new standards for the global water market and is making a significant contribution to human health with its water treatment technologies, offering clean, safe water quality, in line with the motto:

BWT Water Technologies for a Better Life.

Risk management

In order to keep risks from interest rate changes and exchange rate changes to a minimum, interest and foreign currency management is organized across the Group using modern software and constantly monitored by the central treasury. All financial instruments used relate to the current operating business of the Group. In particular, there are currency hedges for expected foreign currency inflows and currency payments in USD and GBP, and an interest rate swap to reduce the interest charge for the bond issued in 1999. Thus, an interest rate of 2.5% p.a. was hedged at Euribor + 50 basis points for this bond from 2005 onwards. Furthermore, to hedge a variable interest rate basis financing for 5 million, an interest rate cap was used at Euribor 2.25% p.a. with a maturity in April 2006.

The ongoing monitoring of financial risk takes place via Group Controlling in which economic success and deviations from multi-level targeted goals are measured on a regular basis according to standard criteria.

The project to introduce a Group-wide risk management, which also comprises comprehensive analysis of operating and default risk that was started last financial year, was continued consistently. Material risks are covered by standard insurance. The Management Board currently is not aware of any risks that could threaten the continued existence of the company.

Outlook

The rapid international increase in awareness of the value of water as a resource, as well as the increasing health consciousness linked to rising life expectancy offers BWT excellent growth perspectives in the long term. The development of the water market will increasingly become independent of cyclical economic movements. On the basis of the excellent order situation, good market prospects and the launch of new, innovative products, the BWT Management Board expects a further increase in sales and earnings for the financial year 2005. Consolidated sales should exceed € 500 million, and consolidated earnings rise to over € 20 million for the first time in the company's history. A further reduction in the gearing is an important goal for the BWT management.

The Aqua Ecolife Technologies business segment will also measure up to its market leadership in 2005. New trendsetting water treatment systems should stimulate new growth for BWT and the market. The focus on security, hygiene and health, as well as new partnerships with installation companies will boost BWT's sales still further.

The aim in the Aqua Systems Technologies segment is to achieve a clearly positive operating profit in 2005. In this connection, sales quality overrides sales quantity. The organization into divisions with clear responsibilities for pharma & life sciences, micro-electronics and power, food & beverage, and municipalities, which was completed at the end of 2004 should allow the Group to better capitalize on its strengths, and at the same time, allow us to react rapidly to market changes in the coming years.

Excellent
growth perspectives



AQUA ECOLIFE TECHNOLOGIES
AET2004

Aqua Ecolife Technologies (AET)

Products, markets, strategy

The paramount goal of the BWT Best Water Technology Group is to respond to the growing awareness of health issues as well as the increasing demand for a better quality of life, while simultaneously fulfilling optimal ecological criteria and offering its customers groundbreaking, environmentally friendly products and technologies for safe, clean and healthy water.



The **Aqua Ecolife Technologies** segment supplies products and systems for the treatment of drinking water, process water, boiler water, cooling and air-conditioning system water for individual homes and apartment buildings, housing developments, hotels, hospitals, sports facilities, homes for the elderly, municipalities, as well as industry and commerce.

BWT's R & D departments are working with tremendous commitment on the development of innovative products and concepts, and today are setting new technology standards worldwide. To secure and improve the quality of water, BWT offers protective filters, water softeners, protection against limescale and corrosion, mineral aggregate dosing systems, nitrate reduction devices, disinfection plants, as well as membrane technology.

The BWT Group is the market leader in Europe with a market share of over 30%.

Innovative technologies for safety, hygiene and health

Consumers' growing need for safety and improved quality of life is also reflected in the increasing demands relating to the quality of drinking water. Safety, hygiene and health are the key factors in AET activities, from fundamental research to sales and after-sales service.

The ever more stringent regulatory requirements - such as the new EU Drinking Water Directive (DWD) - also create new market opportunities. In addition, constantly improved methods of analysis provide for more rapid growth.

A focal point of activities in the financial year 2004 therefore remained the further development of products and technologies to ensure drinking water quality. BWT launched innovative products and systems, which prevent pathogen bacteria - by protecting water installations against limescale and corrosion deposits where harmful bacteria can flourish.

Hygiene in drinking water systems cannot be achieved through a standard solution. Each water system is unique in its way; the causes of contamination can be manifold. Because of its comprehensive expertise in water, BWT is able to provide customized solutions and support for systems and operators for the different problems - from prophylaxis (= protection against limescale and corrosion) to the destruction and removal of bacteria.

BWT has therefore developed a 3-phase hygiene management concept for water hygiene in buildings. Protection against particles, limescale, and corrosion are essential to prevent water installations from Legionella bacteria. To restore water hygiene and to disinfect cold and warm water systems continuously, BWT offers the Reaxan process, where chlorine dioxide offers effective long-term protection. BWT's B-SAFE filter is used to protect against Legionella bacteria at point of use.

The chemical free PairOx process was developed specially for air-conditioning systems. The Coolzon process was developed specially to destroy bacteria in cooling water using ozone. The system can also be equipped with an optional chlorine dioxide unit (Coolzon plus) to improve its long-term effectiveness. The biocides that are normally used to destroy bacteria no longer have to be used.

Launch of AQA total Energy with innovative 3-in-1 technology

With the development of the new AQA total Energy and its unique 3-in-1 technology, BWT is now able to offer, for the very first time, three phases of water treatment in one single device. While previously there were separate solutions for protection against limescale and corrosion, the innovative 3-in-1 technology not only provides improved protection against both limescale and corrosion, but by adding magnesium and activated oxygen, the quality of the drinking water is being further enhanced.

A further innovation: in contrast to other devices available on the market where the central active unit cannot be changed (cartridge change) - a circumstance that is highly critical from a hygiene viewpoint in particular - BWT prescribes the regular exchange of cartridges. With the new refill, the cartridge exchange is simple, safe and convenient. The design of the AQA total energy system has also been recreated.

High international standing

With its well-known brand names such as BWT, Cillit, Permo or HOH, BWT follows a successful multi-brand strategy. However, different designs have one thing in common: the innovative power of the market leader BWT offering the highest level of quality. A lot of attention is given to the regional needs of our various international markets.

The BWT marketing allowed strategy, together with a series of economic and ecological product advantages, has allowed BWT to continually expand its market shares in most regions in the AET segment despite sometimes very difficult economic conditions. The extensive product program, unique technologies and strong brands are the mainstays for the continued expansion of BWT's market presence. There is high growth potential in Europe, especially in the EU accession countries, as well as in Asia and in the US.

Best service quality guarantees long-term customer loyalty

Aqua Service offers efficient and competent services relating to all fields of water treatment with a broad-based network all across Europe. Only optimum service secures long-term retention of value and the reliable operation of a modern water treatment system. This applies to individual customers, as well as to hotels, industry and municipalities. The range of services of "Aqua Service" is being further optimized and expanded to meet the requirements of our customers on an ongoing basis.



Success with strategic market partners sanitary wholesale and expert plumbers

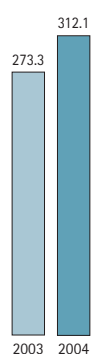
The BWT sales organization relies on close partnerships with its strategically important market partners sanitary wholesale and plumbers because we are convinced that the valuable resource water is only a market for experts. In future, consumer interest will focus increasingly on water hygiene, and plumbers will have to extend their expertise in this field.

With BWT's comprehensive market support with regard to product range, training, and sales promotions, any forward looking plumber has the opportunity to position and distinguish himself locally as a BWT water expert. Health protection for consumers, on which the EU Drinking Water Directive is based, provides the statutory basis for this.

RESULT

Sales in the entire Aqua Ecolife Technologies segment rose by 14.2% to € 312.1 million, with 7.1% being attributable to organic growth. BWT has again outperformed the general market growth by some 5%. BWT companies increased sales in all Western European countries. Growth in Southern Europe and in Eastern Europe remained below average. Service business rose by 23% and now amounts to 19% of AET sales.

EBIT rose by 23.2% to € 30.8 million. Increased sales in France, Germany and Austria as well as the successful turnaround of the HOH companies are the key drivers for the pleasing improvement in results. In the AET segment, € 6.3 million were invested in tangible assets, and the number of employees amounted to 1,968 in total as at December 31, 2004 (previous year: 1,948).

Sales
(in € million)EBIT
(in € million)

AET key figures in € million	2004	2003
External sales	312.1	273.3
Internal sales	3.5	2.6
Total sales	315.6	275.9
EBITDA	39.7	34.0
Depreciation	8.9	9.0
Operating Profit (EBIT)	30.9	25.0
Assets	224.2	211.3
External funds	163.4	165.8
Investments in intangible and tangible assets	6.3	4.6
Employees	1,968	1,948

OUTLOOK

The Aqua Ecolife Technologies segment is expected to remain a growth market. This optimism is underpinned by the consistent implementation of the BWT hygiene concept, which has already been reflected positively in the sales figures for BWT's standard products for protection against limescale and corrosion. The market launch of the new AQA total Energy system with its innovative 3-in-1 technology should offer the BWT Group significant new opportunities for growth.



AQUA SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGIES
AST2004

Aqua Systems Technologies (AST)

Products, markets, strategy

The **Aqua Systems Technologies** business segment (the Christ Water Technology Group) is engaged in the development, planning, construction and service of water technology

products and systems for industry and municipalities. The companies of the Christ Group offer customized, economically and ecologically optimized water treatment systems based on modular components which are increasingly also being operated and serviced.

Today, the Christ Water Technology Group is the clear market leader in industrial water treatment in Europe and already holds excellent market positions on the global market, particularly the growth markets in Asia.



The leading position of Christ Water Technology was recently affirmed by the "2004 Market Penetration Leadership Award" awarded by the renowned international market research institute Frost & Sullivan.

Organization of the AST segment

During the 2004 financial year, the legal and organizational structures of the companies within the AST segment were realigned with a focus on the business areas pharmaceuticals & life science, food & beverage, ultra-pure water (semiconductors, energy and industrial process water) as well as municipal drinking water and waste water. With this new organization, which is optimized for the defined target sectors, we have created the basis for sustained, dynamic international growth.

In October, this new focus led to the establishment of the new company Christ Ultrapure Water AG, which is responsible for global activities in the field of semiconductors, energy and industrial process water. Since December 2004, the former Christ AG is responsible for international pharmaceuticals and biotechnology business as Christ Pharma & Life Science.

PHARMA & LIFE SCIENCE

The pharmaceuticals & life science segment performed very well in 2004, increasing sales by 24%. The product range was expanded to include newly developed innovative multi-effect distillation equipment and pure steam generators as well as sterilization equipment to decontaminate waste water, which are marketed under the brands MULTITRON and VAPOTRON. The first orders were placed with major pharmaceutical customers.

With the closure of the plant in Kreuztal (Germany) at the end of 2004, production of pharmaceutical systems in Europe was concentrated in the state-of-the-art facility in Basel/Aesch (Switzerland).

With the purchase of a 74% stake in a well-established pharmaceutical water treatment company in Ireland, the market position in Ireland was expanded further. Ireland is regarded as one of the most important locations in Europe for pharmaceuticals and biotechnology groups.

Sales of pharmaceutical water treatment equipment in the US developed successfully with the help of a new holding in Connecticut. Thanks to local manufacturing using expertise and components from Switzerland, we were able to offset the unfavorable effect of the Euro-Dollar exchange rate. This also applies to Asia, where the Group has established joint ventures in China and India to manufacture systems locally. Thanks to the transfer of professional know-how, the first products have been produced and marketed successfully on the local markets.

ULTRAPURE

Semiconductor industry

Semiconductor business has more than doubled compared with 2003. In Europe, margins have improved slightly compared with previous years because of cost savings. Competition on the Asian market remains intense. The policy of increasing the proportion of local procurement and engineering will also allow us to improve margins significantly here. It should be stressed generally that major semiconductor and flat panel display investment takes place in Asia. Activities have reduced significantly in Europe and the USA, while the AST segment has significantly built up its position in Asia at the right time.

Power and petrochemicals

Sales fell by almost 39% compared with the previous year, in fact by more than 60% compared with budget. This meant that 2004 was the Group's worst financial year in this sector for a long time. Investment in the power market was very low in Europe and characterized by project suspensions on international markets.

Industrial process water and waste water

Sales remained practically at the previous year's level. Margins remain unsatisfactory. Generally, there is scarcely any investment in the industrial waste water sector in difficult economic times. Above all, this division's technology portfolio is of long-term significance for important sectors such as the galvanic sector and the electronics sector.

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Sales were 14% down on the previous year, however, growth was satisfactory overall. The product portfolio was expanded with further components such as evaporation systems, cutting and washing machines so that complete processing lines can now be offered, which are resulting in increasingly successful sales, not least due to the expansion of process know-how in this area. The AQAMOL division, which offers water treatment for the food and beverage sector was integrated further within the traditional product range. In comparison with the direct competition in the core competence area of syrup/ready made drinks production processes, this has significantly improved the competitive position. The AST Group is therefore well en route to positioning itself as a complete provider for turnkey projects "from source to the finished drink" under the "Van der Molen" brand. The food & beverage market is characterized by global growth.

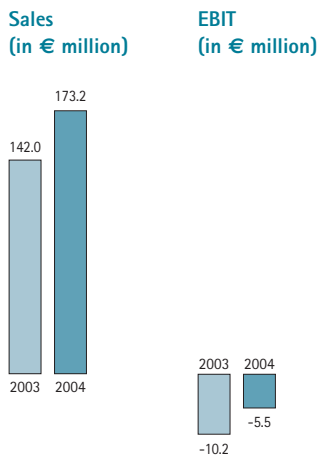
MUNICIPAL WATER TREATMENT

Sales were some 4% up on the previous year. With the acquisition of a holding in a company in South Africa and the establishment of a new branch in Hungary, this division has positioned itself well in new, attractive markets. With its flagship Aqua Engineering, the AST Group is developing major seawater desalination plants, drinking water treatment plants from surface water, and waste water treatment plants.

RESULT

In the AST segment, total sales amounted to € 173.2 million, which equates to a surge in sales of 22%. Organic growth stood at more than 18% with some 4 percentage points being attributable to acquisitions. 74% of AST sales were generated in Europe, 21% in Asia and 5% in the rest of the world.

The AST result was negative with an EBIT of € -5.5 million. Cost overruns and follow up costs for ongoing and completed semicon projects as well as canceled projects in the pro-cyclical power sector made a positive result impossible. Group internationalization was continued at a dynamic pace, in particular in the pharma & life science division to increase the degree of local involvement and consequently to earn better margins. A total of € 3.6 million was invested in the Aqua Systems Technologies business segment in 2004. A total of 796 (previous year: 726) employees were employed in this segment.



AST key figures in € million	2004	2003
External sales	173.2	142.0
Internal sales	5.1	3.1
Total sales	173.2	145.1
EBITDA	-1.6	-5.3
Depreciation	4.0	4.9
Operating Profit (EBIT)	-5.5	-10.2
Assets	174.1	158.3
External funds	103.5	84.3
Investments in intangible and tangible assets	3.6	1.5
Employees	796	726

OUTLOOK

We assume that the new optimal Group structure and the measures taken for further expansion and internationalization will make the AST Group profitable in 2005.

The **Ultrapure division** consists of the semiconductor market, power and petrochemicals as well as industrial process and waste water. With the Christ brand, the AST Group is already excellently positioned in the semiconductor sector in Asia and has therefore become much more competitive. Generally, we again expect good order intake. In particular, we expect a great deal of success from our SEPTRON EDI technology, which should increasingly emerge as the world's best EDI technology. Our solid market share in Europe should be followed by an expansion of our market share in Asia.

In the **pharmaceuticals & life science division** we shall further expand our market leadership with new product lines (turnkey solutions, waste water treatment) and with ground-breaking innovations. We are also considering the acquisition of local companies in this sector. The market is generally a growth market so that we expect significantly higher order intake.

Continuous growth can also be assumed in the **food & beverage division**. Offering one-stop total solutions (from raw materials to ready-for-sale products) should give us clear competitive advantages.

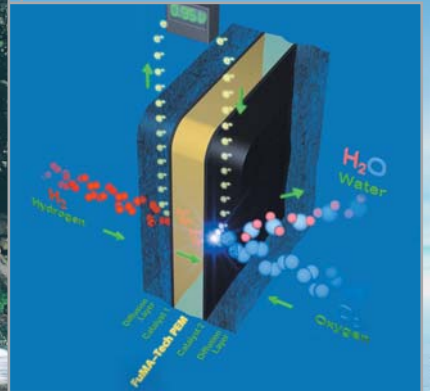
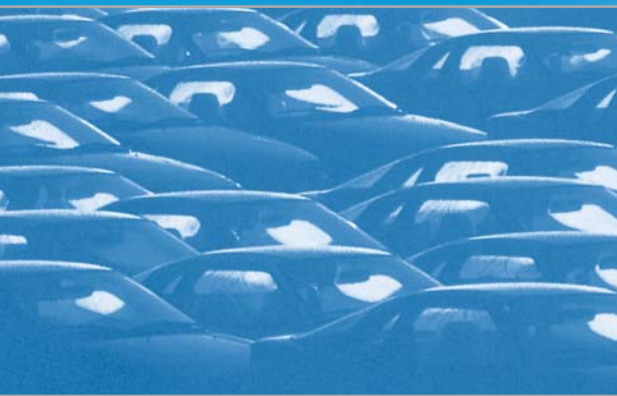
In the **power sector** investment activities in Europe did not yet occur to the anticipated extent in 2004. No new power stations were constructed because of the very slow economic growth. Existing facilities are being operated to maximum capacity, new power stations are subject to long-winded approval procedures. However, we are convinced that this market will recover sharply since new power stations are urgently needed worldwide. At an international level, in particular, Christ has positioned itself as a very strong partner for the treatment of condensates and surface water.

In the **industrial process and waste water sector**, we have made the necessary capacity adjustments. Overall, the demand for water and material recycling systems should be growing significantly.



The **municipal market** is also a growth market. Demand for drinking water systems is increasing in line with the growing world population. Aqua Engineering has an excellent position in markets such as South Africa, China, and the Middle East.

As a result, AST will deliver a positive result in 2005. The management is striving to achieve an EBIT margin of more than 5% in the medium term through further globalization and associated localization, as well as the expansion of service and operator business.

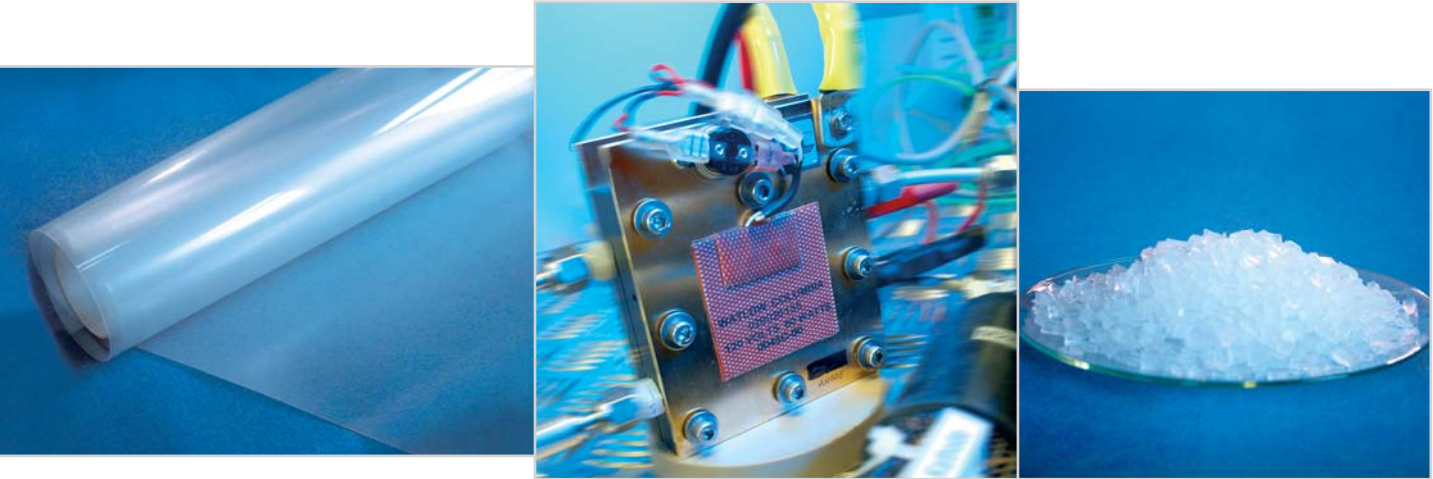


FUEL CELL MEMBRANE
TECHNOLOGIES
FCMT2004

Fuel Cell Membrane Technologies (FCMT)

Products, markets, strategy

With its FUMATECH subsidiary, BWT has established itself on the future fuel cell market as a supplier of innovative fumion® polymers and fumapem® polymer membranes as central components of a membrane electrode unit, the heart of the fuel cell.



FUMATECH offers its products, services and consultancy to all manufacturers of membrane electrode units (MEA). As a result, established MEA manufacturers are the first target as a potential client base. However, it is becoming clear that because of the complex manufacturing processes resulting from miniaturization, there is also an increase in demand for uncoated membranes and polymers contrary to the usual use of membrane electrode units from manufacturers of portable fuel cells. In addition, it is becoming apparent that car manufacturers will assume the production of fuel cell modules themselves.

To achieve the reduction in costs required, the number of individual components in the module is being reduced and current development focuses on investigating integrated components with greater functionality. In the longer term, this is expected to produce greater demand for uncoated membranes and consequently an additional market for fumion® polymers and fumapem® membranes for use in cars. This strategic focus allows us to merge the strengths of innovative development and a large number of patents with production experience and a clear marketing focus at minimal risk.

High-performance membranes for all areas of application

FUMATECH has transferred the necessary product experience from the manufacture of conventional ion exchange membranes to fuel cell technology and is now able to offer excellent fluoric membranes (the fumapem® series) and non-fluoric membranes in rolls (fumapem® P series). Today, these high performance membranes are used in both reformat/air fuel cells and hydrogen/air fuel cells, as well as in direct methanol fuel cells.

A large number of companies now develop and manufacture proton exchange membranes. Together with FUMATECH these companies produce perfluorinated polymers, partially fluorinated polymers, doped heterocyclic polymers, poly-aromatic polymers and ceramic materials for the manufacture of membrane electrode units.

In so doing FUMATECH can look back on experience and patents in all the fields mentioned. However, the company's expertise and its patent protection for the manufacture of inorganic/organic multi-matrix membranes should be mentioned as major distinguishing feature. For the first time, these membranes separate electro-chemical and mechanical requirements thanks to different components in the membrane structure.

Membrane fuel cell components are classified by operational area and area of use. FUMATECH supplies fluoric and non-fluoric polymer membranes for low temperature fuel cells used at low moisturization and at temperatures of up to 85°C (type 1). These membranes are predominantly used for small portable applications.

FUMATECH provides the familiar inorganic/organic hybrid membrane (type 2) for use with medium temperature fuel cells in operation at temperatures up to 125°C, usually without external wetting. These membranes are predominantly intended for use in both stationary and mobile applications and for the on-board supply in an APU (auxiliary power unit). FUMATECH has comprehensively safeguarded this area of application in particular using patents.

The current development work on dry proton conductors (type 3) will continue in another area of application, namely high temperature fuel cells in operation at up to 160°C without water. In 2004, applications were submitted for very important patents relating to this area of application, which will allow chemical patent protection for a new connection class.

Finally, the direct methanol fuel cell for portable small applications is also of particular importance (type 4). The influence of both the membrane and the catalyst charging are crucial in determining the power density of a cell. The new membranes and the now standard membranes using inorganic/organic non-particles in multi-matrix technology are distinguished by the low membrane thicknesses and low water and methanol permeability.

A leading component supplier for the fuel cell industry

As an established membrane manufacturer, FUMATECH provides all the components required to produce a membrane electrode unit such as polymers, polymer solutions and membranes. In addition, it manufactures and distributes membranes for producing hydrogen through the electrolysis of water. The available expertise and the production plants for the series production of flat membranes form a sound basis for the fuel cell business.

On the periphery of fuel cell systems, components are also needed to wet fuel gas as well as production and cooling water. FUMATECH supplies specialist membranes for wetting and the internal water management of fuels. For stationary use, desalination and cooling water treatment as a well as process for internal water management are also offered.

FUMATECH sees particular potential in the patents and expertise relating to the manufacture of inorganic/organic multi-matrix membranes. In a long and intensive cooperation with universities, proton exchange nano-particles with an extremely large surface and exceptional proton exchange capacity were developed. These nano-particles can be adjusted to the requirements of the various operating conditions by molecular structuring in terms of size, shape and surface and can be processed for the patent-protected mixed-matrix membranes.

Cost-effective inorganic proton conductors were also developed and patented, which are excellent in a water-free environment due to a high proton exchange capacity, and therefore fully meet the requirements of a medium temperature fuel cell.

Further expansion of R & D cooperations

In 2004, an EU research project lasting several years to develop and test a non-fluoric hybrid membrane for operating at high temperatures was successfully concluded with a prototype. To ensure the sustainability of FUMATECH projects and the company's long-term market position, established joint research projects were extended into 2005.

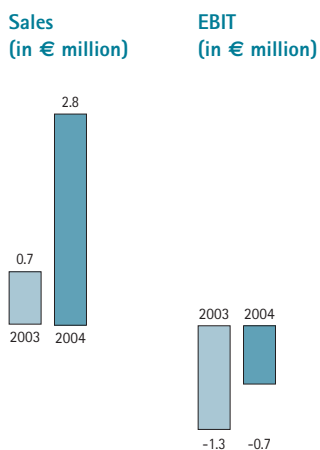
In addition to the universities, the most important research partners include the Jülich Research Center and the Center for Solar Energy and Hydrogen Research (ZSW). The objective of the ongoing work is to optimize products for operation at temperatures of up to 125°C without wetting and for direct methanol fuel cells. Moreover, innovative film concepts are being examined to optimize the cost of portable PEM fuel cells.

In another cooperation with the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems (FhISE), a miniature electrolyzer is being developed as a charging station for portable fuel cells. In addition, bilateral test programs are conducted worldwide with users from the automotive industry, MEA and module producers and system suppliers for portable applications.

In the EU's 6th framework program, FUMATECH submitted to project applications for the further development and qualification of non-fluoric membranes for use in cars and for the development of new concepts for membrane wetting (also for use in cars).

RESULT 2004

In the financial year 2004, sales in the Fuel Cell Membrane Technologies segment almost quadrupled from € 0.7 to € 2.8 million. EBIT improved from € -1.3 million to € -0.7 million thanks to the improved margin from specialized membrane plants.



FCMT key figures in € million	2004	2003
External sales	2.8	0.7
Internal sales	0.2	1.5
Total sales	3.0	2.2
EBITDA	-0.7	-1.1
Depreciation	0.1	0.2
Operating Profit (EBIT)	-0.7	-1.3
Assets	2.7	1.9
External funds	1.6	1.6
Investments in intangible and tangible assets	0.4	0.2
Employees	16	14

Aqua Finance

The "Aqua Finance" segment is responsible for optimising the real estate assets of the group and holding small strategically interesting financial participations.

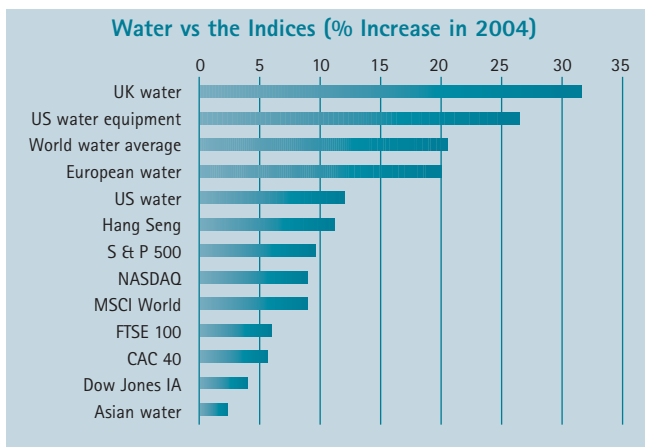
Aqua Finance key figures in € million	2004	2003
External sales	0.0	0.0
Internal sales	0.0	0.0
Total sales	0.0	0.0
EBITDA	0.2	0.3
Depreciation	0.2	0.2
Operating Profit (EBIT)	0.0	0.1
Assets	14.5	8.3
External funds	8.2	3.2

The BWT share

In 2004, international capital markets were influenced by anxieties about the economic environment, interest rates and oil prices, which were reflected in volatile share prices. The easing in the situation on commodity and, in particular, oil markets as well as diminishing concern about substantial increases in interest rates led to prices rising on international stock markets in the fourth quarter 2004. The share indices on all major international stock markets have therefore risen slightly as compared to the previous year.

In contrast to other international stock markets, the Austrian stock market had been posting records since the beginning of 2004. The Vienna Stock Exchange was able to outperform the major international exchanges significantly for a fourth year in succession in 2004: the leading index, the ATX, closed the year with a gain of almost 57.4% compared with the year-end 2003.

This performance was based above all on the above-average - when compared internationally - results achieved by companies listed on the Vienna Stock Exchange and by proximity to the rapidly growing economies of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. The accession to the European Union of a total of eight countries from this region - four of which border Austria directly - in 2004 further increased international investors' awareness of the favorable economic and geographic framework conditions for companies listed in Vienna. The announcement of the cut in corporation tax as part of the 2005 tax reform was also positively received by the market.



Source: Global Water Intelligence

Outstanding performance of water stocks

The fact that investors are becoming increasingly aware of the topic water is evident from the above average stock performances recorded by listed water companies, which - following three rather difficult years - significantly outperformed all major international stock indices for the first time in 2004 (see chart).

At the same time, water technology stocks outperformed those of water suppliers, since water technology depends to a lower extent on the political and regulatory environment.

BWT share among the top performers on the Vienna Stock Exchange

The BWT share price performed quite satisfactorily in 2004. The share rose steadily from € 15.25 on January 2, 2004 to € 27.84 at the year-end, which corresponds to an increase of 88.24% against the 2003 year-end closing price. This means that BWT ranked an excellent 4th among the top performers on the Vienna Stock Exchange in 2004.

As at December 30, 2004, the weighting of the BWT share in the ATX index was 0.80%, while in the ATX Prime Index it was 0.72%.

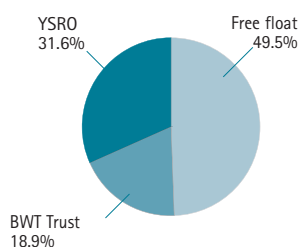
In 2004, BWT shares in the amount of around € 268 million were traded on the Vienna Stock Exchange, compared with € 164 million in the previous year. Trading volume was 13.4 million in 2004, compared with 14.4 million in 2003. At 53,547 shares, the daily average was down on the previous year's figure of 58,186 shares. In 2004, OTC sales of the BWT share amounted to € 124 million, corresponding to 31.6% of the total sales of the BWT share (€ 392 million).

Since December 2001, BWT shares have also been available in the US through an ADR Level 1 Program, allowing US institutional investors easier access to buying and trading the share. The Bank of New York acts as the custodian bank.

BWT share 2004:
+88,24%



Shareholder structure



The number of shares remained unchanged at 17,833,500 compared with the previous year. The free float is 49.5%, the BWT Trust holds 18.9% and the YSRO holds 31.6%.

The BWT share	2004	2003
Share category	Bearer shares	Bearer shares
Number of shares (in 1,000)	17,833.5	17,833.5
Free float	49.5%	49.5%
Trading volume (in € million)	268	164
Unit sales (in 1,000)	13,387	14,372
Average unit sales/day	53,547	58,186
Dividend per share (in €)	0.27	0.24
Earnings per share (in €)	0.94	0.43
Cash flow per share (in €)	2.05	1.61
Performance		
High (in €)	27.84	14.84
Low (in €)	15.25	8.60
Closing price (in €)	27.84	14.79
P/E (closing price) (in €)	30	34
Market capitalization (in € million)	496	264

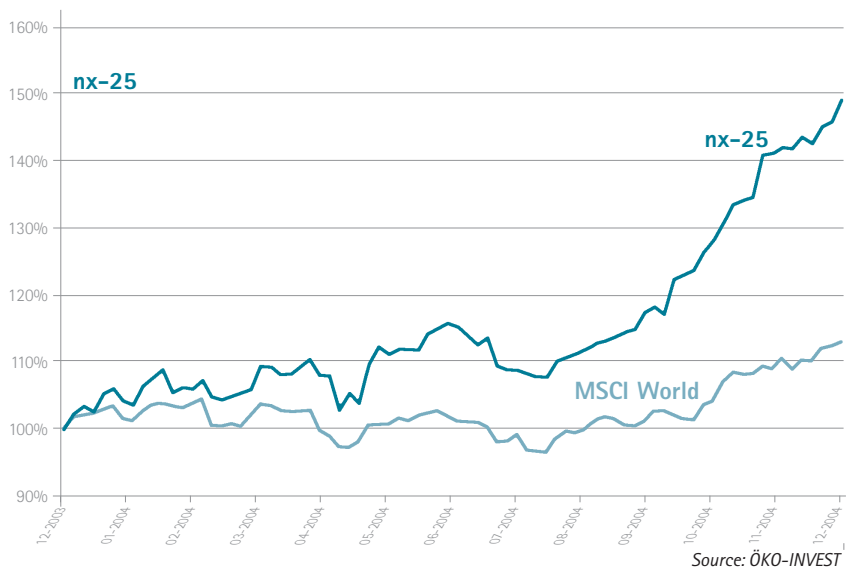
Investor Relations

The future market of water holds extremely interesting prospects for investors with a long-term perspective. In view of the increasing shortage of water worldwide, water treatment – and therefore the contribution of BWT's product and technology range for coping with the problems linked with this lack of water – is rapidly gaining in importance.

At the same time, the BWT share is increasingly becoming the focus of attention for investors oriented towards sustainable investment. The increasing number of ethical/ecological funds has therefore become a key target audience for BWT's investor relations activities. The BWT share is already represented in the portfolios of numerous funds specializing in water, environment and sustainability.

BWT included in the sustainable index "nx-25"

Therefore the inclusion of BWT, which has been listed on the Vienna Stock Exchange since May 1992, in the sustainable index "nx-25" on January 30, 2004 was a particular high-light. The nx-25 contains 25 stocks selected according to stringent ethical and ecological criteria, spread according to country and various sectors. With a performance of +49.2% in 2004, the nx-25 index significantly outperformed the MSCI World Index (+12.8%).



Corporate Governance

In September 2002, the Austrian Working Group for Corporate Governance developed the Austrian Code of Corporate Governance. The Code of Corporate Governance is a framework for the responsible management and control of listed companies in Austria. It aims to create sustained, long-term value and to increase transparency for all shareholders.

BWT is committed to active, transparent, sustainable communications and corporate governance in line with the BWT value strategy. Therefore BWT has committed to comply with the Austrian Code of Corporate Governance since financial year 2003 and only deviates from the Code in minor respects. Detailed explanations by the management on corporate governance are available on the BWT website.

Coverage by major investment banks and brokerage firms

In addition to the Austrian investment banks BANK CREDITANSTALT AG, ERSTE BANK AG and RAIFFEISEN CENTROBANK AG, which have been covering BWT for many years, analysts at USB WARBURG, ABN AMRO and DEUTSCHE BANK AG, are now regularly monitoring BWT's company development.

Important capital market information on the BWT share:

Financial Calendar 2005:

2004 Annual Results	8 April 2005
Annual General Meeting	20 May 2005
Ex-dividend date	25 May 2005
Dividend payment date	30 May 2005

Letter to Shareholders I/2005	13 May 2005
Letter to Shareholders II/2005	5 Aug. 2005
Letter to Shareholders III/2005	11 Nov. 2005

Vienna:

ISIN:	AT0000737705
Reuters Code:	BWTV.VI
Bloomberg Ticker:	BWT AV
Specialist:	Concord Effekten AG
Max. Spread:	1,5%
Min. Size:	3.500 Stk.
Market Maker:	Bank Austria Creditanstalt AG, Erste Bank AG, Raiffeisen Centrobank AG

New York:

The Bank of New York American Depositary Receipt (ADR) Level 1	
Ratio:	1 ADR = 1 Aktie
Exchange:	OTC
Symbol:	BWTAY

The ongoing improvement in the quality of IR service remains one of the top priorities for BWT's investor relations team. The BWT homepage therefore provides interested investors with all

relevant information on the Best Water Technology Group in a comprehensible and user-friendly format. Interested investors also have the option to sign up for our regular new service under www.bwt-group.com or investor.relations@bwt.at.

Beside contact via the Internet, BWT shareholders are also invited to contact BWT management and our IR team directly with any questions.

