

Ranshofen, August 3, 2012

## **AMAG keeps up very satisfactory performance despite difficult market environment**

### **Highlights**

Sound earnings development in the 1st half-year of 2012 after record year of 2011

- **Plant capacity utilization at its limit and good order situation.**
- **At about 430 million euros, sales in the 1st half-year of 2012 on the prior year's level.**
- **EBITDA at 72.2 million euros in the 1st half-year of 2012 and characterized by a record result generated in the Rolling Division and a lower profit contribution from the Metal Division due to the lower aluminium price.**
- **Cash flow from operating activities at 67.0 million euros clearly surpassed the corresponding figure of the prior year (1st half-year of 2011: 55.8 million euros).**
- **Satisfactory business trend expected to continue in the 2nd half-year of 2012 despite low aluminium price.**
- **Implementation of "AMAG 2014" large-scale investment at the Ranshofen location proceeds as scheduled.**
- **Long-term electric power supply contract for the Alouette smelter ending in 2041 and stipulating the terms agreed in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed as announced.**

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## The AMAG Group in figures

Amounts in mEUR	Q2/2012	Q2/2011	Change in %	H1/2012	H1/2011	Change in %
External shipments in 1,000 tons	90.7	82.4	10 %	173.3	164.8	5 %
Sales	222.3	214.6	4 %	429.9	429.2	0 %
EBITDA	37.6	46.0	(18 %)	72.2	81.9	(12 %)
EBITDA margin	17 %	21 %		17 %	19 %	
Depreciation and amortisation	(12.6)	(11.2)	13 %	(24.8)	(22.4)	11 %
EBIT	24.9	34.9	(29 %)	47.4	59.5	(20 %)
EBIT margin	11 %	16 %		11 %	14 %	
Net income after taxes	20.7	28.5	(27 %)	39.4	48.1	(18 %)
Earnings per share in EUR	0.59	0.81	(28 %)	1.12	1.36	(18 %)
Cash flow from operating activities	39.5	47.4	(17 %)	67.0	55.8	20 %
Cash flow from investing activities	(24.4)	(8.1)	201 %	(38.9)	(16.7)	133 %
Employees <sup>1)</sup>	1,474	1,415	4 %	1,461	1,410	4 %

Amounts in mEUR	June 30, 2012	Dec. 31, 2011	Change in %
Equity	535.9	542.6	(1 %)
Equity ratio	59 %	62 %	
Capital Employed <sup>2)</sup>	565.2	524.6	8 %
Liquid funds	73.9	60.6	22 %
Net financial debt <sup>3)</sup>	38.9	13.0	199 %
Gearing ratio	7.3 %	2.4 %	

1) Average full time equivalent (FTE) including leasing personnel, without apprentices. Includes the percentage employee figure out of the 20% participation in smelter Alouette

2) Annual average of equity, interest-bearing financial liabilities less cash and cash equivalents

3) Financial liabilities less liquid funds and financial receivables

## Sound earnings development in the 1st half-year of 2012

The operative development of the AMAG Group in the 1st half-year of 2012 was very satisfactory, confirming the successful business model. For instance, the Rolling Division recorded a positive development in the 1st half-year of 2012, with earnings being on the level of the record year of 2011. Major reasons for this are the high share of specialties and a high level of diversification. In the Casting Division, the margin pressure caused by the difficult market environment in Southeastern Europe was only partly absorbed by shifts in the product mix towards higher-value products.

"In the 1st half-year of 2012, demand for rolled products from the automotive and aircraft industries, but also from the trade segment, continued to rise. In addition to our key markets of Austria, Germany, USA, France, Italy and Scandinavia we were likewise able to score in the new markets of Spain, the Czech Republic and Poland," stresses Gerhard Falch, CEO of AMAG Austria Metall AG. "In April 2012 we were able to hold the ground-breaking ceremony for "AMAG 2014". Until 2014, 220 million euros will be invested in the plant expansion at the Ranshofen location. A further milestone regarding our Alouette smelter in Canada was achieved with the signing of the electricity supply contract that will run until 2041," continues Gerhard Falch.

# Media Information

The average price of aluminium on the London Metal Exchange LME being down and the cost of raw materials being high led to a lower profit contribution from the Metal Division, but higher shipment volumes, the use of hedging instruments, and positive effects from USD conversion made up for part of the decline in the aluminium price.

At 429.9 million euros in the 1st half-year of 2012 (1st half-year of 2011: 429.2 million euros), sales for the AMAG Group were on the prior year's level. The lower aluminium price was offset by the increase in shipment volumes and by currency effects. In the first six months of 2012, external shipment volumes amounted to 173,300 tons; this 5.1 percent increase over the 1st half-year of 2011 is mainly due to the Metal Division.

The earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) of the AMAG Group amounted to 72.2 million euros in the 1st half-year of 2012 after reaching 81.9 million euros in the 1st half-year of 2011, with the high cost of raw materials and the lower aluminium price leading to lower earnings in the Metal Division. The EBITDA margin amounted to 16.8 percent in the 1st half-year of 2012 (1st half-year of 2011: 19.1 percent). In the 1st half-year of 2012, the Metal Division contributed 22.2 million euros (30.8 percent) to the Group EBITDA, the Casting Division 4.2 million euros (5.8 percent), the Rolling Division 41.7 million euros (57.7 percent) and the Service Division 4.1 million euros (5.7 percent).

The increased investment activities of the past years led to an increase in depreciation to 24.8 million euros in the 1st half-year of 2012, after 22.4 million euros in the 1st half-year of 2011. The operating result (EBIT) for the AMAG Group was 47.4 million euros after amounting to 59.5 million euros in the 1st half-year of 2011. In analogy to the operating performance, consolidated net income after taxes changed from 48.1 million euros in the 1st half-year of 2011 to 39.4 million euros in the 1st half-year of 2012.

An equity ratio of 59 percent continued to provide for a high-level capital structure as of June 30, 2012, compared to 62 percent at the end of 2011. At 535.9 million euros, equity as at the closing date of June 30, 2012 was down slightly from the level recorded at year-end 2011 (December 31, 2011: 542.6 million euros).

As at the end of June 2012, net financial debt amounted to 38.9 million euros (December 31, 2011: 13.0 million euros), which results in a gearing ratio of 7.3 percent. In May 2012, AMAG successfully placed a bonded loan ("*Schuldscheindarlehen*") in the amount of 70 million euros.

Operative cash flow at 67.0 million euros clearly surpassed the amount reported for the comparable period in the prior year (1st half-year of 2011: 55.8 million euros). Investment measures taken in order to enlarge capacity and improve quality generated cash flow from

# Media Information

investing activities in the amount of 38.9 million euros, which represents a 133 percent increase compared to the 1st half-year of the prior year.

Details concerning the results of the four divisions are shown in the financial report for the 1st half-year of 2012 on our website at [www.amag.at](http://www.amag.at) - [Investors – financial reports](#).

## Outlook for 2012

On the basis of the good order situation in the Casting and Rolling Divisions AMAG expects the utilization rate of the production plants at the Ranshofen location to continue on a high level in the second half-year of 2012. Based on these assumptions, earnings will also continue on a high level. The price of aluminium being lower in comparison to the prior year puts a burden on the Metal Division, causing its profit contribution to go down despite full capacity utilization.

All in all, the Management Board expects the satisfactory business trend to continue in the 2nd half-year of 2012. "Current market forecasts confirm that the aluminium industry will continue to grow in the medium term. The plant expansion at Ranshofen sees us optimally prepared for the future," confirms Gerhard Falch.

## About AMAG Group

AMAG is a leading Austrian premium supplier of high-quality aluminium cast and flat rolled products for various different industries such as the aircraft, automotive, sports equipment, lighting, mechanical engineering, construction and packaging industries. The Canadian smelter Alouette, in which AMAG holds a 20 percent interest, produces high-quality primary aluminium while safeguarding an exemplary eco-balance. With 1,422 employees (including 196 working in Canada), the company achieved sales of 813 million euros and EBITDA of 150 million euros in the fiscal year 2011.

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