

Ad-hoc-announcement pursuant to § 15 WpHG

## **Ahlers AG, Herford**

ISIN DE0005009708 and ISIN DE0005009732

**Ahlers reports strong sales growth of 7.9 percent and clearly double-digit growth in all earnings figures for the nine-month period 2013/14. Earnings forecast for the full year 2013/14 raised: 5 - 10 percent increase in consolidated net income expected (2012/13: EUR 5.6 million).**

The Ahlers Group's strong growth of the first half-year continued in the third quarter of 2014, when sales revenues rose by 8.6 percent. On the one hand, this was due to both increased pre-sales and very positive, higher-than-expected stock sales. On the other hand, winter apparel was delivered earlier this year, which means that sales revenues were brought forward from the fourth quarter. Nine-month sales 2013/14 climbed 7.9 percent to EUR 197.9 million (previous year: EUR 183.4 million). Due to the increase in sales revenues, preliminary EBIT before special effects rose by 64 percent to EUR 13.8 million, while preliminary earnings after taxes climbed 23 percent to EUR 7.5 million. The final figures will be published on October 14, 2014.

At the end of June 2014, the Management Board of Ahlers decided to close the Sindelfingen plant and to integrate Gin Tonic into the Herford headquarters following a successful reorganisation. A social plan for the employees affected was negotiated and signed with the staff council in the third quarter of 2014. The related costs are already reflected in the result of Q3 2014.

For the full fiscal year, the Management Board projects a 5 to 6 percent increase in sales revenues and a strong double-digit increase in EBIT before special effects. In spite of high extraordinary expenses far in excess of EUR 2 million, consolidated net income after taxes should also pick up moderately. From today's point of view, the company projects an increase of approx. 5 to 10 percent in net income (2012/13 consolidated net income: EUR 5.6 million). The Management Board had previously expected consolidated net income to remain stable.

Herford, September 23, 2014

The Management Board

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