

CEO Statement: Long-term success through sustainable action

Sustainable business management is the basis for long-term success. The 50th birthday of the Geberit concealed cistern is a perfect example of how business success is compatible with environmentally friendly action and social commitment. This highly successful product, which has been sold over 60 million times, was a far-sighted strategic step on the journey from a sanitary unit to the modern bathroom. Water-saving technology, reliable quality and comfort for end users as well as the 25-year guaranteed spare parts availability for plumbers are all convincing aspects of a sustainable product.

Our sustainable business management has made it possible to increase the value of the company over the long term and minimize risks for its future development. This has paid off, with Geberit – as in previous years – once again among the 100 most sustainable companies in the world in 2013 according to Corporate Knights (CA).

Water conservation on the political agenda

The EU is increasingly putting water conservation on its political agenda and is developing ecolabels for efficient toilets, urinals, washbasins and showers. With its products, Geberit is already well prepared in this respect. In the product classification system WELL (Water Efficiency Label) for water-saving and resource-efficient products introduced by the industry in 2011, seven Geberit product groups are already represented in the highest classification class A.

System provider for green building

Green building has long been more than just a trend. European standards in this area are becoming more and more important and new standards are setting out the basic rules for environmental declarations for individual products and systems in buildings. Investors, project developers, owners and tenants are looking for system providers with holistic know-how regarding green building that can contribute to the respective desired standards being fulfilled in a targeted manner. This is opening up a future market with major potential in which Geberit is present with water- and energy-saving, low-noise and durable products. As the leading system provider of sanitary solutions, we are already offering products for numerous reference buildings.

Minimizing the ecological footprint

We want to set standards: The completely new, state-of-the-art factory premises currently being built in Ruše (SI) are already serving as a model for green building and production throughout Slovenia. The site's sophisticated holistic energy concept includes the use of all waste heat from production processes as well as the complete

absence of fossil fuels. All of our production sites and logistics are subject to systematic, Group-wide environmental management and certified to ISO 14001 and ISO 9001. In 2013, the culmination of a wide range of measures resulted in a drop of 5.5% in the overall environmental impact per sales, which was calculated as part of the corporate eco-balance.

Accepting social responsibility

More than 6,200 employees worldwide appreciate their outstanding working conditions and high level of training. With this in mind, the standardized global performance assessment, development and compensation process (PDC) started in 2012 was continued. Our goal here is to reinforce the performance culture, increase transparency and better recognize and promote talent than has been done to date. In 2013, the vision of an “accident-free company” was also set out in concrete terms. By 2020, the accident rates are to be reduced by 50% compared with 2010. Geberit realizes its corporate responsibility within the scope of global social projects relating to the topic of water and sanitary facilities, as well as in cooperation with partners.

Long-term goals

In the coming years, we want to continue to roll out new products that set new standards in water conservation and sustainability. At the same time, we are pursuing ambitious goals throughout the Group. By 2020, we want to reduce CO₂ emissions by 20% compared with the year 2000 based on organic growth.

Statement of continued support for the UN Global Compact

Geberit has been a member of the UN Global Compact since October 2008 as a sustainability leader in the area of environmental protection, responsible labor practices, human rights and the prevention of corruption. We provide customers, employees, investors and other stakeholders with information on our sustainability goals and performances in a transparent manner. Since 2007, our reporting on sustainability has been based on the GRI G3 Guidelines with the highest degree of transparency – the “A Level: GRI Checked” application level. The Communication on Progress UN Global Compact (COP) on 2013 can be found at [→ www.geberit.com](http://www.geberit.com) > Sustainability > UN Global Compact.



Albert M. Baehny
Chairman and CEO