

Press Release**Bossard Group****Sales for the first quarter of 2021****Upturn continues**

Zug, April 12, 2021 – **The Bossard Group had a successful begin to the 2021 financial year, recording the best start of the year in the company’s history: Sales in the first quarter grew by 11.8 percent to CHF 244.8 million (previous year: CHF 218.9 million). In local currency, sales even increased by 12.9 percent. In Asia, where the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic were most evident in the first quarter of 2020, the upswing was above average, with a jump in sales of 34.5 percent in local currency. The return of growth is strengthened by the focused market development and signals cautious optimism for the remainder of the financial year.**

The favorable recovery of the Bossard Group’s business in the fourth quarter of 2020 continued into the first quarter of 2021. The broad-based upturn in all regions and the resulting high growth rates are strengthened by the comparatively low baseline values of the previous year. “Customers appreciate our consistent ability to deliver, allowing us to benefit even more than expected from the economy’s momentum. The focus on industries of the future such as automation, electromobility, medical technology and railway bore additional fruit,” stated Bossard Group CEO Daniel Bossard.

Active market development with tailwind

In Europe, Bossard posted growth of 11.0 percent to CHF 147.7 million (+9.5 percent in local currency). The positive economic environment solidified further after stabilizing in the fourth quarter of 2020. In addition, the past financial year, which was marked by the pan-

demic, offered opportunities that Bossard knew how to exploit: thanks to its digital competence in the field of logistics and engineering services, the Group was able to drive forward and expand customer projects.

Sales in America rose by 1.9 percent to CHF 55.0 million. However, the pleasing business development was diminished by the weak US dollar, with sales growth in local currency amounting to 8.7 percent. Ongoing diversification of the customer base also boosted growth in this market region.

The Asia market region grew by 32.4 percent to CHF 42.1 million (+34.5 percent in local currency). On the one hand, Asia benefited from the low baseline values from the previous year, which were hit hard by the lockdown in the first quarter of 2020. On the other hand, targeted focus on growth segments led to a gratifying expansion of the project pipeline and new customers.

A cautiously optimistic outlook

The third wave of COVID-19 has thus far hit industry less hard than the first and second waves, allowing most Bossard locations to resume normal operations. The market data – in particular, the purchasing manager indices in Bossard’s most important markets – further signal a broad-based recovery. However, the impact of further pandemic-related restrictions is still difficult to predict and obscures the outlook. Nevertheless, Bossard remains cautiously optimistic regarding the further development of the financial year.

Net sales 1st quarter			change in %	
in CHF million	2021	2020	in CHF	in local currency
Europe	147.7	133.1	11.0%	9.5%
America	55.0	54.0	1.9%	8.7%
Asia	42.1	31.8	32.4%	34.5%
Group	244.8	218.9	11.8%	12.9%

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About Bossard:

The Bossard Group is a leading global provider of product solutions and services in industrial fastening and assembly technology. More than 1 million items as well as proven expertise in technical consulting and inventory management distinguishes the Bossard Group.

Bossard was founded in Zug in 1831. Today local and multinational companies count on Bossard's expertise to increase their productivity – with success. Bossard calls this concept, which is also a promise to its customers "Proven Productivity". This includes, among other things, optimizing processes and reducing inventories to increase the efficiency and productivity sustainably. In addition, Bossard is considered a pioneer in developing intelligent production facilities in line with Industry 4.0.

With 2,500 employees at 83 locations in 31 countries throughout the world, the Bossard Group generated CHF 812.8 million in sales in the financial year 2020. Bossard is listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange.