

**Press Release****Bossard Group****First Half of 2015 – First results****Clear sales growth – Pressure on margins due to revaluation of the Swiss franc**

Zug, July 14, 2015 - **The Bossard Group went through a further growth stage in the first half of 2015. Sales increased by 5.4 percent to CHF 336.4 million; in local currency the growth was as high as 9.0 percent. This growth was largely due to the acquisitions made in the USA, Italy, France and Norway. As expected, the Swiss franc revaluation meant that the Bossard Group was unable to maintain its record-level margins. Because of these difficult circumstances, the net income fell back by 8.4 percent to CHF 29.6 million.**

The Swiss franc revaluation had consequences for Bossard, particularly in **Europe**. Conversion of the revenue in the local currency consequently resulted in a drop in sales of 3.7 percent to CHF 199.0 million. However, in local currency the Group showed a 4.6 percent increase. Excluding the acquisitions mentioned, the Bossard Group in Europe recorded a slight decline in sales of 1.8 percent in local currency. The business units in Switzerland were the most severely affected by the unfavorable currency development. The currency discounts granted and the fall in demand from industrial customers resulted in a perceptible fall in sales and margins. On a positive note, the above-mentioned acquisitions have fully met the expectations of the executive committee.

In **America**, the Bossard Group consolidated its market position further. Following the acquisition of Aero-Space Southwest, Inc., sales increased by no less than 33.1 percent to CHF 87.2 million (in local currency: +25.5 percent) compared to the first half of 2014. Excluding the revenue growth resulting from the acquisitions, the sales increase was 0.6 percent (in local currency: -5.2 percent). This trend is in line with expectations and was largely influenced by opposing developments with two major customers. Sales with the largest US

electric vehicle manufacturer increased according to plan, but this growth has not yet managed to compensate fully for the market-related fall in demand from a major customer in the agricultural machinery segment in the first half of the year. In the second half of the year, an altogether higher volume is expected due to the sales forecasts of these two customers.

The Bossard Group also made progress in **Asia**, with sales increasing by a respectable 6.6 percent to CHF 50.2 million in the first six months. This equates to an increase of 2.9 percent in local currency. Bossard continues to profit from the startup investments it has made in various markets. Whilst the current increase in demand in most countries is highly encouraging, it is proving to be less dynamic in China than in the previous reporting periods.

The effects of the Swiss franc revaluation and the associated pressure on margins have been reflected in reduced profitability of the Bossard Group in the first half of the year. Compared to the Group's all-time high net income in the previous year, the net income fell by CHF 2.7 million to CHF 29.6 million. Excluding negative currency effects of the Swiss franc revaluation, the profit would have been on a comparable basis slightly above last year's level.

Bossard will publish the detailed semi-annual report on August 25, 2015.

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Net sales January - June			change in %	
in CHF million	2015	2014	in CHF	in local currency
Europe	199.0	206.6	-3.7%	4.6%
America	87.2	65.5	33.1%	25.5%
Asia	50.2	47.1	6.6%	2.9%
<b>Group</b>	<b>336.4</b>	<b>319.2</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>9.0%</b>

**Profile:**

The Bossard Group is a leading international supplier of product solutions and services in industrial fastener and assembly technology. With over 800,000 items in its comprehensive product range, technical consulting (engineering) and warehouse management (logistics) Bossard has positioned itself as an end-to-end supplier and partner in industry.

Bossard's customers include local and international industrial companies who use Bossard solutions to improve their productivity. With more than 2,000 employees in over 60 locations throughout the world, the Group earned CHF 618 million in sales in 2014. Bossard is listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange.