

Press Release
Changé,
September 29, 2004

H1 2004
Successful growth strategy
Industrial Integration

Robust sales	+7% (on a like-for-like basis)
Strong growth in operating income	+63%
Positive consolidated net income before and after amortization of goodwill	
Continued debt reduction	Gearing 80%
Continued refocusing on core business	

Success of industrial integration and relevant market positioning

The first half of 2004 once again showed robust sales together with improved profitability, confirming the pick-up seen during the second half of 2003. The positive results of the past half-year also confirm the success of the refocusing strategy introduced by management in 2003.

The group will continue to implement measures, carry out disposals and increase the availability of its facilities in order to consolidate its strong position on the French waste market.

Consolidated data in EUR m

At June 30, 2004	H1 03 reported	H1 03 pro forma	H1 04	H1 04/ H1 03 pro forma
Sales	177.7	155.6	166.4	+ 7.0%
Gross operating income	31.9	30.3	38.8	+ 28.1%
Operating income	10.3	10.3	16.8	+ 63.1%
Ordinary income before tax	2.1	2.9	11.5	-
Extraordinary items	(5.3)	(5.0)	0.0	-
Net income before goodwill	(4.8)	(4.3)	7.5	-
Goodwill amortization	7.2	6.5	6.6	-
Group net income	(10.9)	(10.0)	0.6	-

Positive effects of the industrial strategy : full capacity available at facilities, organic growth of 7% and operating margin of 10.1%.

In the course of H1 2004, Séché Environnement confirmed the significant improvement in its operating margin following the implementation of a strategy to refocus on its core business: waste treatment and storage in France.

This improvement has been driven by:

- ✓ Increased sales in line with targets thanks to a pick-up in commercial activity, particularly in the industrial segment.
- ✓ Full capacity at industrial facilities subsequent to restructuring measures carried out during 2003. Having picked up at the end of 2003, capacity levels gained momentum during the course of the past half-year.
- ✓ A redirecting of investments towards commercial and industrial developments. Maintenance investments remained stable at EUR 16.7m.

On the back of this decisive action, Séché Environnement saw a significant rebound in its operating indicators, with growth of 28% in EBITDA and growth of 63% in operating profits.

The operating margin reached 10.1%, compared with 5.8% in H1 03 (6.6% pro forma).

Positive net income.

Net income came out positive both before and after goodwill.

This result confirms the pick-up after two years of losses following acquisitions made in 2001-2002. Before amortization of goodwill, net income showed strong growth at EUR 7.5m. After goodwill, group net income stood at EUR 0.6m.

The first half-year was marked by the positive contribution of the Tredi France unit, which confirmed its gradual return to benchmark profitability levels. It should be noted that Séché Environnement registered an increase in seasonal factors affecting its sales and operating income, with the first half-year contributing less to the full-year results.

Improved financial structure.

Disposals (representing turnover of EUR 60m in 2003) carried out since the launch of the strategic refocusing plan (11 structures sold) have had a positive impact on the consolidated accounts (equivalent to a negative contribution to 2003 operating income of EUR 3m). They have enabled Séché Environnement to speed up the strengthening of its financial structure. Debt paring continues apace, and the company's gearing fell to 80% at the end of June 2004, compared with 93% at December 31, 2003.

Favorable outlook: improved operating profits and accelerated debt paring

Given the progress already made on its disposals plan (60% complete at June 30, 2004), the group believes it will be fully accomplished by the end of the current financial year.

At December 31, 2005, the company expects to generate an operating profit of at least 15.5% for its target scope, i.e. waste treatment and storage in France. By this date, the group's gearing should have fallen to 50%.

Séché Environnement anticipates organic growth of 7% on average over the period 2003/2005 for its target scope.

At the same time, Séché Environnement will continue to implement measures to optimize its activity and, in this way, preserve its assets and staff, building up a strong local presence while maintaining national coverage.

Next results from Séché Environnement

Séché Environnement will publish its 9-month sales on October 28 and its annual 2004 sales on February 7, 2005.

About Séché Environnement

Séché Environnement is one of the leading players in the treatment and storage of all types of non-radioactive industrial and household waste in France. Its facilities enable it to offer high-quality global solutions that incorporate environmental requirements.

It is now the leading independent operator in the country with a unique positioning in activities downstream of waste collection, concentrating on the higher added-value end of the waste market.

The Group offers integrated specialized services:

- ✓ *the treatment (by incineration, physical-chemical treatment and solvent regeneration) and processing for energy recovery of hazardous and non-hazardous industrial waste (HIW and NHIW);*
- ✓ *final-waste storage for industrial clients (HIW or NHIW) and household waste (HW).*

As at December 31, 2003 consolidated sales for Séché Environnement stood at EUR 373.7 million, up 7.5% on 2002 (pro forma data), for a net income (before amortization of goodwill) of EUR 1.3 million.

Séché Environnement has been listed on Euronext Paris' Second Marché since November 27, 1997.

Visit the Séché Environnement website at www.groupe-seche.com

Contacts

Séché Environnement

John Honoré

Analyst/Investor Relations

+33 (0)1 53 21 53 60

j.honore@groupe-seche.com

Consultancy: Point Final

Manuel Andersen

Financial Communication

mandersen@pointfinal.com

+33(0)1 53 30 26 80