



Back to operating profit in 2006

2006 saw slight growth in worldwide automobile production against an unfavourable economic backdrop of rising energy costs everywhere and volatile exchange rates. In this context and after a particularly difficult year in 2005, Le Bélier returned to positive operating profit in 2006, in line with its objectives.

€Million	2006	2005	Change
Turnover	220	190	15.7%
Underlying operating profit	1.7	-0.7	Ns
Net profit	-3.2	-10.9	Ns

Profits in line with the Roadmap

In 2006, Le Bélier Group posted consolidated sales amounting to €220.30 million, up 15.7% compared to 2005. After correction for aluminium price increases (LME), growth works out at 6.5%.

Underlying operating profit reached €1.7 million, compared with a €0.7 million loss in 2005.

A significant improvement in productivity explains this performance.

After financial items and tax, net loss is €3.2 million, showing a €7.7 million improvement on the previous year.

Encouraging prospects

In 2006, as planned, Le Bélier embarked on the first year of its roadmap by:

- transferring its Turbo operations from Hungary to Serbia
- optimising the Vérac facility
- launching 2 new machining facilities in Hungary and Mexico
- launching automated production in China

Le Bélier also re-organised its offering in 2006 by focussing on aluminium parts with greater engineered content, particularly in the field of ground adherence. The orders received substantiate the validity of this new Group strategy.

In 2007, the Group is aiming to achieve €230 million in sales and significant improvement in its operating profit. At the same time, its debt should be significantly reduced.

In the longer term, Le Bélier is confident in the successful deployment of its three-year plan and the achievement of its 2009 objectives. Today the Group considers that it is organised and sized to ensure robust and sustainable profitability.

LE BELIER specializes in die-cast aluminium parts for the world automotive industry.

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