

## Press Release

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Pages 4

### **Klöckner & Co SE delivers further growth in operating income in fiscal 2018**

- Operating income (EBITDA) at eight-year high of €227 million
- Continued increase in digital share of sales to 25% in fourth quarter of 2018 (Q4 2017: 17%)
- Dividend planned to remain constant with prior year, at €0.30 per share

**Duisburg, Germany, March 12, 2019** – Klöckner & Co's sales went up 7.9% to €6.8 billion in fiscal year 2018, largely on account of the higher price level. Operating income (EBITDA) improved by 3.4% to €227 million. Aside from the positive trend in prices over much of the year, this increase was primarily a result of optimization measures. Net income was €69 million, compared with a prior-year figure of €102 million boosted by one-off tax effects. Earnings per share consequently stood at €0.68 (2017: €1.01). In light of this, the Management Board and the Supervisory Board consider it appropriate to hold the dividend constant with the prior year at €0.30 per share, as is to be proposed at the Annual General Meeting on May 15.

Klöckner & Co's digitalization drive has gained further momentum. The proportion of sales generated through digital channels grew at an increasing rate to most recently 25% in the fourth quarter of 2018 (Q4 2017: 17%). In addition to further driving ahead the digitalization of the Klöckner & Co Group, kloeckner.i – the digital unit in Berlin, now with some 90 employees – has from the beginning of this year started providing consulting services for selected external business clients.

XOM Materials, the independent industry platform launched by Klöckner & Co, likewise grew rapidly after going live in Europe in February 2018. Around 50 employees now work for the company at five locations. The platform is set to launch in the USA within the first half of 2019. A first financing round with external investors is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Gisbert Rühl, CEO of Klöckner & Co SE: “In XOM Materials, we have realized our vision for the future of steel distribution. The platform – which is open to everyone in the market – will gradually unravel the traditional steel industry value chain and replace it with a digital network. It also ensures a continuous flow of information, which improves transparency for better demand planning and enhanced capacity utilization. In the future, it will additionally give customers a single point of access to a huge portfolio of steel products and other materials from a range of vendors.”

For its key markets of Europe and the USA, Klöckner & Co mostly expects to see slight growth in real steel demand and corresponding growth in Group shipments for 2019. Sales, on the other hand, are anticipated to rise sharply on the back of investment made in expansion and an expected higher overall steel price level than in the preceding year.

Allowing for the new IFRS 16 (Leases), Klöckner & Co forecasts a slight increase in operating income (EBITDA) – even though a repeat of the previous year’s positive price effects in the USA is not expected.

Shipments, profit and loss statement		Q4 2018	Q4 2017	Variance	12M 2018	12M 2017	Variance
Shipments	Tt	1,398	1,443	-45	6,107	6,135	-28
Sales	€m	1,619	1,485	+134	6,790	6,292	+498
Gross profit	€m	301	300	+1	1,328	1,316	+12
Gross margin	%	18.6	20.2	-1.6%p	19.6	20.9	-1.3%p
Earnings before interest, taxes and depreciation and amortization (EBITDA)	€m	30	33	-3	227	220	+7
EBITDA-margin	%	1.9	2.2	-0.3%p	3.3	3.5	-0.2%p
Earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT)	€m	8	9	-1	141	130	+11
Earnings before taxes (EBT)	€m	-2	1	-3	107	97	+10
Net income	€m	-7	30	-37	69	102	-33
Net income attributable to shareholders of Klöckner & Co SE	€m	-7	30	-37	68	101	-33
Earnings per share (basic)	€	-0.07	0.30	-0.37	0.68	1.01	-0.33
Earnings per share (diluted)	€	-0.07	0.28	-0.34	0.66	0.96	-0.30

Cash flow		Q4 2018	Q4 2017	Variance	12M 2018	12M 2017	Variance
Cash flow from operating activities	€m	220	117	+103	60	79	-19
Cash flow from investing activities	€m	-23	-15	-8	-59	2	-61
Free Cash flow <sup>*)</sup>	€m	197	102	+95	1	81	-80

Balance sheet		Dec. 31, 2018	Dec. 31, 2017	Variance
Net Working Capital <sup>**)</sup>	€m	1,229	1,132	+97
Net financial debt	€m	383	330	+53
Gearing <sup>***)</sup>	%	30.5	28.1	+2.4%p
Shareholders' equity	€m	1,282	1,202	+80
Equity ratio	%	41.9	41.7	+0.2%p
Total assets	€m	3,061	2,886	+175

Employees		Dec. 31, 2018	Dec. 31, 2017	Variance
Employees at period end		8,579	8,682	-103

<sup>\*)</sup> Free cash flow = cash flow from operating activities plus cash flow from investing activities.

<sup>\*\*)</sup> Net Working Capital = Inventories plus trade receivables less trade payables.

<sup>\*\*\*)</sup> Gearing = Net financial debt / (Equity ./. non-controlling interests ./. goodwill resulting from acquisitions subsequent to May 23, 2013).

**About Klöckner & Co:**

Klöckner & Co is one of the largest producer-independent distributors of steel and metal products and one of the leading steel service companies worldwide. Based on its distribution and service network of around 160 locations in 13 countries, Klöckner & Co supplies more than 100,000 customers. Currently, the Group has around 8,600 employees. Klöckner & Co had sales of some €6.8 billion in fiscal 2018. As a pioneer of change in the steel industry, Klöckner & Co is in the process of digitalizing its entire supply and value chain. In addition, its digital unit, kloeckner.i, is increasingly providing consulting services for external business clients. XOM Materials, an independent venture launched by the Klöckner & Co Group, is geared to develop into the leading industry platform for steel, metal and related products.

The shares of Klöckner & Co SE are admitted to trading on the regulated market segment (Regulierter Markt) of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange (Frankfurter Wertpapierbörse) with further post-admission obligations (Prime Standard). Klöckner & Co shares are listed in the SDAX® index of Deutsche Börse.

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