

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT
Form 6-K
April 28, 2005

6-K UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER
PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16 OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

April 28, 2005

BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT
(Exact name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

BASF CORPORATION
(Translation of Registrant's name into English)

Carl Bosch Strasse 38, LUDWIGSHAFEN, GERMANY 67056
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant files
or will file annual reports under cover Form
20-F or Form 40-F

Form 20-F ☒ Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant by furnishing
the information contained in this Form is also thereby
furnishing the information to the
Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes No ☒

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the
Registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82- .

BASF Makes a Strong Start to 2005

LUDWIGSHAFEN, Germany--(BUSINESS WIRE)--April 28, 2005--

- Sales grow strongly due to higher volumes and prices
- EBIT before special items up 33 percent
- Cash flow increases further
- Outlook for full year 2005 remains positive

In the first quarter of 2005, BASF's (NYSE:BF) (FWB:BAS) (LSE:BFA)
performance followed on smoothly from the very good fourth quarter of

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

2004. "We are constantly improving our portfolio according to the motto 'Building strengths and eliminating weaknesses.' This creates the conditions that are needed to ensure that we will continue to earn a premium on our cost of capital in the future," said Dr. Juergen Hambrecht, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors, when commenting on the company's first-quarter figures at BASF's 53rd Annual Meeting on April 28, 2005. The good first quarter gives Hambrecht grounds for optimism: "Demand for our products remains strong. We are attempting to counter very high raw materials costs, which are continuing to rise in some cases, with further price increases. We are also rigorously implementing our restructuring measures to ensure our long-term competitiveness."

First-quarter sales increased by 11 percent compared with the strong first quarter of 2004 to over EUR 10 billion. Growth was primarily due to price increases. Sales volumes were higher than in the first quarter of 2004, in particular in the Chemicals and Plastics segments. Sales rose by 14 percent if divestitures and currency fluctuations are not taken into account.

Compared with the previous year, income from operations (EBIT) before special items climbed 33 percent to EUR 1.6 billion. In the Chemicals and Plastics segments, where capacity utilization was predominantly high, there was a significant improvement in margins and earnings. The Performance Products segment increased earnings despite the divestiture of the printing systems business. Further reductions in fixed costs contributed to the positive earnings trend throughout the chemical businesses. Earnings in the Agricultural Products & Nutrition segment declined slightly due to unsatisfactory profitability in the Fine Chemicals division. In the Oil & Gas segment, earnings benefited from high oil prices.

First-quarter EBIT after special items rose 39 percent to EUR 1.5 billion. Special items were related to various restructuring measures that are recorded under "Other" until implementation in the course of the year.

The financial result improved in particular due to higher earnings from the stake in the Basell joint venture, which BASF is planning to divest. Income before taxes and minority interests increased by 49 percent to EUR 1.5 billion.

The tax rate was 40 percent compared with 47 percent in the first quarter of 2004. The decline was due to the higher contribution to earnings from the NAFTA region. In addition, a charge for the tax effect of planned dividend distributions from Group companies was included in the first quarter of 2004. Income taxes contain taxes for oil production that are noncompensable with German corporate income tax. These oil production taxes increased from EUR 138 million to EUR 198 million due to higher income from operations from the exploration for and production of oil.

Compared with the first quarter of 2004, net income climbed 66 percent to EUR 861 million. Earnings per share in the first quarter were EUR 1.60 compared with EUR 0.94 in the same period of the previous year.

Outlook for 2005 remains positive

In 2005, Hambrecht continues to expect global chemical production to grow by approximately 3 percent, although the growth is likely to vary widely from region to region.

The company has increased its forecast for the average price of Brent crude oil from \$35 to \$45 per barrel; its forecast for the average euro/dollar exchange rate remains unchanged at \$1.30 per euro.

The strong start in the first quarter gives Hambrecht grounds for optimism. The company expects higher sales and to follow on from the high level of EBIT before special items (IFRS) posted in 2004, if

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

possible exceeding it. Uncertain factors continue to be the development of oil prices and the U.S. dollar, as well as the political situation in regional troublespots.

Sales increase in all regions - North America triples EBIT before special items

Companies in Europe increased sales by 8 percent in the first quarter of 2005. EBIT before special items rose by EUR 222 million to EUR 1.1 billion. This was due in particular to higher margins and a further reduction of fixed costs in the Chemicals and Plastics segments.

In Germany, the increase in sales and earnings was due to the improvement in the Oil & Gas segment.

In North America (NAFTA), sales by location of company improved by 24 percent in dollar terms. EBIT before special items tripled from EUR 90 million to EUR 271 million. All segments contributed to this growth. The Chemicals segment performed particularly strongly due to good capacity utilization of the steam cracker in Port Arthur, Texas, combined with favorable margins for cracker products. The Agricultural Products division also posted significantly higher earnings as a result of strong demand for fungicides.

In Asia Pacific, companies increased sales in local currency terms by 19 percent. The sales growth was due in particular to MDI and polyurethanes systems in the Polyurethanes division. The new plant for PolyTHF(R) in Caojing, China, successfully started operations, and this will be followed by the THF plant in the second quarter. At the Verbund site in Nanjing, China, the startup of the world-scale plants is also proceeding according to schedule. EBIT before special items was negatively impacted by startup costs for the two new sites.

In South America, Africa, Middle East, sales by location of company increased by 4 percent in local currency terms. EBIT before special items declined by EUR 7 million to EUR 71 million. In South America, sales and earnings in the Agricultural Products division did not reach the previous year's very strong level because dry weather reduced demand for fungicides. The Plastics and Performance Products segments posted higher sales and earnings.

BASF is the world's leading chemical company: The Chemical Company. Its portfolio ranges from chemicals, plastics, performance products, agricultural products and fine chemicals to crude oil and natural gas. As a reliable partner to virtually all industries, BASF's intelligent solutions and high-value products help its customers to be more successful. BASF develops new technologies and uses them to open up additional market opportunities. It combines economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility, thus contributing to a better future. In 2004, BASF had approximately 82,000 employees and posted sales of more than EUR 37 billion. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchanges in Frankfurt (BAS), London (BFA), New York (BF), Paris (BA) and Zurich (AN). Further information on BASF is available on the Internet at www.basf.com.

On April 28, 2005, you can also obtain further information from the Internet at the following addresses:

Interim Report (from 7:30 a.m. CEST)
www.basf.de/interimreport (English)
www.basf.de/zwischenbericht (German)

Press release (from 7:30 a.m. CEST)
www.basf.de/pressrelease (English)
www.basf.de/presseinformation (German) englisch:

Live-Transmission - Speech Dr. Juergen Hambrecht
(from 10:00 a.m. CEST)
www.basf.de/shareholdermeeting (English)

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

www.basf.de/hauptversammlung (German)

Forward-looking statements

This release contains forward-looking statements under the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based on current expectations, estimates and projections of BASF management and currently available information. They are not guarantees of future performance, involve certain risks and uncertainties that are difficult to predict and are based upon assumptions as to future events that may not prove to be accurate. Many factors could cause the actual results, performance or achievements of BASF to be materially different from those that may be expressed or implied by such statements. Such factors include those discussed in BASF's Form 20-F filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. We do not assume any obligation to update the forward-looking statements contained in this release.

First-Quarter Results 2005

January - March 2005, published on April 28, 2005

BASF makes a strong start to 2005

Overview BASF Group

	1st Quarter		Change
Million EUR	2005	2004	in %
Sales	10,083	9,051	11.4
Income from operations before interest, taxes			
amortization and depreciation (EBITDA)	2,019	1,614	25.1
Income from operations (EBIT) before special items	1,563	1,175	33.0
Income from operations (EBIT)	1,499	1,075	39.4
Financial result	45	(40)	.
Income before taxes and minority interests	1,544	1,035	49.2
Net income	861	520	65.6
Earnings per share (EUR)	1.60	0.94	70.2
EBIT before special items in percent of sales	15.5	13.0	-
Cash provided by operating activities	1,104	988	11.7
Additions to fixed assets (A)	362	518	(30.1)
Amortization and depreciation (A)	520	539	(3.5)
Segment assets (end of period) (B)	27,374	27,673	(1.1)
Personnel costs	1,277	1,297	(1.5)
Number of employees (end of period)	81,335	85,617	(5.0)

(A) Tangible and intangible fixed assets (including acquisitions)

(B) Tangible and intangible fixed assets, inventories and business-related receivables

Starting from January 1, 2005, the accounting and reporting of the BASF Group is performed according to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The previous year's figures have been restated in accordance with IFRS (see also the explanations on page 15 ff).

Contents

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

1	BASF Group Business Review and Outlook
4	Chemicals
5	Plastics
6	Performance Products
7	Agricultural Products & Nutrition
8	Oil & Gas
9	Regions
10	Consolidated Statements of Income
11	Consolidated Balance Sheets
12	Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows
13	Consolidated Statements of Equity
14	Segment Reporting

Effects of the Transition to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

Perfect silicon disks

Modern computers have little room to spare with as many as a billion transistors per square centimeter jostling for position on their processors and memory chips. Imagine the entire population of India holidaying in Washington DC and you'll have some idea of the density. What makes it possible is that transistors are so small. And that, in fact, is the biggest challenge in their production. Circuits this tiny can be paralyzed by a particle smaller than a flu virus. A single misplaced atom may render a chip useless.

Microchip production is complicated

More than 600 working steps are required to turn the raw material, quartz sand, into a modern processor. Most of these steps require the use of special chemicals, for example to clean and etch silicon chips. "BASF is a leading manufacturer of electronic chemicals," says Claus Poppe, Director Global Business Management for Electronic Chemicals. "At least one BASF product was used in the production of any microchip manufactured today." The first step is to get silicon (the building material for most microchips) from simple quartz sand. To clean the "dirty" silicon produced, technicians convert it into a clear liquid that is easily purified by multiple distillations. The much cleaner silicon emerging from this process is ready for the next step, in which specialists use the Czochralski method to grow impressive shiny silver crystals up to two meters tall with a perfect interior structure. Special saws cut these crystals into paper-thin wafers that form the basis of microchip production, but they need to be smoothed down first and polished to a shine. Again, a number of high-purity BASF chemicals such as nitric acid, sulfuric acid and hydrochloric acid are used for the polishing and cleaning process. The finished wafers are round disks measuring up to 30 centimeters across. Their surface has to be absolutely perfect. The tolerance for irregularities is limited to one fifty-thousandth of the diameter of a human hair. When computers were first produced, technicians were able to solder transistors by hand. Today's tiny circuits call for a different technique. The modern technology for etching transistors onto wafers is called photo-lithography. In this process, specialists first apply a barrier layer to the silicon which they illuminate through a mask. The layer dissolves at the sites exposed to light and the underlying silicon layer is etched. Chip manufacturers treat the etched locations with chemicals and repeat the process a number of times, building up transistors layer by layer, like building houses from layers of blocks. But dirt is everywhere. Metal devices invariably give off unwanted atoms. Humans transmit impurities by a mere touch or breath.

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

That's not counting the approximately half a billion particles of dust floating around a normal room. For this reason every step of chip manufacture takes place in pristine working areas where all the furnishings are plastic and filters are installed to remove the last particle of dust from the ambient air. Anyone entering these facilities must wear a full set of protective gear including gloves and a face mask. "Finished microchips must be absolutely free of contaminants, so the chemicals that are used in their manufacture have to be extremely pure," explains Dr. Karl-Rudolf Kurtz, head of BASF's Electronic Materials business unit. "BASF currently supplies around 30 chemicals of electronic grade purity." BASF is equipped with cleanroom labs to check the chemicals' purity before they are delivered to chip manufacturers. "We have the technology to detect impurities in trace amounts of less than one microgram per tonne of product."

The Prospects

BASF is a leading supplier of chemicals to the semiconductor industry. The global electronic chemical business acquired from Merck KGaA at the start of 2005 significantly strengthens BASF's market position. Electronic chemicals distribution is organized in a global business management system for easier ordering and shorter delivery times. BASF was conferred the UK gas supplier BOC Edwards' Supplier Quality Award for the reliability and quality of its electronic gases hydrogen chloride and ammonia. BASF is also the world's only supplier of hydroxylamine free base, a highly active solvent for cleaning microchips.

BASF Group Business Review and Outlook

- Sales grow strongly due to higher volumes and prices
- EBIT before special items up 33%
- Cash flow increases further
- Outlook for full year 2005 remains positive

Sales

We increased sales in the first quarter of 2005 by 11% compared with the same period of 2004 to EUR10.1 billion. Growth was primarily due to price increases. Sales volumes were higher than in the strong first quarter of 2004, in particular in the Chemicals and Plastics segments. Sales rose by 14% if divestitures and currency fluctuations are not taken into account.

Factors influencing sales in comparison with previous year

1st Quarter	% of sales
Volumes	1
Prices	13
Currencies	(2)
Acquisitions/divestitures	(1)
Total	11

Sales by segment, 1st Quarter 2005

Million EUR			
Chemicals	2005	1,822	15%
	2004	1,582	
Plastics	2005	2,800	21%
	2004	2,307	
Performance	2005	1,908	(1)%

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

Products	2004	1,929	
Agricultural	2005	1,354	(6)%
Products & Nutrition	2004	1,441	
Oil & Gas	2005	1,840	32%
	2004	1,394	

The Chemicals and Plastics segments increased sales as a result of overall strong volumes and higher sales prices.

The Performance Products segment also benefited from increased sales prices, although the loss in sales following the divestiture of the printing systems business could not be compensated for completely. Sales in the Agricultural Products & Nutrition segment declined due to weather conditions and lower sales prices in the Fine Chemicals division. The Oil & Gas segment posted the strongest sales growth in percentage terms as a result of high oil prices.

Special items	1st Quarter		2nd Quarter		3rd Quarter		4th Quarter	
Million EUR	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004
Special items in								
Income from operations	(64)	(100)		(16)		(96)		175
Financial result	-	(21)		(1)		(16)		(580)
Income before taxes and minority interests	(64)	(121)		(17)		(112)		(405)

Earnings

Compared with the previous year, we increased income from operations (EBIT) before special items by 33% to EUR1,563 million.

In the Chemicals and Plastics segments, where capacity utilization was predominantly high, there was a significant improvement in margins and earnings. The Performance Products segment increased earnings despite the divestiture of the printing systems business. Further reductions in fixed costs contributed to the positive earnings trend throughout the chemical businesses. Earnings in the Agricultural Products & Nutrition segment declined slightly due to unsatisfactory profitability in the Fine Chemicals division. In the Oil & Gas segment, earnings benefited from high oil prices.

First-quarter EBIT after special items climbed 39% to EUR1,499 million. Special items were related to various restructuring measures that are recorded under "Other" until implementation in the course of the year.

The financial result improved in particular due to higher earnings from our stake in the Basell joint venture, which we are planning to divest. We increased income before taxes and minority interests by 49% to EUR1,544 million.

EBIT before special items, 1st Quarter			
2005			
Million EUR			
Chemicals	2005	426	70%
	2004	251	

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

Plastics	2005	269	74%
	2004	155	
Performance	2005	225	7%
Products	2004	210	
Agricultural	2005	296	(1)%
Products			
& Nutrition	2004	300	
Oil & Gas	2005	484	41%
	2004	343	

The tax rate was 40% compared with 47% in the first quarter of 2004. The decline was due to the higher contribution to earnings from the NAFTA region. In addition, a charge for the tax effect of planned dividend distributions from Group companies was included in the first quarter of 2004. Income taxes contain taxes for oil production that are noncompensable with German corporate income tax. These oil production taxes increased from EUR138 million to EUR198 million due to higher income from operations from the exploration and production of oil.

Compared with the first quarter of 2004, net income climbed 66% to EUR861 million. Earnings per share in the first quarter were EUR1.60 compared with EUR0.94 in the same period of the previous year.

Outlook

We continue to expect global chemical production to grow by approximately 3% in 2005, although the growth is likely to vary widely from region to region.

We have increased our forecast for the average price of Brent crude from \$35 to \$45 per barrel; our forecast for the average euro/dollar exchange rate remains unchanged at \$1.30 per euro.

Demand for our products remains strong. We are attempting to counter very high raw materials costs, which are continuing to rise in some cases, with further price increases in accordance with our "value over volume" concept. The major highlight in the further course of the year will be the startup of our new Verbund site in Nanjing, China. We are rigorously implementing our restructuring measures to ensure our long-term competitiveness. The strong start in the first quarter gives us grounds for optimism. We expect to achieve higher sales and follow on from the high level of EBIT before special items (IFRS) posted in 2004, if possible exceeding it. Uncertain factors continue to be the development of oil prices and the U.S. dollar, as well as the political situation in regional troublespots.

Significant events

Starting from January 1, 2005, the accounting and reporting of the BASF Group is performed according to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The previous year's figures have been restated; the effects of the changes are explained on page 15 ff.

On April 11, BASF and its partner Gazprom announced a memorandum of understanding to further strengthen their partnership. The two partners will jointly develop the Yushno Russkoje natural gas field in western Siberia and jointly participate in the construction of the planned North European Gas Pipeline (NEGP) across the Baltic Sea. In addition, Gazprom will increase its stake in the WINGAS joint venture

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

from currently 35%, and will thus become more heavily involved in the joint marketing of natural gas in Europe.

On April 15, BASF acquired the electronic chemicals business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. The acquisition includes production sites and distribution centers for high-purity chemicals in Asia and Europe. As of this date, these activities will be assigned to the Inorganics division of the Chemicals segment and reported accordingly.

On April 19, BASF announced that it would continue with its share buyback program, and plans to buy back shares for EUR1.5 billion in 2005.

BASF shares	1st Quarter 2005	Full year 2004
Share price (end of period) (A) (EUR)	54.69	53.00
High(A) (EUR)	58.30	53.00
Low(A) (EUR)	51.34	40.49
Average daily trade (million shares) (A)	2.60	2.71
BASF share performance(B)	3.2%	22.8%
DAX 30 performance(B)	2.2%	7.3%
EURO STOXX 50 performance(B)	3.8%	9.4%
Market capitalization (end of period) (billion EURO)	29.3	28.7
Number of shares (end of period) (million shares)	535.3	541.2

(A) XETRA trading

(B) with dividends reinvested

Chemicals

- Higher volumes and sales growth
- Earnings rise strongly by 70%
- High capacity utilization and further reduction of fixed costs

Overview Chemicals	1st Quarter		Change in
Million EUR	2005	2004	%
Sales	1,822	1,582	15
Thereof Inorganics	207	201	3
Petrochemicals	1,136	919	24
Intermediates	479	462	4
EBITDA	544	354	54
EBIT before special items	426	251	70
EBIT before special items in percent of sales	23.4	15.9	-
EBIT	426	234	82

All divisions increased sales and earnings. Price increases to pass on higher raw materials costs were the prime reason for the rise in sales to EUR1.8 billion (volumes 5%, portfolio 1%, prices 12%,

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

currencies -3%). Earnings increased significantly, in particular due to improved margins, high capacity utilization and a further reduction in fixed costs.

Inorganics

Strong demand for our inorganic specialties, electronic chemicals and catalysts led to an increase in sales. We also improved earnings due to our measures to reduce fixed costs, for example the use of new production technologies for basic chemicals. By acquiring the electronic chemicals business of Merck KGaA, we are further expanding our activities in this high-growth business area.

Petrochemicals

Sales climbed significantly thanks to price increases in all product lines, in particular for cracker products. We benefited from strong demand for plasticizers and solvents. As a result of higher margins and very good capacity utilization, earnings increased considerably compared with the same period of 2004. Raw materials costs remain extremely high. In the second quarter, we will start operations at the steam cracker and further world-scale plants at our Verbund site in Nanjing, China.

Intermediates

The previous year's positive trend with regard to sales volumes and prices continued in Europe and North America (NAFTA). Demand for butanediol and its derivatives was particularly strong. We achieved higher margins and earnings by further increasing prices. We successfully started operations at our new plant for PolyTHF(R) in Caojing, China. PolyTHF(R) is an important precursor for elastic fibers used, for example, in sportswear.

Plastics

- Strong sales growth primarily due to price increases
- Earnings climb 74%
- Portfolio further optimized

Overview Plastics	1st Quarter		Change
Million EUR	2005	2004	in %
Sales	2,800	2,307	21
Thereof Styrenics	1,136	918	24
Performance Polymers	689	613	12
Polyurethanes	975	776	26
EBITDA	380	274	39
EBIT before special items	269	155	74
EBIT before special items in percent of sales	9.6	6.7	-
EBIT	268	154	74

Sales again rose significantly due to higher prices and sales volumes (volumes 3%, prices 20%, currencies -2%). Earnings in the Performance Polymers and Polyurethanes divisions increased considerably. In the Styrenics division, earnings were below the level of the first quarter of 2004.

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

Styrenics

Higher sales prices led to an increase in sales, but this did not compensate for the significant increase in the cost of the division's most important raw material, benzene. This margin pressure resulted in a decline in earnings. We intend to improve profitability by increasing prices and by further optimizing the portfolio.

Performance Polymers

Sales growth resulted from continuous price increases throughout the product portfolio and expansion of the engineering plastics business. Earnings increased significantly. This was due primarily to the realization of synergies from the integration of the engineering plastics businesses acquired in prior years as well as the optimization of production, in particular in Europe and North America (NAFTA).

In the United States, our customer Mann + Hummel Inc. named BASF "Perfect Supplier 2004."

In Asia, we intend to strengthen our engineering plastics business with a new compounding plant in Shanghai, China, and by expanding the compounding plant in Pasir Gudang, Malaysia.

Polyurethanes

Sales increased considerably in all regions. High prices for important raw materials were passed on to the market in the form of price increases, thus allowing the division to achieve further profitable growth. The expansion of MDI capacity at the site in Antwerp, Belgium, from 360,000 to 450,000 metric tons per year is scheduled for completion in early May 2005.

Performance Products

- Higher sales from ongoing business
- Profitable growth in Functional Polymers boosts earnings
- Closer cooperation with customers on innovative products

Overview Performance Products		1st Quarter		Change
Million EUR	2005	2004		in %
Sales	1,908	1,929		(1)
Thereof Performance Chemicals	694	796		(13)
Coatings	472	505		(7)
Functional Polymers	742	628		18
EBITDA	304	294		3
EBIT before special items	225	210		7
EBIT before special items in percent of sales	11.8	10.9		-
EBIT	224	203		10

Sales from ongoing business increased by 5% compared with the previous year due to higher prices (volumes -1%, portfolio -6%, prices 8%, currencies -2%). Earnings also improved.

Performance Chemicals

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

The decline in sales was due to the divestiture of the printing systems business in the fourth quarter of 2004. Sales from ongoing business increased, in particular due to the contribution from performance chemicals for detergents and formulators and for the automotive and oil industry. Earnings were slightly lower due to the divestiture of the printing systems business. On the basis of ongoing business, however, earnings increased, thanks to a reduction in fixed costs.

Coatings

Sales were below the previous year's level due to a decline in sales of automotive coatings. Together with a further increase in raw materials costs, this resulted in a decline in earnings. The profitability of the industrial coatings business developed positively due to streamlining of the portfolio and optimization of production.

We have further extended our cooperation with key customers. For example, we act as a system supplier to BMW in China. In the important Japanese automobile market, we have further strengthened our position by acquiring our partner's shares in the joint venture BASF NOF Coatings.

Functional Polymers

We grew profitably and faster than the market due to our innovative product portfolio and close cooperation with our customers. Sales increased significantly, in particular for acrylic monomers, dispersions for architectural coatings, carpet coatings and paper dispersions. Earnings also increased significantly because we passed on higher raw materials costs to the market by increasing our sales prices. We achieved the strongest earnings growth in North America (NAFTA). We have added cyclohexyl methacrylate (CHM) - a special acrylate to improve automotive coatings - to our product portfolio, and have successfully started production at our Ludwigshafen site.

Agricultural Products & Nutrition

- Agricultural Products: profitability further increased
- Fine Chemicals: earnings situation unsatisfactory

Overview Agricultural Products	1st Quarter		Change
Million EUR	2005	2004	in %
Sales	959	983	(2)
EBITDA	332	302	10
EBIT before special items	276	254	9
EBIT before special items in percent of sales	28.8	25.8	-
EBIT	284	234	21

The slight decline in sales (volumes -3%, prices 2%, currencies -1%) was primarily due to weather conditions which reduced the use of crop protection products in Europe and South America. This was partially offset by significantly higher demand for fungicides in North America, where our customers are preparing to combat Asian soybean rust. A higher value product portfolio and improved cost structures led to a further increase in earnings.

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

We are currently working to develop six new crop protection active ingredients, on a new herbicide tolerance project and on products to protect seeds with established active ingredients. These product innovations have a total peak sales potential of EUR700 million and will be ready for market in the coming years. A further seven crop protection active ingredients with peak sales of EUR1 billion are currently being introduced to the market. We have one of the most promising pipelines in the industry.

Overview Fine Chemicals		1st Quarter		
Million EUR	2005	2004	Change in %	
Sales	395	458	(14)	
EBITDA	50	79	(37)	
EBIT before special items	20	46	(57)	
EBIT before special items in percent of sales	5.1	10.0	-	
EBIT	20	46	(57)	

The decline in sales (volumes -1%, portfolio -2%, prices -10%, currencies -1%) was primarily due to the severe decline in the price of lysine, the highest volume product in our portfolio. In addition, sales volumes of pharmaceutical active ingredients and premixes were lower than in the first quarter of 2004. Organic acids and aroma chemicals, however, continued to grow strongly. Earnings declined due to the overall negative trend in sales volumes and prices. To some extent, the decline was offset by the reduction of fixed costs. We are addressing the challenging competitive environment through active portfolio management, further cost-reduction measures, a closer focus on innovative products as well as close cooperations with our customers.

Oil & Gas

- Positive sales and earnings development due to considerably higher oil prices
- New customers in natural gas trading
- Successful cooperation with Gazprom extended further

Overview Oil & Gas		1st Quarter		
Million EUR	2005	2004	Change in %	
Sales	1,840	1,394	32	
Thereof Exploration and production	693	527	31	
Natural gas trading	1,147	867	32	
EBITDA	590	429	38	
Thereof Exploration and production	459	304	51	
Natural gas trading	131	125	5	
EBIT before special items	484	343	41	
Thereof Exploration and production	386	249	55	

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

Natural gas trading	98	94	4
EBIT before special items in percent of sales	26.3	24.6	-
Exploration and production	55.7	47.2	-
Natural gas trading	8.5	10.8	-
EBIT	484	343	41
Thereof Exploration and production	386	249	55
Natural gas trading	98	94	4

The considerable increase in oil prices in terms of both dollars and euros compared with the same period of 2004 resulted in significantly higher sales (volumes 4%, prices/currencies 28%).

In the exploration and production business sector, production was slightly higher than in the first quarter of 2004 due to increased oil production in Libya and slightly higher gas volumes.

At EUR36.30 per barrel, the average price of Brent crude was 42% higher than in the same period of the previous year, resulting in a significant increase in earnings.

In the natural gas trading business sector, volumes increased further and we acquired new customers. The increase in earnings was due entirely to higher volumes. A gas supply contract was signed with the German energy company Mark-E for a planned combined heat and power plant.

On April 11, 2005, we signed a memorandum of understanding with our partner Gazprom to jointly produce natural gas in western Siberia and market it in Europe.

Regions

- Sales growth in all regions
- North America: earnings triple
- Asia: startup of plants in Nanjing and Caojing proceeds as scheduled

Overview	Sales			Sales			EBIT before special items		
Regions	(location of company)			(location of customer)					
			Change			Change			Change
Million EUR	2005	2004	in %	2005	2004	in %	2005	2004	in %
1st Quarter									
Europe	6,102	5,634	8	5,851	5,387	9	1,134	912	24
Thereof									
Germany	4,310	3,893	11	2,201	1,949	13	742	654	13
North America									
(NAFTA)	2,265	1,918	18	2,243	1,909	17	271	90	201
Asia									
Pacific(A)	1,299	1,099	18	1,366	1,192	15	87	95	(8)
South America,									

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

Africa,									
Middle									
East (A)	417	400	4	623	563	11	71	78	(9)
	10,083	9,051	11	10,083	9,051	11	1,563	1,175	33

Effective January 1, 2005, companies in Asia are reported in the region "Asia Pacific." South America, which was previously reported as a separate region, is now reported together with the African and Middle Eastern companies in the region "South America, Africa, Middle East."

Companies in Europe increased sales by 8% in the first quarter of 2005. EBIT before special items rose by EUR222 million to EUR1,134 million. This was due in particular to higher margins and a further reduction of fixed costs in the Chemicals and Plastics segments.

In Germany, the increase in sales and earnings was due to the improvement in the Oil & Gas segment.

In North America (NAFTA), sales by location of company improved by 24% in dollar terms. EBIT before special items tripled from EUR90 million to EUR271 million. All segments contributed to this growth. The Chemicals segment performed particularly strongly due to good capacity utilization of the steam cracker in Port Arthur, Texas, combined with favorable margins for cracker products. The Agricultural Products division also posted significantly higher earnings as a result of strong demand for fungicides.

In Asia Pacific, companies increased sales in local currency terms by 19%. The sales growth was due in particular to MDI and polyurethanes systems in the Polyurethanes division. The new plant for PolyTHF(R) in Caojing, China, successfully started operations, and this will be followed by the THF plant in the second quarter. At our Verbund site in Nanjing, China, the startup of our world-scale plants is also proceeding according to schedule. EBIT before special items was negatively impacted by startup costs for our two new sites.

In South America, Africa, Middle East, sales by location of company increased by 4% in local currency terms. EBIT before special items declined by EUR7 million to EUR71 million. In South America, sales and earnings in the Agricultural Products division did not reach the previous year's very strong level because dry weather reduced demand for fungicides. The Plastics and Performance Products segments posted higher sales and earnings.

Consolidated Statements of Income

	1st Quarter			Year
	2005	2004	Change	2004
Million EUR			in %	
Sales	10,083	9,051	11.4	37,537
Cost of sales	6,845	6,140	11.5	25,537
Gross profit on sales	3,238	2,911	11.2	12,000
Selling expenses	1,004	1,111	(9.6)	4,500
General and administrative expenses	164	171	(4.1)	708
Research and development expenses	283	263	7.6	1,182

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

Other operating income	126	97	29.9	951
Other operating expenses	414	388	6.7	1,381
Income from operations	1,499	1,075	39.4	5,180
(Expenses)/income from financial assets	71	13	446.2	(598)
Interest result	(40)	(37)	(8.1)	(162)
Other financial results	14	(16)	.	(117)
Financial result	45	(40)	.	(877)
Income before taxes and minority interests	1,544	1,035	49.2	4,303
Income taxes	622	483	28.8	2,206
Net income before minority interests	922	552	67.0	2,097
Minority interests	61	32	90.6	131
Net income	861	520	65.6	1,966
Earnings per share (EUR)	1.60	0.94	70.2	3.58
Number of shares, in million (weighted)	537	555	(3.2)	549

The interim financial statements have not been audited. The financial statements were prepared for the first time in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS); the previous year's figure have been restated (see also the explanations on page 15 ff).

Consolidated Balance Sheets

Assets Million EUR	March 31, 2005	March 31, 2004	Change in %	Dec. 31, 2004	Change in %
Long-term assets					
Intangible assets	3,543	4,004	(11.5)	3,610	(1.9)
Property, plant and equipment	13,202	13,792	(4.3)	13,007	1.5
Investments accounted for using the equity method	1,165	1,670	(30.2)	1,092	6.7
Other financial assets	930	954	(2.5)	941	(1.2)
Deferred taxes	1,185	1,228	(3.5)	1,067	11.1
Other long-term assets	660	575	14.8	598	10.4
	20,685	22,223	(6.9)	20,315	1.8
Short-term assets					
Inventories	4,964	4,470	11.1	4,645	6.9
Accounts receivable, trade	6,589	6,268	5.1	5,861	12.4
Other receivables and miscellaneous short-term assets	2,224	2,143	3.8	2,073	7.3
Liquid funds	3,007	909	230.8	2,291	31.3
	16,784	13,790	21.7	14,870	12.9
Total assets	37,469	36,013	4.0	35,185	6.5

Stockholders' equity and liabilities	March 31,	March 31,	Change	Dec. 31,	Change
--------------------------------------	--------------	--------------	--------	-------------	--------

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

Million EUR	2005	2004	in %	2004	in %
Stockholders' equity					
Subscribed capital	1,371	1,417	(3.2)	1,384	(0.9)
Capital surplus	3,037	2,991	1.5	3,022	0.5
Retained earnings	12,749	12,059	5.7	12,154	4.9
Other comprehensive income	11	113	(90.3)	(166)	.
Minority interests	413	357	15.7	347	19.0
	17,581	16,937	3.8	16,741	5.0
Long-term liabilities					
Provisions for pensions and similar obligations	3,869	3,941	(1.8)	3,866	0.1
Other provisions	2,315	2,335	(0.9)	2,385	(2.9)
Deferred taxes	934	653	43.0	817	14.3
Financial indebtedness	1,966	3,071	(36.0)	1,845	6.6
Other liabilities	1,064	1,069	(0.5)	1,043	2.0
	10,148	11,069	(8.3)	9,956	1.9
Short-term liabilities					
Accounts payable, trade	2,879	2,568	12.1	2,372	21.4
Provisions	2,547	2,422	5.2	2,508	1.6
Tax liabilities	1,110	897	23.7	644	72.4
Financial indebtedness	1,455	418	248.1	1,453	0.1
Other liabilities	1,749	1,702	2.8	1,511	15.8
	9,740	8,007	21.6	8,488	14.8
Total stockholders' equity and liabilities	37,469	36,013	4.0	35,185	6.5

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

Million EUR	January - March	
	2005	2004
Net income	861	520
Depreciation and amortization of long-term assets	521	547
Changes in net working capital	(175)	(62)
Miscellaneous items	(103)	(17)
Cash provided by operating activities	1,104	988
Payments related to tangible and intangible fixed assets	(393)	(458)
Acquisitions/divestitures	139	(73)
Financial investments and other items	38	(71)
Cash used in investing activities	(216)	(602)
Proceeds from capital increases/(decreases)	(264)	(165)
Changes in financial indebtedness	143	(15)
Dividends	(19)	(16)
Cash used in financing activities	(140)	(196)
Net changes in cash and cash equivalents	748	190
Cash and cash equivalents as of beginning of year and other changes	2,094	540
Cash and cash equivalents	2,842	730
Marketable securities	165	179
Liquid funds	3,007	909

The previous year's figures were restated due to the transition to IFRS. There were no significant changes.

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

As a result of the higher level of net income, cash provided by operating activities increased by 12% in the first quarter to EUR1,104 million. Expansion of our business resulted in an increase in inventories and receivables. Cash used in investing activities led to a cash outflow of EUR216 million compared with EUR602 million in the first quarter of 2004. At EUR393 million, payments related to tangible and intangible fixed assets were below the previous year's level and were significantly lower than the level of amortization and depreciation on fixed assets of EUR521 million. There was a cash inflow due to past acquisition activities; the first quarter of 2004 contained the acquisition of Sunoco's plasticizers business.

In cash used in financing activities, further share buybacks led to a cash outflow. In the first quarter of 2005, 5,1 million shares were bought back for EUR274 million or an average of EUR53.80 per share. In the course of the year, it is planned to buy back shares for a further EUR1.5 billion.

Liquid funds increased by EUR716 million to EUR3,007 million, and at EUR3,421 million financial indebtedness rose by EUR123 million compared with the figure at the end of 2004. Net debt declined to EUR414 million.

Consolidated Statements of Equity

January - March 2005 Million EUR	Number of subscribed shares outstanding	Subscribed capital	Capital surplus	Retained earnings
As of January 1, 2005	540,440,410	1,384	3,022	12,154
Share buyback and cancellation of shares including own shares intended to be cancelled	(5,091,410)	(13)	15	(276)
Capital injection by minority interests	-	-	-	-
Dividends paid	-	-	-	-
Net income	-	-	-	861
Change in other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-
Change in scope of consolidation and other changes	-	-	-	10
As of March 31, 2005	535,349,000	1,371	3,037	12,749
January - March 2005 Million EUR	Other comprehensive income (A)	Minority interests	Stock- holders' equity	
As of January 1, 2005		(166)	347	16,741
Share buyback and cancellation of shares including own shares intended to be cancelled		-	-	(274)

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

Capital injection by minority interests	-	10	10
Dividends paid	-	(19)	(19)
Net income	-	61	922
Change in other comprehensive income	177	11	188
Change in scope of consolidation and other changes	-	3	13
As of March 31, 2005	11	413	17,581

January - March 2004 Million EUR	Number of subscribed shares outstanding	Subscribed capital	Capital surplus	Retained earnings
As of January 1, 2004	556,643,410	1,425	2,983	11,673
Share buyback and cancellation of shares including own shares intended to be cancelled	(3,270,000)	(8)	8	(136)
Capital injection by minority interests	-	-	-	-
Dividends paid	-	-	-	-
Net income	-	-	-	520
Change in other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-
Change in scope of consolidation and other changes	-	-	-	2
As of March 31, 2004	553,373,410	1,417	2,991	12,059

January - March 2004 Million EUR	Other comprehensive income (A)	Minority interests	Stock- holders' equity
As of January 1, 2004	28	403	16,512
Share buyback and cancellation of shares including own shares intended to be cancelled	-	-	(136)
Capital injection by minority interests	-	(29)	(29)
Dividends paid	-	(16)	(16)
Net income	-	32	552
Change in other comprehensive income	85	(59)	26
Change in scope of consolidation and other changes	-	26	28
As of March 31, 2004	113	357	16,937

Contains income-neutral changes in equity (in particular, translation adjustments and fair-value changes of financial instruments)

Segment Reporting

Segments

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

Million EUR	Sales			EBITDA		
1st Quarter	2005	2004	%	2005	2004	%
Chemicals	1,822	1,582	15.2	544	354	53.7
Plastics	2,800	2,307	21.4	380	274	38.7
Performance Products	1,908	1,929	(1.1)	304	294	3.4
Agricultural Products & Nutrition	1,354	1,441	(6.0)	382	381	0.3
Agricultural Products	959	983	(2.4)	332	302	9.9
Fine Chemicals	395	458	(13.8)	50	79	(36.7)
Oil & Gas	1,840	1,394	32.0	590	429	37.5
Other (A)	359	398	(9.8)	(181)	(118)	(53.4)
	10,083	9,051	11.4	2,019	1,614	25.1
	Research and development expenses			Assets (B)		
1st Quarter	27	27	0.0	5,416	5,165	4.9
Chemicals	34	31	9.7	6,530	6,168	5.9
Plastics						
Performance Products	50	55	(9.1)	4,711	5,073	(7.1)
Agricultural Products & Nutrition	86	82	4.9	6,700	7,479	(10.4)
Agricultural Products	68	61	11.5	5,402	6,076	(11.1)
Fine Chemicals	18	21	(14.3)	1,298	1,403	(7.5)
Oil & Gas	34	25	36.0	4,017	3,788	6.0
Other (A)	52	43	20.9	10,095	8,340	21.0
	283	263	7.6	37,469	36,013	4.0
Segments	Income from operations before special items			Income from operations (EBIT)		
Million EUR	2005	2004	%	2005	2004	%
1st Quarter						
Chemicals	426	251	69.7	426	234	82.1
Plastics	269	155	73.5	268	154	74.0
Performance Products	225	210	7.1	224	203	10.3
Agricultural Products & Nutrition	296	300	(1.3)	304	280	8.6
Agricultural Products	276	254	8.7	284	234	21.4
Fine Chemicals	20	46	(56.5)	20	46	(56.5)
Oil & Gas	484	343	41.1	484	343	41.1
Other (A)	(137)	(84)	(63.1)	(207)	(139)	(48.9)
	1,563	1,175	33.0	1,499	1,075	39.4
	Additions to fixed assets (C)			Amortization and depreciation (C)		
1st Quarter	88	175	(49.7)	118	120	(1.7)
Chemicals	82	102	(19.6)	112	120	(6.7)
Plastics						
Performance Products	54	66	(18.2)	80	91	(12.1)
Agricultural Products & Nutrition	31	55	(43.6)	78	101	(22.8)

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

Agricultural Products	12	19	(36.8)	48	68	(29.4)
Fine Chemicals	19	36	(47.2)	30	33	(9.1)
Oil & Gas	94	86	9.3	106	86	23.3
Other(A)	13	34	(61.8)	26	21	23.8
	362	518	(30.1)	520	539	(3.5)

(A) "Other" includes the fertilizers business and other businesses as well as expenses, income and assets not allocated to the segments. This item also includes foreign currency results from financial indebtedness that are not allocated to the segments as well as from currency positions that are macro-hedged.

(B) The assets of "Other" includes the assets of the fertilizers business and other businesses as well as assets that are not allocated to the segments (financial assets, liquid funds, financial receivables, deferred taxes; 1st quarter 2005: EUR8,437 million, 1st quarter 2004: EUR6,707 million).

(C) Tangible and intangible fixed assets

Effects of the Transition to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

Starting from January 1, 2005, the accounting and reporting of the BASF Group is performed according to IFRS. The effect of retrospective application of IFRS on income and equity of the BASF Group is shown below. The IFRS figures for the year 2004 have not yet been attested by the external auditor.

Overview	1st Quarter 2004		2nd Quarter 2004		3rd Quarter 2004		4th Quarter 2004		Year 2004	
BASF Group	IFRS	German GAAP	IFRS	German GAAP	IFRS	German GAAP	IFRS	German GAAP	IFRS	German GAAP
MillionEUR										
Income from operations (EBIT)	1,075	1,038	1,250	1,181	1,076	958	1,779	1,679	5,180	4,856
Financial results (Expenses) /income from financial assets(A)	(40)	(60)	12	(23)	(127)	(93)	(722)	(661)	(877)	(837)
Interest result	(37)	(52)	(38)	(49)	(52)	(68)	(35)	(59)	(162)	(228)
Other financial results	(16)	-	5	-	(73)	-	(33)	-	(117)	-
Income before taxes and minority interests	1,035	978	1,262	1,158	949	865	1,057	1,018	4,303	4,019
Income										

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

taxes	483	431	514	490	537	482	672	602	2,206	2,005
Minority										
interests	32	32	34	34	46	46	19	19	131	131
Net income	520	515	714	634	366	337	366	397	1,966	1,883
Earnings										
per share	0.94	0.93	1.30	1.15	0.67	0.62	0.67	0.73	3.58	3.43

Including write-downs and losses on sale of participating interests

Million EUR		Jan. 1, 2004	Mar. 31, 2004	June 30, 2004	Sept. 30, 2004	Dec. 31, 2004
	Note					
Stockholders' equity in accordance with German GAAP		15,879	16,289	15,991	16,097	15,765
Capitalization of interest	a	323	326	326	312	314
Capitalization of software developed for internal use	b	114	107	101	96	81
Accounting for pensions (A)	c	(156)	(139)	(122)	(107)	177
Accounting for provisions	d	175	170	167	164	163
Accounting for financial instruments	e	(10)	4	51	(7)	191
Inventory valuation (A)	f	102	102	102	132	12
Reversal of goodwill amortization and write-offs due to impairment	g	-	31	58	86	109
Other adjustments	h	(14)	(14)	(14)	(14)	(13)
Tax effects of planned dividend payments and other tax effects	i	46	(5)	(5)	(28)	(58)
Valuation adjustments relating to companies accounted for under the equity method	j	53	66	79	85	-
Adjustments in accordance with IFRS		633	648	743	719	976
Stockholders' equity in accordance with IFRS		16,512	16,937	16,734	16,816	16,741

Including effects of changes in valuation methods in the 2004
German GAAP annual financial statements

Million EUR		1st Quarter 2004	2nd Quarter 2004	3rd Quarter 2004	4th Quarter 2004	Year 2004
	Note					
EBIT in accordance with						

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

German GAAP		1,038	1,181	958	1,679	4,856
Capitalization of interest						
	a	(17)	(16)	(18)	(13)	(64)
Capitalization of software developed for internal use						
	b	(13)	(10)	(8)	(23)	(54)
Accounting for pensions(A)						
	c	27	28	23	(10)	68
Accounting for provisions						
	d	(7)	(2)	1	21	13
Accounting for financial instruments						
	e	(14)	14	1	86	87
Inventory valuation(A)						
	f	-	-	48	(51)	(3)
Reversal of goodwill amortization and write-offs due to impairment						
		41	35	39	36	151
Other adjustments						
	h	(18)	(18)	(5)	17	(24)
Net financing cost of pensions						
		38	38	37	37	150
Adjustments in accordance with IFRS						
		37	69	118	100	324
EBIT in accordance with IFRS						
		1,075	1,250	1,076	1,779	5,180

Million EUR		1st Quarter 2004	2nd Quarter 2004	3rd Quarter 2004	4th Quarter 2004	Year 2004
	Note					
Net income in accordance with German GAAP		515	634	337	397	1,883
Capitalization of interest						
	a	1	-	(9)	12	4
Capitalization of software developed for internal use						
	b	(8)	(6)	(5)	(14)	(33)
Accounting for pensions(A)						
	c	17	17	15	(6)	43
Accounting for provisions						
	d	(3)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(12)
Accounting for financial instruments						
	e	5	32	(8)	104	133
Inventory valuation(A)						
	f	-	-	30	(32)	(2)
Reversal of goodwill amortization and write-offs due to impairment						
	g	31	27	28	27	113
Other adjustments						
	h	-	-	(1)	1	-
Tax effects of planned dividend payment and other tax effects						
	i	(51)	-	(24)	(36)	(110)
Valuation adjustments						

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

relating to companies
accounted for
under the equity method

	j	13	13	6	(85)	(53)
Adjustments in accordance						
with IFRS		5	80	29	(31)	83
Net income in accordance						
with IFRS		520	714	366	366	1,966

Including effects of changes in valuation methods in the 2004
German GAAP annual financial statements

Explanations of the transition in accounting and valuation methods to IFRS The accounting and reporting of the BASF Group was done according to German GAAP for the periods up to and including the 2004 annual financial statements. International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) were taken into account to the greatest extent possible. Due to the EU regulation enacted on July 19, 2002, BASF, as a listed company, was required to change its reporting. Effective January 1, 2005, BASF converted its accounting completely to IFRS in compliance with IFRS 1 "First-time Adoption." The previous year's figures were adjusted accordingly. Effects of this transition were netted against equity as of January 1, 2004. Changes compared with the prior accounting methodology are described below:

(a) Capitalization of construction period interest

For qualifying assets with a lengthy construction period, interest on the project expenditures up to the point it is placed in service can be capitalized. Construction period interest was previously not capitalized, in conformance with German GAAP. According to U.S. GAAP, capitalization of construction period interest is required. In order to avoid a difference between IFRS and U.S. GAAP, construction period interest is capitalized in these financial statements. The amortization of capitalized construction period interest reduced EBIT (first quarter 2004: EUR17 million, full year 2004: EUR64 million), whereas the capitalization of construction period interest increased the financial result (first quarter 2004: EUR17 million, full year 2004: EUR59 million). The assets of the Chemicals and Plastics segments in particular increased as a result of the capitalization.

(b) Capitalization of internally generated intangible assets

This item contains costs for software that is internally developed and used. These costs are to be capitalized and depreciated as an intangible asset according to IFRS. German GAAP did not allow internally generated intangible fixed assets to be capitalized. IAS 38 "Intangible Assets" covers the capitalization of development costs. Due to the stringent capitalization requirements, there has been no capitalization of development costs to date.

(c) Pension accounting

The accounting treatment of direct pension obligations was already performed in accordance with IAS 19 "Employee Benefits" in the 2004 annual financial statements. This led to a new valuation whereby deferred actuarial gains and losses due to deviations from actuarial assumptions were netted out against retained earnings. In addition, certain pension obligations were financed via legally independent

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

plans, especially BASF Pensionskasse VVaG. Since BASF as the sponsoring entity maintains guarantees, these plans are treated under IFRS as defined benefit plans, and are to be included in the Group financial statements. The inclusion of these pension plans was not possible in the German GAAP financial statements. From now on, they will be accounted for according to IAS 19, retrospective from January 1, 2004. Deferred actuarial gains and losses were not included in accordance with the option under IFRS 1 "First-time Adoption." In addition, the financing cost for pensions and other personnel obligations was netted against the expected returns on plan assets (first quarter 2004: EUR38 million, full year 2004: EUR150 million) and shown in "Other financial results" rather than before EBIT.

(d) Accounting for provisions

These transition items contain the following differences:

- Under German GAAP, provisions were established for omitted maintenance and repairs, and for mandated modifications in connection with the operation of production facilities. According to IFRS, these items are to be expensed as incurred.
- Provisions for certain environmental measures and recultivation measures have to be capitalized under IFRS in the amount of the expected expense, thereby increasing the acquisition costs of the affected assets. According to German GAAP, costs were accrued over the useful life of the asset, in contrast to IFRS, where such costs are depreciated following capitalization.
- According to German GAAP, provisions were accrued for cyclical overhauls, which were to be carried out at specific intervals. According to IFRS, the expenditures are to be capitalized, and depreciated over the interval between cyclical overhauls.
- Long-term provisions are to be discounted according to IFRS, whereas under German GAAP, they were reported at nominal value.

(e) Accounting for financial instruments

Accounting under IFRS requires derivatives to be accounted for at fair value and shown as other assets and liabilities on the balance sheet. Provided that the conditions for hedge accounting are not fulfilled, changes in the fair value will affect income, just as with corresponding gains and losses in the underlying instrument. Gains from swaps and forward contracts were accounted for upon maturity under German GAAP. Unrealized losses, however, were immediately recognized in income within other provisions. According to German GAAP, long-term receivables and liabilities in foreign currencies were to be valued at the initial exchange rate, or at the exchange rate on the date of the financial statements; the lower rate in the case of receivables, or higher rate in the case of liabilities. According to IFRS, valuation is always made at the exchange rate on the date of the financial statements. Available-for-sale securities are to be valued at their fair value on the date of the financial statements. Changes in the fair value are shown as a component of equity (Other comprehensive income) up until the point of disposal of the securities. In German GAAP financial statements such securities are valued at acquisition cost, or lower fair value on the date of the financial statements, with valuation changes immediately affecting income.

(f) Inventory valuation

Since the LIFO method is not allowed under IFRS, inventory valuation method was changed for the 2004 annual financial statements to the average cost method, which is allowed under IFRS.

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

According to German GAAP, raw materials and supplies are to be discounted based on lower replacement costs. According to IFRS, valuation adjustments may only be made in the event of a lower net realizable value of the inventories. (g) Elimination of goodwill amortization, and impairment-only approach Goodwill was formerly amortized over its expected useful life, according to German GAAP. According to IFRS 3 "Business Combinations," goodwill is to be examined annually in accordance with IAS 36 "Impairment of Assets" to determine if a write-down is necessary. Due to IFRS 1 "First-time Adoption," in conjunction with IFRS 3 "Business Combinations," annual amortization is no longer permitted effective January 1, 2004. According to impairment tests carried out at the transition date and at year-end 2004, impairment write-downs were not necessary. In particular, earnings in the Agricultural Products division improved as a result of the elimination of goodwill amortization (first quarter of 2004: EUR25 million, full year 2004: EUR96 million).

(h) Other adjustments

These relate primarily to the treatment of investment subsidies that may not be immediately credited to income according to IFRS, but instead reduce the acquisition costs of the respective assets, as well as to reclassifications in the income statement.

(i) Tax effects of planned dividend distributions and other tax effects

According to IFRS, in 2004, based on the updated financial plan and taking into account a change in German corporate income tax law (Section 8b KStG), deferred taxes were accrued for the tax effects of planned dividend distributions from Group companies.

(j) Valuation adjustments for companies accounted for under the equity method

The IFRS valuation adjustments especially concern the capitalization and amortization of internally developed and used software, as well as construction period interest for companies accounted for under the equity method. Due to the valuation adjustments, the book value of these financial assets as of January 1, 2004 was higher under IFRS than under German GAAP. The negative reconciliation item to net income under ifrs was associated with write-downs on these financial assets.

Changes in presentation

Presentation of the income statement and balance sheet is made in accordance with IAS 1 "Presentation of Financial Statements." Certain individual items were combined for clarity, and detailed separately only in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements:

- Balance sheet

IFRS requires a differentiation between long and short-term assets, in contrast to German GAAP, where a breakdown by fixed assets versus current assets was required. The item "Investments accounted for using the equity method" contains, in particular, the stake in the Basell joint venture that is scheduled for divestiture. In equity, the new item "Other Comprehensive Income" is presented to account for changes that do not affect income. The option under IFRS 1 to net the translation adjustment against retained earnings and net profit as of

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

January 1, 2004 was exercised. Liabilities are segmented according to maturity under IFRS, whereas under German GAAP it was segmented by provisions and liabilities.

- Income statement

Financing costs for pensions and other personnel obligations netted against the expected returns from plan assets are presented in an item "Other financial results" according to IFRS, rather than before EBIT. This item also contains the capitalization of construction period interest, the discounting of other provisions as well as changes in fair value of interest derivatives.

Segment reporting in accordance with IFRS

EBITDA	1st Quarter		2nd Quarter		3rd Quarter		4th Quarter		Year 2004	
	2004		2004		2004		2004		2004	
	German		German		German		German		German	
Million EUR	IFRS	GAAP	IFRS	GAAP	IFRS	GAAP	IFRS	GAAP	IFRS	GAAP
Chemicals	354	335	459	441	469	419	575	551	1,857	1,746
Plastics	274	265	292	280	293	268	334	337	1,193	1,150
Performance										
Products	294	279	321	305	307	283	581	575	1,503	1,442
Agri-										
cultural										
Products &										
Nutrition	381	370	375	362	86	65	251	249	1,093	1,046
Agri-										
cultural										
Products	302	297	306	300	45	33	234	230	887	860
Fine										
Chemicals	79	73	69	62	41	32	17	19	206	186
Oil & Gas	429	426	443	440	582	578	644	631	2,098	2,075
Thereof										
Exploration										
and										
production	304	300	351	351	463	459	521	506	1,639	1,616
Natural gas										
trading	125	126	92	89	119	119	123	125	459	459
Other	(118)	(95)	(75)	(84)	(58)	(53)	189	99	(62)	(133)
	1,614	1,580	1,815	1,744	1,679	1,560	2,574	2,442	7,682	7,326

Income from
operations
before

special	1st Quarter		2nd Quarter		3rd Quarter		4th Quarter		Year 2004	
items	2004		2004		2004		2004		2004	
	German		German		German		German		German	
Million	IFRS	GAAP	IFRS	GAAP	IFRS	GAAP	IFRS	GAAP	IFRS	GAAP
EUR										
Chemicals	251	245	340	333	367	331	419	425	1,377	1,334
Plastics	155	150	180	172	180	158	237	247	752	727
Performance										
Products	210	196	233	217	216	192	191	185	850	790
Agri-										
cultural										
Products &										
Nutrition	300	269	273	241	4	(36)	186	171	763	645

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

Agri-cultural Products	254	227	239	212	(11)	(44)	184	161	666	556
Fine Chemicals	46	42	34	29	15	8	2	10	97	89
Oil & Gas	343	343	339	339	459	458	512	507	1,653	1,647
Thereof										
Exploration and production	249	247	278	279	371	369	418	410	1,316	1,305

Natural gas trading	94	96	61	60	88	89	94	97	337	342
Other	(84)	(65)	(99)	(105)	(54)	(49)	59	(31)	(178)	(250)
	1,175	1,138	1,266	1,197	1,172	1,054	1,604	1,504	5,217	4,893

Income from operations (EBIT)	1st Quarter 2004		2nd Quarter 2004		3rd Quarter 2004		4th Quarter 2004		Year 2004	
	German		German		German		German		German	
Million EUR	IFRS	GAAP	IFRS	GAAP	IFRS	GAAP	IFRS	GAAP	IFRS	GAAP
Chemicals	234	228	335	328	338	302	377	383	1,284	1,241
Plastics	154	149	171	163	169	147	200	210	694	669
Performance Products	203	189	230	214	214	190	481	475	1,128	1,068
Agri-cultural Products & Nutrition	280	249	268	236	(26)	(66)	136	121	658	540
Agri-cultural Products	234	207	235	208	(29)	(62)	162	139	602	492
Fine Chemicals	46	42	33	28	3	(4)	(26)	(18)	56	48
Oil & Gas	343	343	346	346	459	458	495	490	1,643	1,637

Thereof										
Exploration										
and										
production	249	247	285	286	371	369	401	393	1,306	1,295
Natural										
gas										
trading	94	96	61	60	88	89	94	97	337	342
Other	(139)	(120)	(100)	(106)	(78)	(73)	90	—	(227)	(299)
	1,075	1,038	1,250	1,181	1,076	958	1,779	1,679	5,180	4,856

Research and development expenses	1st		2nd		3rd		4th			
	Quarter		Quarter		Quarter		Quarter		Year	
	2004		2004		2004		2004		2004	
	German		German		German		German		German	
Million EUR	IFRS	GAAP	IFRS	GAAP	IFRS	GAAP	IFRS	GAAP	IFRS	GAAP
Chemicals	27	28	25	27	26	27	20	22	98	104
Plastics	31	32	33	33	35	36	37	37	136	138
Performance Products	55	56	55	56	61	62	46	47	217	221

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

Agricultural Products & Nutrition	82	83	85	86	91	92	104	104	362	365
Agricultural Products	61	61	63	64	67	67	81	81	272	273
Fine Chemicals	21	22	22	22	24	25	23	23	90	92
Oil & Gas	25	25	37	37	49	50	88	86	199	198
Thereof Exploration and production	25	25	37	37	49	50	88	86	199	198
Natural gas trading	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	43	36	43	36	47	41	37	34	170	147
	263	260	278	275	309	308	332	330	1,182	1,173

Assets	1st Quarter 2004		2nd Quarter 2004		3rd Quarter 2004		Year 2004			
	German		German		German		German		German	
Million EUR	IFRS	GAAP	IFRS	GAAP	IFRS	GAAP	IFRS	GAAP	IFRS	GAAP
Chemicals	5,165	4,911	5,373	5,124	5,374	5,105	5,219	5,008		
Plastics	6,168	5,985	6,216	6,032	6,426	6,231	6,187	6,044		
Performance Products	5,073	4,919	5,090	4,934	5,082	4,919	4,538	4,426		
Agricultural Products & Nutrition	7,479	7,320	7,116	6,933	6,549	6,338	6,293	6,118		
Agri- cultural Products	6,076	5,969	5,693	5,563	5,211	5,053	4,985	4,849		
Fine Chemicals	1,403	1,351	1,423	1,370	1,338	1,285	1,308	1,269		
Oil & Gas	3,788	3,598	3,726	3,536	3,940	3,743	4,063	3,876		
Thereof Exploration and production	1,830	1,761	1,857	1,787	1,897	1,818	1,943	1,829		
Natural gas trading	1,958	1,837	1,869	1,749	2,043	1,925	2,120	2,047		
Other	8,340	8,336	8,166	8,084	8,732	8,892	8,885	8,444		
	36,013	35,069	35,687	34,643	36,103	35,228	35,185	33,916		

Additions to fixed assets	1st Quarter 2004		2nd Quarter 2004		3rd Quarter 2004		4th Quarter 2004		Year 2004	
	German		German		German		German		German	
Million EUR	IFRS	GAAP	IFRS	GAAP	IFRS	GAAP	IFRS	GAAP	IFRS	GAAP
Chemicals	175	166	143	141	114	107	169	141	601	555
Plastics	102	98	110	105	102	100	159	151	473	454
Performance Products	66	63	68	66	62	58	108	99	304	286
Agricultural Products & Nutrition	55	53	56	49	60	54	82	76	253	232
Agricultural										

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

Products	19	18	17	15	22	20	42	42	100	95
Fine										
Chemicals	36	35	39	34	38	34	40	34	153	137
Oil & Gas	86	80	58	55	120	109	124	130	388	374
Thereof										
Exploration and production	82	77	58	55	105	94	84	91	329	317
Natural gas trading	4	3	-	-	15	15	40	39	59	57
Other	34	33	31	30	33	32	46	44	144	139
	518	493	466	446	491	460	688	641	2,163	2,040

Amortization and depreciation (A)	1st Quarter 2004	2nd Quarter 2004	3rd Quarter 2004	4th Quarter 2004	Year 2004	
	German IFRS	German GAAP	German IFRS	German GAAP	IFRS	GAAP
Million EUR						
Chemicals	120	107	124	113	573	505
Plastics	120	116	121	117	499	481
Performance Products	91	90	91	93	375	374
Agricultural Products & Nutrition	101	121	107	126	435	506
Agricultural Products	68	90	71	92	285	368
Fine Chemicals	33	31	36	34	150	138
Oil & Gas	86	83	97	94	455	438
Thereof						
Exploration and production	55	53	66	65	333	321
Natural gas trading	31	30	31	29	122	117
Other	21	25	25	22	165	166
	539	542	565	563	2,502	2,470

Forward-looking statements

This report contains forward-looking statements under the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based on current expectations, estimates and projections of BASF management and currently available information. They are not guarantees of future performance, involve certain risks and uncertainties that are difficult to predict and are based upon assumptions as to future events that may not prove to be accurate. Many factors could cause the actual results, performance or achievements of BASF to be materially different from those that may be expressed or implied by such statements. Such factors include those discussed in BASF's Form 20-F filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. (The Annual Report on Form 20-F is available on the Internet at www.basf.com.) We do not assume any obligation to update the forward-looking statements contained in this report.

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

- Important Dates
 - August 3, 2005
Interim Report Second Quarter 2005
 - November 2, 2005
Interim Report Third Quarter 2005
 - February 22, 2006
Financial Results 2005
 - May 4, 2006
Annual Meeting, Mannheim
Interim Report First Quarter 2006
- Contacts
 - Corporate Media Relations:
Michael Grabicki
Phone: +49 621 60-99938
Fax: +49 621 60-92693
E-mail: michael.grabicki@basf-ag.de
 - Investor Relations:
Magdalena Moll
Phone: +49 621 60-48230
Fax: +49 621 60-92693
E-mail: investorrelations@basf-ag.de
 - General inquiries:
Phone: +49 621 60-0
Fax: +49 621 60-42525
E-mail: info.service@basf-ag.de
 - Internet: www.basf.com
 - BASF Aktiengesellschaft
67056 Ludwigshafen
Germany

Publisher:
BASF Aktiengesellschaft
Communications BASF Group
67056 Ludwigshafen
Germany

You can find HTML versions of this and other publications from BASF on our homepage at www.basf.com.

You can also order reports:

- by telephone: +49 621 60-91827
- by fax: +49 621 60-20162
- by e-mail: medien-service@basf-ag.de
- on the Internet: www.basf.de/mediaorders

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

CONTACT: BASF
Michael Grabicki, +49 621 60-99938
Fax: +49 621 60-92693
michael.grabicki@basf-ag.de

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this Current Report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

BASF Aktiengesellschaft

Date: April 28, 2005 By: /s/ Elisabeth Schick

Name: Elisabeth Schick
Title: Director Site Communications
Ludwigshafen and Europe

By: /s/ Christian Schubert

Name: Christian Schubert
Title: Director Corporate Communications
BASF Group