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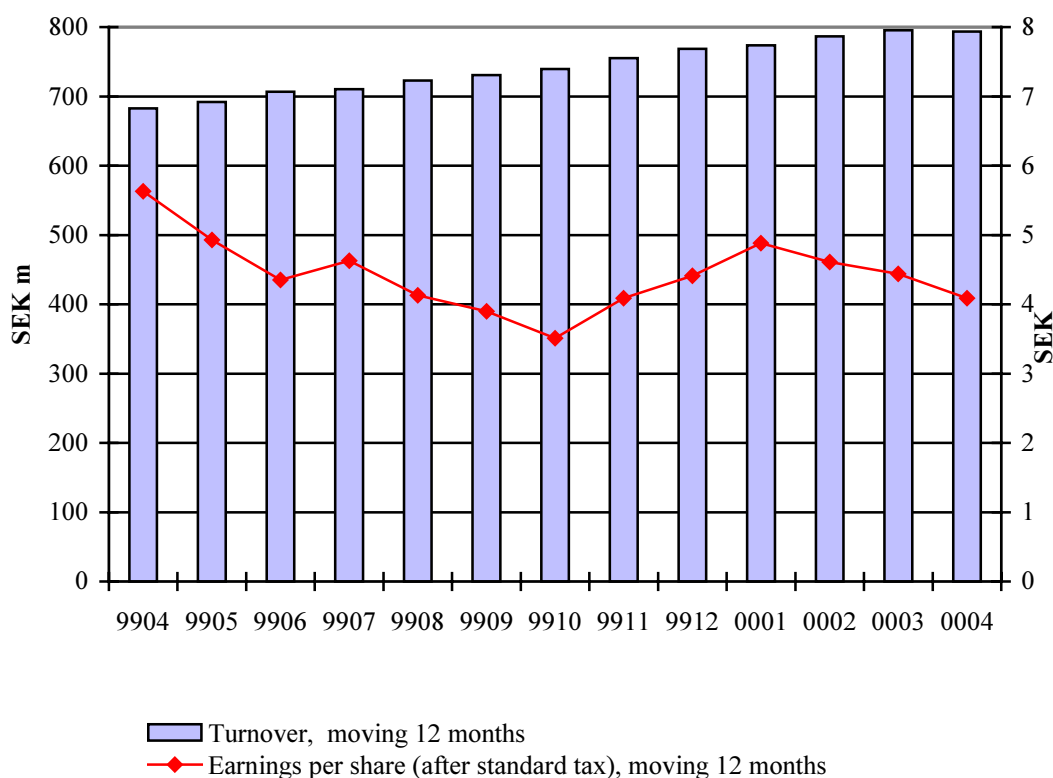
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# Report January-April 2000 HL Display AB (publ)

- Sales for January to April increased by 10.5% to SEK 264.5 m (239.4) compared to corresponding period 1999.
- The periods profit before tax amounted to SEK 8.5 m (12.2).



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## January to April 2000 in brief

The consolidated sales for the period increased by 10.5 % to SEK 264.5 m (239.4). During April sales amounted to SEK 64.0 m (66.1), a decrease of 3.2%. The sales of April was weak on the majority of the largest markets for HL Display. The weakening has been noted in sales to all customer segments and on different ranges of the assortment. As the order backlog of HL Display normally not exceeds two weeks, it is still too early to draw any conclusions about the recovery pace.

Around 80 per cent of the sales of HL Display is exported. During the period 67 per cent was sold in the EU countries. The latest months strengthening of the Swedish krona, mainly in relation to the Euro, has meant that currency effects have affected the net sales negatively by 0.2% or SEK 5.2 m.

Profit before tax was SEK 8.5 m (12.2). Profit for the month was SEK 2.9 m (6.6). The funds that has been reallocated from the insurance company SPP has now been fully accounted for, as SPP during April has notified how the funds can be used. This has affected the group result positively by SEK 3.5 m in April and totally for the period by SEK 4.5 m.

The profit has been negatively affected by SEK 4.2 m due to the fact that the price of the group's largest raw material, PVC, has increased dramatically compared to the corresponding period in 1999. Currency effects have, compared to last year, lowered profit before tax by 2.5 m.

Net investments in fixed assets amounted to SEK 20.9 m (27.3) during the period.

### Key figures for the Group <sup>1)</sup>

SEK (000s)	4 months Jan 2000 - Apr 2000	4 months Jan 1999 - Apr 1999	Change in per cent	12 months May 1999 - Apr 2000	12 months May 1998 - Apr 1999	Full year 1999
Net sales	264 524	239 450	+ 10.5	793 525	682 801	768 451
Operating profit	12 566	16 312	-23.0	51 655	60 711	55 401
Profit before tax	8 521	12 175	-30.0	43 471	59 906	47 125
Profit margin %	3.2	5.1	-37.3	5.5	8.8	6.1
Equity/asset ratio, %	48.2	51.0	-5.5	48.2	51.0	51.6
Investments, SEK m	20.9	27.3	-23.4	61.5	68.0	67.9
Return on capital, %	-	-	-	11.9	18.0	12.9
Return on shareholders' equity, %	-	-	-	14.2	19.9	15.3
Shareholders' equity per share, SEK	-	-	-	28.33	25.76	28.89
Earnings per share after standard tax, SEK	-	-	-	4.09	5.63	4.41
Earnings per share after full tax, SEK	-	-	-	3.85	4.77	4.20

1) For definitions, see the Annual report

Stockholm 16.05.2000



**Anders Remius**  
Managing Director

### Reporting dates:

Monthly report	5 months 2000	19.06.2000
Interim report	6 months 2000	17.07.2000
Monthly report	7 months 2000	16.08.2000
Monthly report	8 months 2000	15.09.2000
Interim report	9 months 2000	17.10.2000
Monthly report	10 months 2000	16.11.2000
Monthly report	11 months 2000	18.12.2000

*HL Display shall increase customer profitability by offering the retail trade and its suppliers cost efficient, customer-adapted display systems. Production is to be flexible and delivery times are to be kept short.*

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