

ALTANA AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT

Form 6-K

November 02, 2005

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

Report of Foreign Private Issuer
Pursuant to Rules 13a-16 or 15d-16 of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Dated: November 2nd, 2005

ALTANA Aktiengesellschaft

(Translation of Registrant's name into English)

Am Pilgerrain 15

D-61352 Bad Homburg v. d. Höhe

Federal Republic of Germany

(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 if the Registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1):

Indicate by check mark if the Registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7):

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-_____

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This Report on Form 6-K is hereby incorporated by reference into the Registrant's Registration Statements on Form S-8, dated September 13, 2002 (File No. 333-99485), dated September 24, 2003 (File No. 333-109074), dated September 24, 2004 (File No. 333-119240), and dated September 26, 2005 (File No. 333-128583).

This Report on Form 6-K contains:

Press Release of November 2nd, 2005

Quarterly Report as to September 30th, 2005

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For inquiries please contact:

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SIGNATURES

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

ALTANA Aktiengesellschaft

Dated: November 2nd, 2005 By: /s/

Hermann Küllmer Name: Dr. Hermann

Küllmer Title: Chief Financial Officer

and Member of the

Management Board By: /s/ Rudolf

Pietzke Name: Dr. Rudolf

Pietzke Title: General Counsel

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Press release

ALTANA AG

P.O. Box 1244
61282 Bad Homburg v.d.H.

ALTANA: Double-digit increase in earnings as per the third quarter of 2005

Very positive development at the Pharmaceuticals division

Earnings forecast for 2005 increased

Re-organization of the Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals division

Bad Homburg, November 2, 2005 ALTANA AG (NYSE: AAA, FSE: ALT) increased consolidated sales in the first nine months of 2005 by 6% to almost 2.4 billion. Adjusted for currency and divestment effects in the Chemicals division, the operating growth was 7%. With the first nine months behind us, we can again report a satisfactory increase in sales and especially in earnings of 12%. This is mainly attributable to the very positive development of our Pharmaceuticals business. On account of the outstanding business performance, we now expect a growth in pre-tax earnings for the whole of 2005 in the upper single-digit percent range, explained Dr. Nikolaus Schweickart, President and CEO of ALTANA AG.

Approximately 2 billion of total sales were generated outside Germany. International sales now account for 82% of total sales. Mainly driven by a continuously strong pharmaceutical business, sales in Germany amounted to 415 million in the third quarter, 16% more than in the prior year. With an increase in sales of 13% the Latin American region showed the second strongest growth, followed by Europe and Asia with sales up by 8% respectively. In North America business volume slightly decreased, by -3% expressed in euros, and by -2% expressed in local currencies. Operating earnings measured in terms of EBITDA in the first nine months of 2005 totaled 616 million, 11% more than in the prior year. The EBIT amounted to 522 million up 12% on the prior year. Earnings before taxes (EBT) also reached a growth rate of 12%, adding up to 533 million. Nine-months net income totaled 332 million, 14% more than in 2004.

The operating return (EBITDA) over the first nine months of 2005 was 26.1%; the return on sales before taxes (EBT) amounted to 22.6%. The earnings per share increased by 15% to 2.45.

In the period under review, ALTANA's capital expenditure on property, plant and equipment and on intangible assets totaled 180 million. The company's R&D expenses totaled 329 million. As of September 30, 2005, ALTANA employed almost 11,300 people worldwide, 4% more than in the first nine months of 2004. Of the total workforce, about 5,000 were employed in Germany and more than 6,000 abroad.

ALTANA Pharma significantly increases sales and earnings

ALTANA Pharma AG, Constance, boosted its sales significantly by 10% to about 1.7 billion over the first nine months of 2005. Sales in the core area of Therapeutics rose by 10% to about 1.5 billion. Growth

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remains to be mainly driven by the unbroken dynamics of the innovative gastrointestinal drug Pantoprazole (Pantozol[®]/Protonix[®]). ALTANA Pharma's own sales of the drug amounted to about 1 billion, corresponding to an increase of 10%. Including all sales partners worldwide sales of Pantoprazole in the first nine months totaled about 2 billion, corresponding to an increase of 11%. In the U.S. market, sales partner Wyeth achieved market sales of about U.S. \$1.3 billion, 8% more than in the prior year. With a share of approximately 21% of prescriptions (as of September 30) Pantoprazole's market position among proton pump inhibitors in the U.S. remains to be strong. Over the first nine months ALTANA Pharma was able to increase its earnings before taxes (EBT) by 17% to 469 million. At 27.0% ALTANA Pharma again achieved an excellent return on sales. The operating return (EBITDA) amounted to 30.6%.

The novel inhaled corticosteroid Alvesco[®] (Ciclesonide) for the treatment of asthma is now approved in 32 markets worldwide; at present it has been launched in 11 countries. As of September 30, sales amounted to 5 million. In view of further market launches and a steady increase in the market share, ALTANA Pharma expects to see sales of 8 million to 10 million for the whole of 2005.

ALTANA Chemie closes acquisition of the ECKART group

ALTANA Chemie AG, Wesel, achieved sales of 624 million over the first nine months of 2005. On account of portfolio adjustments in the Coatings & Sealants division, sales were down 5% on the prior year's figure. Excluding divestment and currency effects ALTANA Chemie achieved a growth of 3%. Sales in the largest division, Additives & Instruments, rose by 4% to 277 million. Electrical Insulation maintained the prior year's level, generating sales of 219 million. Sales in the Coatings & Sealants division fell by 25% to 128 million due to the meanwhile completed divestment program in the area of industrial coatings.

ALTANA Chemie achieved earnings (EBT) of 80 million in the first three quarters of 2005, 14% down on the prior year. Reasons for this decrease in earnings are one-off items in connection with the reorganization of the Coatings & Sealants division, and a weaker sales development attributable to inventory effects due to the rise of raw materials prices in the industry. Increased raw materials prices at ALTANA Chemie can fully be passed on to the market; however, positive effects will not be fully realized in the short term. At 18.2% ALTANA Chemie's operating margin, measured in terms of EBITDA, remains one of the best figures compared to the industry as a whole.

On October 1, ALTANA Chemie completed the acquisition of the ECKART group, which had previously been announced in August. ECKART is a global leading manufacturer of metallic effect pigments and metallic printing inks. The company will become ALTANA Chemie's fourth division, Effect Pigments. The purchase represents the largest acquisition in the ALTANA Group's history to date. In the framework of the strategic reorganization of its Coatings & Sealants division, in October ALTANA Chemie also completed the acquisition of Kelstar International, a leading U.S. producer of overprint coatings for the paper and board packaging sector. In this business area ALTANA Chemie is planning further bolt-on acquisitions.

Earnings forecast for 2005 increased

Thanks to the very good business performance, in particular at ALTANA Pharma, we expect to achieve a sales growth of about 9% including acquisitions (and of about 7% excluding acquisitions) for 2005 as a whole. Earnings growth is anticipated to be in the upper single-digit percent range.

For 2005, ALTANA Pharma expects to achieve a sales growth of about 10%. The growth dynamic of Pantoprazole remains unbroken. We expect our main sales driver to provide a double-digit growth in market sales in 2005 and we expect our own sales of this product to develop at a similar rate. Despite higher expenditure associated with marketing and sales, as well as high research expenditure, we expect earnings to be substantially higher than in the prior year. Despite the continuing weak demand for specialty chemicals products resulting from the economic situation, ALTANA Chemie expects to achieve a sales growth in the single-digit percent range in 2005, with its most

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recent acquisitions contributing to this growth. We forecast earnings (EBT) to be below last year's level due to business development and effects from acquisitions and divestments.

Re-organization of the Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals division

The acquisition of ECKART has now been completed and the company's integration is running according to plan. The prerequisites for a separate operation of the Chemicals division have therefore been fulfilled and ALTANA will take the necessary steps to start the process for a listing on the stock exchange. Deutsche Bank is engaged to support the process which will lead to an independent operation of the ALTANA Chemie AG, headquartered in Wesel, in the course of 2006 as announced.

In order to safeguard the future of our Pharmaceuticals business and its employees in the long-term, the Management Board is of the firm conviction that it has to set the future course of the company now; therefore, the following steps will be taken: On the one hand, there will be a strengthening of the Pharmaceuticals business through acquisitions, the purchase of products and the inlicensing of product candidates. For this purpose ALTANA has more than 1 billion at its disposal. On the other hand, the company will be opened for a strategic partner. These steps have to be regarded jointly.

Dr. Nikolaus Schweickart: Within the framework of such an intended alliance, different structures are possible that I do not want to and cannot reduce to one single option. I do not exclude any possibility that aims at continuing and strategically developing the company, and that would consequently also secure jobs in domestic and international markets at ALTANA Pharma in the long term.

However, I do exclude a split or segmentation of the company. Neither do I accept an auction to sell off the company to the highest bidder. In the framework of an intended alliance, the Pharmaceuticals group's shareholder structure may undergo a change, because without such a change a strategic alliance is hard to conceive. At present, we cannot predict what the future shareholder structure will exactly look like after opening the company to a strategic partner, as the outcome of the process is open.

Over the upcoming months, ALTANA will carefully examine all options, and also directly contact potential pharmaceutical partners, which seem to be in a position to realize the company's targeted aims. The investment bank Goldman Sachs was mandated to support ALTANA in this project.

Also with regards to its Pharmaceuticals division, ALTANA has planned as with the independent operation of the Chemicals division to implement the necessary steps in the course of 2006. At the end of this process today's Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals divisions are meant to be based on solid foundations for a long-term and successful future development.

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Key figures, 1-9 2005

	January to September 2005 in million	January to September 2004 ¹⁾ in million	Change in %
ALTANA Group			
Sales	2,358	2,234	+ 6
Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA)	616	557	+ 11
Earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT)	522	468	+ 12
Earnings before taxes (EBT)	533	476	+ 12
Return on sales (EBT) in %	22.6	21.3	
Net income (EAT)	332	291	+ 14
Earnings per share in	2.45	2.14	+ 15
Number of employees	11,265	10,781	+ 4

¹⁾ after adjustment to IFRS 2, Share-based payment

A press conference for journalists will take place today, November 2, at 10:00 a.m. (local time, CET) in Bad Homburg. There will also be an analyst meeting at 3:00 p.m. (local time, CET). More information on the relevant webcasts as well as this press release and the report on Q3 is available on our website www.altana.com.

This press release contains forward-looking statements, i.e., current estimates or expectations of future events or future results. The forward-looking statements appearing in this press release include revenue and earnings projections for the ALTANA Group, for ALTANA's Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals divisions, and the pharmaceutical products Pantoprazole, and Alvesco[®], as well as the intention to make further statements for further acquisitions in the packaging sector; furthermore, statements on the planned independent operation of ALTANA's Chemicals division, and the strengthening of the Pharmaceuticals division and its future development in the framework of a strategic alliance. These statements are based on beliefs of ALTANA's management as well as assumptions made by and information currently available to ALTANA. Many factors that ALTANA is unable to predict with accuracy could cause ALTANA's actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from those that may be expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. These factors include ALTANA's ability to develop and launch new and innovative pharmaceutical and chemical products, price regulations for pharmaceuticals and budgeting decisions of local governments and health care providers, the level of ALTANA's investment in pharmaceuticals related R&D, the sales and marketing methods used by ALTANA to distribute its pharmaceuticals, the composition of ALTANA's pharmaceuticals portfolio, ALTANA's ability to maintain close ties with its chemicals customers, the business cycles experienced by ALTANA's chemicals customers and the prices of the raw materials used in ALTANA's chemicals business; furthermore they include the possibility to make acquisitions, to acquire product rights or to inlicense them and to find an appropriate strategic partner for the Pharmaceuticals division.

Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made. ALTANA does not intend, and does not assume any obligation, to update forward-looking statements to reflect facts, circumstances or events that have occurred or changed after such statements have been made.

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OUTLOOK FOR 2005 AS A WHOLE

- > **Earnings forecast increased: EBT growth in upper single-digit percentage range**
- > **Sales forecast confirmed: Sales increase of roughly 7% excluding respectively roughly 9% including acquisitions**
- > **Growth driver: Pantoprazole with double-digit sales increase**
- > **ALTANA Key indicators**

in million	Q 1-3 2005	Q 1-3 2004 ¹	D%
Sales	2,358	2,234	6
Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA)	616	557	11
Earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT)	522	468	12
Earnings before taxes (EBT)	533	476	12
Net income (EAT)	332	291	14
Earnings per share	2.45	2.14	15
Employees (September 30)	11,265	10,781	4

Key performance indicators

(as % of sales)

EBITDA	26.1	24.9
EBIT	22.2	20.9
EBT	22.6	21.3
EAT	14.1	13.0

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GROUP 1

BUSINESS PERFORMANCE AFTER NINE MONTHS

> Group grows by +6%

> Excellent pharmaceutical business remains the strong motor

> Sales increase substantially achieved in Europe

Following another strong quarter in terms of sales, the ALTANA Group is on track for another excellent business year. Thanks to the strong pharmaceutical business, third-quarter sales amounted to more than 800 million. The economic upswing expected for the second half of the year does not have a bearing on the specialty chemicals industry, so that sales of ALTANA Chemie developed only moderately.

In the last nine months operating growth was up by 7% on the prior year. The impact of ALTANA Chemie divestments restrained growth by 2 percentage points. Exchange rate effects made a positive contribution of one percentage point, and as a result nominal sales rose by 6% compared to the same period last year, totaling

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2,358 million. On account of portfolio adjustments in the Coatings & Sealants business unit, ALTANA Chemie remained 5 % under the prior year, which was more than compensated for by ALTANA Pharma's 10% sales growth.

High sales growth rates were again achieved in Europe and in ALTANA's home market Germany, at 8% and 16% respectively, with the pharmaceutical business again playing the leading role. International business grew by 3% to 1,943 million. The share of foreign sales in total sales was, accordingly, 82% (2004: 84%). North American sales also remained below the prior year due to exchange rate fluctuations. Sales in Asia continued to grow.

> Sales by region

in million		%	Q 1-3 2005	Q 1-3 2004	D%
Europe	1	52	1,222	1,126	8
Germany		18	415	356	16
Rest of Europe		34	807	770	5
North America	2	28	660	679	-3
U.S.		24	568	595	-5
Latin America	3	10	230	204	13
Asia	4	8	204	189	8
Other regions	5	2	42	36	18
Gesamt		100	2,358	2,234	6
Total			82%	84%	

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GROUP 3

EARNINGS SITUATION OF THE ALTANA GROUP

> Double-digit growth in earnings

> Earnings per share: 2.45

> Net income: 332 million (+14%)

Group earnings before taxes (EBT) amounted to 533 million, exceeding the prior year's level by 12%. The earnings situation of the ALTANA Group is determined by several contrary factors: on the one hand by excellent sales growth achieved by ALTANA Pharma, and on the other hand by divestment-related special effects on ALTANA Chemie, which, moreover, is active in a difficult economic environment.

Due to a lower tax rate, income as per September 30, 2005 (EAT) and earnings per share (EPS) increased more than EBT, by 14% and 15% respectively. After nine months, EAT amounted to 332 million; while the EPS totaled 2.45.

Table of Contents**4 GROUP****> Key profit figures**

	Q 3 2005		Q 3 2004¹		D%
	m	%	m	%	
Sales	806	100	751	100	7
Gross profit	549	68.0	496	66.1	10
Operating earnings (EBITDA)	207	25.6	188	25.0	10
Earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT)	175	21.7	158	21.0	11
Earnings before taxes (EBT)	181	22.4	160	21.4	12
Net income (EAT)	113	14.1	101	13.4	12
Earnings per share (EPS, in)	0.83		0.75		13
	Q 1-3 2005		Q 1-3 2004¹		D%
	m	%	m	%	
Sales	2,358	100	2,234	100	6
Gross profit	1,593	67.5	1,467	65.7	9
Operating earnings (EBITDA)	616	26.1	557	24.9	11
Earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT)	522	22.2	468	20.9	12
Earnings before taxes (EBT)	533	22.6	476	21.3	12
Net income (EAT)	332	14.1	291	13.0	14
Earnings per share (EPS, in)	2.45		2.14		15

¹ After
adjustment
according to
IFRS 2
Share-based
payments

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In what has been its best quarter so far in the current business year, ALTANA Pharma's sales clearly increased by 13% compared to the prior-year's quarter, amounting to 604 million. Sales in the last nine months have totaled 1,734 million, an operating plus of 9% on the prior year. Taking into account positive exchange rate influences of one percentage point, nominal growth was 10%.

These excellent figures were essentially driven by the continuing high sales growth generated by Pantoprazole (PANTOZOL^(R)/PROTONIX^(R)) in Europe. Overall sales increases in Europe amount to 17%. Due to exchange rate effects and the Protonix stock reduction through Wyeth, sales results in North America were 3% down

> Sales by business unit

in million		%	Q 1-3 2005	Q 1-3 2004	D%
Therapeutics	1	88	1,517	1,375	10
OTC	2	5	93	83	11
Imaging	3	5	83	81	2
Other	4	2	41	36	16
Total		100	1,734	1,575	10

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on the prior year. Latin American sales grew by 15% on account of growths as to Pantoprazole and Neosaldina as well as due to a favorable exchange rate development.

Thanks to Pantoprazole, which accounts for 66% of total revenues from prescription drugs, the core Therapeutics business grew by 10% to 1,517 million. Our own sales of Pantoprazole increased by 10% to 1,002 million. Worldwide market sales of Pantoprazole totaled 2,030 million in the first nine months, an 11% increase over the prior year. Sales of Pantoprazole in the important U.S. market through our partner Wyeth totaled U.S. \$ 1,268 million, up by 8% on the prior year. Our gastrointestinal drug still has a strong position in the U.S. market for proton pump inhibitors, accounting for some 21% of all prescriptions.

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> Sales by region

in million		%	Q 1-3 2005	Q 1-3 2004	D%
Europe	1	53	904	770	17
Germany		19	322	264	22
Rest of Europe		34	582	506	15
North America	2	32	558	577	-3
U.S.		27	473	500	-5
Latin America	3	11	198	173	15
Other regions	4	4	74	55	33
Total		100	1,734	1,575	10
International sales			81%	83%	

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ALTANA PHARMA: EARNINGS TREND

> Earnings before taxes up by 17%

> Return on sales climbs to 27%

Earnings before taxes (EBT) totaled 469 million at the end of September, up by 17% on the prior year. The growth rate reflects the continuing dynamic sales development especially of Pantoprazole. Research expenditure equals the high level of the prior year. The market introduction of ALVESCO® led to higher marketing costs. ALTANA Pharma's profitability continues to be above average. The return on sales amounted to 27.0% (2004: 25.4%), and the operating margin based on EBITDA climbed from 29.1 % to 30.6%.

PIPELINE NEWS ALVESCO® (Ciclesonide) has now been licensed in 32 countries and introduced in eleven countries, including Germany, the U.K. , the Netherlands, Australia, and Brazil. It is expected to go on the market in four additional countries by the end of the year. In addition, we expect ALVESCO® to be licensed for children in Europe in 2006. Following the inhaled ALVESCO® , the intranasal preparation of Ciclesonide is the most advanced project of this product family. Nasal Ciclesonide is currently in phase III. The nasal spray will primarily be developed in the U.S. , where the market for allergic rhinitis amounts to U.S. \$ 6 billion, of which some U.S. \$ 2 billion is spent on intranasal steroids. DAXAS® (Roflumilast), the innovative oral PDE4 inhibitor was submitted for European approval in February 2004.

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CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

ALTANA Pharma invested 72 million in property, plant and equipment in the last nine months. The investments were primarily focused on the construction of a new production site in Ireland and the expansion of research capacities at the Constance headquarters and in India. 83 million was invested in intangible assets, primarily for the acquisition of product and name rights in the U.S.

EMPLOYEES

ALTANA Pharma ended the first nine months with a workforce of 8,765. This is equivalent to a worldwide increase of 599 persons, or 7%. 3,768 people worked for German companies, an increase of 3%. Our foreign companies employed 4,997 people, accounting for 57% of the company's total workforce. The number of employees outside of Germany increased by 11%, mainly in the U.S. and in Australia, but also in Asia.

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- > **Operating growth up by 3%**
- > **Specialty chemicals industry falls victim to weak demand**
- > **China dampens development in Asia**

With sales of 202 million ALTANA Chemie's modest business development continued in the third quarter. Unlike other segments of the chemical industry, the fine and specialty chemicals industry is still reeling from weak worldwide demand. Hopes for an economic upswing in the second half of the year have not been fulfilled thus far.

During the first nine months, ALTANA Chemie generated sales of 624 million. The operating sales growth of 3% achieved is only moderate compared to the excellent prior year. Due to portfolio adjustments within the framework of the strategic realignment of the Coatings & Sealants business unit, operating growth fell by eight percentage points resulting in a nominal sales change of -5%.

> Sales by business unit

in million			Q 1-3	Q 1-3	
		%	2005	2004	D%
Additives & Instruments	1	44	277	267	4
Electrical Insulation	2	35	219	220	0
Coatings & Sealants	3	21	128	172	-25
		%	2005	2004	D%
Total		100	624	659	-5
		%	2005	2004	D%

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All three business units were affected by the flagging economy. In the period under review, Additives & Instruments generated 277 million, 4% up on the prior year. The higher growth rates achieved in the largest business unit in the last two months could be an initial signal that the trend is changing. Electrical Insulation posted sales of 219 million, only reaching the prior-year's level, due to heightened competition in the wire enamels market. Coatings & Sealants sales volume of 128 million was considerably lower than in the prior year due to divestments. However, the businesses that remained generated growth of 5%.

In the home market Germany sales growth amounted to only 1%. On account of the high European share of Coatings & Sealants, the portfolio adjustments had the strongest effect on business in Europe outside Germany, where sales were down 15% on the prior year. With the exception of China, ALTANA Chemie's sales in Asia, and particularly in Japan, continued to improve. Sales in the U.S. were equivalent to the prior-year's level. Based on U.S.\$, sales revenues rose by 4%.

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> Sales by region

in million	&	Q 1-3	Q 1-3
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