

Bekaert

BERTL.BR / BEKB BB

Engineering
Belgium

Current price € 41.32
Target price € 45.00
Market cap € 921 m
Free float 60%

	EPS*(€)	P/E
FY02	-1.55	-
FY03E	4.41	9.36
FY04E	4.68	8.84

*Adjusted for goodwill and exceptionals

First quarter update

Bekaert holds its annual meeting today and published its first quarter update this morning.

Sales decreased by 7.2% mainly due to the weaker dollar. At constant rates, sales would have increased by 2%. BAM and Bekaert Fencing sales remained flat. Combustion Technology and Advanced Coatings - part of BAM - performed very well. Demand in steel cord was high (-2.2% in sales only). Sales in Steel wire declined by 16%.

Although no figures are published, the tone of the press release sent out this morning is rather positive:

higher profit from operations and a higher consolidated net profit compared to the same period of 2002 (no basis for comparison however);

outlook is good despite the weakness in the German market and in the North American markets (and the uncertainties and weakening dollar);

The share in the profit of companies accounted for under the equity method has sharply increased;

Profitability ratios have improved.

It is impossible to draw a conclusion. Hopefully the AGM yields some more details. In the meantime, Accumulate confirmed.

Accumulate

Unchanged

[Back to contents](#)

wouter.vanderhaeghen@kbcsecurities.be
serge.pattyn@kbcsecurities.be

+32 2 417 29 62
+32 2 417 53 78