COMET HOLDING AG Half-Year Report

2014

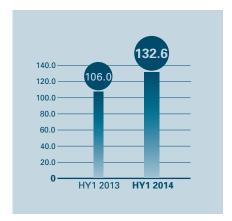


The COMET Group

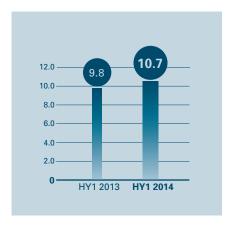
The COMET Group is one of the world's leading vendors of x-ray, radio frequency (RF) and ebeam technology. With high-quality components, systems and services. the Group helps its customers maximize the quality, reliability and efficiency of their products and processes. In COMET, YXLON and ebeam, the Group has three strong brands, each serving different markets. YXLON-branded x-ray systems for non-destructive testing are supplied to end customers in the automotive, aerospace, electronics and energy sectors. Under the COMET brand, the company builds high-quality, high-technology components and modules – such as x-ray sources, vacuum capacitors, RF generators and impedance matching networks – that are in demand by manufacturers in the automotive, aerospace, semiconductor and solar industries as well as for security applications at airports. Under its "ebeam" brand, the Group offers very compact, powerful ebeam sets used, for example, in the non-contact sterilization of beverage packaging. COMET AG was founded in 1948. Based in Flamatt, Switzerland, the Group has a presence in all world markets. COMET's stock (COTN) is listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange.

COMET Group: Sales and earnings rise substantially in first half

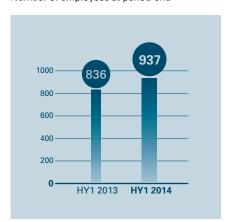
Net sales



EBITDA ¹ In CHF million



Staff count Number of employees at period-end



Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization

The COMET Group delivered substantial growth in sales and earnings in the first half of 2014

- Sales growth of 25.0% from year-earlier period to CHF 132.6 million
- Net income up 64.9% to CHF 4.4 million
- Pronounced improvement in free cash flow by CHF 11.6 million to a positive figure of CHF 8.3 million
- EBITDA operating earnings up 9.6% to CHF 10.7 million
- Strong Swiss franc reduces EBITDA margin to 8.1%
- Outlook for 2014: Expecting sales of CHF 275–295 million and EBITDA margin of 13–14%

The growth trajectory of the COMET Group continued in the first half of 2014 as expected. Growth was achieved in all segments and regions. Consolidated net sales increased by 25.0% year-over-year to CHF 132.6 million (HY1 2013: CHF 106.0 million), or by fully 29.3% in local currencies. COMET's fastest growth was in the Plasma Control Technologies segment, buoyed by the strong demand in the semi-conductor market.

Operating earnings at the EBITDA level rose to CHF 10.7 million (HY1 2013: CHF 9.8 million), even with the strategic investment in future growth in areas such as ebeam, HF generators and CT. Adverse exchange rate effects trimmed CHF 1.8 million or 1.4% percentage points off the EBITDA margin, bringing it to 8.1% (HY1 2013: 9.2%).

Net income, helped by a good net financial items result, expanded by 64.9% to CHF 4.4 million (HY1 2013: CHF 2.7 million). Free cash flow also improved markedly, rising to a positive CHF 8.3 million (HY1 2013: cash use of CHF 3.3 million) on active working capital management. With an equity ratio of 59.3% the COMET Group continues to feature a very sound balance sheet (2013 year-end: 60.5%).

In the first half of the year, to raise more synergies in market development, the Group moved its portable x-ray modules business from the X-Ray Systems segment (IXS) to the X-Ray & ebeamTechnologies segment (XET).

Segment results

XET – market position expanded; investment in growth weighs on profitability

The X-Ray & ebeam Technologies segment (including the portable x-ray modules activities) expanded its market position in the core business of non-destructive testing thanks to its well-proven forward strategy of marketing complete x-ray sources and through intensified market development, while also achieving growth in security inspection with new projects. Sales grew by 5.9% to CHF 35.4 million, or by 8.5% in local currencies (HY1 2013: CHF 33.4 million). The EBITDA margin, however, declined to 4.1%, or well below the year-ago level (HY1 2013: 17%). This lower EBITDA margin reflected not just strategic investment in building up the ebeam business but also spending to stimulate future growth in x-ray sources (such as expenditure for research and development, marketing and sales). The build-out of the ebeam activities, with the preparations for the rollout for Tetra Pak and the development of new applications, is progressing according to plan. A first commercial system equipped with ebeam has been delivered to Japan. For the second half of the year, XET is projecting continuous sales growth and an improvement in EBITDA margin to near the prior-year level.

PCT – Powerful, profitable growth with semiconductor industry

In the first half of 2014, as in 2013, Plasma Control Technologies (PCT) reaped the benefits of the previous years' investments. Sales surged 58.0% to a new total of CHF 52.6 million. In local currencies the increase was 64.2% year-over-year (HY1 2013: CHF 33.3 million). The critical driver of the growth was the switch by chip manufacturers to new, 3D chip technologies.

PCT optimally positioned its products, and expanded the business both with key accounts and new customers. At the recently opened site in Korea, projects progressed well and the collaboration with local customers was stepped up. Among other initiatives, new and powerful RF generator features were developed – thus also meeting an important requirement for the future use of the generators by the semiconductor industry. Thanks to higher volume, PCT sharply improved its EBITDA margin to 15.3% (HY1 2013: 8.7%). For the second half of the year, the segment expects demand in the semiconductor market to ease slightly from the high level of the first half.

IXS – Strong, profitable growth as intensified market development pays off

The X-Ray Systems segment (IXS), which since the beginning of the year focuses only on stationary x-ray systems, was able to increase sales in the first six months by 16.5% to CHF 53.0 million (HY1 2013: CHF 45.5 million). In local currencies, the segment grew by 20.5%.

Since January, IXS has focused its market development on growth segments, achieving its growth especially with standard systems for the automotive and casting industries. The highlight of the first-half reporting period, however, was the presentation of a new family of computed tomography equipment whose intuitive controls and precision made it an attention magnet for customers and other visitors at CONTROL, the world's leading trade show for quality assurance technology. The launch of the first of these systems is planned for early 2015. Despite investment in concentrating the Group's CT capabilities at the Hamburg location, the EBITDA margin improved to 5.3% (HY1 2013: 4.7%) as a result of lower functional costs relative to sales. For the second half of the year, IXS foresees a significant revenue increase, based in part on an order backlog that is 9% higher than a year ago.

Outlook: Vigorous sales growth with currency-driven slightly lower EBITDA margin

In view especially of brisk growth in the systems business, the Board of Directors and Executive Committee are predicting a stronger second half of 2014 compared to the first six months of the year. For the full year 2014, the COMET Group is slightly raising the existing sales forecast to between CHF 275 million and CHF 295 million.

The Board and executive management expect to further boost the return on capital employed year-over-year, and thus remain committed to the planned investment in the strategic growth initiatives. In the context of this investment, a study was commissioned to evaluate the facility expansion at the Flamatt site in preparation for the expected growth in the ebeam segment. The strong Swiss franc will mean an easing in the EBITDA margin to between 13% and 14% (2013: 14.4%). In absolute terms, EBITDA operating earnings are expected to come in slightly above the prior year's and net income is also predicted to grow.

Media and analyst conference

COMET will present the published financial results for the first half of 2014 today, August 21, 2014, at 10:00 am at the media and analyst conference in Zurich (location: SIX Swiss Exchange, Convention Point, Selnaustrasse 30).

Conference call in English

A conference call in English will be held today, August 21, 2014 from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm CET, with Ronald Fehlmann, CEO, and Markus Portmann, CFO. To participate, please dial in 10 to 15 minutes before the scheduled start of the call, using one of the following telephone numbers:

- +41 (0)58 310 50 00 (Europe)
- +44 (0)203 059 58 62 (UK)
- +1 (1)631 570 5613 (USA)

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET (unaudited)

In thousands of CHF			1	1		
Assets	June 30, 2014	%	Dec. 31, 2013	%	Change	June 30, 2013
Cash and cash equivalents	19,458		18,214		1,244	10,610
Trade and other receivables	49,056		47,007		2,049	42,135
Other financial assets	65		1,140		(1,075)	186
Tax receivables	0		250		(250)	73
Inventories	51,891		46,490		5,401	42,290
Net assets from manufacturing contracts	0		5,417		(5,417)	2,959
Prepaid expenses	2,407		1,601		806	1,603
Total current assets	122,877	53.4%	120,118	52.7%	2,759	99,856
Property, plant and equipment	55,275		55,148		127	56,371
Intangible assets	45,832		46,892		(1,060)	47,513
Financial assets	387		404		(17)	229
Employee benefit plan assets	3,983		3,750		233	1,785
Deferred tax assets	1,634		1,521		113	1,399
Total non-current assets	107,111	46.6%	107,715	47.3%	(604)	107,297
Total assets	229,989	100.0%	227,833	100.0%	2,155	207,153
Liabilities and shareholders' equity Current debt	11,901	ı	11,896	I	5	11,296
Trade and other payables	31,962		28,940		3,022	21,401
Other financial liabilities	37		6		32	58
Tax payables	4,260		5,156		(896)	2,422
Net liabilities from manufacturing contracts	0		0		0	604
Accrued expenses	14,192		12,899		1,293	12,636
Current provisions	5,368		4,557		811	4,068
Total current liabilities	67,720	29.4%	63,453	27.9%	4,267	52,485
Non-current debt	19,850		20,002		(151)	29,094
Non-current provisions	92		95		(3)	95
Employee benefit plan liabilities	1,751		1,755		(4)	1,804
Deferred tax liabilities	4,169		4,676		(508)	2,873
Total non-current liabilities	25,862	11.2 %	26,528	11.6%	(666)	33,866
Total liabilities	93,582	40.7%	89,981	39.5%	3,601	86,351
Capital stock	7,721		7,701		20	7,701
Additional paid-in capital	52,751		57,854		(5,102)	57,863
Treasury stock	0		0		0	(2,186)
Retained earnings	96,991		92,616		4,375	76,443
Foreign currency translation differences	(21,056)		(20,318)		(738)	(19,018)
Total equity attributable to shareholders of COMET HOLDING AG	136,407	59.3%	137,852	60.5%	(1,446)	120,803
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	229,989	100.0%	227,833	100.0%	2,155	207,153

(condensed and unaudited)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME (unaudited)

In thousands of CHF	2014	2013		Change
	Six months to June 30	Six months to June 30	Absolute	%
Net sales	132,583	106,046	26,537	25.0%
Cost of sales	(83,845)	(64,424)	(19,421)	30.1%
Gross profit	48,738	41,622	7,116	17.1 %
Other operating income	1,646	1,555	91	5.8%
Development expenses	(15,547)	(13,715)	(1,832)	13.4%
Marketing and selling expenses	(19,548)	(16,650)	(2,898)	17.4 %
General and administrative expenses	(9,788)	(8,450)	(1,338)	15.8%
Operating income	5,500	4,362	1,138	26.1 %
Financing expenses	(1,532)	(5,422)	3,890	-71.7%
Financing income	1,216	5,129	(3,913)	-76.3%
Income before tax	5,184	4,069	1,115	27.4%
Income tax	(756)	(1,383)	627	-45.3%
Net income	4,428	2,686	1,742	64.9%
Earnings per share in CHF, diluted and basic	5.75	3.60	2.15	59.8%
Operating income	5,500	4,362	1,138	26.1 %
Amortization	1,680	2,034	(354)	-17.4%
EBITA	7,181	6,396	785	12.3%
Depreciation	3,548	3,395	153	4.5%
EBITDA	10,728	9,791	937	9.6%

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (unaudited)

In thousands of CHF	2014	2013		Change
	Six months to June 30	Six months to June 30	Absolute	%
Net income	4,428	2,686	1,742	64.9%
Other comprehensive income				
Foreign currency translation differences	(738)	992	(1,730)	-174.4%
Total items that will be reclassified to the income statement on realization	(738)	992	(1,730)	-174.4%
Actuarial gains and losses on defined benefit plans	233	771	(538)	-69.8%
Income tax	(40)	(131)	91	-69.8%
Total items that will not subsequently be reclassified to the income statement	193	640	(447)	-69.8%
Total other comprehensive (loss)/income	(545)	1,632	(2,177)	-133.4%
Total comprehensive income	3,883	4,318	(435)	-10.1 %

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

(condensed and unaudited)

In thousands of CHF	Six months to June 30	Six months to June 30	Change
Net cash provided by operating activities	12,735	514	12,221
Net cash used in investing activities	(4,481)	(3,806)	(675)
Net cash used in financing activities	(6,955)	(3,166)	(3,789)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	1,299	(6,458)	7,757
Foreign currency translation (losses)/gains on cash and cash equivalents	(54)	329	(383)
Net cash and cash equivalents at January 1	18,214	16,740	1,474
Net cash and cash equivalents at June 30	19,458	10,610	8,848

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY (unaudited)

June 30, 2014	7,721	52,751	0	96,991	(21,056)	136,407
Share-based payments for 2014				775		775
Increase in capital (for stock compensation for 2013)	20	1,058		(1,021)		57
Distribution to shareholders of COMET Holding AG		(6,161)				(6,161)
Total comprehensive income/(loss)				4,621	(738)	3,883
Other comprehensive income/(loss)				193	(738)	(545)
Net income				4,428		4,428
December 31, 2013	7,701	57,854	0	92,616	(20,318)	137,852
June 30, 2013	7,701	57,863	(2,186)	76,443	(19,018)	120,803
Share-based payments for 2013				674		674
Increase in capital (for stock compensation for 2012)	38	910		(986)		(38)
Sale of treasury stock			2,238	764		3,002
Distribution to shareholders of COMET Holding AG		(2,977)				(2,977)
Total comprehensive income				3,326	992	4,318
Other comprehensive income				640	992	1,632
Net income				2,686		2,686
December 31, 2012	7,663	59,930	(4,424)	72,665	(20,010)	115,824
In thousands of CHF	Capital stock	Additional paid-in capital	Treasury stock	Retained earnings	Foreign currency translation differences	Total share- holders' equity
	Equity attributable to shareholders of COMET HOLD					

NOTES TO THE INTERIM CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (condensed and unaudited)

01 Significant accounting policies

The half-year report for the six months ended June 30, 2014 presents the consolidated financial statements of COMET HOLDING AG and its directly or indirectly controlled subsidiaries. The report was prepared in accordance with IAS 34, Interim Financial Reporting, which forms part of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The half-year report does not contain all information included in the annual accounts and should therefore be read in conjunction with the annual consolidated financial statements for 2013. The half-year report has not been audited by the independent auditors.

Changes in accounting policies

The accounting principles applied in the half-year report are those described in the 2013 annual consolidated financial statements, except for the changes set out below.

With effect from January 1, 2014, COMET has applied the following new or revised IFRS/IAS for the first time:

- IAS 27 Amendments Separate Financial Statements
- IAS 32 Amendments Financial Instruments: Presentation
- IAS 36 Amendments Impairment of Assets
- IAS 39 Amendments Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement
- IFRS 10 Amendments Consolidated Financial Statements
- IFRS 12 Amendments Disclosure of Interests in Other Entities
- IFRIC 21 Levies

The first-time application of the above new or amended standards and interpretations had no effect on the balance sheet and income statement in these financial statements.

Basis of consolidation

In the first six months of 2014, as in the prior year, no businesses were acquired or divested.

Estimates

The preparation of the half-year report requires assumptions and estimates by management, which were made on the basis of the best knowledge and of all information available at the time. Adjustments to assumptions and estimates can have a material impact on future results, as such adjustments are recognized in the reporting period during which the assumptions and estimates change.

Seasonality of business

The business of the X-Ray & ebeam Technologies segment and Plasma Control Technologies segment is not subject to seasonal variation. By contrast, the X-Ray Systems segment typically registers slightly higher sales in the second half of the year. As a result, in the latter half of the year the COMET Group as a whole (leaving aside macroeconomic influences) tends to report higher sales than in the first six months of the year. Details on the business performance by segment are provided in the first part of this report.

Foreign currency translation

The following exchange rates were used to translate the major currencies into Swiss francs:

		_	Closing rate			Six mo	Average rate nths to June 30
Foreign currency translation			June 30, 2014	Dec. 31, 2013	June 30, 2013	2014	2013
USA	USD	1	0.891	0.889	0.944	0.891	0.936
Europe	EUR	1	1.216	1.226	1.234	1.221	1.230
China	CNY	1	0.144	0.147	0.154	0.145	0.151
Japan	JPY	100	0.879	0.846	0.955	0.870	0.982
Denmark	DKK	1	0.163	0.164	0.162	0.164	0.165
Republic of Korea	KRW	1,000	0.881	0.842	n/a	0.849	n/a

02 Segment reporting

The Group is managed along the lines of the three operating segments described below, which are defined on the basis of the products and services offered. With effect from the beginning of 2014, the portable x-ray modules business was transferred organizationally to the X-Ray & ebeam Technologies segment (from the X-Ray Systems segment). The segment reporting has been adjusted accordingly, with a restatement of the prior-year results of the two affected segments to reflect the new segment composition.

- The X-Ray & ebeam Technologies segment develops, manufactures and markets metal ceramic x-ray sources and portable x-ray modules for non-destructive testing and security inspection, as well as e-beam engines for the environmentally friendly sterilization of surfaces.
- The Plasma Control Technologies segment develops, manufactures and markets vacuum capacitors, RF generators and RF impedance matching networks for the high-precision control of plasma processes required, for instance, in the production of memory chips, flat screens and solar panels.
- The **X-Ray Systems** segment develops, manufactures and markets x-ray systems and services for non-destructive testing using x-ray and microfocus technology and computed tomography.

The segment results include all revenues and expenses attributable to a particular segment. Only the costs and revenues of COMET HOLDING AG as well as net financial items and income taxes are not allocated to the segment results. These unallocated expenses and revenues are reported in the "Corporate" column. The segment assets represent all operating assets. The following items are not allocated to operating segments: the assets of COMET HOLDING AG, all cash and cash equivalents, the item "other financial assets," and all current and deferred income tax assets.

Six months to June 30, 2014						
In thousands of CHF	X-Ray & ebeam Technologies	Plasma Control Technologies	X-Ray Systems	Elimination of interseg- ment sales	Corporate	Consolidated
Net sales						
External net sales	27,587	52,587	52,410	0	0	132,583
Intersegment sales	7,814	0	602	(8,416)	0	0
Total net sales	35,401	52,587	53,012	(8,416)	0	132,583
Earnings						
Segment operating income	(187)	6,397	867	(706)	0	6,370
Unallocated costs	0	0	0	0	(870)	(870)
Operating income	(187)	6,397	867	(706)	(870)	5,500
Financing expenses						(1,532)
Financing income						1,216
Income before tax						5,184
Income tax						(756)
Net income						4,428
EBITDA	1,452	8,050	2,802	(706)	(870)	10,728
EBITDA in % of sales	4.1%	15.3%	5.3%			8.1%
Segment assets	67,785	57,350	84,327	0	20,527	229,989
Segment liabilities	11,386	9,518	31,613	0	41,064	93,582
Additions to non-current assets						
Property, plant and equipment	1,914	1,228	1,352	0	0	4,495
Intangible assets	8	23	809	0	0	840

Six months to June 30, 2013 (restated)					
In thousands of CHF	X-Ray & ebeam Technologies ¹	Plasma Control Technologies	X-Ray Systems ¹	Elimination of interseg- ment sales	Corporate	Consolidated
Net sales						
External net sales	27,711	33,294	45,041	0	0	106,046
Intersegment sales	5,713	0	470	(6,183)	0	0
Total net sales	33,423	33,294	45,512	(6,183)	0	106,046
Earnings						
Segment operating income	3,913	1,128	249	1	0	5,290
Unallocated costs	0	0	0	0	(928)	(928)
Operating income	3,913	1,128	249	1	(928)	4,362
Financing expenses						(5,422)
Financing income						5,129
Income before tax						4,069
Income tax						(1,383)
Net income						2,686
EBITDA	5,691	2,904	2,123	1	(928)	9,791
EBITDA in % of sales	17.0 %	8.7%	4.7 %			9.2%
Segment assets	68,211	52,208	74,593	0	12,140	207,153
Segment liabilities	10,522	8,818	20,413	0	46,598	86,351
Additions to non-current assets						
Property, plant and equipment	2,212	291	2,440	0	0	4,942
Intangible assets	104	227	131	0	0	462

 $^{^{\}mbox{\tiny 1}}$ Values adjusted to reflect the new organizational and reporting structure.

03 Financial instruments

The following table shows the carrying amounts and fair values of financial instruments held at the balance sheet date, by category (excluding cash and cash equivalents).

			June 30, 2014			December 31, 2013
In thousands of CHF		Carrying amount	Fair value		Carrying amount	Fair value
Financial assets	Held for trading	Loans and receivables		Held for trading	Loans and receivables	
Trade receivables		43,314	*		42,164	*
Derivative financial instruments (for foreign exchange hedging)	65		65	1,140		1,140
Financial assets		387	*		404	*
Total	65	43,701		1,140	42,568	
Of which current assets	65	43,314		1,140	42,164	
Of which non-current assets		387			404	
Financial liabilities	Held for trading	At amortized cost		Held for trading	At amortized cost	
Current debt		11,901	*		11,896	*
Payables		21,413	*		23,552	*
Derivative financial instruments (for foreign exchange hedging)	37		37	6		6
Non-current financial liabilities		19,850	21,555		20,002	21,740
Total	37	53,164		6	55,450	
Of which current liabilities	37	33,314		6	35,448	
Of which non-current liabilities		19,850			20,002	

^{*} The carrying amount approximates fair value.

Financial instruments categorized as held for trading are measured at fair value. The amounts recognized are based solely on forward currency sales contracted with banks as counterparties (OTC) for the purpose of foreign exchange hedging. The fair value (market value) reported is the value used by the bank counterparty and is based on observable market data, particularly the spot rates and yield curves of the respective currencies. The measurement basis thus falls into Level 2 of the fair value measurement hierarchy under IFRS 13.

04 Financing expenses and income

In thousands of CHF	Six months to June 30, 2014	Six months to June 30, 2013
Net interest expense	(636)	(875)
Net foreign currency translation gains	320	582
Net financial items	(316)	(293)

The financing expenses and financing income reported in the income statement decreased from the year-earlier amounts as a result of reduced variation in exchange rates.

4 COMET HOLDING AG | HALF-YEAR REPORT 2014

Consolidated financial statements for the first six months (condensed and unaudited)

05 Impairment

Goodwill and other intangible assets with indefinite useful lives are tested for impairment annually at September 30 or when there is an indication of impairment.

As there was no indication of impairment in the first half of the year, no impairment test was performed, i.e., the corresponding cash generating units were not measured.

06 Financing

06.1 Debt

In the first half of 2014, no new loans were obtained and no existing loans repaid.

06.2 Shareholders' equity

Authorized capital for equity-based compensation

In payment of variable compensation due to the Board of Directors and executive management for 2013, a total of 1,978 shares were issued in the first half of 2014 from authorized capital designated for equity compensation. As a result, at the end of the reporting period, the unissued authorized capital for equity-based compensation amounted to 24, 246 shares, or CHF 242,460.

Distribution to shareholders

The Annual Shareholder Meeting on April 24, 2014 approved a distribution to shareholders of CHF 8.00 per share (prior year: CHF 4.00) from distributable paid-in capital. COMET HOLDING AG paid the distribution, which totalled CHF 6.2 million, on May 2, 2014.

07 Events after the balance sheet date

There have been no events after the balance sheet date with a material effect on the amounts in this half-year report.

08 Release of the half-year report for publication

At its meeting on August 14, 2014, the Board of Directors approved these interim financial statements for publication.

Contact

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Key dates

October 29, 2014 Investor Day 2014

March 19, 2015 Publication of annual report 2014

Disclaima

This document contains forward-looking statements about the COMET Group that may be subject to uncertainty and risk. Readers should therefore be aware that actual future outcomes or events may differ from such statements. Forward-looking statements in this document are projections of possible future developments. All forward-looking statements are made on the basis of information available to COMET at the time of preparation of this document. The COMET Group assumes no obligation whatsoever to update or revise forward-looking statements in this document, whether as a result of new information, future results or otherwise.

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More information can be found on our website at www.comet-group.com