



Brush Wellman Reports Record Sales for 1999 and Fourth Quarter

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CLEVELAND, Ohio - January 26, 2000 - Brush Wellman Inc. (NYSE - BW) today reported annual sales for 1999 of \$455.7 million, the highest annual sales in the Company's history, and an 11% increase over 1998 annual sales of \$409.9 million. Sales for the fourth quarter were a record \$120.1 million, a 24% increase over sales of \$96.5 million for the fourth quarter of 1998. The record sales growth has been fueled by strong global market demand from telecommunications, automotive electronics, computer and optical media product applications.

Brush Wellman's net income for 1999 was \$6.4 million or \$0.40 diluted earnings per share as compared to a net loss of \$7.1 million or \$0.44 per share in 1998. (Absent a special charge, net income in 1998 was \$9.3 million or \$0.57 per share diluted.) Fourth quarter net income was \$1.3 million or \$0.08 per share diluted versus a net loss of \$0.3 million or \$0.02 per share diluted for the fourth quarter of 1998.

During the year, as well as in the fourth quarter, earnings were adversely affected by startup costs and supply constraints associated with the alloy expansion project, product mix shift and increased interest expense. Foreign currency rates, hedge gains and tax credits had a positive impact on earnings all year, while tax credits favorably affected fourth quarter profits by \$0.05 per share.

Metal Systems Group

The Metal Systems Group consists of Alloy Products, Technical Materials, Inc. (TMI) and Beryllium Products.

Metal Systems Group's sales grew 4% in 1999 to \$306.1 million from 1998 sales of \$295.7 million. Fourth quarter sales grew 15% to \$77.6 million from \$67.5 million in the fourth quarter of 1998. Operating profit for 1999 was \$16.3 million versus \$27.9 million for 1998. Fourth quarter profits were \$3.6 million, an increase of 64% versus \$2.2 million for the fourth quarter of 1998.

Alloy Products' sales were up slightly for the year compared to 1998. Strip product sales continue to show strength driven by global demand for telecommunications, automotive electronics and computer market product applications. This strength in strip products is partially offset by weakness in bulk product sales due to softness in oil and gas and aerospace markets.

During 1999, Alloy Products' earnings were negatively affected by strip product capacity constraints, Alloy Expansion Project (AEP) startup costs and development costs relating to new spinodal materials at the Brush Engineered Bronze facility in Lorain, Ohio.

The demand for strip products continued to outpace the production capabilities of the new mill as a result of various start-up issues. In order to address these issues and accelerate the ramp-up process of the Alloy Expansion Project, during the third quarter of 1999 the Company retained the services of approximately 50 outside engineers and skilled trades, including an experienced equipment commissioning project manager to focus on AEP equipment reliability. Except for one minor task, this project has been successfully completed. In addition, the Company has made progress in the volume of material targeted to be direct shipped from its Elmore, Ohio facility to automotive related customers. The above efforts are projected to result in an increase during the first half of 2000 of an additional 20% in production volume capacity over the current strip products supply chain capacity.

TMI sales and profits grew significantly in 1999 attributable to strong demand in the automotive, telecommunications and computer markets.

Beryllium Products' sales and profits were negatively affected during 1999 by delays in defense and aerospace procurement programs.

Microelectronics Group

The Microelectronics Group includes Williams Advanced Materials Inc. (WAM) and Electronic Products.

Microelectronics' sales grew 32% to \$140.6 million in 1999 compared with \$106.4 million in 1998. Fourth quarter sales grew 50% to \$40.1 million as compared to the fourth quarter of 1998. Operating profit was \$11.4 million for 1999 versus \$2.1 million for 1998 and \$3.6 million for the fourth quarter of 1999 as compared to \$0.8 million for the fourth quarter of 1998.

WAM experienced double-digit sales and earnings growth in 1999. The strong sales growth was a result of strong demand in optical media and the wireless sector of the microelectronics market. The CD-R and DVD vapor deposition target applications showed significant growth with WAM positioned as the leading supplier on a worldwide basis. WAM's new specialty alloy products, including bronze alloys and high-purity nickel alloys, also experienced significant growth during 1999.

Sales and earnings for Electronic Products (formerly Ceramics) were up substantially in 1999 due to continued growth and deeper penetration into the wireless telecommunications infrastructure market.

Chairman's Comments

Commenting on the results, Gordon Harnett, Chairman, President and CEO, stated "I am pleased to report record sales for the year and fourth

quarter. Our engineered materials are keeping pace with global technology by serving high growth markets such as telecommunications, automotive electronics, optical media and computers. Although I am disappointed in our profits for 1999, I am encouraged by the progress we have made during the last half of this year in ramping up the AEP and increasing our strip capacity. I look forward to even more progress and improved results in 2000."

Forward Looking Statements

Any forward-looking statements in this announcement are based on current expectations. The Company's performance may differ from that contemplated by the forward-looking statements as a result of a variety of factors including the global and domestic economy, manufacturing yields and operating performances at the Company's various facilities, changes in product mix, the timely and successful completion of pending capital expansions, tax rates and exchange rates.

Consolidated Statements of Income

(unaudited)

	Fourth Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
	Dec. 31, 1999	Dec. 31, 1998	Dec. 31, 1999	Dec. 31, 1998
(Dollars in thousands except share and per share amounts)				
Net sales	\$120,079	\$96,479	\$455,707	\$409,892
Cost of sales	96,215	76,721	363,773	325,173
Gross Margin	23,864	19,758	91,934	84,719
Selling, administrative and general expenses	17,641	16,349	70,561	64,553
Research and development expenses	2,299	2,308	8,506	8,665
Other-net	2,023	1,835	2,309	21,814
Operating Profit	1,901	(734)	10,558	(10,313)
Interest expense	1,476	489	4,173	1,249
Income before income taxes	425	(1,223)	6,385	(11,562)
Income taxes	(846)	(915)	(54)	(4,430)
Net Income	\$ 1,271	\$ (308)	\$ 6,439	\$ (7,132)
Per Share of Common Stock: Basic	\$ 0.08	\$ (0.02)	\$ 0.40	\$ (0.44)
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding	16,204,067	16,183,601	16,198,885	16,267,804
Per Share of Common Stock: Diluted	\$ 0.08	\$ (0.02)	\$ 0.40	\$ (0.44)
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding	16,272,190	16,183,601	16,279,591	16,267,804
Cash dividends per common share	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.48	\$ 0.48

Brush Wellman Inc.

Digest of Earnings

January 26, 2000

1999 1998

Fourth Quarter

Net Sales	\$120,079,000	\$96,479,000
Net Income	\$1,271,000	(\$308,000)
Share Earnings - Basic	\$0.08	(\$0.02)
Average Shares - Basic	16,204,067	16,183,601
Share Earnings - Diluted	\$0.08	(\$0.02)
Average Shares - Diluted	16,272,190	16,183,601

Year - to - Date

Net Sales	\$455,707,000	\$409,892,000
Net Income	\$6,439,000	(\$7,132,000)
Share Earnings - Basic	\$0.40	(\$0.44)
Average Shares - Basic	16,198,885	16,267,804
Share Earnings - Diluted	\$0.40	(\$0.44)
Average Shares - Diluted	16,279,591	16,267,804