

## ***Press Release***

### **Bucher Group continuing to grow**

#### **Group turnover above 1.2 billion Swiss Francs for the first time**

In the 1997 financial year the Bucher Group increased turnover by 9 % to CHF 1218 million. Calculated in national currencies, turnover increased by 5 %. The extension of the area of consolidation, mainly through the new Group companies Hydrotechnik Frutigen AG and Laeis-Heimsoth GmbH contributed 2 % to Group turnover. Manpower increased by 4 % to 4507 employees.

All divisions of the Group contributed to the increase in turnover with varying courses of business. The Agricultural Machinery Division increased turnover by 6 % despite a levelling out of market growth. In the Vehicles Division, deliveries of Duro off-road vehicles rose and, despite difficult market conditions, the sale of municipal vehicles also increased; turnover rose by 3 %. The Food Technology Division achieved a strong increase in turnover of 26 % with production plants for fruit juices and quality wines. The Hydraulics Division grew by 20 % in its traditional business and by the acquisition of Hydrotechnik Frutigen AG. The Machinery Division recorded a 2 % higher turnover with ceramic machinery and plastics machinery.

The company management expects a presumable net annual profit somewhat above the previous year's result. The definitive closing figures for the 1997 financial year will be published in mid-April and the general meeting will take place in Regensdorf on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1998.

### Bucher Group Figures

		1997	1996	Changes in %	
				real	in national currencies
<b>Net Profit Total</b>	<b>CHF m</b>	<b>1218</b>	<b>1120</b>	<b>+ 9</b>	<b>+ 5</b>
- Agricultural Machinery	CHF m	529	500	+ 6	+ 1
- Vehicles	CHF m	254	246	+ 3	+ 2
- Food Technology	CHF m	134	106	+ 26	+ 23
- Hydraulics	CHF m	163	135	+ 20	+ 18
- Machinery	CHF m	150	147	+ 2	- 2
<b>Number of Employees at end of year</b>		<b>4507</b>	<b>4321</b>	<b>+ 4</b>	