



CRH plc 2007 Results

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The International Building
Materials Group

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2007 Highlights

A record year of Performance and Growth

- Revenue up 12%, Operating Profit up 18%
- Operating Profit margin increased to 9.9% (2006: 9.4%)
- PBT +19%, Earnings +17%, Dividend +31%
- Strong €1.1 billion operating cash inflow
- €2.2+ billion of acquisitions and investments which underpin future growth
- Continued organic and acquisition growth

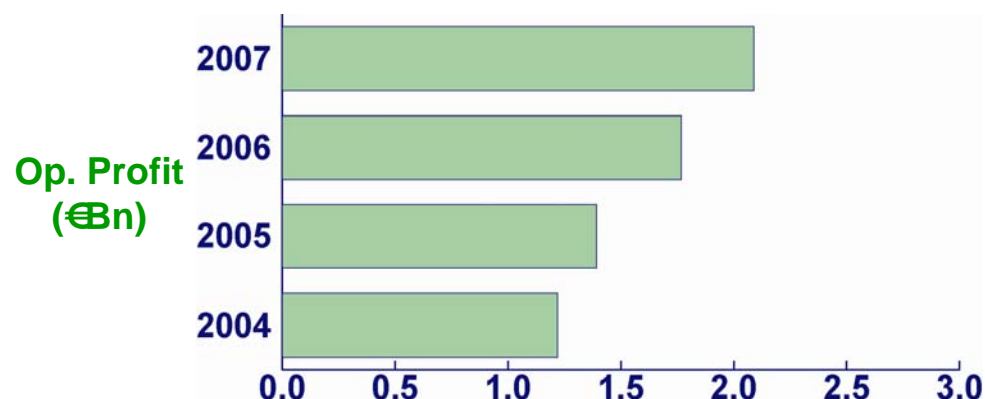
2007 Highlights

Continuing long-term performance and growth



EBITDA: €2.86 bn; up 16%

10-yr cagr: +20% p.a.

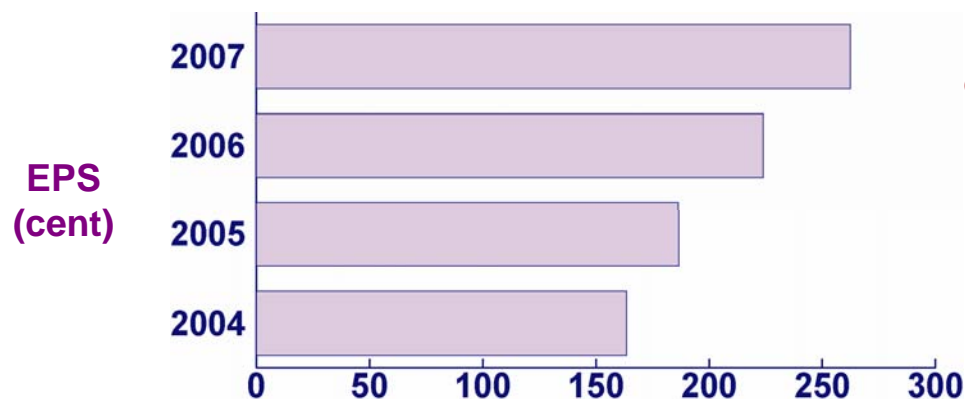


Op.Profit: €2.09 bn; up 18%

10-yr cagr: +20% p.a.

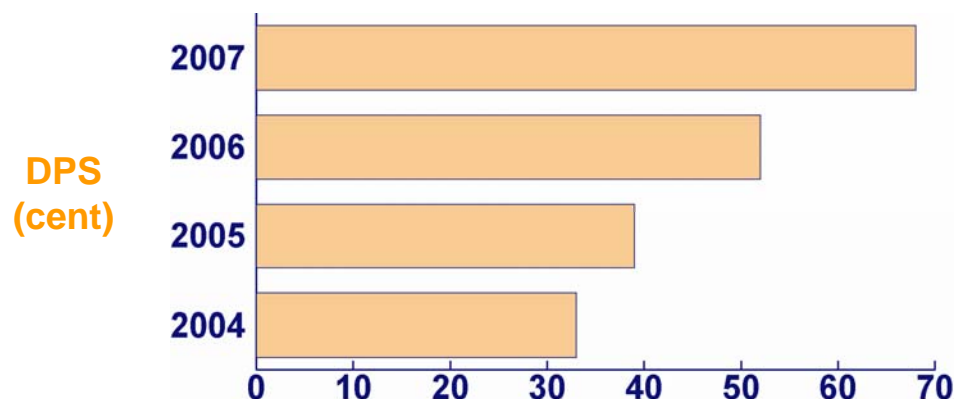
2007 Highlights

Continuing long-term shareholder return



○ EPS +17%; 15th year of growth

10-yr cagr: +16% p.a.



○ DPS +31%; 24th year of growth

10-yr cagr: +18% p.a.

Europe - Overall

Strong Materials performance; good P&D advance

						Acquisitions			
€m		<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	Change	Organic	2006	2007	Non-Rec	FX
Sales	+20%	10,714	8,939	+1,775	+694	+245	+861	-	(25)
Op. profit	+36%	1,106	814	+292	+178	+27	+76	+12	(1)
Op. margin		10.3%	9.1%						
Ex. non-rec.	+34%	10.3%	9.2%						

Operating profit excludes profit on disposal

○ Materials

- Significant increase in operating profit and margin
- Driven by exceptionally strong organic growth in CEE

○ Products

- Substantial overall improvement in operating profit
- Further good margin advance in 2007

○ Distribution

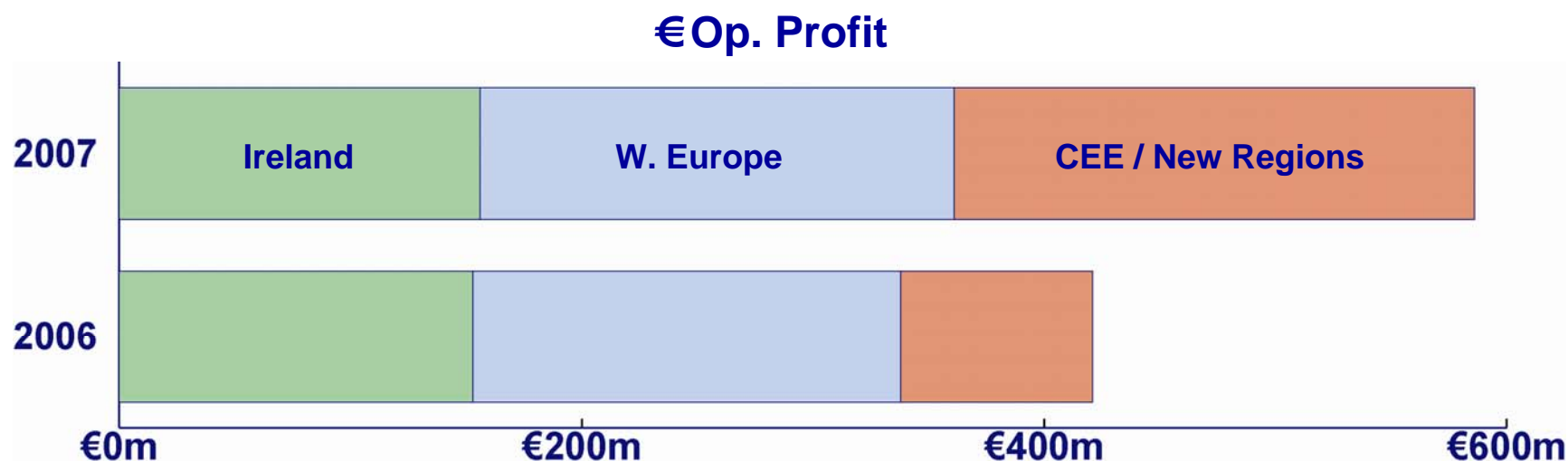
- Margin & cost control focus delivers organic advance
- Strong contributions from 2007 acquisitions

Europe Materials

Op.Profit +39%; mainly organic; strong margin progress

						Acquisitions		
€m		<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	Change	Organic	2006	2007	FX
Sales	+23%	3,651	2,967	+684	+457	+24	+210	(7)
Op. profit	+39%	586	421	+165	+125	+6	+34	-
Op. margin		16.1%	14.2%					

Operating profit excludes profit on disposal



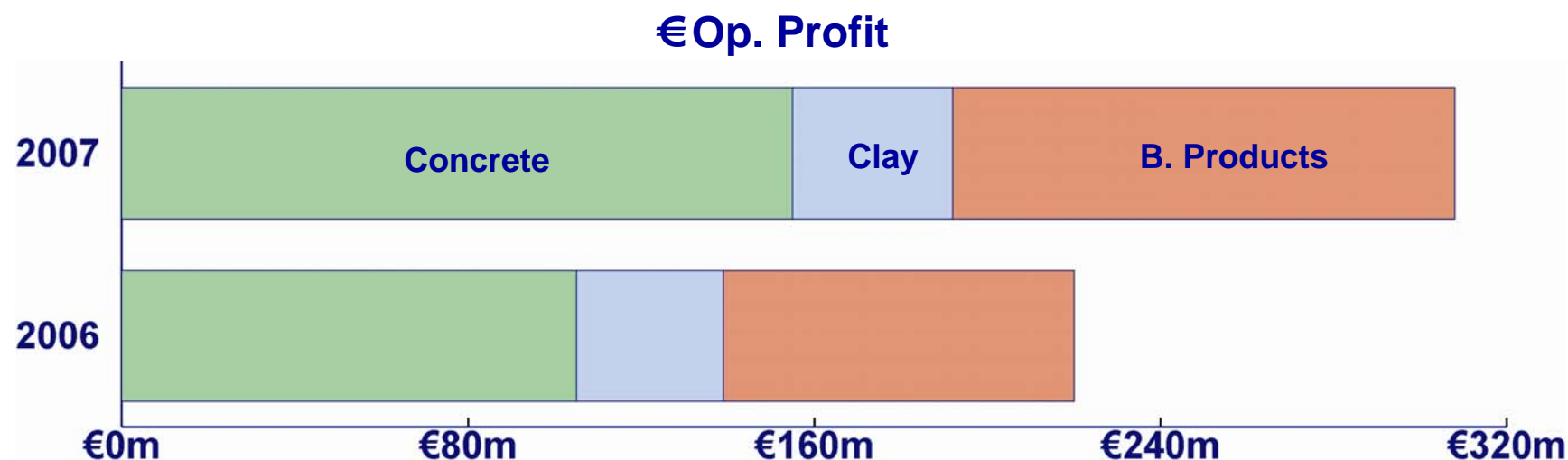
Op Profit: Ireland 27%, W. Europe 35%, CEE / New Regions 38%

Europe Products

Op.Profit +22%; good Organic & Acqs contributions

						Acquisitions			
€m		2007	2006	Change	Organic	2006	2007	Non-Rec	FX
Sales	+14%	3,628	3,186	+442	+161	+196	+85	-	-
Op. profit	+39%	308	221	+87	+30	+20	+6	+31	-
Op. margin		8.5%	6.9%						
Ex. non-rec	+22%	8.5%	7.9%						

Operating profit excludes profit on disposal



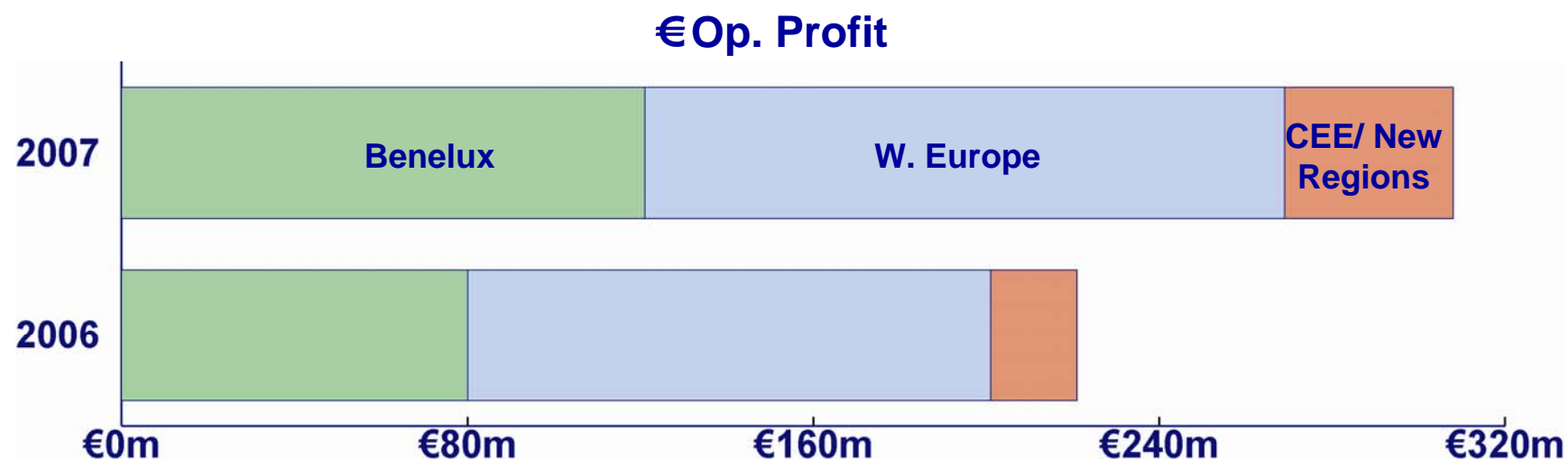
Strong Concrete Products base (50%), growing B.Products platform

Europe Products

Op.Profit +22%; good Organic & Acqs contributions

						Acquisitions			
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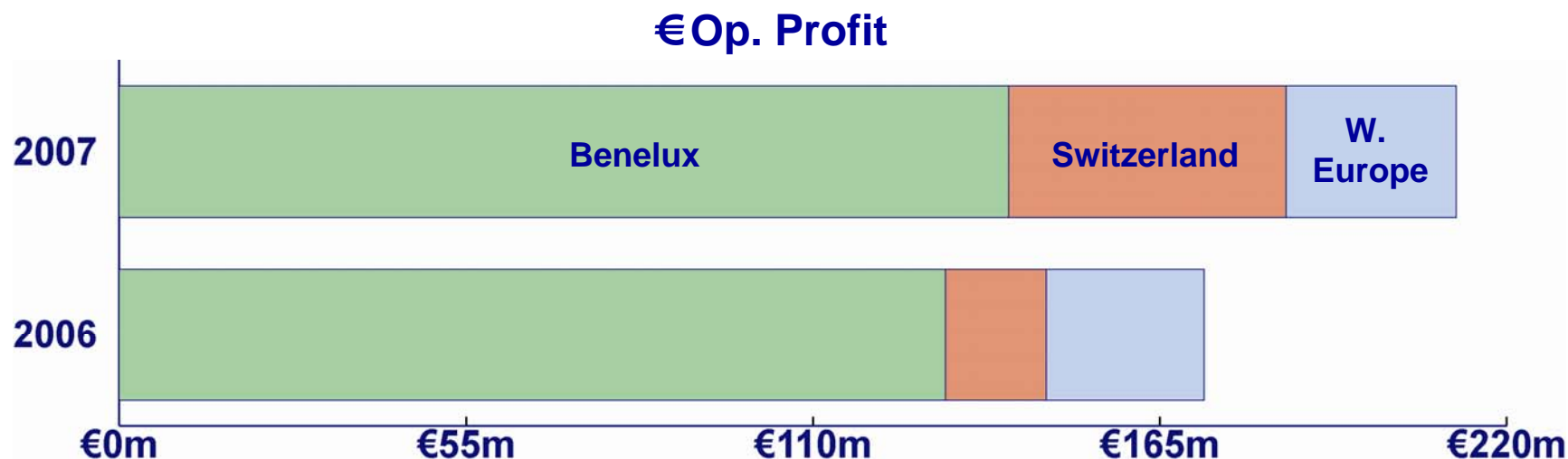
Broad base in mature Europe: Benelux c40%, W.Europe c50%

Europe Distribution

Op.Profit +39%; good Organic & Acqs contributions

						Acquisitions			
€m		2007	2006	Change	Organic	2006	2007	Non-Rec	FX
Sales	+23%	3,435	2,786	+649	+76	+25	+566	-	(18)
Op. profit	+23%	212	172	+40	+23	+1	+36	(19)	(1)
Op. margin		6.2%	6.2%						
Ex. non-rec	+39%	6.2%	5.5%						

Operating profit excludes profit on disposal



Leading positions Benelux/Switz; growing France/Germany

Americas - Overall

US\$ Op. Profit +12%; robust Organic & strong Acqs

						Acquisitions		
€m		2007	2006	Change	Organic	2006	2007	FX
Sales	+5%	10,278	9,798	+480	(456)	+1,391	+354	(809)
Op. profit	+3%	980	953	+27	(14)	+94	+25	(78)
Op. margin		9.5%	9.7%					
Ex. APAC/MMI		10.6%	10.5%					

Operating profit excludes profit on disposal

○ Materials

- Strong organic performance; continuing input cost / margin recovery success
- Significant incremental contribution from APAC (end-August 2006)

○ Products

- Resilient performance with continued growth in Non-Res activity ...
- ... broadly offsetting Res weakness; overall only slightly below 2006

○ Distribution

- Full year operating profit down 21% in US\$-terms
- Operating margins down on record 2006-2007 levels

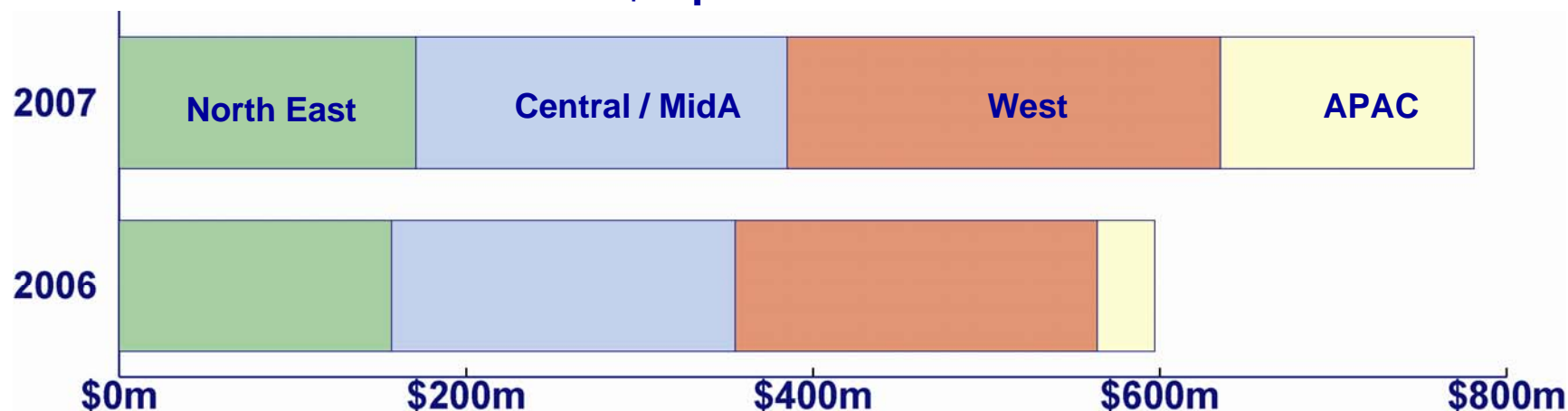
Americas Materials

Good funding & strong price dynamic drive margins

						Acquisitions		
€m		2007	2006	Change	Organic	2006	2007	FX
Sales	+14%	5,445	4,778	+667	(61)	+1,002	+127	(401)
Op. profit	+20%	570	475	+95	+42	+80	+12	(39)
Op. margin		10.5%	9.9%					
Ex. APAC		12.1%	11.2%					

Operating profit excludes profit on disposal

US\$ Op. Profit +31%



Broadening geographic base; new APAC growth platform

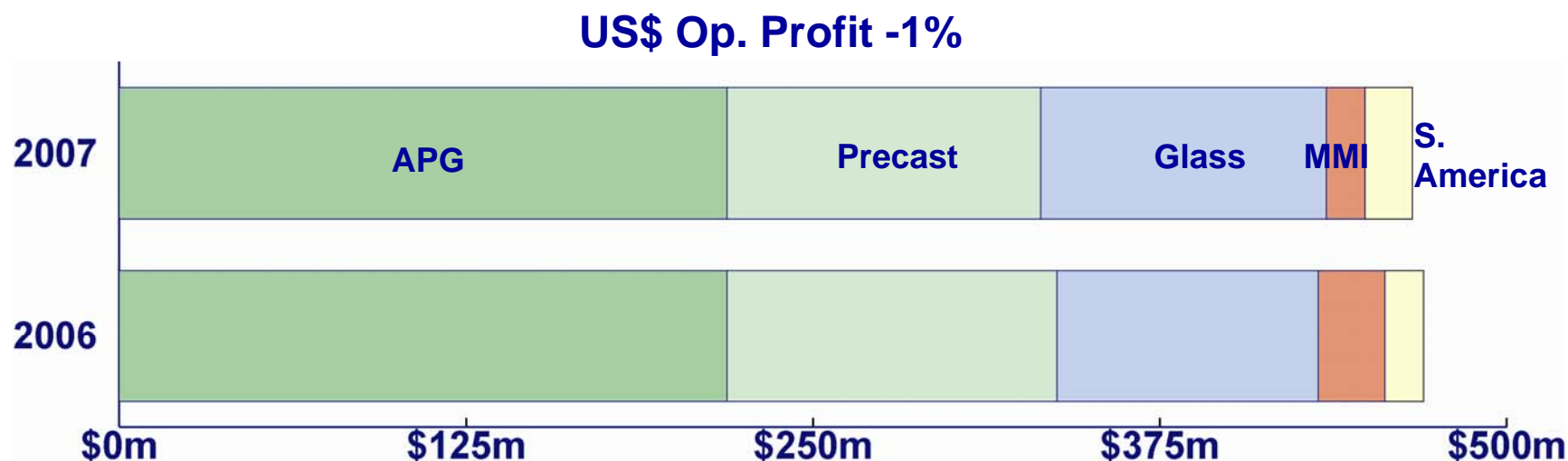


Americas Products

Resilient performance; NonRes growth an offset to Res

						Acquisitions		
€m		2007	2006	Change	Organic	2006	2007	FX
Sales	(2%)	3,510	3,572	(62)	(186)	+226	+185	(287)
Op. profit	(9%)	340	375	(35)	(17)	(1)	+13	(30)
Op. margin		9.7%	10.5%					
Ex. MMI		11.0%	11.3%					

Operating profit excludes profit on disposal



Strong concrete products base; APG & Precast c 70% of total

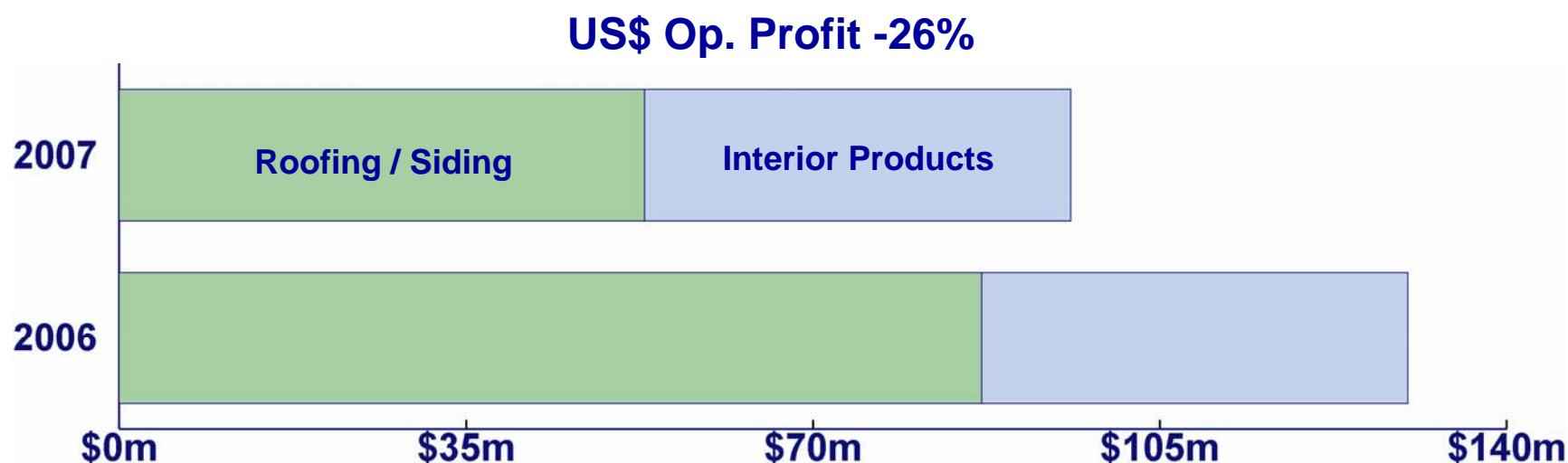
CRH

Americas Distribution

Resilient margin performance; down from 2006 high

						Acquisitions		
€m		2007	2006	Change	Organic	2006	2007	FX
Sales	(9%)	1,323	1,448	(125)	(209)	+163	+42	(121)
Op. profit	(32%)	70	103	(33)	(39)	+15	-	(9)
Op. margin		5.3%	7.1%					

Operating profit excludes profit on disposal



Outperforming the sector in difficult markets



CRH 2007 Acquisition Delivery

€2.2 billion spend; a new record for CRH

Dimensions	EV (€Bn)	Annualised Sales* (€Bn)	EV / Sales (x)	EV / EBITDA** (x)
Europe	0.36	0.30		
Americas*	0.64	0.60		
Total Materials	1.00	0.90	1.1	6.5
Europe	0.22	0.30		
Americas*	0.36	0.50		
Total Products	0.58	0.80	0.7	6.5
Europe	0.44	0.70		
Americas*	0.21	0.35		
Total Distribution	0.65	1.05	0.6	7.7
2007 Acquisitions	2.23	2.75	0.8	6.9

* based on \$:€ rates at time of acquisitions

** pre-synergies

2007 Acquisition Sales ... c€1.2Bn (2007), c€1.5Bn (2008)



CRH 2007 Major Cement Development

€0.7Bn Investment Commitment over 3 years

- Ireland: €200m investment ... on-stream end-2008
 - new state-of-the-art 1.3 mtpa line to replace old 0.4 mtpa kiln
- Ukraine: JI-0001 €210m investment ... on-stream end-2009
 - wet to dry conversion to give new state-of-the-art 3 mtpa plant
- Poland: €200m investment ... on-stream end-2009
 - capacity expansion of 1.8 mtpa to meet growing demand
- US: 50% JV in \$200m investment ... on-stream end-2008
 - new greenfield 1.1 mtpa cement plant in Florida

Investing for the Future - c€0.1bn ('07), c€0.4bn ('08), c€0.2bn ('09)

Finance

2007 Components of Growth

Continued Organic and Acquisition growth

€m			Change	Organic	Acquisitions		Non-Rec	FX
	2007	2006			2006	2007		
Sales	20,992	18,737	+2,255	+238	+1,636	+1,215	-	(834)
Operating Profit	2,086	1,767	+319	+164	+121	+101	+12	(79)
Profit on disposals	57	40	+17	+18	-	-	-	(1)
Trading Profit	2,143	1,807	+336	+182	+121	+101	+12	(80)
Finance Costs (net)	(303)	(252)	(51)	+42	(64)	(42)	-	+13
Associates	64	47	+17	+16	+1	-	-	-
Profit before tax	1,904	1,602	+302	+240	+58	+59	+12	(67)
PBT % chg v. '06			+19%	+15%	+4%	+4%	+1%	(5%)

Associates include Uniland



Funds Flow

Strong operating cash inflow ...

	2007	2006
Inflows	€M	€M
Profit before tax	1,904	1,602
Depreciation	739	664
Amortisation of intangibles	35	25
Working capital	227	(76)
	<u>2,905</u>	<u>2,215</u>
Outflows		
Tax paid	(388)	(378)
Dividends	(318)	(222)
Capital expenditure	(1,028)	(832)
Other	(81)	(51)
	<u>(1,815)</u>	<u>(1,483)</u>
Operating cash inflow	<u><u>1,090</u></u>	<u><u>732</u></u>

Funds Flow

... limits net Debt increase post record investment spend

	2007	2006
	€M	€M
Operating cash inflow	1,090	732
Acquisitions and investments	(2,227)	(2,311)
Disposals (incl. '06 APAC disposals)	156	252
Share issues	104	112
Purchase of Shares	(31)	(15)
Translation	237	187
Debt increase	(671)	(1,043)
 Acqs & Capex less Disposals	 (3,099)	 (2,891)
 Debt/Shareholders' Funds	 64%	 63%
Debt/Year-end Market Capitalisation	40%	26%

Key Financial Data

Substantial capacity to pursue further opportunities

○ Financial Strength

- 2007 EBITDA Interest Cover 9.4x ... (bank covenants 4.5x)
- Strong €1.1 billion operating cashflow (post divs, tax, total CX)
- Committed to maintaining investment grade debt rating

○ Focus is value-creation

- Return on Average Net Assets 16.1% ... (2006: 15.4%)
- Return on Average Equity 19.0% ... (2006: 18.4%)

Capital Management

Delivering value for Shareholders

○ **Dividend Policy**

- 2007 total dividend (up 31%), cover 3.9 times
- Target to achieve c 3.5 times cover for 2008 financial year

○ **Share Buyback**

- Share repurchase programme of up to 5%, initiated January 2008
- To-date, c.6m shares repurchased at an average of c. €25 per share

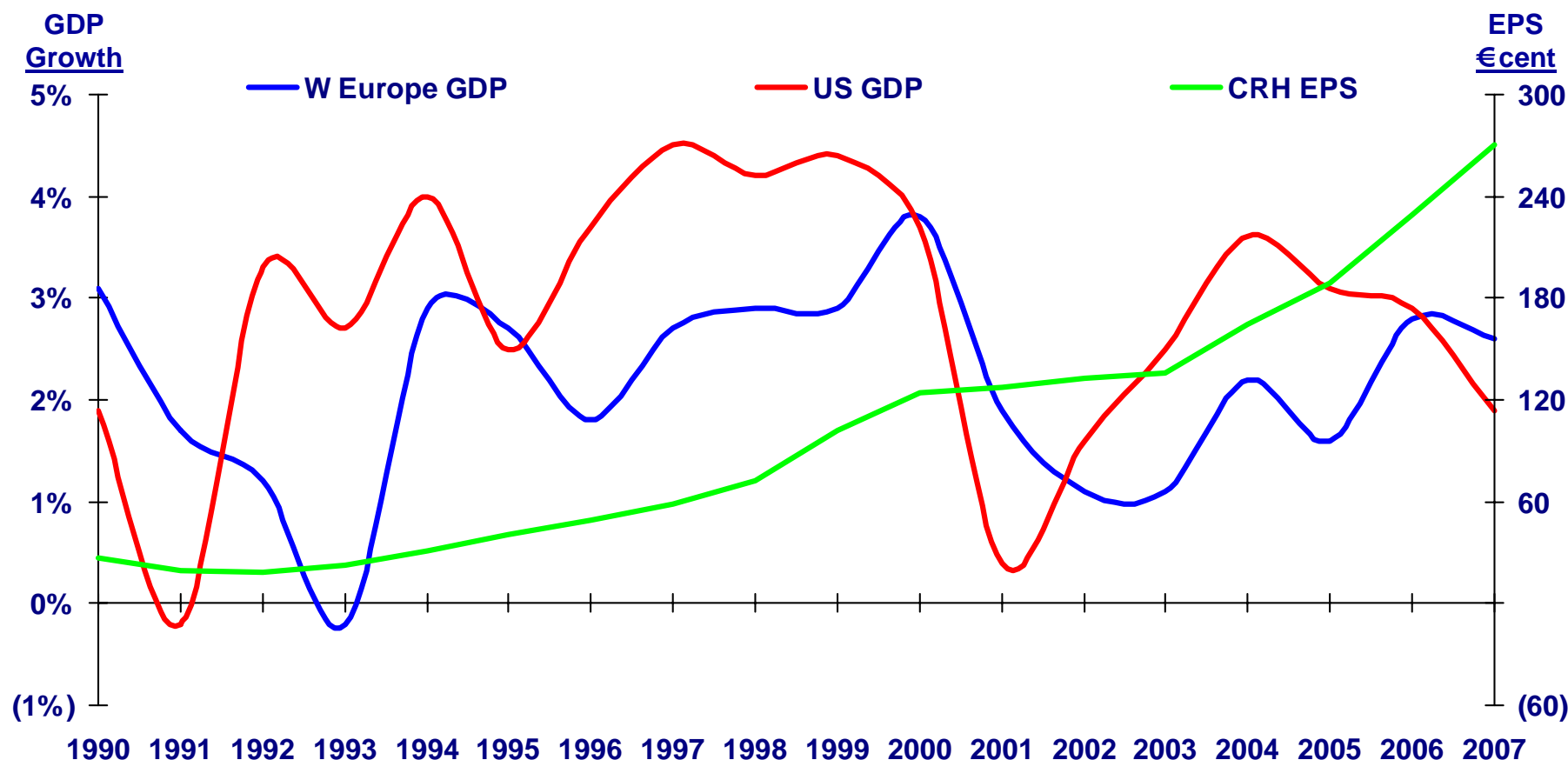
○ **Development**

- Continued focus on development delivery
- Well positioned to take advantage of strong development pipeline

Track Record & Outlook

Delivering through the Cycle

CRH strong track record

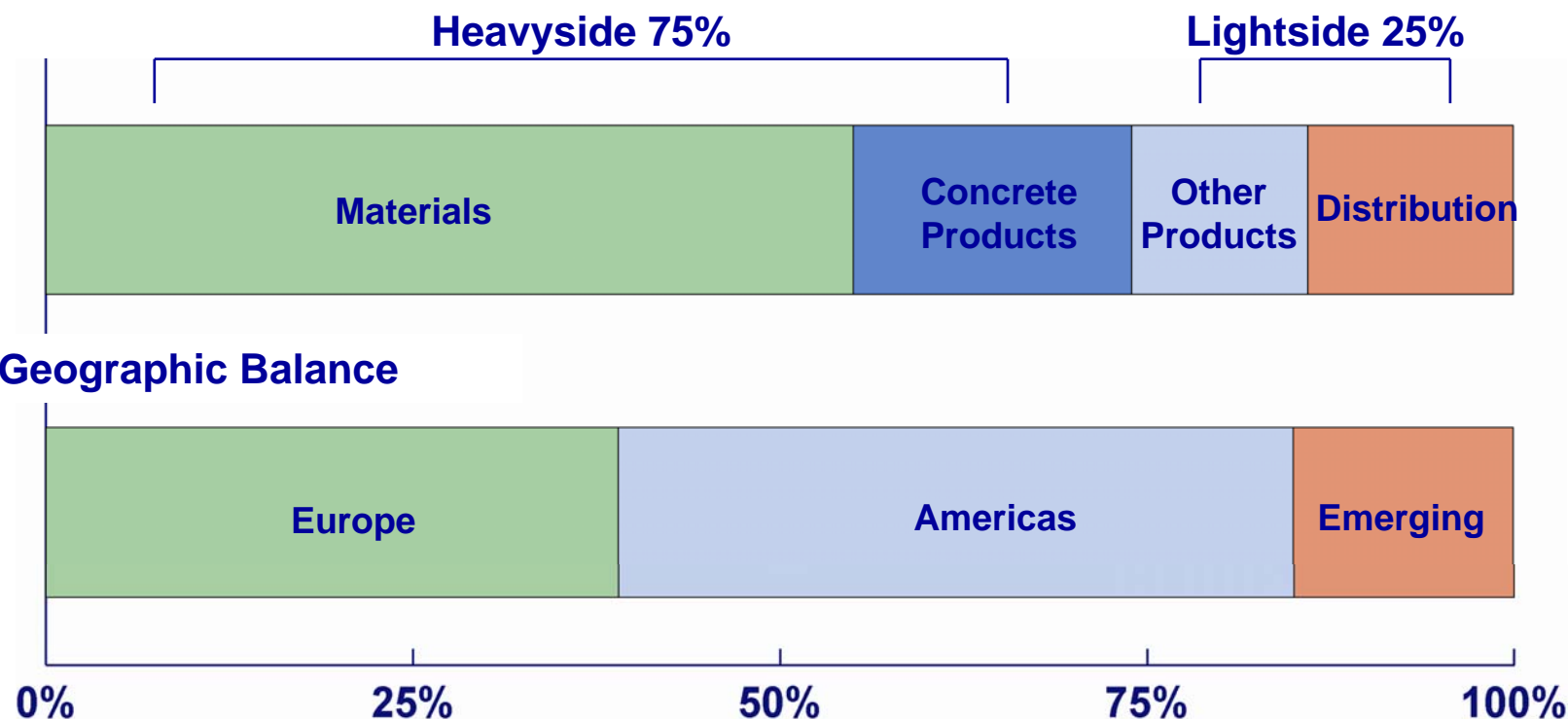


1993 – 2007 ... 15 consecutive years of EPS growth

CRH Strategy

Balanced exposure to industry demand drivers

2007 Product Balance



Yields performance stability & growth opportunity

2008 Europe Outlook

Organic growth - strong CEE, moderate Eurozone

○ **Materials**

- Expect further good progress in 2008
- Although organic growth unlikely to be as strong as 2007
- Ireland/Spain off their highs but strong growth in Poland/Ukraine

○ **Products & Distribution**

- Following successful delivery over past two years ...
- ... ongoing margin improvement (price / cost) remains a key focus
- Look to further 2008 profit advance despite somewhat slower backdrop

Look to organic progress & benefits from 2007 acqs

2008 Americas Outlook

Infra and Non-Res a counterbalance to Res

○ **Materials**

- US Highway funding will increase further in 2008
- Strong price dynamic, efficiency benefits & 2006/07 acqs contributions
- Look to another year of progress for this Infra-focused business

○ **Products & Distribution**

- New US Res is forecast to decline further; RMI Res similar to 2007
- Good Non-Res momentum in '07, likely to moderate later in 2008
- 2007 acquisitions and cost reduction to mitigate weaker markets
- We look to a slightly lower US\$ outcome for Products & Distribution

Overall expect increase in US\$ Operating Profit

Overall Outlook

Twin goals – Performance and Growth

- Developments in recent months have added to economic uncertainties
- CRH well positioned to deal with evolving market conditions
- Relentless focus on price/cost effectiveness, benefits from 2007 acqs
- Higher dividend payout and share buyback
- Continued development in Europe, America and emerging markets

Focused on delivering 16th consecutive year growth

Supplementary Information

Analysis by Segment

€M	2007	2006	% change
Sales			
Europe Materials	3,651	2,967	+23%
Europe Products	3,628	3,186	+14%
Europe Distribution	3,435	2,786	+23%
Americas Materials	5,445	4,778	+14%
Americas Products	3,510	3,572	-2%
Americas Distribution	1,323	1,448	-9%
Total	20,992	18,737	+12%
Operating Profit			
Europe Materials	586	421	+39%
Europe Products	308	221	+39%
Europe Distribution	212	172	+23%
Americas Materials	570	475	+20%
Americas Products	340	375	-9%
Americas Distribution	70	103	-32%
Total	2,086	1,767	+18%

Analysis by Region

€M	2007	2006	% change
Sales			
Ireland	1,402	1,251	+12%
Benelux	2,918	2,628	+11%
Rest of Europe	6,382	5,058	+26%
Americas	10,290	9,800	+5%
Total	<u>20,992</u>	<u>18,737</u>	<u>+12%</u>
 Operating Profit			
Ireland	159	157	+1%
Benelux	270	218	+24%
Rest of Europe	675	438	+54%
Americas	982	954	+3%
Total	<u>2,086</u>	<u>1,767</u>	<u>+18%</u>

Profit on Disposal

€M

2007

2006

Analysis by Segment

Europe Materials	29	28
Europe Products	11	2
Europe Distribution	3	4
Americas Materials	11	2
Americas Products	2	3
Americas Distribution	1	1
Total	57	40

Analysis by Region

Ireland	26	23
Benelux	7	3
Rest of Europe	9	8
Americas	15	6
Total	57	40

Foreign Currency Rates

euro 1=	Average		Year-end	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
US Dollar	1.3705	1.2556	1.4721	1.3170
Pound Sterling	0.6843	0.6817	0.7334	0.6715
Polish Zloty	3.7837	3.8959	3.5935	3.8310
Ukrainian Hryvnia	6.8982	6.3290	7.3588	6.6583
Swiss Franc	1.6427	1.5729	1.6547	1.6069
Canadian Dollar	1.4678	1.4237	1.4449	1.5281
Argentine Peso	4.2718	3.8623	4.5948	4.0373
Israeli Shekel	5.6270	5.5928	5.6201	5.5623

Euroconstruct Forecasts

Construction output 2008 (Euroconstruct November 2007)

		%
Belgium	↑	+2.1
Denmark	↑	+0.5
Finland	↑	+2.5
France	↑	+1.5
Germany	↑	+1.6
Ireland	↓	-6.5
Netherlands	↑	+3.2
Poland	↑	+15.2
Portugal	↑	+0.4
Spain	↓	-0.6
Sweden	↑	+3.6
Switzerland	↑	+1.6
United Kingdom	↑	+2.4

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