

CRH plc Investor/Analyst Visit Switzerland 23-25 May, 2007

Europe Materials

Developing

Regions

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Developing Regions CRH Development Strategy

- Initial focus on Cement
 - Proven entry point for CRH in emerging economies (e.g. Poland, Ukraine)
 - Meaningful first presence in industry with improving market practices
 - Leverage CRH technical & commercial knowledge
 - Strong platform to grow downstream CRH businesses
- Two principal market entry strategies for Cement
 - Pursue opportunities in attractive regions to build a substantial regional presence
 - Partner with larger groups with strong existing regional/national knowledge
- Move cautiously into downstream businesses over the medium-term
- Europe Materials pioneering CRH developing regions efforts



Turkey Country Overview



- Large geographic area
 - 2x size Poland, 785K km²
 - > 73M people, growing at 1.4% p.a.
 - > 50% of population under 25 years
- Strong economic growth
 - Among highest in OECD
 - > GDP growth +7% CAGR since 2002
 - Continued reform, outlook positive
 - FDI of US\$20bn in 2006

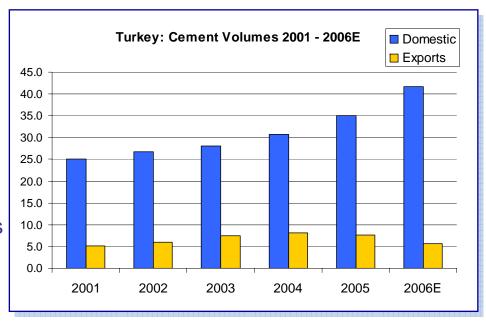


- Secular, democratic republic since 1923
 - Commercial and civil law based on Swiss/German systems, independent judiciary



Turkey Construction Market Overview

- Strong recent construction growth
 - Linked to strong economic growth.....
 -still accounts for only c. 6% GDP
 - Lower interest rates & new mortgage system driving Res. construction
- Europe's 3rd largest cement market
 - Cement Consumption of 41.6 m tonnes
 - 2006 demand increase of 20% y-o-y
 - > 570kg/person lower than other Mediterranean countries



- Good medium-term growth potential
 - Shortage of residential housing
 - Large Civil/Infrastructure backlog
 - Reducing household sizes & increasing internal migration/urbanisation



Turkey *Aegean Region*

- Located along Southwestern coast
 - Higher growth rates than the rest of Turkey
 - Growing industrial/manufacturing base
 - Expanding centre for tourism
- Key Market Area for Denizli:
 - City of Denizli, population of c. 0.5 m
 - Population of c. 13M within 200km radius



O Denizli Cement Plant

▲ Denizli Readymixed Concrete



Turkey Denizli Cement

Acquisition of 50% of Denizli Cement

- Completed April 2007
- Integrated cement & readymixed concrete business
- Market leader in Aegean region
- First-class partner & management team
- Joint management control
- Pre-emption rights

Excellent Assets

- Modern cement plant, 1.8 m tpa
- Limestone reserves 100+ million tonnes
- > 13 R'mixed Concrete plants, 1.3 m m³
- Packing plant in Cyprus



Denizli Cement, Turkey

Strong base for further development over the medium-term



China Country Overview



- Population of 1.3 billion
 - Concentrated in south & east
 - Growing to 1.5 billion by 2050
 - > 100+ cities with over 1 m people
- A rapidly changing society
 - > 39% urban to 50% by 2010
 - > 15 m moving to cities each year
 - Reducing household sizes(1993: 4.1 persons, 2003: 3.4)
 - New "middle class" of 100 m by 2010 (income \$9,000+ p.a.)



.....A long-term growth opportunity for CRH......



China Construction Market Overview

World's largest cement market

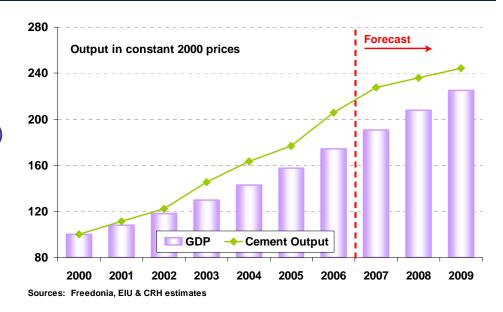
- > 1.2 Bn tonnes, 50%+ of global total
- Volume growth of c.16% in 2006
- 950kg/person (US:400kg, India:150kg)

A fragmented industry

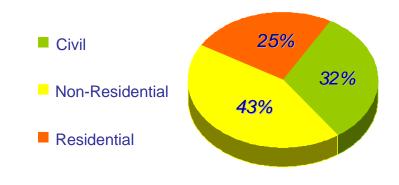
- Top 10 players c.15% of production
- Many regional markets
- Over 5,000 cement plants, 60% of capacity in small/inefficient VSKs

Challenges & Opportunities

- Overcapacity & low prices evident in many markets
- Ongoing consolidation
- Continued acceptance of low quality



Total Construction Market €309Bn (18% GDP)





China Regional Strategy

- Regional Strategy
 - Reviewed China's 32 provinces over a 2-year period.....
 -to identify the most suitable regions and cement market(s)
- We identified a number of provinces that satisfied key criteria
 - Economic & construction growth
 - Market structure
 - Development opportunities



- Locate specific opportunities......decision to focus initial efforts on Northeast
 - ➤ Heilongjiang, Jilin & Liaoning combined population of 108 million
 - No significant waterway access
 - Good natural resources (oil, coal, timber, etc) with an expanding industrial base



China Focus on Northeast China

Northeast China

- Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning
- > 1950s industrial heartland
- "Northeast Revival"....govt. commitment to modernise infrastructure & industry

Heilongjiang Province

- Pop. 38 m, largest city Harbin (9 m)
- > GDP growth +10% p.a.
- > Cement demand c. 12 m tpa

Jilin Province

- Pop. 27 m, largest city Changchun (8 m)
- > GDP growth +10% p.a.
- Cement demand c. 14 m tpa
- China's #1 auto output (VW, Toyota, etc)





China Harbin Sanling Cement

- 100% Asset Acquisition
 - Completed February 2007
- Plant located 45km from Harbin
 - 2 modern dry-process kilns
 - Includes a new line (installed 2004)
 - Cement Capacity of 0.65 m tpa
- A solid first step for CRH in China
 - Strong regional market growth
 - Good local management team
 - Stable, improving pricing environment



Harbin Sanling Cement, China

.....Action Research for CRH.....



China Next Steps

- Continue focus on Northeast cement.....Jilin Yatai
 - Regional cement leader in Northeast China (Top 10 in China, c. 9 m tpa)
 - Signed LOI in October 2006 to acquire 26% equity, option to go to 49%
 -ongoing negotiations

Other Regions

- Identify & pursue individual cement opportunities in attractive regions
- Cautious movement into downstream businesses when/where appropriate
- Continue to develop over the medium-term

Large Groups

- Target partnerships with larger cement groups with a strong regional/national presence
- Good relationships & ongoing dialogue with a number of groups
- Continue to develop over the medium & longer term



New Regions Potential Further Development Fronts

Russia

- > A number of "clusters" in focus:
 - Southern Federal District
 - Yekaterinburg area, Kazakhstan, etc
 - Far-eastern Russia.....Vladivostok
- Heavy Building Materialscement, lime, etc.

o India

- Large, growing market
- Cement demand c. 150kg/capita
- Early consolidation
- Increasing Asset prices.....but opportunities still available

