GRENKELEASING AG: shareholders approve all motions -- annual meeting of shareholders confirms corporate strategy

Baden-Baden, April 16, 2002 – At the ordinary annual meeting of shareholders of GRENKELEASING AG the shareholders approved all motions brought forward by the board of management and supervisory board. Formal approval of the actions of the board of management and the supervisory board in the fiscal year 2001 was given.

The board of management of GRENKELEASING AG is very happy with the course of business which transpired in the past financial year. "Despite the weakness of the general economic situation, the group was able to post high growth rates in its new business," explains Wolfgang Grenke, Chairman of the Board of GRENKELEASING AG.

GRENKELEASING AG posts consolidated earnings before taxes (EBT) of €19.5m for the financial year 2001, corresponding to a 58 percent increase compared to previous year. After-tax profits improved by 25 percent to €12m. As already reported beforehand, the group's new business (i.e. the total acquisition costs of newly purchased leased assets) rose from a figure of €178m in 2000 to €235.6m in 2001. This signifies an increase of 32 percent.

In keeping with the changed regulations of the Neuer Markt (market segment for high-growth companies at the Frankfurt Stock Exchange), GRENKELEASING AG has for the first time drawn up consolidated annual financial statements according to the IAS (International Accounting Standards), making it eligible for an exemption from German Commercial Code (HGB) accounting. This is why several key figures reflecting the business result – in particular deferred taxes – were more narrowly defined and newly determined. A comparison with the figures of the annual financial statements for 2000 which are based upon a reconciliation statement is only possible to a limited degree. In order to nevertheless make the present financial statements and the upcoming quarterly statements comparable, the company has additionally also recomputed the values of the previous year pursuant to the rules of the IAS. This produces a rise in EBT of 56 percent and an increase in after-tax profit of 40 percent. Earnings per share rose from €0.68 to €0.89 .

The stand-alone balance sheet of the AG shows a profit of €11.5. This means that the loss brought forward from the previous year – particularly attributable to the IPO costs – could be balanced out, leaving a net balance sheet profit of €2.2m. Since the current year also promises a positive trend in the stand-alone balance sheet, the company intends to distribute a dividend for the first time in the financial year 2002.

An majority -- 71 percent of votes cast -- of the annual meeting of shareholders voted in favour of a proposal put forward by the board of management and the supervisory board, advocating that stock option plans be drawn up for the purpose of generating a stronger commitment and motivation among employees. "Our employees are the strongest and most important capital that GRENKE has. The preservation and strengthening of our employee base will continue to be one of our most important tasks in the coming fiscal year," adds Mr. Grenke.

The chairman of the management board was delighted with the course of the meeting. In addition to around 300 shareholders, the annual meeting was also attended by the 12th grade of the Pädagogium economics grammar school in Baden-Baden and the Handelslehranstalt (commercial college) of Rastatt.

The event was also attended by the winners of the 2001 Stock-Exchange Simulation Game run by the credit institution Sparkasse Baden-Baden. Overall 36 player groups and 250 participants from the schools of Baden-Baden took part. The participants invested their fictitious playing capital in 120 national and international securities. The top prize in Baden-Baden went to the group of players from the Richard-Wagner grammar school, with the players from the Hohenbaden grammar school coming in second and the Robert-Schumann school following in third place. All three groups will receive cash prizes and will experience the lively atmosphere of an annual meeting of shareholders at first hand.

"GRENKELEASING has managed to hold out exceptionally well in a very tense environment, yet our share was unable to escape the downtrend on the stock exchanges. The fact that our shareholders maintained their confidence in our company was an important confirmation for us -- and in the name of GRENKELEASING AG, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks for this show of faith", concludes Mr. Grenke.