

ERICSSON LM TELEPHONE CO
Form 6-K
October 21, 2016

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN ISSUER

**Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

October 21, 2016

Commission File Number

000-12033

LM ERICSSON TELEPHONE COMPANY

(Translation of registrant's name into English)

Torshamnsgatan 21, Kista

SE-164 83, Stockholm, Sweden

(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F.
Form 20-F Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1):

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7):

Announcement of LM Ericsson Telephone Company, October 21, 2016 regarding Ericsson reports Third quarter results 2016 .

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

TELEFONAKTIEBOLAGET LM ERICSSON (publ)

By: /s/ NINA MACPHERSON
Nina Macpherson
Senior Vice President and
General Counsel

By: /s/ HELENA NORRMAN
Helena Norrman
Senior Vice President
Corporate Marketing &
Communications Officer

Date: **October 21, 2016**

THIRD QUARTER

REPORT 2016

Stockholm, October 21, 2016

THIRD QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

Read more
(page)

Reported sales and sales adjusted for comparable units and currency decreased by -14% YoY, mainly driven by segment Networks where reported sales declined by -19%. 2

The negative industry trends from the first half of 2016 have further accelerated. The main reason is weaker demand for mobile broadband, especially in markets with a weak macro-economic environment. 2

Gross margin declined to 28.3% (33.9%) YoY following lower mobile broadband capacity sales, a higher share of services sales and lower sales in segment Networks. 3

Operating margin decreased to 0.7% (8.6%) YoY, due to lower gross margin and lower sales, partly off-set by lower operating expenses. 4

The current industry trends indicate a somewhat weaker than normal seasonal sales growth between the third and fourth quarters. In addition, a renewed managed services contract in North America, with reduced scope, will impact sales negatively. Current business mix of coverage and capacity sales in mobile broadband is anticipated to prevail in the short term. 2

The cost and efficiency program is tracking towards target. Further short-term actions, mainly to reduce cost of sales, are being implemented in order to adapt operations to weaker mobile broadband demand. 3

Cash flow from operating activities was SEK -2.3 (1.6) b. Operational and structural actions are being taken to improve cash flow in the short and long term. 9

SEK b.	Q3 2016	Q3 2015	YoY change	Q2 2016	QoQ change	9 months 2016	9 months 2015
Net sales	51.1	59.2	-14%	54.1	-6%	157.4	173.4
<i>Sales growth adj. for comparable units and currency</i>			-14%		-9%	-8%	-7%
Gross margin	28.3%	33.9%		32.3%		31.4%	34.1%
<i>Gross margin excluding restructuring charges</i>	29.4%	34.5%		33.2%		32.2%	35.3%
Operating income	0.3	5.1	-93%	2.8	-88%	6.6	10.8
<i>Operating income excluding restructuring charges</i>	1.6	6.1	-73%	3.8	-58%	9.5	15.1
Operating margin	0.7%	8.6%		5.1%		4.2%	6.2%
<i>Operating margin excluding restructuring charges</i>	3.1%	10.2%		7.0%		6.0%	8.7%
Net income	-0.2	3.1	-106%	1.6	-111%	3.5	6.7
EPS diluted, SEK	-0.07	0.94	-107%	0.48	-115%	1.01	1.98

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EPS (Non-IFRS), SEK ¹⁾	0.34	1.34	-75%	0.83	-59%	2.04	3.56
Cash flow from operating activities	-2.3	1.6	-249%	-0.7	225%	-5.4	-1.3
Net cash, end of period ²⁾	16.3	25.8	-37%	21.0	-22%	16.3	25.8

- 1) EPS, diluted, excl. amortizations and write-downs of acquired intangible assets, and excluding restructuring charges.
- 2) The definition of Net cash was changed in Q1 2016 and now excludes post-employment benefits, see accounting policies.

Non-IFRS financial measures are reconciled to the most directly reconcilable line items in the financial statements at the end of this report.

1 Ericsson | Third Quarter Report 2016

CEO COMMENTS

The negative industry trends from the first half of 2016 have further accelerated, impacting Q3 sales, primarily relating to mobile broadband. The decline, in both mobile broadband coverage and capacity sales, was particularly strong in markets with a weak macro-economic environment. In addition, capacity sales in Europe were lower than a year ago. Gross margin declined YoY, following lower mobile broadband capacity sales, a higher share of services sales and lower sales in segment Networks.

Business

In the first half of 2016, a number of important markets, in regions such as Latin America, Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa, were impacted by a weak macro-economic environment. This negative development accelerated in the third quarter and had a negative effect on both mobile broadband coverage and capacity sales in these markets. In addition, capacity sales in Europe were lower than a year ago. Combined, this led to a significant deviation from what the company expected and communicated in conjunction with the Q2 report, and resulted in early announcement of preliminary sales and margins for the third quarter on October 12, 2016.

Both reported sales and sales adjusted for comparable units and currency declined by -14% YoY and sales were particularly weak at the end of the quarter. This shows an acceleration of the negative sales trends compared with the second quarter when the decline in sales, adjusted for comparable units and currency, was -7% YoY. The decline was driven by segment Networks where the reported sales decline worsened from -14% in Q2 to -19% in Q3.

As anticipated, sales in North America declined, mainly due to lower sales in Professional Services. In addition, one customer continued to reduce their investments in mobile broadband. Sales in Mainland China declined by -7% YoY mainly due to lower 3G sales, while 4G deployments continued on a high level. In India the delayed spectrum auctions led to another slow quarter. The transition from 3G to 4G continued to contribute to sales growth in region South East Asia and Oceania.

Sales in the targeted growth areas showed resilience and grew by 3% YoY, driven by Cloud, IP and services related to OSS and BSS. In total, the targeted growth areas now account for 21% of group sales. The strategic partnership with Cisco has to date generated more than 60 deals.

The current industry trends indicate a somewhat weaker than normal seasonal sales growth between the third and fourth quarters. In addition a renewed managed services contract in North America, with reduced scope, will impact sales negatively. The current business mix of coverage and capacity sales in mobile broadband is anticipated to prevail in the short term.

Profitability

Operating income declined to SEK 0.3 (5.1) b. following lower sales in segment Networks and a lower gross margin. The positive effect of the cost and efficiency program did not offset the sharp decline in gross income.

Gross margin declined to 28% (34%) following lower mobile broadband capacity sales, a higher share of services sales and lower sales in segment Networks.

IPR licensing revenues declined YoY and declined slightly QoQ. The IPR revenues in the quarter represent the current licensing contract portfolio.

Cost reductions to secure resilience and competitiveness

The cost and efficiency program was first initiated in November 2014 and then expanded in the second quarter of 2016. We are taking action in all dimensions of the program. Actions in the quarter included headcount reduction activities which were announced and initiated in Sweden, the US, Finland, Spain and the UK. We are tracking towards our target to reduce the annual run rate of operating expenses, excluding restructuring charges, to SEK 53 b. in the second half of 2017.

We will implement further short-term actions mainly to reduce cost of sales, in order to adapt our operations to weaker mobile broadband demand.

Cash flow

Cash flow from operating activities was SEK -2.3 b. in the quarter, mainly due to lower trade payables following lower demand. As cash flow is volatile between quarters it should be viewed on a full-year basis. We are taking operational and structural actions to improve cash flow both in the short and long term. Net cash at the end of quarter was SEK 16.3 b.

Strategy execution

Ericsson is in the middle of a significant company transformation. In addition, the rapid technology development, different and new customer requirements, as well as the convergence of IT, Media and Telecom, are posing both challenges and opportunities. Focus is on speed and fine-tuning of execution, supported by the new company structure which is designed for efficiency and effectiveness.

In short, the strategy builds on three key elements; efficiency and scale of our core business, investments in new revenue base and strong cash flow generation. Combined this will enable us to secure leadership also in the emerging broader 5G market from technology to new business models and services enabling us to be a strong business partner to existing and new customers.

Jan Frykhammar

President and CEO

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

SEK b.	Q3 2016	Q3 2015	YoY change	Q2 2016	QoQ change	9 months 2016	9 months 2015
Net sales	51.1	59.2	-14%	54.1	-6%	157.4	173.4
<i>Of which Networks</i>	23.3	28.8	-19%	26.8	-13%	75.9	86.4
<i>Of which Global Services</i>	24.8	27.1	-8%	24.5	1%	72.3	77.3
<i>Of which Support Solutions</i>	2.9	3.3	-11%	2.9	2%	9.2	9.5
<i>Of which Modems</i>							0.1
Gross income	14.5	20.1	-28%	17.5	-17%	49.3	59.2
Gross margin (%)	28.3%	33.9%		32.3%		31.4%	34.1%
Research and development expenses	-7.9	-8.5	-8%	-7.4	6%	-22.7	-26.9
Selling and administrative expenses	-6.2	-6.4	-2%	-7.1	-12%	-20.1	-21.3
Other operating income and expenses	0.0	0.1	-104%	-0.2	-99%	0.0	-0.1
Operating income	0.3	5.1	-93%	2.8	-88%	6.6	10.8
Operating margin	0.7%	8.6%		5.1%		4.2%	6.2%
<i>for Networks</i>	-1%	10%		6%		5%	7%
<i>for Global Services</i>	4%	9%		6%		4%	7%
<i>for Support Solutions</i>	-12%	0%		-15%		-6%	-2%
<i>for Modems</i>							
Financial net	-0.6	-0.6	-4%	-0.5	13%	-1.6	-1.2
Taxes	0.1	-1.3	-106%	-0.7	-111%	-1.5	-2.9
Net income	-0.2	3.1	-106%	1.6	-111%	3.5	6.7
<i>Restructuring charges</i>	-1.3	-1.0	29%	-1.0	24%	-2.9	-4.3

THIRD QUARTER COMMENTS

Net sales

Sales as reported decreased by -14% YoY, with a decline in all segments. Sales, adjusted for comparable units and currency, decreased by -14%.

The negative trends from the first half of 2016 accelerated in the quarter, impacting primarily Segment Networks.

The sales decline in Networks was driven mainly by markets with a weak macro-economic environment, impacting both mobile broadband coverage and capacity sales in these markets. Sales in Europe continued to decline YoY, following completion of mobile broadband projects in 2015 and lower capacity sales. Sales in India contributed to the decline following the delayed spectrum auctions which have delayed investments for several quarters. Sales in Mainland China declined YoY due to lower 3G sales, while 4G deployments continued on a high level and sales of core networks increased. Sales in North America declined slightly YoY mainly related to one customer that continued to reduce their investments in mobile broadband.

Sales in Global Services declined by -8% YoY. Professional Services sales declined, partly due to lower sales in markets with a weak macro-economic environment and continued decline in CDMA sales. Managed Services sales declined YoY, partly due to lower sales in North America. As already announced, a major managed services contract has been renewed, with reduced scope. This will impact Managed Services sales negatively also going forward. Network Rollout sales continued to decline YoY, due to lower mobile broadband demand.

In Support Solutions, sales decreased -11% YoY due to lower sales in OSS and BSS. This was partly due to lower software sales in digital transformation projects, in which sales are mainly milestone based. In addition, sales were lower than a year ago in markets with a weak macro-economic environment.

Sales declined QoQ due to lower sales in Networks, particularly in Europe and in markets with a weak macro-economic environment.

IPR licensing revenues declined YoY and declined slightly QoQ. The IPR revenues in the quarter represent the current IPR licensing contract portfolio.

Gross margin

Gross margin declined YoY and QoQ following lower mobile broadband capacity sales, higher share of services sales and lower sales in segment Networks.

Cost and efficiency program and restructuring charges

The cost and efficiency program is tracking towards target. The target, announced last quarter, is to achieve an annual run rate for operating expenses, excluding restructuring charges, of SEK 53 b. in the second half of 2017. This is to be compared with SEK 63 b. for full-year 2014. Operating expenses, excluding restructuring charges, have been reduced to an annual run rate of SEK 56.7 b. in Q3, compared with SEK 57.7 b. in Q2, mainly as a result of actions related to the global cost and efficiency program. Headcount reductions were announced and initiated in Sweden, the US, Spain, Finland and the UK in the quarter.

The company will implement further short-term actions mainly to reduce cost of sales, in order to adapt operations to weaker mobile broadband demand.

The estimate for total restructuring charges in 2016 remains at SEK 4-5 b. The high pace of restructuring activities is anticipated to continue in 2017.

Operating expenses

Operating expenses decreased YoY, mainly due to savings related to the cost and efficiency program. Operating expenses decreased QoQ following lower SG&A expenses. However, R&D expenses increased QoQ, following lower capitalization of development expenses and increased related depreciations, as more products reached general availability.

Other operating income and expenses

Other operating income and expenses were stable YoY. The revaluation and realization effects of currency hedge contracts were SEK -0.2 (-0.3) b. This is to be compared with SEK -0.5 b. in Q2, 2016.

The main part of the currency hedge contract balance is in USD. The SEK weakened further against the USD between June 30, 2016 (SEK/USD rate 8.45) and Sep 30, 2016 (SEK/USD rate 8.62).

Operating income

Operating income decreased YoY, due to lower gross margin, lower sales and higher restructuring charges. The decrease in operating income was partly offset by lower operating expenses.

Operating income decreased QoQ due to lower gross margin, lower sales and higher restructuring charges. The decrease in operating income was partly offset by lower operating expenses and a smaller negative effect from valuation of currency hedge contracts.

Financial net

The negative financial net was stable both YoY and QoQ.

Taxes

The tax cost in the quarter was slightly positive.

Net income and EPS

Net income and EPS diluted decreased YoY and QoQ, following the low operating income. EPS diluted was SEK -0.07 (0.94) and EPS (Non-IFRS) was SEK 0.34 (1.34).

Employees

The number of employees on Sep 30, 2016 was 113,797 compared with 116,507 on June 30, 2016. The decrease was mainly a result of headcount reductions as part of the cost and efficiency program and a consequence of a reduced managed services contract in North America.

Modems

The discontinuation of the modems business was completed in Q3 2015.

4 Ericsson | Third Quarter Report 2016

REGIONAL SALES

SEK b.	Third quarter 2016			Total	Change	
	Global Networks	Services	Support Solutions		YoY	QoQ
North America	6.1	6.3	0.8	13.2	-8%	-2%
Latin America	1.8	2.4	0.1	4.4	-22%	-4%
Northern Europe and Central Asia	1.1	0.9	0.1	2.0	-19%	-2%
Western and Central Europe	1.1	2.4	0.1	3.6	-21%	-20%
Mediterranean	1.5	2.9	0.2	4.5	-17%	-16%
Middle East	1.6	2.4	0.3	4.3	-25%	-13%
Sub-Saharan Africa	0.9	1.0	0.1	2.0	-25%	-13%
India	1.4	1.1	0.1	2.6	-28%	7%
North East Asia	3.9	2.0	0.3	6.1	-4%	1%
South East Asia and Oceania	2.3	2.7	0.1	5.1	6%	-4%
Other ¹⁾	1.7	0.7	0.8	3.3	-8%	2%
Total	23.3	24.8	2.9	51.1	-14%	-6%

¹⁾ Region Other includes licensing revenues, broadcast services, power modules, mobile broadband modules, Ericsson-LG Enterprise and other businesses.

North America

As anticipated, sales in North America declined, mainly due to lower sales in Professional Services. In the quarter a major managed services contract was renewed with reduced scope. In addition one customer continued to reduce their investments in mobile broadband. There is continued high focus on network and IT transformation. 5G trials are ongoing with all major customers.

Latin America

Sales continued to decline YoY as operators reduced mobile broadband investments due to the recession in the region. Despite the challenging macro-economic environment, operators continue to invest in OSS and BSS transformation and network efficiency.

Northern Europe and Central Asia

Sales decreased YoY as Networks sales were impacted by lower investments in mobile broadband infrastructure in Russia. Operators are investing in ICT transformation, creating demand for OSS and BSS.

Western and Central Europe

Sales declined, following completion of mobile broadband projects in 2015 and lower capacity sales. Operators continue to focus on transforming their networks to meet the increased demand for data consumption and quality improvement.

Mediterranean

Sales declined due to lower investments in mobile broadband infrastructure, mainly related to capacity business. There was positive development in Managed Services and investments are being made in OSS and BSS transformation.

Middle East

Sales declined YoY following a sharp decline in Networks sales due to lower mobile broadband investments. This was driven by macro-economic challenges, mainly in countries with high exposure to low oil prices.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Sales declined mainly due to lower investment levels in some big countries impacted by low oil prices and a weak macro-economic environment.

India

The pending spectrum auctions, which closed early October, negatively impacted mobile broadband investments in the quarter. Professional Services continued to be stable.

North East Asia

Sales declined YoY. In Mainland China, 4G deployments continued on a high level and sales of core networks increased, while 3G sales declined. In Korea and Japan, investments continued on low levels as the initial 4G networks were built with high density as well as good capacity.

South East Asia and Oceania

Sales growth YoY was primarily driven by mobile broadband investments in Indonesia and Malaysia. Professional Services developed favorably, mainly driven by Managed Services.

Other

IPR licensing revenues were down YoY and declined slightly QoQ.

SEGMENT RESULTS

NETWORKS

SEK b.	Q3 2016	Q3 2015	YoY change	Q2 2016	QoQ change	9 months 2016	9 months 2015
Net sales	23.3	28.8	-19%	26.8	-13%	75.9	86.4
<i>Sales growth adj. for comparable units and currency</i>			-20%		-17%	-11%	-11%
Operating income	-0.3	2.8	-109%	1.6	-116%	4.1	5.8
<i>Operating income excluding restructuring charges</i>	0.4	3.3	-89%	2.2	-84%	5.6	8.4
Operating margin	-1%	10%		6%		5%	7%
<i>Operating margin excluding restructuring charges</i>	2%	12%		8%		7%	10%
EBITA margin	0%	11%		7%		6%	9%
<i>Restructuring charges</i>	-0.6	-0.6	8%	-0.6	0%	-1.5	-2.6
Net sales							

Sales as reported decreased by -19% YoY mainly due to lower sales of mobile broadband. Sales of core networks and IP increased slightly YoY.

The negative industry trends from the first half of 2016, with weaker demand for mobile broadband in markets with a weak macro-economic environment, accelerated further, impacting both coverage and capacity sales in these markets. In addition, mobile broadband capacity sales in Europe were lower than a year ago. Sales in India contributed to the decline following the delayed spectrum auctions which have delayed investments for several quarters. Sales in Mainland China declined YoY due to lower 3G sales, while 4G deployments continued on a high level and sales of core networks increased. Sales in North America declined slightly YoY mainly relating to one customer that continued to reduce their investments in mobile broadband.

Sales, adjusted for comparable units and currency, decreased by -20% YoY.

Sales decreased QoQ, mainly due to lower sales in Europe and in markets with a weak macro-economic environment. Sales also decreased in South-East Asia and Oceania, where large deliveries in coverage projects were made in Q2.

The Ericsson Radio System (ERS) represented close to 10% of total deliveries of radio units year-to-date. The full-year 2017 estimate for the ERS share of total deliveries is approximately 50%, with a gradual increase during the year. The world's first commercial 5G New Radio (NR) unit was launched by Ericsson in the quarter, ready to be shipped as from the second half of 2017.

Operating income and margin

Operating income and margin decreased YoY, mainly due to lower sales and a lower share of mobile broadband capacity sales. This was partly offset by significantly lower operating expenses, mainly as an effect of the ongoing cost and efficiency program.

Operating income and margin decreased QoQ mainly due to lower sales and a lower share of mobile broadband capacity sales. This was partly offset by lower operating expenses and a lower negative effect of revaluation of currency hedge contracts.

The effects of revaluation and realization of currency hedge contracts were negative at SEK -0.2 (-0.2) b. in the quarter. In Q2, 2016, these effects of currency hedge contracts were negative at SEK -0.4 b.

GLOBAL SERVICES

SEK b.	Q3 2016	Q3 2015	YoY change	Q2 2016	QoQ change	9 months 2016	9 months 2015
Net sales	24.8	27.1	-8%	24.5	1%	72.3	77.3
<i>Of which Professional Services</i>	18.7	20.5	-9%	18.7	0%	55.3	58.7
<i>Of which Managed Services</i>	7.2	8.0	-10%	7.3	-2%	21.8	23.6
<i>Of which Network Rollout</i>	6.1	6.5	-7%	5.8	4%	17.0	18.7
<i>Sales growth adj. for comparable units and currency</i>			-8%		-2%	-4%	-2%
Operating income	1.0	2.4	-58%	1.5	-33%	3.1	5.7
<i>Of which Professional Services</i>	1.4	2.4	-41%	1.7	-16%	4.4	6.9
<i>Of which Network Rollout</i>	-0.4	0.0		-0.2	113%	-1.2	-1.2
Operating margin	4%	9%		6%		4%	7%
<i>for Professional Services</i>	7%	12%		9%		8%	12%
<i>for Network Rollout</i>	-7%	0%		-3%		-7%	-6%
<i>Operating income excluding restructuring charges</i>	1.6	2.7	-42%	1.8	-13%	4.4	7.2
<i>Operating margin excluding restructuring charges</i>	6%	10%		7%		6%	9%
EBITA margin	5%	10%		7%		5%	8%
<i>Restructuring charges</i>	-0.6	-0.4	67%	-0.3	73%	-1.3	-1.5

Net sales

Sales as reported, and sales adjusted for comparable units and currency, declined by -8% YoY. Professional Services sales declined, partly due to lower sales in markets with a weak macro-economic environment and continued decline in CDMA sales. Managed Services sales declined YoY and remained stable QoQ. The YoY reduction was partly due to lower sales in North America. As already announced, a major managed services contract has been renewed, with reduced scope. This will impact Managed Services sales negatively going forward. Network Rollout sales continued to decline YoY, due to lower mobile broadband demand.

Sales increased by 1% QoQ, with increased Network Rollout activities in South East Asia.

Operating income and margin

Operating income decreased YoY in Global Services, with lower profitability in Professional Services as well as in Network Roll-out.

Professional Services operating margin, excluding restructuring charges of SEK -0.5 (-0.3) b., declined YoY to 10% (13%) and continued to be negatively impacted by systems integration transformation projects in the start-up phase. Professional Services operating margin, excluding restructuring charges, was stable QoQ.

Network Rollout operating margin declined YoY and QoQ, partly due to increased cost in a few specific projects in emerging markets. Activities continued in order to adapt the service delivery operations to current mobile broadband project volumes. Network Rollout operating margin, excluding restructuring charges of SEK -0.1 b., declined to -5% from -2% in Q2. The restructuring charges in Q2 were SEK -0.1 b.

	Q3 2016	Q2 2016	Q1 2016	Full year 2015
Number of signed Managed Services contracts	15	20	21	101
Number of signed significant consulting & systems integration contracts ¹⁾	19	18	13	66

¹⁾ In the areas of OSS and BSS, IP, Service Delivery Platforms and data center build projects.

7 Ericsson | Third Quarter Report 2016

SUPPORT SOLUTIONS

SEK b.	Q3 2016	Q3 2015	YoY change	Q2 2016	QoQ change	9 months 2016	9 months 2015
Net sales	2.9	3.3	-11%	2.9	2%	9.2	9.5
<i>Sales growth adj. for comparable units and currency</i>			-13%		-2%	-5%	-10%
Operating income	-0.4	0.0		-0.4	-17%	-0.5	-0.2
<i>Operating income excluding restructuring charges</i>	-0.3	0.0		-0.4	-10%	-0.4	0.1
Operating margin	-12%	0%		-15%		-6%	-2%
<i>Operating margin excluding restructuring charges</i>	-11%	1%		-12%		-4%	1%
EBITA margin	-4%	7%		-6%		2%	6%
<i>Restructuring charges</i>	0.0	0.0	-5%	-0.1	-49%	-0.1	-0.3

Net sales

Sales as reported decreased -11% YoY due to lower sales in OSS and BSS, partly because of lower software sales in digital transformation projects where sales are mainly project milestone based. In addition, sales in markets with a weak macro-economic environment were lower than a year ago. The overall transition of business models continues, from traditional telecom software licenses to recurrent license revenue deals.

Sales in TV & Media declined slightly YoY. In conjunction with IBC (International Broadcasting Convention) in September several announcements were made, including a partnership with Google to extend the reach of the Ericsson cloud-based MediaFirst TV platform into the Android TV ecosystem.

Sales, adjusted for comparable units and currency, decreased by -13% YoY.

Sales were stable QoQ.

Operating income and margin

Operating income and margin declined YoY, mainly due to lower OSS and BSS software sales and lower IPR licensing revenues.

Operating income improved slightly QoQ.

CASH FLOW

SEK b.	Q3 2016	Q3 2015	Q2 2016
Net income reconciled to cash	1.5	6.8	1.3
Changes in operating net assets	-3.8	-5.2	-2.0
Cash flow from operating activities	-2.3	1.6	-0.7
Cash flow from investing activities	-2.0	-0.1	1.4
Cash flow from financing activities	-1.5	-0.3	-9.3
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	-4.5	1.0	-7.0
<i>Cash conversion (%)</i>	<i>-155%</i>	<i>23%</i>	<i>-54%</i>

Cash flow from operating activities was SEK -2.3 (1.6) b. The decline was mainly due to decreased trade payables and decreased advances from customers. Trade payables declined following adaption in production, to meet lower demand for mobile broadband. Inventory decreased but remained at a high level.

Year to date, cash flow from operating activities was SEK -5.4 (-1.3) b.

Cash outlays related to restructuring charges were SEK -0.5 (-1.1) b. in the quarter.

Cash flow from investing activities was impacted by investments in property, plant and equipment of SEK -1.3 b., mainly due to continued investments in Global ICT centers. The capital expenditure level will decline as the investments in the Global ICT centers

peaked last year. Development expenses of SEK -0.9 b. were capitalized. No acquisitions were made in the quarter.

Cash flow from financing activities amounted to SEK -1.5 b. mainly as a result of decreased external borrowings.

As cash flow is volatile between quarters it should be viewed on a full-year basis. We are taking operational and structural actions to improve cash flow both in the short and long term. Net cash at the end of the quarter was SEK 16.3 b.

	Jan-Sep 2016	Jan-Jun 2016	Jan-Mar 2016	Jan-Dec 2015	Jan-Sep 2015
Working capital KPIs, number of days					
Sales outstanding (target: <90)	122	115	108	87	113
Inventory (target: <65)	79	81	80	64	72
Payable (target: >60)	56	59	58	53	55

FINANCIAL POSITION

	Sep 30 2016	Sep 30 2015	Jun 30 2016
SEK b.			
+ Cash and cash equivalents	24.4	34.0	28.9
+ Interest-bearing securities, current	18.7	17.6	19.8
+ Interest-bearing securities, non-current	0.5		
Gross cash	43.6	51.5	48.8
Borrowings, current	9.0	2.9	9.7
Borrowings, non-current	18.3	22.9	18.2
Net cash	16.3	25.8	21.0
Equity	134.0	138.0	136.7
Total assets	275.7	278.4	277.4
Capital turnover (times)	1.1	1.2	1.1
Return on capital employed (%)	4.4%	8.0%	6.5%
Equity ratio (%)	48.6%	49.6%	49.3%
Return on equity (%)	3.2%	6.2%	5.0%

Net cash decreased by SEK -4.6 b. in the quarter mainly as a result of increased operating assets. The net cash position was SEK 16.3 b.

Post-employment benefits were SEK 32.5 b., compared with SEK 27.3 b. on June 30, 2016, following lower discount rates.

The average maturity of long-term borrowings as of Sep 30, 2016, was 4.0 years, compared with 5.0 years 12 months earlier.

Debt maturity profile, Parent Company

PARENT COMPANY

Income after financial items was SEK 14.1 (10.1) b. The increase was mainly due to higher recognized dividends from subsidiaries compared with last year.

Major changes in the Parent Company's financial position for the year; decreased cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments of SEK 20.8 b. and decreased current and non-current liabilities to subsidiaries of SEK 7.0 b. At the end of the quarter, cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments amounted to SEK 27.8 (34.7) b.

The Parent Company has recognized dividends from subsidiaries of SEK 0.5 b. in the quarter.

At the end of the quarter contingent liabilities amounted to SEK 23.1 (22.8) b.

In accordance with the conditions of the long-term variable compensation program (LTV) for Ericsson employees, 3,432,446 shares from treasury stock were sold or distributed to employees during the third quarter. The holding of treasury stock on September 30, 2016, was 65,837,475 Class B shares.

OTHER INFORMATION

Ericsson s Vestberg stepped down - search for new CEO initiated

On July 25, 2016, Ericsson s Board of Directors announced that Hans Vestberg stepped down as President and CEO and member of the Board of Directors of Ericsson with immediate effect. Effective immediately Jan Frykhammar, Executive Vice President and CFO, stepped into the position as President and CEO until the now initiated recruitment search is concluded. As customary, the search process will comprise both internal and external candidates.

Carl Mellander, currently VP & Group Treasurer, was appointed acting CFO with immediate effect.

Ericsson appointed Ulf Ewaldsson as head of strategy and technology

Effective September 20, 2016, Ulf Ewaldsson was appointed Senior Vice President, Chief Strategy and Technology Officer and Head of Group Function Strategy and Technology at Ericsson. Rima Qureshi was appointed Head of Region North America July 1, 2016, and has since held dual roles. Both Ewaldsson and Qureshi will continue to be Executive Leadership Team members and report to Ericsson s CEO.

Ericsson announced change in Executive leadership team

On September 30, 2016, Ericsson announced it will move the position as Chief HR Officer to Sweden and that Bina Chaurasia, based in California, therefore will resign from her role as Senior Vice President and Chief HR Officer, effective November 15, 2016.

Effective November 15, 2016, Maj-Britt Arfert has been appointed acting Chief HR Officer while the search for a successor is underway.

POST-CLOSING EVENTS

Ericsson announced changes in operations in Sweden

On October 4, 2016, Ericsson announced measures intended to be implemented in Sweden, in line with the ongoing cost and efficiency program. Ericsson intends to reduce 3,000 positions in production, research and development (R&D) as well as in sales and administration.

Ericsson announced preliminary Q3, 2016 earnings

On October 12, 2016, Ericsson announced that the business result for the third quarter 2016 would be significantly lower than company expectations. The negative industry trends from the first half of 2016 have further accelerated, impacting Q3, 2016 numbers primarily in Segment Networks. The sales decline was mainly driven by markets with weak macro-economic environment such as Brazil, Russia and the Middle East, impacting both mobile broadband coverage and capacity sales in these markets. In addition, capacity sales in Europe were lower following completion of mobile broadband projects in 2015.

The rating for Ericsson was downgraded to Baa2 by Moody s

On October 14, 2016, Moody s announced that they have downgraded the senior unsecured debt ratings to Baa2 from Baa1 and the MTN program rating to Baa2 from Baa1. At the same time, the agency has placed the company s

Baa2/Baa2 ratings on review for further downgrade. Moody's expects to conclude the review within a maximum time frame of three months.

The rating for Ericsson was downgraded to BBB by S&P

On October 18, 2016, S&P announced that they have downgraded the long-term corporate credit rating on Ericsson to BBB from BBB+, with a negative outlook.

RISK FACTORS

Ericsson's operational and financial risk factors and uncertainties are described in our Annual Report 2015.

Risk factors and uncertainties in focus short term for the Parent Company and the Ericsson Group include, but are not limited to:

Potential negative effects on operators' willingness to invest in network development due to uncertainty in the financial markets and a weak economic business environment, or reduced consumer telecom spending, or increased pressure on us to provide financing, or delayed auctions of spectrums;

Uncertainty regarding the financial stability of suppliers, for example due to lack of financing;

Effects on gross margins and/or working capital of the business mix in the Networks segment between capacity sales and new coverage build-outs;

Effects on gross margins of the business mix in the Global Services segment including proportion of new network build-outs and share of new managed services or digital transformation deals with initial transition costs;

Effects of the ongoing industry consolidation among our customers as well as between our largest competitors, e.g. with postponed investments and intensified price competition as a consequence;

New JV arrangements or partnerships which may not be successful and expose us to future costs;

Changes in foreign exchange rates, in particular USD;

Political unrest or instability in certain markets;

Effects on production and sales from restrictions with respect to timely and adequate supply of materials, components and production capacity and other vital services on competitive terms;
No guarantees that specific restructuring or cost-savings initiatives will be sufficient, successful or executed in time to deliver any improvements in short-term earnings;

Brexit might lead to economic uncertainty which may impact operators' investment levels;

Various geopolitical forces may impact the global economy and our business;

Cyber security incidents, which may have material negative impact.

Ericsson stringently monitors the compliance with all relevant trade regulations and trade embargos applicable to dealings with customers operating in countries where there are trade restrictions or trade restrictions are discussed. Ericsson operates globally in accordance with Group policies and directives for business ethics and conduct and has a dedicated anti-corruption program. However, in some of the countries where the company operates, corruption risks can be high and compliance failure could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition and brand.

Stockholm, October 21, 2016

Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson

Jan Frykhammar, President and CEO

Org. no. 556016-0680

Date for next report: January 26, 2017

AUDITORS REVIEW REPORT

Introduction

We have reviewed the condensed interim financial information (interim report) of Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson (publ.) as of September 30, 2016, and the nine months period then ended. The board of directors and the CEO are responsible for the preparation and presentation of this interim report in accordance with IAS 34 and the Swedish Annual Accounts Act. Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on this interim report based on our review.

Scope of review

We conducted our review in accordance with the International Standard on Review Engagements ISRE 2410, Review of Interim Report Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity.

A review consists of making inquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing, ISA, and other generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden. The procedures performed in a review do not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the interim report is not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with IAS 34 and the Swedish Annual Accounts Act, regarding the Group, and with the Swedish Annual Accounts Act, regarding the Parent Company.

Stockholm, October 21, 2016

PricewaterhouseCoopers AB

Bo Hjalmarsson

Authorized Public Accountant

Auditor in Charge

Johan Engstam

Authorized Public Accountant

EDITOR S NOTE

Ericsson invites media, investors and analysts to a press conference at the Ericsson Studio, Grönlandsgången 4, Stockholm, at 09.00 (CET), October 21, 2016. A financial analyst, investor and media conference call will begin at 14.00 (CET).

Live webcast of the press conference and conference call as well as supporting slides will be available at www.ericsson.com/press and www.ericsson.com/investors

Video material will be published during the day on www.ericsson.com/press

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SAFE HARBOR STATEMENT

All statements made or incorporated by reference in this release, other than statements or characterizations of historical facts, are forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are based on our current expectations, estimates and projections about our industry, management's beliefs and certain assumptions made by us. Forward-looking statements can often be identified by words such as anticipates, expects, intends, plans, predicts, believes, seeks, estimates, may, will, should, would, potential, continue, and variations or negatives and include, among others, statements regarding: (i) strategies, outlook and growth prospects; (ii) positioning to deliver future plans and to realize potential for future growth; (iii) liquidity and capital resources and expenditure, and our credit ratings; (iv) growth in demand for our products and services; (v) our joint venture activities; (vi) economic outlook and industry trends; (vii) developments of our markets; (viii) the impact of regulatory initiatives; (ix) research and development expenditures; (x) the strength of our competitors; (xi) future cost savings; (xii) plans to launch new products and services; (xiii) assessments of risks; (xiv) integration of acquired businesses; (xv) compliance with rules and regulations and (xvi) infringements of intellectual property rights of others.

In addition, any statements that refer to expectations, projections or other characterizations of future events or circumstances, including any underlying assumptions, are forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date hereof and are based upon the information available to us at this time. Such information is subject to change, and we will not necessarily inform you of such changes. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are difficult to predict. Therefore, our actual results could differ materially and adversely from those expressed in any forward-looking statements as a result of various factors. Important factors that may cause such a difference for Ericsson include, but are not limited to: (i) material adverse changes in the markets in which we operate or in global economic conditions; (ii) increased product and price competition; (iii) reductions in capital expenditure by network operators; (iv) the cost of technological innovation and increased expenditure to improve quality of service; (v) significant changes in market share for our principal products and services; (vi) foreign exchange rate or interest rate fluctuations; and (vii) the successful implementation of our business and operational initiatives.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contents

Financial statements

<u>Consolidated income statement</u>	18
<u>Statement of comprehensive income</u>	18
<u>Consolidated balance sheet</u>	19
<u>Consolidated statement of cash flows</u>	20
<u>Consolidated statement of changes in equity</u>	21
<u>Consolidated income statement – isolated quarters</u>	21
<u>Consolidated statement of cash flows – isolated quarters</u>	22
<u>Parent Company income statement</u>	23
<u>Parent Company statement of comprehensive income</u>	23
<u>Parent Company balance sheet</u>	24

Additional information

<u>Accounting policies</u>	25
<u>Net sales by segment by quarter</u>	26
<u>Sales growth adjusted for comparable units and currency</u>	27
<u>Operating income by segment by quarter</u>	28
<u>Operating margin by segment by quarter</u>	28
<u>EBITA by segment by quarter</u>	29
<u>EBITA margin by segment by quarter</u>	29
<u>Net sales by region by quarter</u>	30
<u>Net sales by region by quarter (cont.)</u>	31
<u>Top 5 countries in sales</u>	31
<u>Net sales by region by segment</u>	32
<u>Provisions</u>	33
<u>Information on investments</u>	33
<u>Other information</u>	34
<u>Number of employees</u>	34
<u>Restructuring charges by function</u>	35
<u>Restructuring charges by segment</u>	35
<u>Reconciliation tables, non-IFRS measures</u>	36

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

SEK million	2016	Jul-Sep 2015	Change	2016	Jan-Sep 2015	Change
Net sales	51,076	59,161	-14%	157,393	173,352	-9%
Cost of sales	-36,616	-39,110	-6%	-108,048	-114,202	-5%
Gross income	14,460	20,051	-28%	49,345	59,150	-17%
Gross margin (%)	28.3%	33.9%		31.4%	34.1%	
Research and development expenses	-7,855	-8,540	-8%	-22,745	-26,923	-16%
Selling and administrative expenses	-6,238	-6,393	-2%	-20,067	-21,289	-6%
Operating expenses	-14,093	-14,933	-6%	-42,812	-48,212	-11%
Other operating income and expenses	-3	80		40	-101	
Shares in earnings of JV and associated companies	-23	-121		6	-67	
Operating income	341	5,077	-93%	6,579	10,770	-39%
Financial income	-226	188		-176	634	
Financial expenses	-371	-809		-1,414	-1,839	
Income after financial items	-256	4,456	-106%	4,989	9,565	-48%
Taxes	76	-1,338		-1,497	-2,870	
Net income	-180	3,118	-106%	3,492	6,695	-48%
Net income attributable to:						
Stockholders of the Parent Company	-233	3,080		3,320	6,493	
Non-controlling interests	53	38		172	202	
Other information						
Average number of shares, basic (million)	3,264	3,251		3,261	3,247	
Earnings per share, basic (SEK) ¹⁾	-0.07	0.95		1.02	2.00	
Earnings per share, diluted (SEK) ¹⁾	-0.07	0.94		1.01	1.98	

¹⁾ Based on Net income attributable to stockholders of the Parent Company.

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

SEK million	Jul-Sep 2016	2015	Jan-Sep 2016	2015
Net income	-180	3,118	3,492	6,695

Other comprehensive income**Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss**

Remeasurements of defined benefits pension plans incl. asset ceiling	-5,347	-1,113	-9,790	-5,886
Tax on items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss	1,218	214	2,406	1,518

Items that may be reclassified to profit or loss

Available-for-sale financial assets				
Gains/losses arising during the period	0		0	
Revaluation of other investments in shares and participations				
Fair value remeasurement	0	60	-4	241
Changes in cumulative translation adjustments	1,520	-1,246	2,368	537
Share of other comprehensive income on JV and associated companies	11	237	-355	141
Tax on items that may be reclassified to profit or loss	0	0	0	0

Total other comprehensive income, net of tax	-2,598	-1,848	-5,375	-3,449
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Total comprehensive income	-2,778	1,270	-1,883	3,246
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Total comprehensive income attributable to:

Stockholders of the Parent Company	-2,871	1,255	-2,121	3,045
Non-controlling interest	93	15	238	201

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

SEK million	Sep 30 2016	Jun 30 2016	Dec 31 2015
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Intangible assets			
Capitalized development expenses	7,437	7,064	5,493
Goodwill	41,976	41,913	41,087
Intellectual property rights, brands and other intangible assets	8,076	8,035	9,316
Property, plant and equipment	17,082	16,856	15,901
Financial assets			
Equity in JV and associated companies	761	787	1,210
Other investments in shares and participations	1,188	1,178	1,275
Customer finance, non-current	1,989	2,315	1,739
Interest-bearing securities, non-current	540		
Other financial assets, non-current	4,310	5,061	5,634
Deferred tax assets	17,383	14,451	13,183
	100,742	97,660	94,838
Current assets			
Inventories	34,140	34,660	28,436
Trade receivables	70,370	68,461	71,069
Customer finance, current	2,644	2,532	2,041
Other current receivables	24,758	25,297	21,709
Interest-bearing securities, current	18,663	19,846	26,046
Cash and cash equivalents	24,401	28,931	40,224
	174,976	179,727	189,525
Total assets	275,718	277,387	284,363
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Equity			
Stockholders' equity	133,138	135,746	146,525
Non-controlling interest in equity of subsidiaries	874	945	841
	134,012	136,691	147,366
Non-current liabilities			
Post-employment benefits	32,463	27,323	22,664
Provisions, non-current	170	245	176
Deferred tax liabilities	2,052	2,036	2,472
Borrowings, non-current	18,283	18,164	22,744
Other non-current liabilities	2,127	2,030	1,851

	55,095	49,798	49,907
Current liabilities			
Provisions, current	3,075	3,142	3,662
Borrowings, current	9,007	9,653	2,376
Trade payables	21,633	23,709	22,389
Other current liabilities	52,896	54,394	58,663
	86,611	90,898	87,090
Total equity and liabilities	275,718	277,387	284,363
<i>Of which interest-bearing liabilities</i>	27,290	27,817	25,120
Assets pledged as collateral	2,534	2,523	2,526
Contingent liabilities	1,146	1,003	922

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT

OF CASH FLOWS

SEK million	Jul-Sep		Jan-Sep		Jan-Dec
	2016	2015	2016	2015	2015
Operating activities					
Net income	-180	3,118	3,492	6,695	13,673
Adjustments to reconcile net income to cash					
Taxes	-1,282	51	-5,900	-3,230	-2,835
Earnings/dividends in JV and associated companies	22	136	79	163	130
Depreciation, amortization and impairment losses	2,308	2,425	6,509	7,685	10,206
Other	630	1,052	2,270	2,018	3,110
	1,498	6,782	6,450	13,331	24,284
Changes in operating net assets					
Inventories	980	-226	-4,899	-3,862	-366
Customer finance, current and non-current	223	375	-844	522	824
Trade receivables	-624	-1,421	2,220	4,246	7,000
Trade payables	-2,371	-494	-531	-3,562	-2,676
Provisions and post-employment benefits	130	-302	334	1,217	544
Other operating assets and liabilities, net	-2,153	-3,154	-8,132	-13,154	-9,013
	-3,815	-5,222	-11,852	-14,593	-3,687
Cash flow from operating activities	-2,317	1,560	-5,402	-1,262	20,597
Investing activities					
Investments in property, plant and equipment	-1,384	-1,807	-4,430	-6,598	-8,338
Sales of property, plant and equipment	111	59	205	1,209	1,301
Acquisitions/divestments of subsidiaries and other operations, net	16	-1,028	-572	-1,255	-2,200
Product development	-885	-982	-3,192	-2,119	-3,302
Other investing activities	-508	37	-663	-125	-543
Interest-bearing securities	610	3,631	6,978	13,708	5,095
Cash flow from investing activities	-2,040	-90	-1,674	4,820	-7,987
Cash flow before financing activities	-4,357	1,470	-7,076	3,558	12,610
Financing activities					
Dividends paid	-163	-277	-12,263	-11,337	-11,337
Other financing activities	-1,295	-34	1,560	1,296	627
Cash flow from financing activities	-1,458	-311	-10,703	-10,041	-10,710
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash	1,285	-171	1,956	-555	-2,664
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	-4,530	988	-15,823	-7,038	-764

Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	28,931	32,962	40,224	40,988	40,988
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	24,401	33,950	24,401	33,950	40,224

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT
OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

SEK million	Jan-Sep		Jan-Dec
	2016	2015	2015
Opening balance	147,366	145,309	145,309
Total comprehensive income	-1,883	3,246	12,362
Sale/repurchase of own shares	-51	126	169
Stock issue (net)	131		
Stock purchase plan	711	641	865
Dividends paid	-12,263	-11,337	-11,337
Transactions with non-controlling interests	1	-1	-2
Closing balance	134,012	137,984	147,366

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT**- ISOLATED QUARTERS**

Isolated quarters, SEK million	Q3	2016			2015		
		Q2	Q1	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1
Net sales	51,076	54,108	52,209	73,568	59,161	60,671	53,520
Cost of sales	-36,616	-36,613	-34,819	-46,899	-39,110	-40,536	-34,556
Gross income	14,460	17,495	17,390	26,669	20,051	20,135	18,964
Gross margin (%)	28.3%	32.3%	33.3%	36.3%	33.9%	33.2%	35.4%
Research and development expenses	-7,855	-7,405	-7,485	-7,921	-8,540	-9,896	-8,487
Selling and administrative expenses	-6,238	-7,109	-6,720	-7,996	-6,393	-7,765	-7,131
Operating expenses	-14,093	-14,514	-14,205	-15,917	-14,933	-17,661	-15,618
Other operating income and expenses	-3	-230	273	254	80	1,059	-1,240
Shares in earnings of JV and associated companies	-23	12	17	29	-121	27	27
Operating income	341	2,763	3,475	11,035	5,077	3,560	2,133
Financial income	-226	139	-89	-109	188	-238	684
Financial expenses	-371	-666	-377	-619	-809	-290	-740
Income after financial items	-256	2,236	3,009	10,307	4,456	3,032	2,077

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Taxes	76	-670	-903	-3,329	-1,338	-909	-623
Net income	-180	1,566	2,106	6,978	3,118	2,123	1,454
Net income attributable to:							
Stockholders of the Parent Company	-233	1,587	1,966	7,056	3,080	2,094	1,319
Non-controlling interests	53	-21	140	-78	38	29	135
Other information							
Average number of shares, basic (million)	3,264	3,261	3,258	3,254	3,251	3,247	3,244
Earnings per share, basic (SEK) ¹⁾	-0.07	0.49	0.60	2.17	0.95	0.64	0.41
Earnings per share, diluted (SEK) ¹⁾	-0.07	0.48	0.60	2.15	0.94	0.64	0.40

¹⁾ Based on Net income attributable to stockholders of the Parent Company.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT

OF CASH FLOWS - ISOLATED QUARTERS

Isolated quarters, SEK million	2016				2015		
	Q3	Q2	Q1	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1
Operating activities							
Net income	-180	1,566	2,106	6,978	3,118	2,123	1,454
Adjustments to reconcile net income to cash							
Taxes	-1,282	-3,410	-1,208	395	51	-1,360	-1,921
Earnings/dividends in JV and associated companies	22	73	-16	-33	136	49	-22
Depreciation, amortization and impairment losses	2,308	2,104	2,097	2,521	2,425	2,579	2,681
Other	630	988	652	1,092	1,052	22	944
	1,498	1,321	3,631	10,953	6,782	3,413	3,136
Changes in operating net assets							
Inventories	980	-1,667	-4,212	3,496	-226	383	-4,019
Customer finance, current and non-current	223	-816	-251	302	375	405	-258
Trade receivables	-624	-564	3,408	2,754	-1,421	3,630	2,037
Trade payables	-2,371	2,457	-617	886	-494	-1,400	-1,668
Provisions and post-employment benefits	130	218	-14	-673	-302	1,685	-166
Other operating assets and liabilities, net	-2,153	-1,662	-4,317	4,141	-3,154	-5,038	-4,962
	-3,815	-2,034	-6,003	10,906	-5,222	-335	-9,036
Cash flow from operating activities	-2,317	-713	-2,372	21,859	1,560	3,078	-5,900
Investing activities							
Investments in property, plant and equipment	-1,384	-1,572	-1,474	-1,740	-1,807	-2,424	-2,367
Sales of property, plant and equipment	111	50	44	92	59	1,075	75
Acquisitions/divestments of subsidiaries and other operations, net	16	-480	-108	-945	-1,028	-169	-58
Product development	-885	-1,099	-1,208	-1,183	-982	-843	-294
Other investing activities	-508	-890	735	-418	37	-280	118
Interest-bearing securities	610	5,355	1,013	-8,613	3,631	9,678	399
Cash flow from investing activities	-2,040	1,364	-998	-12,807	-90	7,037	-2,127
Cash flow before financing activities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-