

## **EU gives clearance for sale of Structured Finance business to GE Commercial Finance**

*Group on target to meet net debt reduction goal by year-end*

Zurich, Switzerland, November 5, 2002 – ABB, the leading power and automation technology group, today welcomed the announcement by the European Commission that it has approved the sale of ABB's Structured Finance business to GE Commercial Finance.

ABB said the cash proceeds of about US\$ 2.3 billion would be used to cut its debt and strengthen its balance sheet. The transaction is scheduled to be closed on November 29, 2002.

“We welcome the European Commission's decision. We are on track to meet our net debt reduction target by the end of 2002,” said Peter Voser, ABB's chief financial officer.

ABB said it would reduce net debt, which was US\$ 4.1 billion at the start of 2002, by at least US\$ 1.5 billion this year. “With this sale, other asset divestments already announced and cash from operations, we are confident that we will reach our target.” said Voser.

The sale has also been approved in the United States. Formal approval from the Swedish Financial Supervisory Authority is expected well in advance of closing.

ABB said the sale of Structured Finance is part of the company's strategy to focus on core areas of power and automation technology.

Under the deal, ABB sold most of its Structured Finance business. The aircraft leasing business, the ABB Export Bank, and the 35 percent equity stake in the Swedish Export Credit Corporation, which were not part of the agreement, are expected to be divested. Approximately US\$ 250 million of these assets have been sold since July 1, 2002.

ABB ([www.abb.com](http://www.abb.com)) is a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry customers to improve performance while lowering environmental impacts. The ABB Group of companies operates in more than 100 countries and employs about 146,000 people.

*For more information please contact:*

**Media Relations:**

**ABB Corporate Communications, Zurich**

Thomas Schmidt

Tel: +41 43 317 6492

Fax: +41 43 317 7958

[media.relations@ch.abb.com](mailto:media.relations@ch.abb.com)

**Investor Relations:**

Switzerland: Tel. +41 43 317 3804

Sweden: Tel. +46 21 325 719

USA: Tel. +1 203 750 7743

[investor.relations@ch.abb.com](mailto:investor.relations@ch.abb.com)