VORWEG GEHEN

Juergen Grossmann/Rolf Pohlig/Alwin Fitting
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Chart 1

Juergen Grossmann

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning and welcome to RWE. It is my pleasure to welcome you to our Fiscal 2009 Press Conference. Rolf Pohlig and Alwin Fitting will be joining me to review the past year for you. Then we and the entire Executive Board, including Leo Birnbaum, Ulrich Jobs and Rolf Martin Schmitz, will be available to answer your questions.

We are here today to present you with our results for 2009. Was the year successful? Did RWE do a good job – for its shareholders, staff and customers? Did we also meet our responsibilities to society as a whole? That is something for public scrutiny to determine. You decide!

Chart 2

First let me give you a few quick facts:

- **RWE’s operating result increased by 4% year-on-year to €7.1 billion.**

- **Recurrent net income was up by 5% to €3.5 billion. On this basis, we are proposing a dividend of €3.50 per share. This keeps the dividend yield of the RWE share on the blue chip list of the Dax 30.**

- **Our efficiency enhancement programme is on track. With this programme we planned to generate an annual contribution to the result that would increase to €450 million step by step between 2006 and 2009. We achieved this aim.**

- **Cutting costs does not mean axing jobs – quite the opposite, in fact. We managed to increase the workforce in Germany by almost 1,000 – not counting new company acquisitions. When consolidation effects are taken into account, the number of RWE employees in 2009 increased by 4,800 Group-wide, some 4,300 of whom came from Essent.**

Chart 3

- **In 2009 we invested nearly €6 billion in capital expenditure on property, plant and equipment. RWE is and remains one of the largest investors in Germany and beyond.**

- **To cite just one example: between now and 2013, RWE is planning to commission new power plants and electricity generation plants based on renewable energy with some 14,000 megawatts of capacity.**

- **In 2009 we successfully extended more than 90% of our German concession contracts for distribution grids nationwide. RWE remains a sought-after partner for towns and municipalities – despite all the prophecies of doom about "municipalisation".**

It would be nice to continue speaking in such handy sound bites, but not everything can be summed up so succinctly. I would like to go into a bit more detail about the following points.

Integration of Essent

The highlight of the past year for us was the acquisition of Essent. RWE and Essent are ideal partners. Essent makes our portfolio more international and more robust: in terms of electricity generation, retail, renewables and energy trading.

We began the process of integrating Essent at an early stage. In the meantime, the tier one, two and three managerial roles have been reallocated. Nobody automatically inherited a particular position. All of the

positions were advertised and the appointments were made as part of a competitive process, primarily to staff from Essent and our Dutch subsidiary, RWE Energy Nederland. What we now have is a new management team working in close cooperation with its German counter-parts. The level of collaboration is excellent. We intend to complete the process of integration by the end of 2010.

Chart 4

Ongoing customer growth for both electricity and gas

RWE has made a net gain of some 90,000 residential customers in the German electricity market. This reinforces the upward trend that began in the middle of 2008. For the most part, we have our retail company, eprimo to thank for this growth. By the end of 2009, eprimo was selling electricity to 626,000 customers. Tens of thousands of customers who have already signed a contract but have not yet started receiving power can soon be added to that total.

When it comes to product development, we remain alert to every market trend. RWE Vertrieb AG and the regional companies enviaM, LEW, Suewag, Kevag and energis have just launched a new electricity tariff called SmartLine, with no basic fee. Customers only have to pay for the electricity they actually consume.

RWE is also notching up successes on the gas front. The number of German gas customers rose by 36,000.

Declining electricity sales; increased external sourcing

Electricity sales by RWE declined by 11% in 2009. One of the reasons for this decrease is the fact that trading of externally procured electricity is not recorded on the balance sheet under sales. Without taking this profitable trading business into account, our electricity sales remained stable – despite the adverse economic conditions. In our Germany division, we even managed to increase sales by 7%. New customer acquisition in the electricity distributor market was the main factor in this growth.

Successful gas portfolio management

We were affected by declining international gas prices to a much lesser extent than our competitors.

Of course, some of our long-term gas supply contracts are tied to the oil price. But large volumes of gas are also traded on the spot market. For this reason, RWE made an early move to set up a powerful trading organisation in the form of RWE Supply & Trading.

We cope with price fluctuations by regarding our gas procurement as a portfolio, the market value of which is optimised on a regular basis in relation to other commodity prices – and particularly in relation to the oil price. As a result, through efficient management of our gas portfolio we were able to greatly reduce the risk of a loss in value, even in the face of falling prices.

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Forward-thinking electricity sales policy

We also benefit from having a forward-thinking policy for electricity sales. This allows us to secure the pricing of our electricity generation up to three years before the date of supply. Our electricity production for 2009 was practically sold out before the start of the financial crisis – and to a large extent for 2010 as well. This enabled us to achieve prices well above the current market level so that lower market prices had only a limited effect on our 2009 result.

By the end of January this year, we had already sold over 70% of our electricity generation for 2011 and more than 30% for 2012 – at prices averaging over €60 per megawatt hour.

With that, I would like to hand you over to Rolf Pohlig, who will now shed some light on individual aspects of our business performance. Over to you, Rolf.

Rolf Pohlig

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Juergen Grossmann has already mentioned the key financial indicators for earnings. Apart from the continued strength of our electricity generation in Germany, our sound performance was primarily

attributable to the major contribution of the Trading/gas midstream division and the first-time inclusion of Essent in the fourth quarter. This was offset by a strong decline in earnings derived from gas and oil production and from our UK energy operations. Net of the first-time consolidation of Essent, EBITDA and the operating result each improved by 2% compared to 2008.

This meant we were able to improve slightly on the forecast made in February 2009. Without Essent, we had been aiming for figures in the order of the previous year.

Chart 5

Because time is of the essence, I refer you to our Annual Report for full details of the performance of individual divisions. However, I would like to briefly comment on the item of reconciliation of the operating result to net income.

The non-operating result of €0.5 billion was significantly up year-on-year. Effects of the balance sheet recording of derivative transactions were the main reason for this.

The financial result decreased by €500 million to minus €2 billion, primarily due to the effect of a net interest loss. As a result of our growth investments and the acquisition of Essent, our debt rose – and with it our interest expenses.

The effective tax rate increased by four percentage points to 33%, although the figure for the previous year included some positive one-off effects. Our tax expenditure amounted to €1.9 billion.

In the final analysis, when we deduct the minimal income derived from discontinued operations and minority interests, we have net income of around €3.6 billion. This represents an increase of 40%. Our income in the previous year was negatively affected by the IPO of American Water.

Our recurrent net income – the basis for determining the dividend – rose by 5% to €3.5 billion.

Capital expenditure on property, plant and equipment of around €5.9 billion was 33% up year-on-year. Due to the acquisition of Essent, investment in financial assets was unusually high, totalling €9.7 billion in the year under report.

Cash flow from operating activities of €5.3 billion was 40% lower year-on-year. Special effects in the previous year were the underlying reason for this.

Our net debt, including provisions for pensions, nuclear energy and mining, rose to €25.8 billion as at 31 December 2009, due to the takeover of Essent and our investment programme. We manage our debt based on the ratio

of net debt to EBITDA. This rose at the end of December to a ratio of 2.8, which puts it within our target range. For 2010 and the ensuing fiscal years, we have set our sights on an upper limit of 3.0, with the aim of securing our current "A" rating.

With that, I now hand over to Alwin Fitting.

Alwin Fitting

Chart 6

Thank you Rolf.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

RWE is not only successful in an economic sense. It also stands by its social responsibilities.

More jobs for Germany

By the end of 2009 we had created almost 1,000 more jobs in Germany year-on-year. Who else in this country can match that? Thanks to our investments, we are also securing tens of thousands more jobs with subcontractors and service providers. And another thing – in our Sales and distribution networks business area alone, we created value of €5.3 billion in 2009. Almost everyone benefits from this: shareholders, employees, municipalities and not least the public purse in the form of taxes.

Training well beyond our own needs

We value our young people highly. At the end of 2009, a total of 3,081 trainees were working for RWE. This is far in excess of our own needs. RWE is one of the biggest providers of vocational training in Germany.

Around 1,000 young people complete their training every year with us. In 2009, we took on 420 qualified trainees as permanent employees. More than 500 young people were also given fixed-term contracts. This gives them the opportunity to gain some valuable initial work experience with us.

Vocational support scheme "Ich pack' das!"

The successful "Ich pack' das!" programme ("I can do it!") prepares young people for participation in vocational training. Every year for the past six years, we have been giving individual vocational support to around 100 young people with basic secondary school leaving qualifications who have not been able to find a vocational training position. We offer them the chance to gain a one-year vocational qualification. So far around 600 young people have benefited from the programme. The success rate is high: 75% make the leap from this support scheme to the regular vocational training system – either with RWE or another company.

Sponsoring RUHR.2010

We are heavily involved in the Ruhr Area as the cultural capital of Europe. RWE is supporting RUHR.2010 as the main sponsor, to the tune of around €2.5 million.

In addition, we are boosting the RUHR.2010 programme by undertaking many initiatives of our own. Our aim is to strengthen the Ruhr Area as a whole. All of our projects are being run under the "EnergieKulturRuhr" (Energy Culture Ruhr) motto.

Our flagship project is the "Ruhr Atoll" – a series of artificial islands on Lake Baldeney. On these islands, artists address the issues of energy supply and climate change.

Companius – staff volunteers

Our Companius programme supports voluntary work by employees from all of our RWE companies. Since its inception in 2007, more than 4,000 RWE volunteers have signed up with Companius – and the trend is growing. Together they have already carried out 4,000 projects – including 2,300 in the past year alone.

Projects that meet the sponsorship criteria are quickly and unbureaucratically granted a sum of between €500 and €2,000 through RWE Companius. Charitable groups like kindergartens, youth centres, sports clubs and cultural events are not the only ones to benefit from this

voluntary work. We look forward to showing you what is behind some of the Companius projects over lunch today.

RWE Foundation

The RWE foundation has €56 million at its disposal. It is dedicated to the areas of culture, education and social services. It is our way of boosting the knowledge society and fostering the integration of young people.

The foundation also manages the Group's charitable donations. RWE staff collected €511,000 for Haiti and the Group doubled this figure. On 18 February, we were proud to be able to hand over a cheque for €1.022 million to the Red Cross. With the German Red Cross, RWE will support and monitor a long-term project in Haiti and we will keep you updated on its progress.

With that, I now hand back to Juergen Grossmann.

Juergen Grossmann

Chart 7

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ideas, investments and innovations are what we need to maintain our competitive edge. RWE is changing in this competitive world. We are becoming <u>greener</u>, <u>more international</u> and <u>more robust.</u> We have set ourselves a

fast pace and some big targets, which is why the motto of this Annual Report is: Make big things happen.

Extensive investments for more growth and less CO_2

We plan to invest a total of €28 billion in the period from 2010 to 2013! That translates into an average of €7 billion per annum on growth and innovations, climate protection, security of supply and value preservation. In doing so, we have a clear objective in mind – to make 75% of our electricity generating capacity low-carbon or CO_2-free by the year 2025: 30% renewables, 30% gas and 15% nuclear energy. In short: 30-30-15. This can only happen if the operational life of our nuclear power plants in Germany is extended and the EU persists with clear targets for reducing CO_2 emissions beyond the year 2020.

RWE spends €2.4 billion every year just to preserve the value of its power plants and grids. Leaving aside the question of maintenance for a moment to look only at growth projects, one third of our capital expenditure on property, plant and equipment between 2010 and 2013 will be on renewables: €5.7 billion out of a total €18 billion. If you add our investment in gas-fired power plants to what we spend on renewables this means that 50% of all our investments will be on plants generating low-carbon or CO_2-free electricity. Highly efficient coal-fired power plants make up a further 25%.

Lingen CCGT power plant

On 14 April of this year, RWE will be commissioning a CCGT twin-unit power plant in Lingen with 890 megawatts of capacity. You are warmly invited to the official launch. It should be a memorable ceremony. Christian Wulff, state premier of Lower Saxony, has also confirmed his attendance.

Highly efficient coal-fired power plants

The two lignite units in Neurath with a total capacity of 2,100 megawatts will be commissioned by mid and late 2011 respectively. Due to some flaws identified by RWE in the structural steel of our hard-coal power plant in Hamm, Alstom will be rebuilding both boiler frames. It means this power plant will not be commissioned before mid 2012. But safety and quality are our top priorities.

Chart 9

Internationalisation

RWE is growing internationally. More than 60% of our planned investments through to the end of 2013 will be made in the international arena. We aim to increase the earnings contribution of our international operations to around 50% by 2013. In 2009 it made up 34%.

UK – RWE npower

RWE is building two flexible, gas-fired power plants in Pembroke and Staythorpe, with a total capacity of 3,800 megawatts. Even without our planned nuclear

energy projects, this makes us one of the leading investors in the United Kingdom.

The efficiency enhancement programme introduced in 2009 by RWE npower has achieved savings of €120 million. Large parts of the programme will yield further cost savings in 2010. Without a doubt, efficiency enhancement remains a special priority for RWE npower in the drive to improve its performance.

UK – nuclear energy

Horizon Nuclear Power, our joint venture with Eon to build new nuclear power plants, has secured the necessary land and network connection rights in the key locations of Oldbury and Wylfa.

UK –RWE Dea

RWE Dea managed to expand its market position in the UK even further. At the end of August 2009, the takeover of a 70% share of development work on the Breagh field was completed. The increase in gas resources for RWE Dea is estimated to be more than 13 billion cubic metres.

UK – RWE Innogy

RWE Innogy is also pulling out all the stops in the UK. It holds a 50% share in the Greater Gabbard offshore wind farm. In December 2009, the Rhyl Flats wind farm was commissioned off the coast of Wales. Shortly afterwards, Innogy won the tender to develop up to 4,500 megawatts

of offshore wind power capacity. The company will be the sole developer of the Bristol Channel field with a capacity of 1,500 megawatts. Innogy has received approval to develop the Dogger Bank zone with a capacity of up to 13,000 megawatts as a partner in a consortium.

Turkey

Turkey is also a lucrative, fast-growing market with attractive electricity prices and a great deal of catching up to do. RWE has acquired a 70% share in a joint venture there to build a combined cycle gas turbine power plant in Denizli (775 megawatts). The final investment decision will most likely be made early in the second quarter of 2010, once the necessary building permit has been secured. The plan is for this power plant to be commissioned at the end of 2012. The total investment for this project will be around €500 million, of which some €350 million will be put up by RWE, in direct proportion to our 70% share.

Serbia

In November 2009, we signed a letter of intent with Serbian state utility EPS to construct hydropower stations. The pipeline for this project is up to 3,000 megawatts.

Chart 10

Coal Innovation Centre

RWE is not only becoming more international, but also forging ahead with new technologies. We have pooled all our R&D activities in the area of climate-friendly, coal-fired electricity in our Coal Innovation Centre in Niederaussem.

This includes:

- **CO_2 flue gas scrubbing**
- **dust and SO_2 capture**
- **a prototype for pre-drying lignite**
- **our research project with Brain AG to breed micro-organisms capable of processing CO_2 from the flue gas of the lignite power plant**
- **our algae project to achieve carbon dioxide binding in a plant substance.**

We have earmarked €90 million for these climate protection projects.

Chart 11

Massive expansion of renewables

With RWE Innogy, we have stepped up the pace of our renewables expansion and we are investing €1.4 billion per annum – particularly in the utilisation of on- and offshore wind power.

We anticipate Innogy will achieve an operating result of €500 million in 2013. This is an ambitious target, because we began investing in renewables a little later than others. It means the investment and start-up costs are higher for us, as we work to make up ground. To give you one example: in 2009, Innogy had 268 employees more than in the previous year – which effectively means that at least one new member of staff joined the workforce every working day of the year.

RWE Innogy currently has installed capacity of 2,200 megawatts – including Essent's windpower plants.
By the end of 2012, some 4,500 megawatts will be under construction or in operation, and by 2020 total capacity will rise to over 10,000 megawatts.

Biomass
RWE also intends to grow in the area of biomass. Unlike wind and sun, biomass is not volatile and is always available. Innogy is investing €120 million in the construction of the world's largest wood pellet production plant in the USA. This will secure us sufficient raw materials to serve the growing European market for biomass. The pellets will be used in biomass and hard-coal power plants. The plant is due to be commissioned mid 2011.

We are now also up against organised resistance to such biomass and biogas projects. This is the case, for example, with the biogas plant in the town of Suedlohn we have planned in cooperation with the agricultural association of Westfalen-Lippe. This plant will convert slurry into biogas, which will then be fed into the natural gas network. I don't understand what all the uproar is about: we are avoiding slurry transportation, protecting the groundwater, creating added value and jobs, producing climate-neutral biogas and the waste product is clear water that will be fed into the pre-flooder.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To better utilise the fluctuating volumes of electricity produced by renewables, we need to be able to store electricity. RWE is working with General Electric, Zueblin and the German Aerospace Centre (DLR) on a so-called adiabatic compressed-air storage solution. In times of high electricity supply, air will be compressed and stored in underground cavities. When the demand for electricity increases, this compressed air can then be used to generate electricity in a turbine by utilising the previously stored heat.

Another word about electricity storage: I don't under-stand why the Federal Network Agency started charging grid utilisation fees for pumped energy on 1 January 2008. Nor can I comprehend why the government approved

this. This puts considerable economic constraints on the operation of existing storage plants and endangers the new construction of such urgently needed storage capacity. I see it as being the task of government and the Federal Environment Minister to oppose such efforts and to set down clear rules to promote the expansion of such storage plants.

Chart 12

In addition, we need to expand and modernise our electricity grids. In order to capture volatile wind power and transmit it over long distances to our customers, the grid infrastructure of the future will need to be different from that of today. It will have to be stronger and more intelligent.

In short, the grid is getting smarter.

What is required is state-of-the-art technology. By 2019 we intend to invest €6 billion in the modernisation and expansion of our electricity distribution grids.

Smart meters

Digital, intelligent electricity meters will in future track our customers' energy consumption and make it more transparent. Smart meters will facilitate the introduction of time-variable tariffs. This will lead to better control of electricity consumption and allow customers to make savings.

Smart home

Energy technology for homes is also changing. Our buzz word for this is Smart Home, the cost-saving, computer-controlled automation of home energy. We have been demonstrating this technology out in the foyer here to-day, so no doubt many of you already have an idea how it works.

Chart 13

Electric cars

These examples indicate that our attitude to electricity is changing. The same applies to road traffic. With the electric car, we are bringing renewables to the road and reducing CO_2 traffic emissions. Even with the current generating mix in Germany, the CO_2 emissions of an electric Smart car are 35% lower than that of the petrol-powered version. With ongoing advances in cleaner elec-tricity generation, that ratio will improve even further.

RWE is one of the pioneers of electric mobility. So far we have installed 240 charging points nationwide. By the end of 2010 there will be some 900 in Berlin and North-Rhine Westphalia alone. Our RWE charging points were offi-cially launched in Berlin in December 2009.

RWE Effizienz GmbH

With electric mobility, "Smart Home" automation and the information portal, "Energiewelt.de", RWE Effizienz GmbH is already active in the market this year and is planning further market launches. Certain products are expected to

make positive contributions to earnings within the next three years. On 1 April of this year, Ingo Alphéus, current Head of Investor Relations at RWE AG, will be taking up the helm of this company.

Heat pumps

The electric heat pump – a very efficient form of heating rounds off our programme. Over the past three years, RWE has gained 30,000 new customers with this product, doubling the number of customers with heat pumps powered by our electricity to more than 60,000. Compared to conventional oil-fired heating, heat pumps powered by today's electricity mix are reducing CO_2 emissions by 40%.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let's take a little leap now from energy efficiency to security of supply – and the key word here is Nabucco, the planned gas pipeline from the Caspian region to Western Europe.

Chart 14

Nabucco pipeline

2010 is an important year for this project. In order to secure an adequate, versatile gas supply, we are in regular contact with Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan. In the first half of this year, we want to make some significant progress on this project. There is plenty of gas to fill the Nabucco pipeline.

At the same time, the project company is working to ensure traders and transmission operators are able to make binding capacity bookings. That should be possible by the middle of this year. Discussions with the banks are also going well.

This means that by the end of the year we should be in a position to make the final investment decision to start constructing the pipeline in 2011. We are on schedule so far. Clearly, the pipeline will only be built if it is economically feasible. But we are convinced that it is.

Three to four years after start of construction, the first natural gas should flow directly from the Caspian region to Europe. By taking this initiative, we are ensuring a greater diversity of gas sources and transmission routes. Nabucco will also have the effect of stimulating gas competition in Europe and reducing our dependency on imports.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Germany faces some crucial decisions on the future direction of energy policy.

Chart 15

Climate protection – economic efficiency – security of supply

We cannot afford to make the mistake of considering climate protection in isolation. Economic efficiency and security of supply are equally important. I would be delighted if the media could see it that way too.

It is right to expand renewables, but only where it makes economic sense! It does not seem logical to allocate the highest subsidies to photovoltaics – the green energy with the smallest share of all renewables and the highest CO_2-avoidance costs. This will make climate protection extremely expensive and inefficient. The CO_2-avoidance costs for photovoltaics are as high as €500 per ton. By comparison, the CO_2-avoidance costs for wind power is less than €100.

What would we achieve by standing in the way of coal-fired electricity and turning off the nuclear power plants? Certainly not climate protection, that's for sure. The need to import gas will continue to grow. Russia will simply export even more gas and compensate for this by expanding coal-fired electricity generation in its own country. The result would be a rise in our import dependency and even less climate protection than before.

Extension of operational life of nuclear power plants

One of the key factors of electricity supply is CO_2-free nuclear energy. We are lobbying for the extension of the operational lives <u>of all</u> 17 nuclear power plants in Germany, because they are safe and we need nuclear

energy as a price-curbing, climate-friendly technology. A current study by the German industry association BDI shows that wholesale electricity prices will increase to a significantly higher degree if we stick to the current policy of phasing out nuclear energy.

We need nuclear energy to secure our energy supply – especially at a time when many planned coal-fired power plants are not being built. Those losses are regrettable, because they mean we will be faced with a potential shortfall of 12,000 megawatts of capacity by 2020.

Nuclear energy does not stand in the way of expanding renewables. Contrary to common misconceptions, nuclear power plants are flexible enough to adapt to the inherently fluctuating supply from renewable energy sources.

In this respect, Federal Environment Minister Roettgen and Federal Economics Minister Bruederle are fundamentally heading in the right direction with their intention to extend the operational life of nuclear power plants. We are now lobbying for some constructive discussions. Germany needs the future direction of energy policy in particular to be signalled without delay. We also owe this to the energy-intensive industries that provide 900,000 jobs in this country.

Healthy competitive market

RWE commissioned the European School of Management & Technology (ESMT) to investigate the European electricity wholesale markets. Its findings were that market integration is on the rise, competition has significantly increased and there is no sign of any misuse of market power.

Furthermore, the study showed that market prices for electricity are lower in Germany than in France, Austria and the Benelux countries. According to ESMT, prices in Germany do not offer sufficient incentives for investment in new power plants. Perhaps we should think about that for a change, instead of constantly speculating about a supposed misuse of market power – especially since the EU terminated its investigation of RWE in October 2009. This serves to confirm the view already expressed by independent experts that RWE is behaving in a compliant manner. In other words, competition on the energy market is alive and well.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Chart 16

This brings me to the outlook for 2010. Will RWE prove to be a safe haven yet again this year? Our goal is to clearly surpass the high level achieved in the previous year. The financial and economic crisis only affects our business to a comparatively minor degree.

Essent will have a positive impact. We anticipate higher availability from our Biblis nuclear power plant. Lower expenditure on fuels and CO_2 emission rights should have an equally positive effect on earnings as will our efficiency programme. On the other hand, the contribution of Supply & Trading will not be able to match the extraordinarily good result achieved in 2009.

Overall, our objective is to improve both the operating result and recurrent net income by around 5%. The payout ratio for the dividend of 50 to 60% of recurrent net income will be maintained. So there is a good chance that RWE will continue to be a safe haven in terms of dividends.

And now for a look at the medium-term trend.

The economic crisis is by no means over. We anticipate it will take several years for the European economy and electricity and gas consumption to revert to normal levels. Major imponderables associated with climate protection only add to the uncertainty.

In February 2009, we gave you our outlook for the medium-term trend through to 2012. That outlook still applies, with the exception of the forecast for recurrent net income. As far as improving the operating result is concerned, we expect to close the year at the lower end of the quoted range of 5 to 10% per annum. The reasons

for this are delays encountered with major power plant and upstream projects and a more conservative assessment of achievable electricity and gas margins.

As far as recurrent net income is concerned, we were working on the assumption of an average increase of around 10% per annum. We now anticipate an average rise of about 5%.

From 2013 onwards, electricity generators such as RWE will no longer receive state allocations of CO_2 allowances free of charge. Despite this, we anticipate a positive overall trend for this year. We expect the operating result and recurrent net income to rise above the level of 2009.

Our dividend payout ratio of 50 to 60% of recurrent net income continues to apply in the medium term up to and including 2013. Over this period, our goal is to keep the dividend at least constant year-on-year and in the order of the previous year in each case.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is a level of dividend transparency rarely found elsewhere – even among utilities – and especially in such uncertain times as these.

That's all from me for the time being.
We now look forward to your questions.