

Edgar Filing: ABB LTD - Form 6-K

major markets for ABB's businesses, market acceptance of new products and services, changes in governmental regulations, interest rates, fluctuations in currency exchange rates and such other factors as may be discussed from time to time in ABB's filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, including its annual reports on Form 20-F. Although ABB Ltd believes that its expectations reflected in any such forward-looking statement are based upon reasonable assumptions, it can give no assurance that those expectations will be achieved.

Press Release

ABB

For your business and technology editors

ABB bondholders pass resolutions to permit repurchases

Zurich, Switzerland, September 9, 2004 - ABB, the leading power and automation technology group, said bondholders earlier today approved resolutions which give the company the option to redeem outstanding instruments of its Euro 300 million, 5.375 percent bonds due in 2005 and Euro 475 million, 5.125 percent bonds due in 2006.

The prices will be calculated on the same terms as the tender offers announced on 29 July 2004. Both bonds were issued by ABB International Finance Limited.

Peter Voser, ABB's chief financial officer, said: "The completion of this bond repurchase will reduce ABB's debt by approximately \$800 million and is part of ABB's strategy to cut gross debt to \$4 billion by the end of 2005."

Prior to the bondholders' meetings, 57 percent (Euro 156,591,000) of the principal amount outstanding of 2005 bonds and 59 percent (Euro 215,200,000) of the principal amount outstanding of 2006 bonds had been validly tendered and accepted under the tender offers, for which pricing and settlement dates are scheduled for 10 and 14 September 2004 respectively.

ABB intends to exercise its options to redeem early all of the remaining outstanding 2005 and 2006 bonds. The redemption date is expected to be 29 September 2004, with the calculation of the relevant redemption amounts scheduled for 27 September 2004.

Further information can be found online at www.ABBbondtender.com or by contacting ABB or the dealer managers. A notice will also be published in the Luxemburger Wort on 14 September 2004.

Mandated dealer managers for the transaction are Barclays Capital, Commerzbank Securities and Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein.

ABB (www.abb.com) is a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry customers to improve performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB Group of companies operates in around 100 countries and employs about 105,000 people.

For more information please contact:

Media Relations

Investor Relations

ABB Ltd

Edgar Filing: ABB LTD - Form 6-K

Thomas Schmidt
Tel: +41 43 317 6568
Fax: +41 43 317 7958
media.relations@ch.abb.com

Switzerland: Tel. +41 43 317 71 11
Sweden: Tel. +46 21 325 719
investor.relations@ch.abb.com

Affolternstrasse
CH-8050 Zurich
Switzerland
Tel. +41 43 317 71 11
www.abb.com

Dealer Managers

Barclays Bank plc
Contact: Sven Pongs / Marie-France
Guay
Tel. +44 20 7773 8990
Fax +44 20 7516 7379
Email: sven.pongs@barcap.com

Commerzbank AG
Contact: Damian Saunders / Mathilde
Baechler
Tel. +44 20 7469 3338
Fax +44 20 7645 7191
Email: bond.tender@commerzbankib.com

Dresdner Bank
Contact: Hugh
Olivia Smith
Tel. +44 20 7742 2000
Fax +44 20 7742 2000
Email: liability@commerzbankib.com

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.

ABB LTD

Date: September 9, 2004

By: /s/ Hans Enhorning

Name: Hans Enhorning
Title: Group Vice President,
Assistant General Counsel

By: /s/ Francois Champagne

Name: Francois Champagne
Title: Group Vice President,
Senior Counsel