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This presentation contains forward-looking statements about Linde AG ("Linde") and their respective subsidiaries and businesses. These include, without limitation, those concerning the strategy of an integrated group, future growth potential of markets and products, profitability in specific areas, synergies resulting from a merger between Linde and The BOC Group plc ("BOC"), post-merger integration, the future product portfolio, anti-trust risks, development of and competition in economies and markets of the combined group.

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To ensure comparability of our business trends, we have adjusted the prior year figures for sales and operating profit (EBITDA\*) to reflect the new Group structure. The prior year figures therefore include BOC's operations for the full 12-month period, while KION, the forklift truck division sold in 2006, the BOC Edwards components business and the other companies and other assets sold as a result of the BOC transaction have been excluded from the figures.

<sup>\*</sup>before non-recurring items, including share of net income from associates and joint ventures

## Agenda



#### Part 1

Prof Dr Wolfgang Reitzle

- 1. Highlights
- 2. Financial targets
- 3. Defensive growth

#### Part 2

Georg Denoke

- 1. Operational performance
- 2. Balance sheet
- 3. Financial metrics

### **Appendix**

### Highlights 2007



### Strong operational performance in the first year of the new set-up

Group sales increased by 13.9% to €12.306 bn

Group operating profit improved by 18.1% to € 2.424 bn, achieving double-digit growth in Gases & Engineering

Targets for ROCE and EPS already achieved one year ahead of plan

### Successful execution on disposal and integration process

Net debt of € 6.427 bn substantially down from acquisition peak, even ahead of internal schedule Synergy program progressing on plan

### Well on track towards our mid-term financial targets

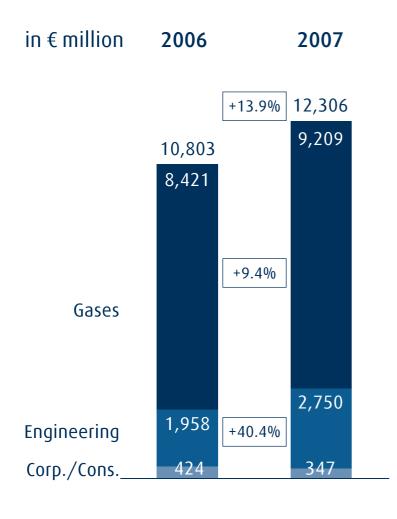
2010: Operating profit above € 3 billion with ROCE of at least 13%

### Stable business model with attractive growth opportunities

Defensive growth profile supplemented by structural mega-trends

## **Group**Sales by segment, in € million





13.9% sales growth in the first full year of The Linde Group

#### **Gases Division**

- Close to 10% growth despite currency effects
- Clean comparable growth of 7.2%, up 11.9% including acquisitions
- Positive price and volume trends
- Lead by Emerging Market activities

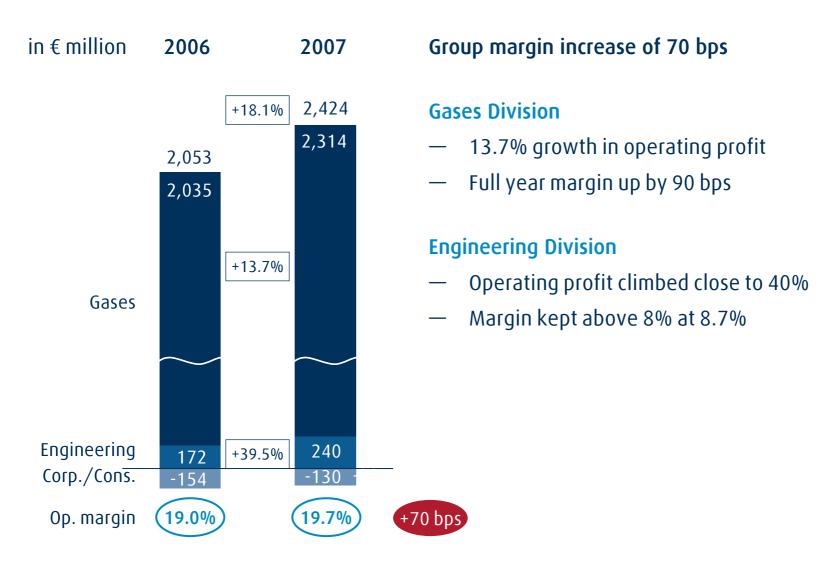
### **Engineering Division**

- 40% leap in sales compared to 2006
- Working down our record order backlog

### Group

### Operating profit by segment, in € million





## Group

## Financial key indicators

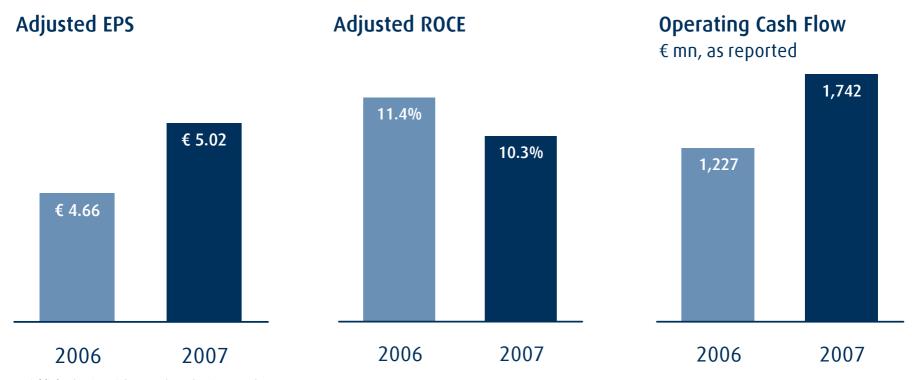


### Ahead of targets:

Adjusted EPS already accretive in 2007

Double-digit ROCE achieved one year ahead of plan

Improved cash generation in the new set-up

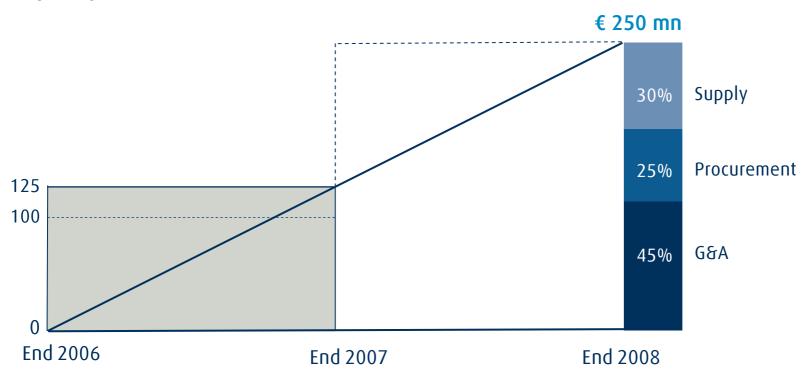


# Integration process progressing on plan Synergy program on track towards our bottom-line target



Bottom-line effect of € 75 mn in 2007 Phasing ahead of time, strong confidence in our target of € 250 mn in 2009





## Integration Process Synergy program



#### **2007 Synergy Achievements** (Examples)

Consolidation of Corporate Headquarters (BOC and Linde)

Restructuring of central functions

Restructuring of regional overheads largely completed

Consolidation of Property and Liability policies

Bulk distribution network optimization in various countries

Leverage of purchasing volume

#### **2008 Planned Activities** (Examples)

Continued reduction on selective regional overheads

Selected consolidation of operational sites

ASU optimization through more sophisticated control and remote operation

Increase in cylinder filling productivity through Best Practice knowledge transfer across the Globe

Realization of distribution network optimization projects in selected Regions

Focus on the acceleration of Procurement leverage globally



Supply

Procurement

### **Outlook**

## Strong confidence in our mid-term financial targets



### Group

#### 2008

- Increase in sales and overproportionate growth of operating profit
- 2010
- Operating profit above € 3 bn
- Adjusted ROCE of at least 13%

#### **Gases Division**

- Sales increase above market growth
- Overproportionate increase of operating profit
- 13% average capex/sales ratio

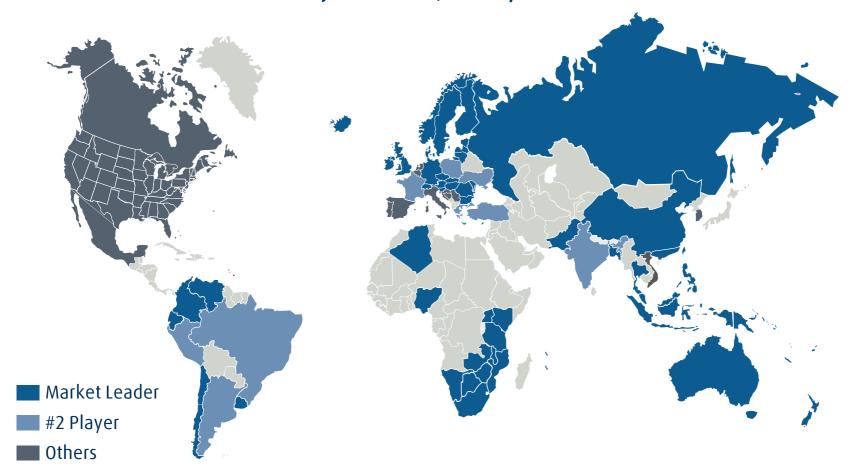
### **Engineering Division**

 Mid-term sales growth of 8-10% based on positive market environment and strong order backlog

# Gases Division – Global balance with strong market shares Solid basis for a stable business development



Present in around 100 countries, representing >90% of global GDP Market leader in 46 of the 70 major countries, #2 Player in another 10



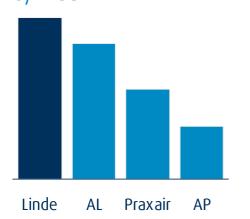
# Well balanced business mix Growth opportunities and cash generation



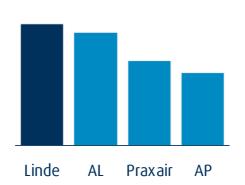
#### Merchant Market

- Global #1 in bulk and cylinder
- Dominant market position in core markets
- Broad and diversified customer base, increasing exposure to non-cyclical end markets (food, healthcare, maintenance)
- Enlarged applications portfolio and strengthened R&D capabilities
- High and sustainable cash flow

## **Global Sales**Cylinder



#### Bulk

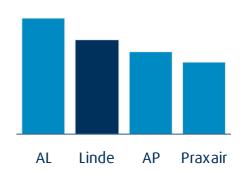


Source: Annual Reports, Broker Reports, Spiritus Consulting, Linde Group Analysis

#### **Tonnage**

- Global #2
- Significant share of tonnage business (JVs and EFL) not top-line visible
- Strong increase of capacities (business development and execution teams)
- Strong set-up in growth markets
- Business synergy with Engineering Division

### Tonnage



# **Gases Division**Busy pipeline of plant start-ups



### More than half of the new projects located in emerging markets



## **Gases Division**Tonnage contract with ADNOC



#### Leveraging our Engineering customer relationships

First plant for ABU Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) built in 1999

#### First tonnage contract in the Ruwais cluster

- World's largest ethylene plant is built by Linde Engineering
- Customer Borouge is a Joint Venture lead by ADNOC
- Nitrogen need is to be supplied on-site by the new Linde/ADNOC JV
- Liquifier allows Gases Division to develop the local merchant market
- JV structure is set up to jointly serve follow-up contracts

#### Promising region for a new petrochemical cluster

- Good quality and availability of local feedstock
- Cash resources and political will for downstream expansion
- ADNOC will be the leading force of this development
- Industrial gases needs are to be served through the Linde JV

#### Plants in operation:

2 Ethylene plants with Nitrogen supply, built in 1999/2003 by Linde Engineering



Ethylene
plant, under
construction
by Linde
Engineering
for Borouge

ASU and liquifier, under construction for Linde-Adnoc JV (Elixier)

Air separation plantsPetrochemical plants

## Group

### Limited currency risks



### **Gases Division**

### Local business model: natural currency hedge and limited transactional risk

- Limited currency risk from mismatch between cost base and sales currency
- Very limited transactional risk as currency movements do not generate shipments from foreign competition

#### Regional balance limits translational risks

Balanced global footprint implies limited impact of each individual currency

## **Engineering Division**

### Full currency hedge

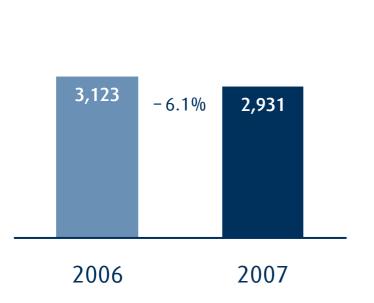
Currency exposure of all projects is immediately fully hedged after the contract signing

## **Engineering Division**Ongoing momentum in order intake / strong order backlog

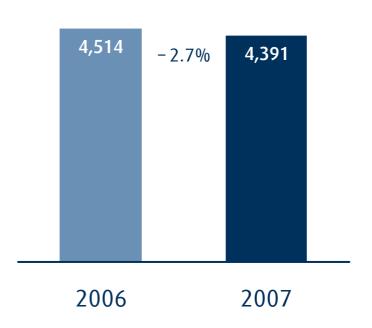


Ongoing strong environment in all four end markets drives order intake again close to € 3 bn Order backlog stable at € 4.4 bn despite strong uplift in recognised sales

## Order intake € 2,931 million

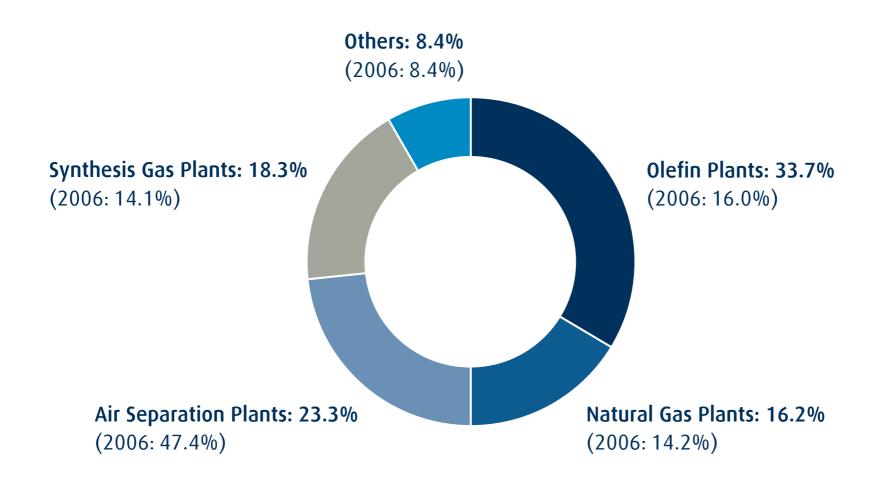


### Order backlog € 4,391 million



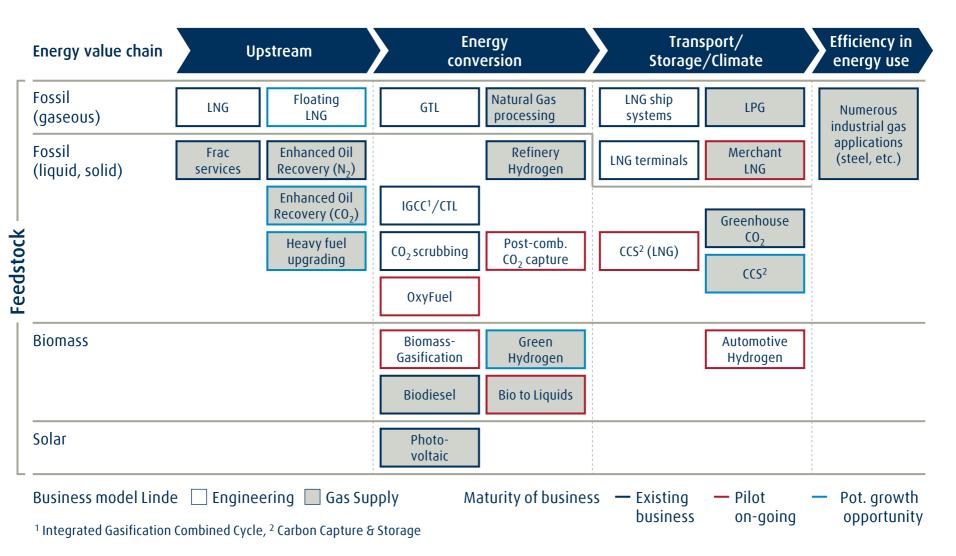
## **Engineering Division**Solid end market trends drive momentum in order intake





# **Energy mega-trends**Linde has extensive technology expertise





<sup>►</sup> Highlights | ► Financial targets | ► Defensive growth

## The Linde Group is a global industry leader 2007 achievements build a strong and stable platform



### Strong operational performance alongside smooth transformation into a pure play

- Profitable growth in all divisions
- Improved cash flow generation potential
- Significant debt reduction and solid maturity profile
- New organisation working successfully

#### Stable business model

- Attractive industry: limited currency risk, diversified customer base, long term contracts
- Solid set-up: worldwide presence, strong local market positions, balanced segment mix

#### Leading ambition

- Deliver profitable growth in line with mid-term targets
- Develop performance culture based on synergy and efficiency programs
- Leverage technology and market position for the upcoming growth opportunities

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- 1. Highlights
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Prof Dr Wolfgang Reitzle

### Part 2

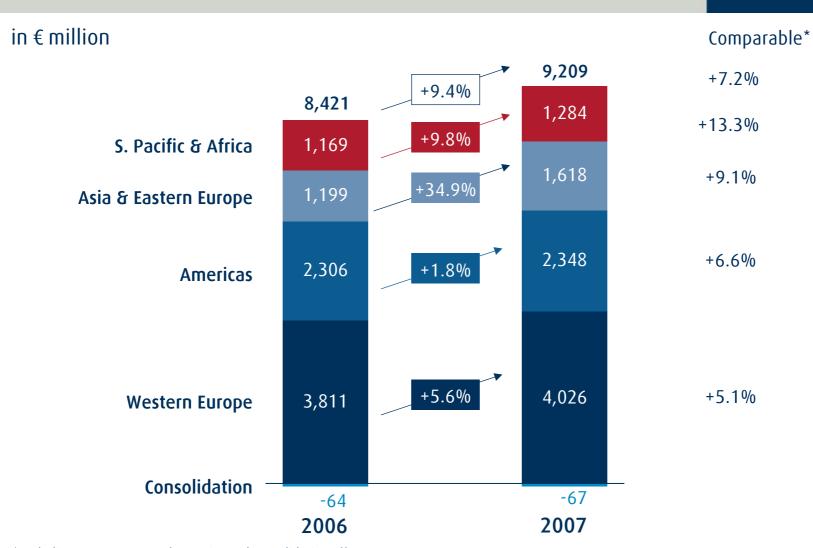
- 1. Operational performance
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### **Appendix**

Georg Denoke

# Gases Division, sales by operating segment Growth momentum across all geographies





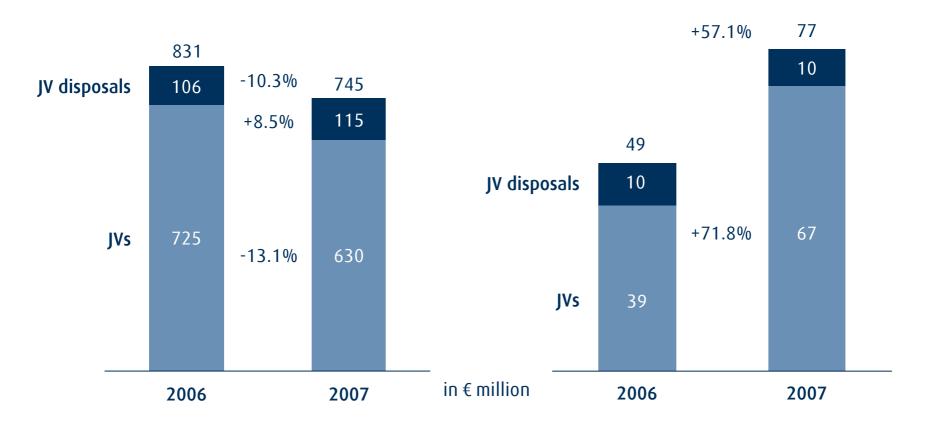
<sup>\*</sup>excluding currency, natural gas price and consolidation effect

## **Gases Division, joint ventures**Proportionate contribution of JVs



Sales (like-for-like)

Net Income (like-for-like)

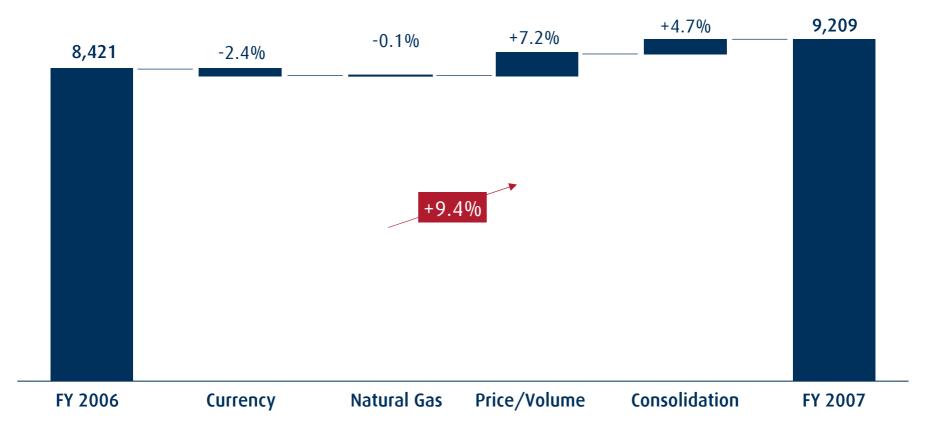


# **Gases Division, sales bridge**Comparable growth of 7.2% in 2007



## 7.2% pure volume & price growth cleaned of all acquisitions 11.9% growth including acquisitions

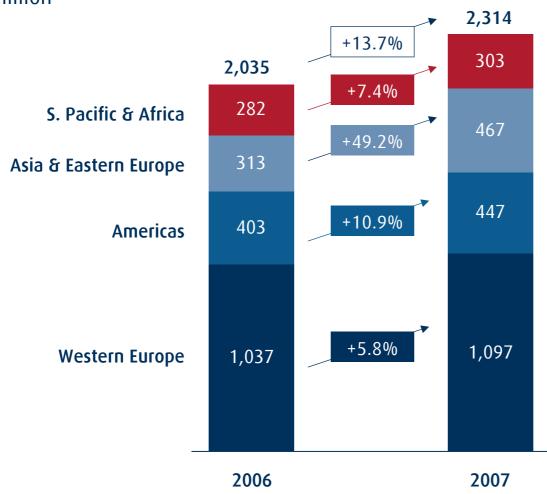
In € million



# Gases Division, operating profit by operating segment Strong performance driven by emerging markets

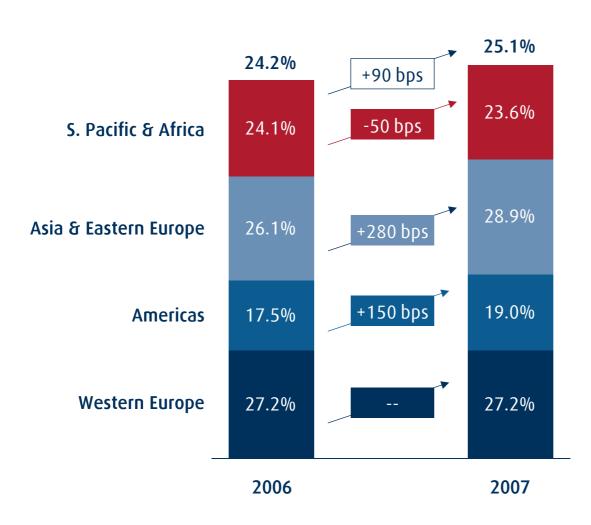






# **Gases Division, operating margin by operating segment**Solid profitability in all geographies



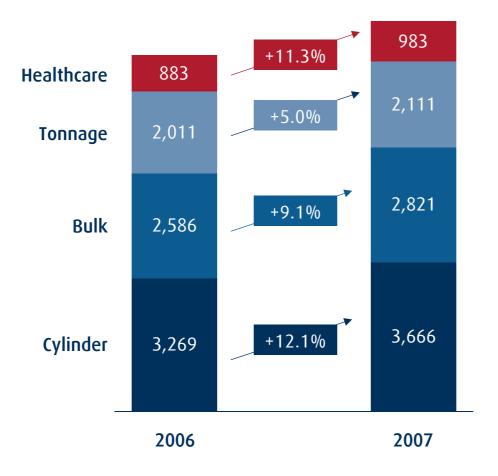


# **Gases Division, sales by segment**Balanced business mix drives stable growth



in € million, unconsolidated

Comparable\*



- 9.4%
- 7.9%\*\*

6.2%

- 8.6%
- excluding currency, natural gas price and consolidation effect
- \*\* and excluding sales-type-lease for new projects treated as EFL (IFRIC 4)

## Operating profit margin improvement



	2006	2007	Δ
Group	19.0%	19.7%	+70bps
Gases	24.2%	25.1%	+ 90bps
Gases & Corporate			
Revenue Gases	8,421	9,209	
OP Gases	2,035	2,314	
OP Corporate	-173	-151	
Operating Profit	1,862	2,163	
OP Margin	22.1%	23.5%	+140bps
JV impact	49*	77	
Operating Profit	1,811	2,086	
OP Margin	21.5%	22.7%	+120bps

<sup>\*</sup>adjusted: full year impact

<sup>►</sup> Operational performance | ► Balance sheet | ► Financial metrics

# **Group – Cash Flow Statement, key elements**Strong cash flow generation in the new set-up

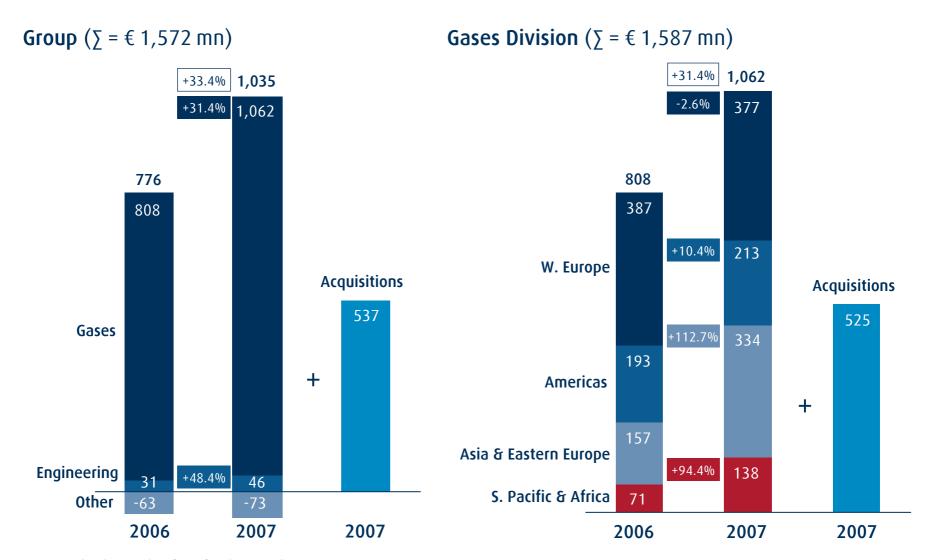


in million €	2006	2007
Operating profit*	2,216	2,424
Change in Working Capital	175	-139
Funds from operations	2,391	2,285
Paid taxes	-573	-336
Other changes	-591	-207
Cashflow from operating activities	1,227	1,742
Disposal proceeds	2,670	3,557
Net investing activities (incl. acquisitions)	-12,948	-1,471
Free Cashflow	-9,051	3,828

<sup>\*</sup>not comparable

# Investments (capex + acquisitions) Investing in our growth path



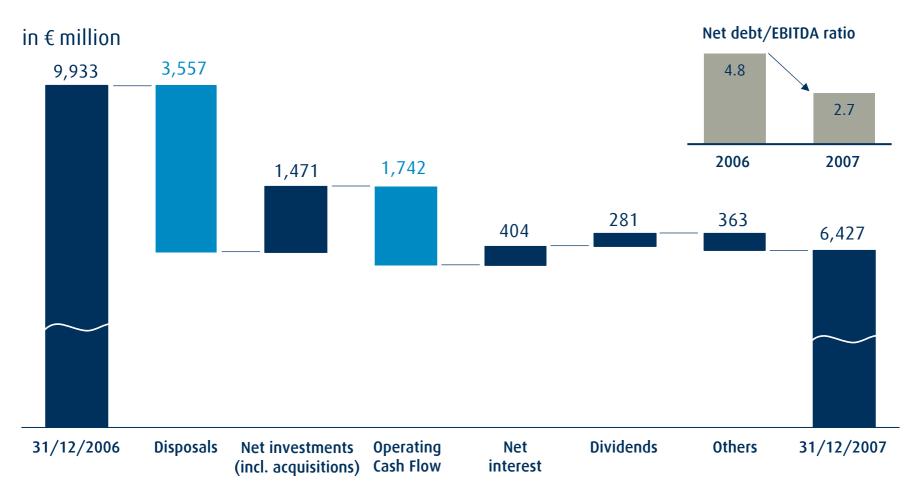


### Net debt

### Execution on deleveraging ahead of plan and expectations



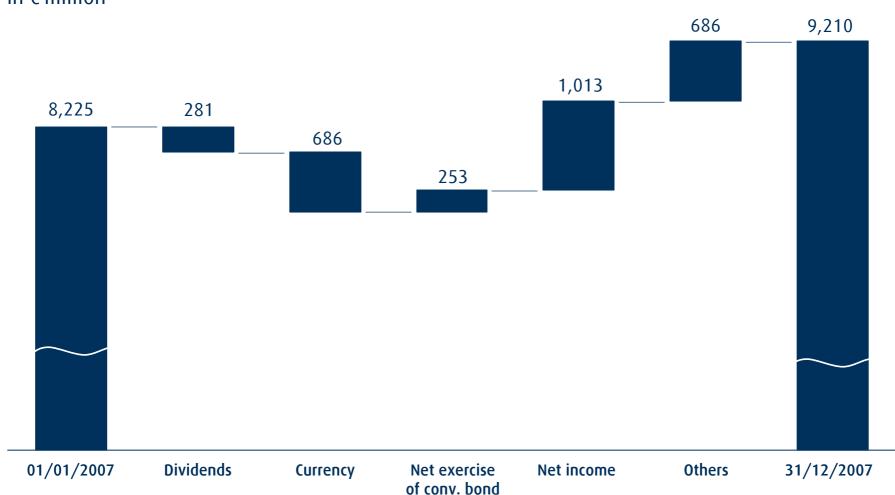
#### Significant reduction of net debt driven by disposal proceeds and strong cash generation



# **Development of group equity** Gearing down to 69.8%







# Pension financing, key elements Net pension obligation down to € 403 mn



in € million	Defined benefit obligations	Plan- assets	Net- obligation 2007	Net- obligation 2006
UK	2,860	2,900	-40	416
Germany	803	283	520	610
US+Canada	395	581	-186	-166
Other activities	1,094	1,049	45	91
Net obligation	5,152	4,813	339	951
Accumulated effect from asset ceiling			37	39
Other pensionlike obligations 27			24	
Balance sheet amount as of 31.12.			403	1,014
Thereof provisions			747	1,284
Thereof assets			-344	-270

# **Linde Group**Reconciliation of EPS



	31.12.2006	31.12.2007			
€ million	Key Financial Figures	As reported	Non-GAAP adjustment	Key Financial Figures	Effects
EBIT before special item	989	1,145	446	1,591	PPA
Special items	-	607	-607	-	Disposal of businesses
Taxes on income	-294	-379	23	-356	deferred taxes on PPA, disposals
Earnings after taxes and minority interest	644	952	-138	814	
EPS (in €)	4.66	5.87		5.02	
Weighted average no. of shares (in million)	138,1	162,3		162,3	

# **Linde Group**Reconciliation of Capital Employed



	31.12.2006	31.12.2007			
€ million	Key Financial Figures	As reported	Non-GAAP adjustment	Key Financial Figures	Effects
Equity incl. minority interest	7,031	9,210	-1,332	7,878	PPA and disposal effects from 2006 and 2007
Plus: net debt	9,933	6,427		6,427	
Plus: liabilities from financial services	49	36		36	
Less: receivables from financial services	930	860		860	
Balance of financial debt	9,052	5,603		5,603	
Net pension obligations	1,014	403		403	
Capital employed	17,097	15,216	-1,332	13,884	
Average Capital employed	12,077	16,754		15,491	
Return on Capital Employed (ROCE)	<b>11.4</b> % <sup>1</sup>	10.4 %		10.3 %	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> ROCE has not been adjusted, despite the adjustments to capital employed and the revised presentation of the income statement, to ensure comparability

### Tax rate and dividend development



Effective Tax Rate (ETR):

**Outlook:** 

Total Tax: € 379 mn (ETR: 27.6%)

Expected tax rate for 2008 is around 30%

Comprising: € 484 mn current tax expense

€ 105 mn deferred tax income

#### Main Impacts on Effective Tax Rate in 2007:

- Relatively strong performance of the Group in countries with lower tax rates (i.e. Eastern Europe and Asia)
- Positive impact of tax rate changes
- Tax reimbursements for prior years during the 4th Quarter

#### **Dividends:**

- Proposed dividend increase for 2007 by 13% from € 1.50 to € 1.70 per share
- Dividend policy will adequately reflect profit growth

# The Linde Group expands on a strong and stable platform Good set-up for future growth



### Business on a solid growth track

- Strong underlying growth
- Growth momentum carried by all regions and product segments
- Balanced profitability profile

### Very strong balance sheet

- Significant improvement in net debt, equity and pension obligations
- Lengthening of capital market debt maturity profile
- Continued readiness to invest in growth opportunities

#### Ability to deliver on our financial ambitions

- Reconfirmation of targets for operating profit and synergies
- Specification of ROCE target
- Continued focus on cash flow delivery, ROCE and EPS growth

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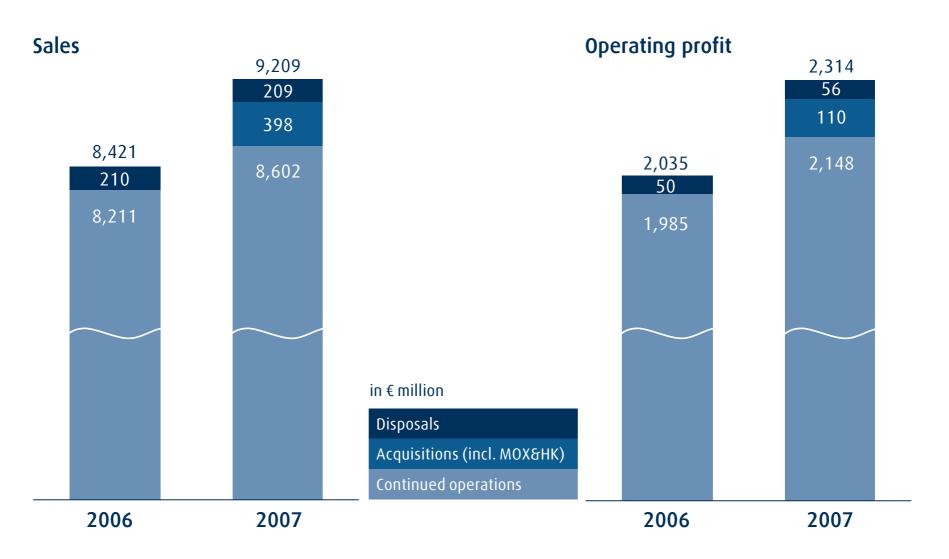
### **Appendix**

Prof Dr Wolfgang Reitzle

Georg Denoke

## Gases Division, sales and operating profit





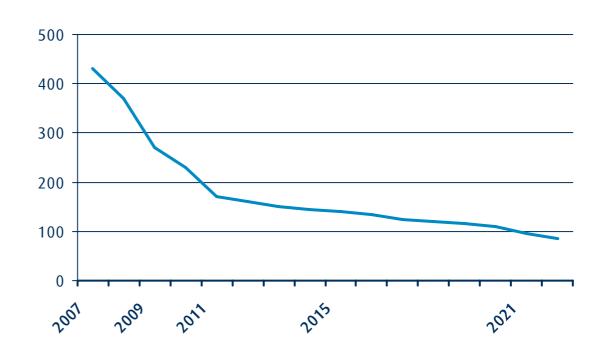
# Purchase Price Allocation Confirmation of expected Depreciation & Amortisation



Development of depreciation and amortisation (in € million)
Impact in 2007: € 446 million

### **Expected range**

> 375 – 425
> 300 – 350
> 200 – 250
> 200
< 100



## Mandatory adoption of IFRIC 4 Expected impact on sales and EBITDA



The Linde Group shows a significant amount of plants as embedded finance leases due to the adoption of IFRIC 4

Sales and EBITDA from IFRIC 4 plants not recognized through reported sales and EBITDA in 2007: € 134 million

Receivables from Financial Services (= PV of minimum lease payments): 31/12/2007 € 860 million

31/12/2006 € 930 million



- EBITDA multiple comparison with peers needs to be adjusted for IFRIC 4
- Reported operating profit margin for Gases
   Division in 2007 is 110 bps lower due to EFL
- Reported tonnage sales do not include sales from plants treated under IFRIC4
- Very minor impact on EPS, no impact on Free Cash Flow

€ million	Gross investment	PV of minimum lease payments
Due within 2008	137	95
Due within one to five years	476	319
Due in more than five years	566	446
Total	1,179	860
	ture reduction les and EBITDA	Amortization of lease receivable

## Definition of financial key figures



Operating Profit	Return	EBITDA (incl. IFRIC 4 adjustment) excl. finance costs for pensions excl. special items incl. share of net income from associates and joint ventures
adjusted ROCE	Return	Operating profit - depreciation / amortisation excl. depreciation/amortization from purchase price allocation
	Average Capital Employed	equity (incl. minorities) + financial debt + liabilities from financial services + net pension obligations - cash and cash equivalents - receivables from financial services
adjusted EPS	Return	earnings after tax and minority interests + depreciation/amortization from purchase price allocation +/- special items
	Shares	average outstanding shares

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