# BTS Group AB (publ)

# Interim Report January 1 – March 31, 2007

# Continued good growth in revenues and earnings

- Net turnover increased by 59 percent during the first quarter and amounted to MSEK 123.7 (78.0). Adjusted for changes in exchange rates, growth amounted to 72 percent.
- Earnings for the first quarter:
  - the operating profit increased by 24 percent to MSEK 15.5 (12.5)
  - the operating margin amounted to 13 (16) percent
  - ➤ the operating profit before amortization on intangible assets (EBITA) increased by 36 percent to MSEK 18.1 (13.3)
  - the operating margin before amortization on intangible assets (EBITA margin) amounted to 15 (17) percent
  - the profit before tax increased by 11 percent to MSEK 14.2 (12.8)
  - the profit after tax increased by 4 percent to MSEK 8.6 (8.3)
  - the earnings per share amounted to SEK 0.47 (0.47).
- New customers secured during the first quarter included Freescale, Imbev, Kimberly-Clark, Palm Computer, Ratos, Siemens and Sony BMG among others.
- The acquired units The Advantage Performance Group (APG) and The Real Learning Company (RLC) developed positively both with regard to earnings and sales synergies.

BTS Group AB is an international consultancy and training company active in the field of business acumen. BTS uses tailor-made simulation models to support company managers in implementing change and improving profitability. BTS solutions and services train the entire organization to analyze and to take decisions centered on the factors that promote growth and profitability. This generates increased emphasis on profitability and market focus, and supports day-to-day decision-making, which in turn leads to tangible, sustainable improvements in profits. BTS customers are often leading major companies.

#### **Turnover**

BTS' net turnover increased by 59 percent during the first quarter and amounted to MSEK 123.7 (78.0). Adjusted for changes in exchange rates, growth amounted to 72 percent. Growth was primarily generated through the acquisitions of The Advantage Performance Group (APG) and The Real Learning Company (RLC) but was also generated organically.

BTS' turnover excluding acquisitions of APG and RLC and adjusted for changes in exchange rates increased by 10 percent.



Revenue development by quarter

#### **Earnings**

The operating profit increased by 24 percent to MSEK 15.5 (12.5) during the first quarter. The operating profit during the first quarter was affected by MSEK 2.6 (0.8) for amortization of intangible assets attributable to acquisitions. The operating profit before amortization on intangible assets (EBITA) increased by 36 percent and amounted to MSEK 18.1(13.3).

The improvement in earnings during the first quarter was primarily generated through the acquisitions of RLC and APG.

The operating margin was 13 (16) percent. The decrease was due to increased amortization on intangible assets as well as a margin deterioration in BTS Europe. The operating margin before amortization on intangible assets (EBITA margin) was 15 (17) percent.

The Group's profit before tax for the first quarter increased by 11 percent to MSEK 14.2 (12.8). The interest expenses during the first quarter amounted to MSEK 1.5 (0.0).



Profit development by quarter

# The market and the market development

Companies in BTS' target group, large international companies and organizations, tend to have to deal with a faster rate of change, new technologies and new competition. As a result they tend to invest more in business development and training. According to IDC – the leading market survey company – the market for "corporate training in business skills" is estimated to grow by 8 percent on average per year during the period 2005 – 2009. Other surveys have forecasted growth of 5-8 percent annually.

Training solutions based on tailor-made simulations have proved to be superior to conventional training as regards both efficiency and results – which explains why clients are increasingly choosing solutions of this kind. BTS' opinion is that the market segment for training based on simulation technology will grow more rapidly than the market in general.

BTS' services and products have shown good growth during 2006 in this market. This trend is expected to continue during 2007.

For many years, BTS has been the leading player on the market for training conducted through tailor-made business simulations and currently has commissions from 26 of the 100 largest companies in the world. BTS continues to capture market shares from players such as other training and management consultants and business schools and positions itself as the most effective partner to assist companies implement strategic changes.

## BTS' growth

BTS' growth strategy is based on organic growth through the expansion of existing offices, geographic expansion through opening new offices and continuous new product development. During recent years this strategy has been complemented by growth through acquisitions.

BTS' average growth during the past ten years has amounted to 16 percent per year of which 14 percent was organic growth per year. During the past three

years, the average growth has amounted to 33 percent per year of which 19 percent was organic growth per year.

BTS' offering has increased considerably through product development and completed acquisitions and apart from world-leading business simulations also includes leading solutions within strategically important areas such as e.g. sales and management development and internet-based training solutions.

There was more development of the product range in 2006 than during any previous year, partly through extensive in-house development for client-financed projects and partly through the acquisitions of APG and RLC, which added a strong range of solutions. Over the years, and particularly during 2006, BTS has gradually created the most comprehensive offering of tailored simulation solutions on the market. This means that BTS to a greater extent, can satisfy existing clients' needs for additional solutions, which generates significant growth opportunities both in the near-term and long-term.

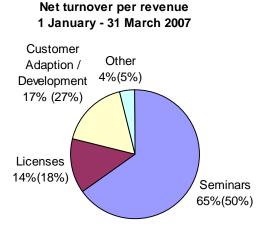
In recent years, BTS has also grown through successful acquisitions; all acquisitions have developed well at BTS. As the market is fragmented, BTS sees continued opportunities for profitable acquisitions.

# **Assignments and new clients**

New clients secured during the first quarter included Bank of Oklahoma, Flour, Freescale, Hay Group, Imbev, Kimberly-Clark, NetJets, Palm Computer, Ratos, Siemens, Sime Darby, Sony BMG, Spirit Aerospace, Teva and Time Warner Cable among others.

#### **Revenue Development**

Revenue from licences amounted to MSEK 17.5(13.8) during the first quarter and the share of revenue from licences amounted to 14(18) percent. The acquired units APG and RLC have a lower share of revenue from licences. The share of revenue from licences has declined in BTS North America and BTS Nordic.



# **Operative units**

#### Net turnover per operative unit

			Rolling 12	
	Jan-Mar		months	Full-year
MSEK	2007	2006	2006/2007	2006
North America*	93.7	48.3	290.6	245.2
Europe	24.8	25.6	112.2	113.0
Other markets	5.2	4.1	22.0	20.9
Total	123.7	78.0	424.8	379.1
* North America				
BTS	49.6	48.3	202.8	201.5
APG and RLC	44.1	-	8.8	43.7
Total	93.7	48.3	290.6	245.2

#### Operating profit per operative unit

			Rolling 12	
	Jan-Mar		months	Full-year
MSEK	2007	2006	2006/2007	2006
North America*	13.4	7.8	46.1	40.5
Europe	2.5	4.9	16.2	18.6
Other markets	-0.4	-0.2	3.1	3.3
Total	15.5	12.5	65.4	62.4
* North America				
BTS	8.3	7.8	36.1	35.6
APG and RLC	5.1	-	10.0	4.9
Total	13.4	7.8	46.1	40.5

# North America

The operations - APG and RLC, which were acquired during 2006, are reported geographically within North America.

## **BTS**

The revenues for BTS' original operations in North America increased during the first quarter by 14 percent in local currency. The operating profit increased at the same time by 19 percent in local currency.

Net turnover amounted to MSEK 49.6 (48.3) during the first quarter and the operating profit amounted to MSEK 8.3 (7.8). The operating margin was 17 (16) percent. Included is amortization on intangible assets amounting to MSEK 0.5 (0.6).

# APG and RLC

Net turnover for APG and RLC amounted to MSEK 44.1 (-) during the first quarter.

The operating profit amounted to MSEK 5.1 (-). The operating margin was 12 (-) percent. Included is amortization on intangible assets amounting to MSEK 2.0 (-).

APG and RLC have performed very positively since the acquisition and during the first quarter, both with regard to the earnings trend and synergy effects. A number of business transactions have been generated on different geographical markets through cross-selling between BTS and APG/RLC during the first quarter.

## Europe

Net turnover for Europe amounted to MSEK 24.8 (25.6) during the first quarter. Adjusted for exchange rate effects, revenues decreased by 3 percent. The operating profit decreased to MSEK 2.5 (4.9). The operating margin was 10 (19) percent. Included is amortization on intangible assets amounting to MSEK 0.1 (0.2).

The negative growth, the deterioration in the operating profit and the lower operating margin during the first quarter was primarily due to significantly reduced earnings in BTS Nordic compared with the first quarter 2006. Increased sales efforts are expected to lead to positive effects during the second quarter 2007.

# Other markets

Net turnover for Other markets amounted to MSEK 5.2 (4.1) during the first quarter. The operating profit amounted to MSEK -0.4 (-0.2). The operating margin was -8 (-5) percent. Included is amortization on intangible assets amounting to MSEK 0.0 (0.0).

#### Financial position

BTS' cash flow from operating activities amounted to MSEK -28.0 (-23.9) during the first quarter. The weak cash flow during the first quarter corresponds well with the seasonal variations of BTS' cash flow, with a weaker first half-year and a stronger second half-year. The deterioration compared with the previous year is exclusively attributable to a reduction of current liabilities.

The Company's interest-bearing loans, all of which are attributable to the acquisition of APG and RLC, amounted to MSEK 83.8 at the end of the first quarter. This is a decrease of MSEK 16.7 compared with the acquisition date. BTS' ambition is to reduce this debt during 2007 in step with an expected positive operating cash flow.

BTS' solidity was 51 (72) percent at the end of the first quarter. Available liquid assets amounted to MSEK 33.0 (74.8) at the end of the first quarter.

The Company had no outstanding conversion loans at the balance sheet date.

# **Employees**

The number of employees in the BTS Group AB as of March 31 was 203 (154). The average number of employees during the first quarter was 196 (151).

# Moderbolaget

The Company's net turnover amounted to MSEK 0.0 (0.6) and the profit after net financial items amounted to MSEK 0.2 (0.0). Liquid assets amounted to MSEK 7.7 (23.8).

#### Outlook for 2007

Based on continued strong market conditions for BTS and the completed acquisitions, the profit before tax is expected to be significantly better than the previous year.

# **Accounting principles**

This interim report has been prepared in accordance with IAS 34 Interim Reporting and RR 31 Interim Consolidated Reporting. The accounting principles and calculation methods applied are in line with the accounting principles used in the preparation of the most recent financial statements. Future IFRS that have been approved by IASB but have not yet come into effect are currently evaluated as having no material effect on the Group's income statement and balance sheet

# **Upcoming reporting dates**

Interim report Apr – Jun Interim report Jul – Sep Year-end report August 22, 2007 November 8, 2007 February 2008

Stockholm, May 3, 2007

Henrik Ekelund Chief Executive Officer

This report has not been the subject of separate examination by BTS' auditor.

#### **Contact information**

 Henrik Ekelund
 CEO
 Phone: 08-5870 7000

 Stefan Brown
 CFO
 Phone: 08-5870 7062

Thomas Ahlerup Senior Vice President Corporate Communications Phone: 08-5870 7002, Cell 0768-966 300

For additional information visit our homepage www.bts.com

This is a translation of the Swedish version

BTS Group AB (publ) Grevgatan 34 114 53 Stockholm SWEDEN

Phone +46 8 5870 7000 Fax +46 8 5870 7001 Corporate Identity Number: 556566-7119

INCOME STATEMENT, Summary KSEK	3 months	3 months ended		12 months ended		
	Mar 31 2007	Mar 31 2006	Mar 31 2007	Dec 31 2006		
Revenue	123 705	78 035	424 767	379 097		
Operating expenses	-104 984	-64 189	-350 140	-309 345		
Depreciation tangible assets	-623	-551	-2 199	-2 127		
Amortization intangible assets	-2 621	-806	-7 085	-5 270		
Operating result	15 477	12 489	65 343	62 355		
Financial income and expenses	-1 256	334	-2 940	-1 350		
Result before tax	14 221	12 823	62 403	61 005		
Taxes	-5 661	-4 527	-23 555	-22 421		
Result for the period	8 560	8 296	38 848	38 584		
attributable to minority interest	-	-11	64	53		
attributable to equity holders of the parent	8 560	8 307	38 784	38 531		
Earnings per share, before dilution of shares, SEK	0,47	0,47	2,15	2,13		
Number of shares at end of the period	18 048 300		18 048 300			
Average number of shares before dilution of shares	18 048 300		18 048 300			
Earnings per share, after dilution of shares, SEK	0,47	0,47	2,14	2,16		
Average number of shares after dilution of shares	18 126 083	5 897 300	18 126 083			
Proposed dividend per share			0,00	1,00		
(Prior year's earnings per share have been adjusted by a cor split 3:1 in May 2006)	rection factor of 0.3333	3 due to the				
BALANCE SHEET , Summary						
KSEK	03-31-07		03-31-06		12-31-06	
Assets						
Goodwill	154 887		35 117		149 873	
Other intangible assets	43 477		14 121		45 213	
Tangible assets	5 034		5 153		5 380	
Other fixed assets	3 828		2 410		3 252	
Accounts receivable	94 944		64 727		88 692	
Other current assets	30 231		21 614		25 604	
Cash and bank	33 024	į	74 807	-	72 054	
Total assets	365 426		217 949		390 068	
Equity and liabilities	186 011		457 222		474.660	
Equity Minority shareholding	100 011		157 323 457		174 663 508	
Total Equity	186 011		157 780		175 171	
Non interest bearing - non current liabilities	55		157 760		388	
Interest bearing - non-current liabilities	83 798		1 447		80 891	
Non interest bearing - current liabilities	95 562		58 569		133 618	
Total equity and liabilities	365 426		217 949	-	390 068	
CASH FLOW STATEMENT, Summary						
KSEK	Jan-Mar		Jan-Mar		Jan-Dec	
	2007		2006		2006	
Cash flow from current operations	-28 018		-23 934		41 120	
Cash flow from investment activities	-3 049		-394		-140 550	
Cash flow from financing operations	-8 668		-627		78 643	
Change in liquid funds	-39 030		-26 338		-29 091	
Liquid funds, opening balance	72 054		101 145	_	101 145	
Liquid funds, closing balance	33 024		74 807		72 054	

Effect of exchange rate changes on cash

705

-1 383

-8 304

# CHANGES IN EQUITY KSEK

	Total Equity 03-31-07	Total Equity 03-31-06	Total Equity 12-31-06
Opening balance	175 171	151 873	151 873
Dividend to shareholders	-	-	-16 218
Conversion differences	2 310	-2 389	-15 089
Change minority interest	-508	=	-
New share issue	-	=	14 587
Miscellaneous	478	=	1 434
Result for the period	8 560	8 296	38 584
Closing balance	186 011	157 780	175 171

KEY RATIOS			12 months ended		
	Jan-Mar	Jan-Mar	Mar 31	Dec 31	
	2007	2006	2007	2006	
Revenues, KSEK	123 705	78 035	424 767	379 097	
EBITA (Earnings before interest, tax and amortisation),					
KSEK	18 098	13 295	72 428	67 625	
EBIT (Operating result), KSEK	15 477	12 489	65 343	62 355	
EBITA-margin (Earnings before interest, tax and					
amortisation margin), %	15	17	17	18	
EBIT-margin (Operating margin ), %	13	16	15	16	
Profit margin, %	7	11	9	10	
Operational capital, KSEK	236 785	84 421	236 785	184 008	
Return on equity, %	19	21	22	24	
Return on operational capital, %	8	18	31	53	
Solidity at end of the period, %	51	72	51	45	
Cash flow, KSEK	-39 030	-26 338	-41 783	-29 091	
Liquid funds at end of the period, KSEK	33 024	74 807	33 024	72 054	
Average number of employees	196	151	171	165	
Number of employees at end of the period	203	154	203	186	
Revenues for the year per employee, KSEK	2 525	2 067	2 491	2 298	

#### **DEFINITIONS**

#### Earnings per share

Earnings attributable to the parent company's shareholders divided by number of shares (prior year's earning per share adjusted by a correction factor of 0.3333 due to split 3:1 of shares in May 2006).

#### EBITA-margin (Earnings before interest, tax and amortisation margin)

Operating result before interest, tax and amortisation as a percentage of revenues.

#### EBIT-margin (Operating margin)

Operating result after depreciation as a percentage of revenues.

## Profit margin

Result for the period as a percentage of revenues.

#### Operational capital

Total balance sheet reduced by liquid funds and other interest bearing assets and reduced by non-interest bearing liabilities.

# Return on equity

Result for the period (converted into whole year) as a percentage of average equity.

#### Return on operational capital

Operating result as a percentage of average operational capital.

## Solidity

Equity as a percentage of total balance sheet.

#### Revenues for the year per employee

Revenues (converted into whole year) divided by average number of employees.