

The Depository Trust Company

IMPORTANT

B#: 1524

DATE: February 27, 2001

TO: All Participants

CATEGORY: Dividends

FROM: Nilesh Desai, Supervisor, Dividend Department

ATTENTION: Dividend Managers, Cashiers and Reorganization Managers

SUBJECT: Optional Dividend: Burhmann NV ADRs Ratio: 1 ADR to 1 ORD
Cusip: 12007Q100 R/D:04/19/01 P/D:05/21/01
Rate: Euro 0.60 in U.S. Funds (less 25% withholding tax)
or additional ADRs. DTC Cut-off 05/01/2001

***** WARNING TIME CRITICAL *****

IMPORTANT: BURHMANN NV WILL PAY A DIVIDEND OF **EUR 0.60** PER ORDINARY SHARE. AT DISCRETION OF THE SHAREHOLDERS, THE DIVIDEND CAN BE PAID IN CASH OR IN WHOLE SHARES. THE STOCK DIVIDEND RATE WILL BE DETERMINED AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON MAY 4, 2001. FRACTIONAL ENTITLEMENTS WILL BE SOLD BY THE BANK OF NEW YORK AND PROCEEDS DISTRIBUTED ACCORDINGLY.

HOLDERS OF BURHMANN NV ADRs WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF CALIFORNIA AND GEORGIA DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE NEW ADRs DUE TO REQUIREMENTS OF STATE SECURITIES LAWS AND WILL RECEIVE THE DIVIDEND IN CASH: OPTION 2.

** WHETHER YOU ELECT STOCK OR CASH, YOU WILL BE SUBJECT TO U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX ON THE VALUE ON THE AMOUNT RECEIVED.

PARTICIPANTS, WHO HAVE POSITIONS IN THE ABOVE CAPTIONED SECURITY CAN ELECT TO RECEIVE THE DIVIDEND DISTRIBUTION AS FOLLOWS:

OPTION # 1: STOCK You may elect to receive additional ADRs of Burhmann NV at a rate to be determined after the closing of the Amsterdam Stock Exchange on the basis of the average price on May 4, 2001. The stock dividend will be subject to tax. **ADR issuance fee is \$ 5.00 per 100 ADRs. Fractional ADRs will be paid in cash.**

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1524

OPTION # 2: CASH You may elect to receive cash per ADR held less 25% withholding tax.
(Less 25% Tax)

HOLDERS WHO ELECT CASH WILL RECEIVE PAYMENT AT THE STANDARD TAX WITHHOLDING RATE OF 25% ON THE ADR PAYABLE DATE.

FOR HOLDERS ELECTING TO RECEIVE CASH-

IN ORDER FOR DTC PARTICIPANTS TO RECEIVE TAX RELIEF FROM NETHERLANDS TAX WITHHOLDING, THEY WILL HAVE TO FILE THE APPROPRIATE TAX RELIEF FORMS DIRECTLY TO THE NETHERLANDS TAX OFFICE ALONG WITH A BANK OF NEW YORK PRODUCED PROOF OF WITHHOLDING. ANY DTC PARTICIPANT WHO REQUIRES THIS PROOF OF WITHHOLDING, MUST SUBMIT A REQUEST TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

**The Bank of New York
101 Barclay Street
ADR Department – 15E
New York, NY 10286
Attn: Robert Kellett**

PARTICIPANTS SHOULD SUBMIT ELECTION INSTRUCTIONS OVER THE PARTICIPANT TERMINAL SYSTEM (PTS) THROUGH THE ELECTIVE DIVIDEND SYSTEM (EDS) FUNCTION

PARTICIPANTS NOT RESPONDING TO THE ABOVE OPTION BY MAY 1, 2001, WILL RECEIVE THE MANDATORY OPTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH OPTION #1 (ADDITIONAL ADRS).

If there are any questions regarding this Important Notice or the processing of related instructions via EDS, DTC participants should contact Mr. John McCarthy or Mr. Ray Lew of DTC's Dividend Department at (212) 855-4521/4523 or Robert Kellett at The Bank of New York (212) 815-2726.