

DANAHER CORPORATION ANNOUNCES RECORD THIRD QUARTER RESULTS

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WASHINGTON

Danaher Corporation announced today that net earnings for its third quarter ended September 26, 2003 were \$138.6 million, 19% above the corresponding 2002 period earnings of \$116.0 million. Diluted earnings per share for the 2003 quarter were \$0.87, an increase of 18% over the \$0.74 reported for the 2002 third quarter. Sales for the 2003 third quarter were \$1,309.5 million, 14% higher than the \$1,151.7 million for the quarter ended September 27, 2002.

For the nine month period ended September 26, 2003, net earnings were \$366.9 million, up 21% from the \$302.4 million reported in 2002 before the effect of a change in accounting related to goodwill. Diluted earnings per share for the 2003 nine month period of \$2.31 increased 18% from the \$1.95 in 2002 before the effect of the accounting change. Net earnings for the 2002 nine month period, after the effect of a first quarter \$173.8 million non-cash charge for impairment of goodwill, were \$128.7 million, or \$0.85 per diluted share. Sales of \$3,805.1 million for the 2003 nine month period were 15% higher than the \$3,302.3 million reported in 2002.

H. Lawrence Culp, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer, stated, "We are again pleased to report record third quarter results. Although we continue to operate in a challenging economic environment, we achieved an 18% increase in earnings per share for the quarter. Sales for the quarter grew 14% compared to last year's third quarter, driven primarily by revenues from recent acquisitions. Operating cash flow was a record \$619 million for the 2003 nine month period and 10% higher than in 2002. Organic growth remains a priority. We have recently seen some encouraging developments in our businesses, but we will continue to drive cost reductions to fund our targeted growth opportunities."

Danaher Corporation is a leading manufacturer of Process/Environmental Controls and Tools and Components. (www.danaher.com)

Statements in this release that are not strictly historical may be "forward-looking" statements, which involve risks and uncertainties. These include risks and uncertainties relating to customer and supplier relationships and prices, competition, market demand, litigation and other contingent liabilities, the integration and operation of acquired businesses, and economic, political, governmental and technological factors affecting the Company's operations, markets, products, services and prices, among others, as set forth in the Company's SEC filings.

DANAHER CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF EARNINGS
(000's omitted except per share amounts)
(unaudited)

Three Months Ended

Nine Months Ended

	Sept. 26, 2003	Sept. 27, 2002	Sept. 26, 2003	Sept. 27, 2002
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Net sales	\$1,309,451	\$1,151,721	\$3,805,098	\$3,302,254
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Operating costs and expenses:

Cost of sales	766,948	691,648	2,270,310	2,021,740
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Selling, general and administrative

expenses	326,831	275,317	951,687	791,493
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Gains on sale of real

estate, net	(93)	(2,674)	(868)	(5,205)
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Total operating

expenses	1,093,686	964,291	3,221,129	2,808,028
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Operating profit	215,765	187,430	583,969	494,226
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Interest expense	(14,520)	(14,788)	(44,003)	(39,429)
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Interest income	2,605	4,501	7,148	6,926
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Earnings before income

taxes and effect of

accounting change	203,850	177,143	547,114	461,723
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Income taxes	(65,232)	(61,114)	(180,226)	(159,294)
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Net earnings, before

effect of accounting

change	138,618	116,029	366,888	302,429
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Effect of accounting

change, net of tax	--	--	--	(173,750)
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Net earnings	\$138,618	\$116,029	\$366,888	\$128,679
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Basic earnings per share:

Net earnings before

effect of accounting

change	\$0.90	\$0.76	\$2.39	\$2.02
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Less:

Effect of accounting

change	--	--	--	(1.16)
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Net earnings	\$0.90	\$0.76	\$2.39	\$0.86
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Diluted net earnings
per share:

Net earnings before effect of accounting change	\$0.87	\$0.74	\$2.31	\$1.95
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Less: Effect of accounting change	--	--	--	(1.10)
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Net earnings	\$0.87	\$0.74	\$2.31	\$0.85
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Average common stock
and common equivalent
shares outstanding:

Basic	153,538	151,842	153,200	149,432
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Diluted	161,771	159,611	161,213	157,868
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A complete copy of Danaher's Form 10-Q financial statement is available on the Company's website.
(www.danaher.com)

SOURCE: Danaher Corporation

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Web site: <http://www.danaher.com/>

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