

Press Release

## Bertelsmann reports surge in Group profit for Q1/2011

- Revenues increased to **€3.63 billion**
- Operating EBIT at **€245 million**
- Group profit more than doubled to **€94 million**

Gütersloh, May 12, 2011 – The international media company Bertelsmann began the 2011 fiscal year with higher revenues and a distinct increase in Group profit. First-quarter consolidated revenues from continuing operations grew to €3.63 billion (previous year: €3.56 billion). Nearly all divisions contributed to this increase. At €245 million, Operating EBIT did not quite reach the previous year's record figure of €293 million, partly due to start-up and program investments, as well as seasonal effects (the Easter ad sales business took place after the first quarter this year). Concurrently, Group profit more than doubled to €94 million (previous year: €45 million), thanks to a considerably improved financial result. The latter reflects lower interest charges in the wake of successful debt reduction, and the discontinuation of negative income effects from the buyback of profit participation certificates in Q1 2010.

The Group further paid down its debt during the period under review. At March 31, 2011, net financial debt was €1,741 million (December 31, 2010: €1,913 million). Economic debt amounted to €4,591 million (December 31, 2010: €4,915 million).

**Overview of key figures (€million, continuing operations)**

	<b>Jan 1, 2011 to Mar 31, 2011</b>	<b>Jan 1, 2010 to Mar 31, 2010</b>
<b>Consolidated revenues</b>	<b>3,629</b>	<b>3,559</b>
Operating EBIT divisions	273	314
Corporate/consolidation	(28)	(21)
<b>Operating EBIT</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>293</b>
Special items	(26)	(26)
<b>EBIT (earnings before interest and taxes)</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>267</b>
Financial result	(91)	(173)
<b>Earnings before taxes from continuing operations</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>94</b>
Income taxes	(35)	(37)
<b>Earnings after taxes from continuing operations</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>57</b>
Earnings after taxes from discontinued operations	1	(12)
<b>Group profit or loss</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>45</b>
attributable to Bertelsmann shareholders	64	15
attributable to non-controlling interests	30	30
<b>Investments</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>241</b>
	<b>Balance as of 3/31/2011</b>	<b>Balance as of 12/31/2010</b>
Net financial debt	1,741	1,913
Economic debt*	4,591	4,915
Employees	105,381	104,419

The comparative figures for the previous period have been adjusted in accordance with IFRS 5.

\*Net financial debt plus pension provisions, profit participation capital and net present value of operating leases (continuing operations).

**About Bertelsmann AG**

Bertelsmann is an international media company encompassing television (RTL Group), book publishing (Random House), magazine publishing (Gruner + Jahr), media services (Arvato), and media clubs (Direct Group) in more than 50 countries. Bertelsmann's claim is to inspire people around the world with first-class media and communications offerings – entertainment, information and services – and occupy leading positions in its respective markets. The foundation of Bertelsmann's success is a corporate culture based on partnership, entrepreneurial spirit, creativity, and corporate responsibility. The company strives to bring creative new ideas to market and create value.

For further questions, please contact:

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