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1Q 2020 Operating Results: PhosAgro Increases Fertilizer Sales Amid Record Demand in the Russian Market

Moscow – PhosAgro (MOEX/LSE ticker: PHOR), one of the world's leading vertically integrated phosphate-based fertilizer producers, announces that its fertilizer sales in 1Q 2020 increased by 10% year-on-year to 2.8 million tonnes.

1Q 2020 highlights

Production of phosphate rock and nepheline concentrate increased by 0.9% year-on-year to 2,995.0 kt. Production rose by 2.0% quarter-on-quarter.

Total fertilizer production in 1Q 2020 amounted to 2,546.6 kt. Year-on-year growth of 8.6% was due to upgrades to production capacities and efficiency gains achieved during the previous year. Total fertilizer production was up 8.0% quarter-on-quarter.

Sales of phosphate-based fertilizers grew by 8.2% year-on-year to 2,087.2 kt. The increase reached 20.1% quarter-on-quarter on the back of a recovery in seasonal demand and positive demand expectations for agricultural products.

Sales of nitrogen-based fertilizers rose by 13.8% year-on-year and amounted to 702.8 kt. In quarter-on-quarter terms the growth was 30.9%.

Domestic fertilizer sales accounted for 33% of the total in 1Q 2020 (compared with 17% in 4Q 2019 and 24% 1Q 2019), driven by the Company's focus on its priority Russian market and the strong recovery in domestic demand.

PhosAgro production and sales volumes

Production volumes by category							
(kt)	1Q 2020	1Q 2019	Chg y/y	4Q 2019	Chg q/q		
Phosphate-based & MCP	1,929.1	1,777.6	8.5%	1,780.3	8.4%		
Nitrogen-based fertilizers	617.5	567.6	8.8%	578.6	6.7%		
TOTAL fertilizers	2,546.6	2,345.2	8.6%	2,358.9	8.0%		
Phosphate rock and nepheline concentrate	2,955.0	2,928.1	0.9%	2,897.0	2.0%		
Other products	50.1	48.3	3.8%	44.6	12.5%		

Sales volumes by category							
(kt)	1Q 2020	1Q 2019	Chg y/y	4Q 2019	Chg q/q		
Phosphate-based & MCP	2,087.2	1,929.0	8.2%	1,738.5	20.1%		
Nitrogen-based fertilizers	702.8	617.4	13.8%	537.0	30.9%		
TOTAL fertilizers	2,790.0	2,546.4	9.6%	2,275.5	22.6%		
Phosphate rock and nepheline concentrate	1,075.7	1,121.7	-4.1%	1,152.9	-6.7%		
Other products	51.6	49.2	4.8%	48.3	6.8%		

PhosAgro CEO Andrey Guryev said:

"The world is currently facing an unprecedented challenge: the novel coronavirus pandemic declared by the World Health Organization on 11 March 2020, which has created significant risks for the global economy and for business.

"During this challenging time, we, as part of the global fertilizer industry, are aware of our contribution to food security both in Russia and globally.

"Our employees are our greatest asset. To protect the frontline staff involved in maintaining the safe functioning of our uninterrupted cycle production facilities, we have put in place special operating procedures and are proactively undertaking a number of preventative measures to reduce the risk of the spread of infection. All other employees are already working remotely. To date there have been no confirmed cases of coronavirus infection at our facilities, and during the first quarter facilities that operate on an uninterrupted production cycle were able to increase output across all key products.

"Thanks to timely maintenance work carried out during the low season and technical upgrades to our production units, the efficiency of our production lines has improved, downtime has been reduced and bottlenecks have been eliminated, which has enabled an increase in the production of fertilizers.

"In addition, we began to ramp up new lines for the production of ammonium sulphate and sulphuric acid with nameplate capacities of 300 kt and 1,100 kt per year, respectively. These should further bolster the Company's position as an integrated producer of fertilizers with high environmental characteristics.

"Seeing a record increase in demand in the first quarter, we redirected supplies to our domestic market. As a result, the Russian market's share in total sales increased to 33%. A significant increase in purchases for spring field work, which started earlier this year and has been much more intense, can be attributed to the large increase in agricultural production last year, which was the result of the introduction of sound government policies in the agricultural sector and support from fertilizer producers.

"In terms of the global fertilizer market, fertilizer prices began to recover in the first quarter on the back of seasonal recovery in demand. Prices also got a boost during this period from a global reduction in supply due to weak profitability for producers, as well as measures introduced to counteract the spread of the coronavirus."

Production volumes by type

Production volumes by category						
(kt)	1Q 2020	1Q 2019	Chg y/y	4Q 2019	Chg q/q	
Phosphate rock	2,669.6	2,637.3	1.2%	2,606.9	2.4%	

Nepheline concentrate	285.3	290.8	-1.9%	290.1	-1.7%			
TOTAL	2,955.0	2,928.1	0.9%	2,897.0	2.0%			
Phosphate-based fertilizers								
DAP/MAP	837.4	812.9	3.0%	771.6	8.5%			
NPK	693.4	599.8	15.6%	672.7	3.1%			
NPS	209.0	198.3	5.4%	155.3	34.6%			
APP	58.7	49.6	18.3%	59.9	-2.0%			
MCP	100.3	96.5	4.0%	99.3	1.0%			
PKS	30.2	20.5	47.6%	21.5	40.5%			
TOTAL fertilizers	1,929.1	1,777.6	8.5%	1,780.3	8.4%			
	Nitrogen-based fertilizers							
AN	181.9	145.3	25.2%	165.8	9.7%			
Urea	435.5	422.2	3.1%	412.8	5.5%			
TOTAL fertilizers	617.5	567.6	8.8%	578.6	6.7%			
	Other prod	ucts						
STPP	25.9	26.2	-1.2%	25.6	1.2%			
Other	24.2	22.1	9.7%	19.0	27.7%			
TOTAL other products	50.1	48.3	3.8%	44.6	12.5%			
Feedstocks								
Ammonia	507.6	491.6	3.2%	460.1	10.3%			
Phosphoric acid	695.8	673.9	3.3%	663.9	4.8%			
Sulphuric acid	1,679.9	1,498.4	12.1%	1,512.2	11.1%			
Ammonium sulphate	67.2	0.0	-	0.0	-			
TOTAL feedstocks	2,950.5	2,663.9	10.8%	2,636.3	11.9%			

In 1Q 2020, production in the phosphate and nitrogen segments increased by 8.5% and 8.8% year-on-year, respectively, thanks to the completion of upgrades to key production equipment at our plants in Cherepovets and Balakovo. The majority of work focussed on refurbishment of phosphoric acid production systems, namely, increasing the depth of processing of phosphate rock (improving the P_2O_5 recovery ratio) and making it possible to use different concentrations of phosphoric acid, which helped to optimise production time while maintaining fertilizer quality. An additional growth factor was the completion of some overhauls at the end of last year, which increased the productivity of current fertilizer production lines.

Ammonia production in 1Q 2020 amounted to 507.6 kt, an increase of 10.3% from 4Q 2019 due to the completion of planned maintenance at the end of the year.

Sulphuric acid production increased by 12.1% year-on-year and by 11.1% quarter-on-quarter to 1,679.9 kt due to the completion a new sulphuric acid production line in Cherepovets and the ramp-up of

production. With a nameplate capacity of up to 1,100 kt per year, the new line should increase the Company's self-sufficiency in this feedstock.

As part of the strategy to 2025, PhosAgro launched and ramped up its production line for synthetic ammonium sulphate in Cherepovets to full capacity (up to 300 kt per year), which will enable the enterprise to reduce its purchases of ammonium sulphate – a feedstock for the production of NPK(S) grades of sulphates – by more than 50%.

Sales volumes by type

Sales volumes by category							
(kt)	1Q 2020	1Q 2019	Chg y/y	4Q 2019	Chg q/q		
Phosphate rock	791.0	825.7	-4.2%	857.9	-7.8%		
Nepheline concentrate	284.7	296.0	-3.8%	295.0	-3.5%		
TOTAL	1,075.7	1,121.7	-4.1%	1,152.9	-6.7%		
	Phosphate-bas	ed fertilize	rs				
DAP/MAP	924.9	944.3	-2.1%	694.8	33.1%		
NPK	781.6	655.9	19.2%	670.2	16.6%		
NPS	199.4	169.5	17.6%	177.6	12.3%		
APP	63.1	61.8	2.1%	64.9	-2.8%		
MCP	97.4	87.3	11.5%	122.9	-20.8%		
PKS	20.9	10.2	104.8%	8.1	157.9%		
TOTAL fertilizers	2,087.2	1,929.0	8.2%	1,738.5	20.1%		
	Nitrogen-base	ed fertilizer	s				
AN	236.0	170.6	38.4%	115.0	105.3%		
Urea	466.8	446.8	4.5%	422.0	10.6%		
TOTAL fertilizers	702.8	617.4	13.8%	537.0	30.9%		
Other products							
STPP	26.1	25.9	0.8%	25.9	0.8%		
Other	25.5	23.3	9.1%	22.4	13.7%		
TOTAL other products	51.6	49.2	4.8%	48.3	6.8%		

In 1Q 2020, PhosAgro's fertilizer sales rose 9.6% year-on-year to 2,790.0 kt. The main increase in sales took place in Russia and Europe, where the recovery in seasonal demand was bolstered by an expected boost in demand for agricultural products.

Fertilizer sales in 1Q 2020 were up 22.6% quarter-on-quarter, outpacing the increase in the rate of production during the same period by a wide margin. This significant increase in sales was possible due to the selling down of stockpiles traditionally created during the low season in response to record high demand in the domestic market.

Sales of phosphate-based fertilizers grew by 8.2% year-on-year to 2,087.2 kt. This growth was due to the strong recovery in seasonal demand in Russia and Europe, which resulted in higher sales of DAP/MAP and NPK(S) grades against a backdrop of affordable fertilizer prices relative to agricultural products.

Sales of nitrogen-based fertilizers rose by 13.8% year-on-year to 702.8 kt mainly due to increased demand for ammonium nitrate in the Russian market, which saw stronger seasonal demand compared with export markets. Sales increased by 30.9% quarter-on-quarter.

Sales volumes by key markets

Sales volumes by region							
Phosphate-based fertilizers							
(kt)	1Q 2020	1Q 2019	Chg y/y	4Q 2019	Chg q/q		
Russia	626.1	415.2	50.8%	268.1	133.5%		
North America	120.1	327.0	-63.3%	165.9	-27.6%		
Latin America	170.0	242.6	-29.9%	409.6	-58.5%		
Europe	721.1	624.0	15.6%	580.2	24.3%		
CIS	102.8	120.3	-14.6%	53.9	90.6%		
Other	347.1	200.0	73.6%	260.7	33.2%		
Total	2,087.2	1,929.0	8.2%	1,738.5	20.1%		

Nitrogen-based fertilizers

(kt)	1Q 2020	1Q 2019	Chg y/y	4Q 2019	Chg q/q
Russia	290.5	195.2	48.8%	121.1	139.9%
North America	67.1	84.9	-21.0%	89.2	-24.8%
Latin America	121.7	111.6	9.1%	163.1	-25.4%
Europe	166.6	205.2	-18.8%	122.9	35.6%
CIS	7.8	7.2	8.8%	0.0	-
Other	49.1	13.4	266.4%	40.7	20.6%
Total	702.8	617.4	13.8%	537.0	30.9%

The main destinations of phosphate-based fertilizers in 1Q 2020 were Russia and Europe, which saw a stronger recovery in seasonal demand relative to the North American and Latin American markets.

Sales of nitrogen-based fertilizers in 1Q 2020 increased due to the strong recovery of seasonal demand in Russia on the back of an expected increase in demand for agricultural products and the completion of seasonal purchases of nitrogen fertilizers in Latin America.

Market highlights

Phosphate-based fertilizers

Market prices for phosphate-based fertilizers recovered by USD 30–40/tonne in 1Q 2020 as a result of lower production by a number of companies in Morocco and the United States. The supply volume was also affected by a decrease in fertilizer production in China as a result of the coronavirus epidemic.

An additional factor pushing prices higher was the increase in seasonal demand in major sales markets. The biggest increases in demand were seen in Russia, Europe and Africa.

Urea/nitrogen fertilizers:

Market prices for nitrogen fertilizers were supported by seasonal demand in Russia, Europe and Central America, as well as the completion of the active season in Brazil. An additional supporting factor was the lack of exports from China due to restrictions introduced in 1Q 2020 in order to prevent the further spread of the coronavirus.

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About the Company

PhosAgro (<u>www.phosagro.ru</u>) is one of the world's leading vertically integrated phosphate-based fertilizer producers in terms of production volumes of phosphate-based fertilizers and high-grade phosphate rock with a P_2O_5 content of 39% and higher.

The Company is the largest phosphate-based fertilizer producer in Europe (by total combined capacity for DAP/MAP/NPK/NPS), the largest producer of high-grade phosphate rock with a P_2O_5 content of 39%, a leading producer of MAP/DAP globally, one of the leading producers of feed phosphates (MCP) in Europe, and the only producer in Russia, and Russia's only producer of nepheline concentrate.

PhosAgro's main products include phosphate rock, 39 grades of fertilizers, feed phosphates, ammonia, and sodium tripolyphosphate, which are used by customers in 100 countries spanning all of the world's inhabited continents. The Company's priority markets outside of Russia and the CIS are Latin America, Europe and Asia.

PhosAgro's shares are traded on Moscow Exchange, and global depositary receipts (GDRs) for shares trade on the London Stock Exchange (under the ticker PHOR). Since 1 June 2016, the Company's GDRs have been included in the MSCI Russia and MSCI Emerging Markets indexes.

More information about PhosAgro can be found on the website: www.phosagro.ru.