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Press Release

[ABB Logo]

For your business and technology editors

ABB shareholders re-elect board of directors

Zurich, Switzerland, May 18, 2004 - At the group's annual general meeting today, ABB shareholders approved the re-election of the board of directors for a further one-year term of office.

Shareholders overwhelmingly voted in favor of re-appointing the board, which comprises eight members from six countries. The board said before the annual general meeting that, if re-elected, it would re-appoint Jurgen Dormann as chairman, and Jacob Wallenberg as lead director.

At the meeting, Dormann confirmed ABB's business outlook for 2004 and the previously-communicated targets for 2005.

The shareholders also overwhelmingly approved the other items on the agenda, including the annual report, the consolidated financial statements and the annual financial statements for 2003.

A total of 1,087 shareholders attended the annual general meeting, representing 49 percent of the total share capital entitled to vote.

ABB (www.abb.com) is a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry customers to improve performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB Group of companies operates in around 100 countries and employs about 113,000 people.

For more information please contact:

Media Relations:  
ABB Corporate Communications, Zurich  
Thomas Schmidt, Wolfram Eberhardt  
Tel: +41 43 317 6568  
Fax: +41 43 317 7958  
media.relations@ch.abb.com

Investor Relations:  
Switzerland: Tel. +41 43 317 3804  
Sweden: Tel. +46 21325 719  
USA: Tel. +1 203 750 7743  
investor.relations@ch.abb.com

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

ABB LTD

Date: May 18, 2004

By: /s/ HANS ENHORNING

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Name: Hans Enhorning  
Title: Group Vice President,  
Assistant General Counsel

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By: /s/ FRANCOIS CHAMPAGNE

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Name: Francois Champagne  
Title: Group Vice President,  
Senior Counsel