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Rule 12g3-2(b) File No. ~~82-5190~~

Office of International Corporate Finance
Division of Corporation Finance
Securities and Exchange Commission
450 Fifth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20549
U.S.A.

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Date July 17, 2003
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Subject Unaxis Holding, Inc.
Rule 12g3-2(b) File No. 82-5190

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The enclosed information is being furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") on behalf of Unaxis Holding, Inc. (the "Company") pursuant to the exemption from the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act") afforded by Rule 12g3-2(b) thereunder.

This information is being furnished under paragraph (1) of Rule 12g3-2(b) with the understanding that such information and documents will not be deemed to be "filed" with the SEC or otherwise subject to the liabilities of Section 18 of the Act and that neither this letter nor the furnishing of such information and documents shall constitute an admission for any purpose that the Company is subject to the Act.

Sincerely,
for and on behalf of
Unaxis Holding, Inc.

Nicolas Weidmann
Corporate Communications

Handwritten initials and date: *NW 7/21*

Enclosure

- **Media Release: July 17, 2003: 1st half of 2003: Rise in sales compared to 1st half of 2002**

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Media Information

First six months of 2003: Rise in sales compared to first six months of 2002

Pfäffikon, July 17, 2003 – With sales of CHF 759 million in the first six months of 2003, Unaxis achieved a 13 percent sales increase on a comparable basis¹ relative to the first six months of 2002 (CHF 671 million). Orders received by the Unaxis Corporation were CHF 763 million for the first six months of 2003, similar to the comparison period of the previous year (first six months of 2002: CHF 757 million).

On a comparable basis¹, orders received in the second quarter rose to CHF 389 million, 4 percent up on the previous quarter (first quarter 2003: CHF 374 million). This continues the unbroken growth trend for the past four quarters. Compared to the previous quarter, Unaxis increased sales by 8 percent to CHF 394 million (first quarter 2003: CHF 366 million).

Information Technology Segment

Orders received by the Information Technology segment¹ were similar to the previous year's level at CHF 386 million (first six months of 2002: CHF 385 million). Meanwhile, sales of CHF 379 million rose 37 percent on the previous year (first six months of 2002: CHF 276 million). The increase in sales came largely as the result of strong demand for production systems at the Data Storage division. Regional factors, particularly the consequences of the SARS outbreak, delayed high-volume orders expected at Displays. As before, ongoing weakness subdued the market for front end and back end semiconductor equipment.

Orders received in the second quarter of 2003 rose 5 percent on the previous quarter, to CHF 197 million (first quarter of 2003: CHF 188 million). Sales of CHF 208 million for the second quarter of 2003 were up 22 percent on the preceding quarter (first quarter

¹ i.e. excluding Materials activities divested in 2002

Surface Technology segment

The Surface Technology segment achieved a 5 percent sales increase for the first six months of 2003, to CHF 160 million (first six months of 2002: CHF 153 million). This came despite negative influences in currency exchange rates and continuing economic weakness in many industrialized countries. Surface Technology achieved a 5 percent on-quarter rise in sales to CHF 82 million in the second quarter of 2003 (first quarter of 2003: CHF 78 million).

Components and Special Systems segment

Orders received by Components and Special Systems in the first six months of 2003 were CHF 213 million, 3 percent below the previous year's figure (first six months of 2002: CHF 219 million). Sales of CHF 217 million recorded in the first six months of 2003 declined 10 percent on the previous year (first six months of 2002: CHF 242 million).

Second quarter orders received worth CHF 107 million matched the figure for the previous quarter (first quarter of 2003: CHF 106 million). Sales of CHF 102 million for the second quarter of 2003 were 11 percent below the previous quarter (first quarter 2002: CHF 115 million).

Outlook for the second six months of 2003

Unaxis Corporation stands by its existing prognosis for 2003 and will provide detailed information concerning business development during the first six months and the outlook for 2003 in its semi-annual results to be published on August 19, 2003.

Appendix: Key figures

The information contained in this media release is believed to be correct at the time of publication. Unforeseeable risks and influences may lead to discrepancies with forecast statements portrayed here.

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Unaxis – a globally leading high-tech enterprise

Unaxis (SWX: UNAX) is a globally leading provider of production systems, components and services to select growth markets of the information technology industry, as well as for use in demanding industrial applications. The commercial activities of Unaxis are conducted via its three business segments: Information Technology (semiconductors, flat-panel displays, data storage devices and optical components), Surface Technology (coating of tools and components) and Components and Special Systems (vacuum technology and aerospace technology). Unaxis employs approximately 6 500 individuals and, in the 2002 financial year, recorded total sales of CHF 1 426 million on a comparable basis. The company, which is headquartered in Pfäffikon/SZ, Switzerland, has a globe-spanning infrastructure that encompasses centers of competency for research, development and production in Europe, Asia and the USA, as well as 90 subsidiaries in a total of 25 countries.

Unaxis Group

In CHF million	2003			2002				
	HJ1	Q2	Q1	Q4	Q3	HJ1	Q2	Q1
Total Unaxis on a comparable basis								
Orders received	763	389	374	349	322	757	476	281
Sales	759	394	366	382	373	671	379	292
Orders on hand	06/30/2003			12/31/2002				
	413			406				
Total divestments (Materials)								
Orders received	-	-	-	7	6	53	23	30
Sales	-	-	-	7	8	49	24	25
Orders on hand	06/30/2003			12/31/2002				
	-			3				
Total Unaxis Group								
Orders received	763	389	374	356	328	810	499	311
Sales	759	394	366	389	381	720	403	317
Orders on hand	06/30/2003			12/31/2002				
	413			409				

Segment Information Technology

in CHF million	2003			2002				
	HY1	Q2	Q1	Q4	Q3	HY1	Q2	Q1
Orders received								
Semiconductors Back End (ESEC)	74	33	42	33	30	94	62	32
Semiconductors Front End	74	31	43	25	47	86	51	35
Displays	10	8	2	26	8	57	55	2
Data Storage	172	98	74	49	31	103	80	23
Optics	55	27	28	23	27	45	24	21
Total	386	197	188	156	143	385	272	113

in CHF million	2003			2002				
	HY1	Q2	Q1	Q4	Q3	HY1	Q2	Q1
Sales								
Semiconductors Back End (ESEC)	77	36	41	31	49	70	44	26
Semiconductors Front End	71	42	30	54	37	80	55	25
Displays	57	16	41	37	14	17	6	11
Data Storage	126	90	35	48	60	63	43	20
Optics	48	23	25	24	21	46	24	22
Total	379	208	171	194	180	276	172	104

in CHF million	2003	2002
	06/30/2003	12/31/2002
Orders on hand		
Semiconductors Back End (ESEC)	14	17
Semiconductors Front End	54	49
Displays	17	64
Data Storage	99	53
Optics	34	28
Total	218	209

Page 6 **Segment Surface Technology**

in CHF million	2003			2002				
	HY1	Q2	Q1	Q4	Q3	HY1	Q2	Q1
Orders received	160	82	78	81	71	153	80	73
Sales	160	82	78	81	71	153	79	74

Segment Components and Special Systems

in CHF million	2003			2002				
	HY1	Q2	Q1	Q4	Q3	HY1	Q2	Q1
Orders received								
Leybold Vacuum	187	99	88	82	89	182	97	85
Contraves Space	26	9	17	30	19	37	27	10
Total	213	107	106	112	108	219	124	95

in CHF million	2003			2002				
	HY1	Q2	Q1	Q4	Q3	HY1	Q2	Q1
Sales								
Leybold Vacuum	169	86	83	92	86	180	95	85
Contraves Space	48	16	32	16	35	62	33	29
Total	217	102	115	108	121	242	128	114

in CHF million	2003		2002	
	06/30/2003		12/31/2002	
Orders on hand				
Leybold Vacuum	51		31	
Contraves Space	143		165	
Total	194		197	