



## Ashland reports preliminary financial results for second quarter of fiscal 2019

April 30, 2019

- *Substantial gains in core innovation, pricing, operational and cost reductions in the quarter*
- *Soft demand in several end markets led to weaker mix which negatively impacted earnings in the quarter*
- *Full-year outlook reduced to reflect market dynamics and recent additional strengthening of the U.S. dollar*
- *Intend to commence a new \$200 million share-repurchase program beginning in early May*
- *Divestiture of Composites and Marl butanediol (BDO) facility remains on track; awaiting regulatory approval and we expect a closing by late summer*

COVINGTON, KENTUCKY, April 30, 2019 - Ashland Global Holdings Inc. (NYSE: ASH), a premier global specialty chemicals company serving customers in a wide range of consumer and industrial markets, today announced preliminary<sup>2</sup> financial results for the second quarter of fiscal 2019:

- Sales declined 1 percent year-over-year to \$667 million, including a 3 percentage point (ppt) impact from unfavorable currency;
- Reported net income of \$76 million, or \$1.19 per diluted share, compared to net income of \$73 million, or \$1.15 per diluted share, last year. Reported income from continuing operations of \$45 million, or \$0.71 per diluted share, compared to income from continuing operations of \$42 million, or \$0.65 per diluted share, a year ago;
- Adjusted income from continuing operations was \$52 million, or \$0.83 per diluted share, compared to \$43 million, or \$0.67 per diluted share, last year. Adjusted EBITDA was \$142 million, up from \$138 million in the year-ago period.

"In the quarter, the team made great progress across multiple fronts - including commercializing new innovative products, pricing above raw-material inflation, and achieving year-over-year improvement in operational costs. Furthermore, our team continues to make excellent progress executing on the cost reduction program, as we met our expectation for capturing \$70 million in annualized run-rate savings by the end of March, keeping us fully on track to achieve the \$120 million in total run-rate savings by the end of calendar year 2019," said William A. Wulfsohn, Ashland chairman and chief executive officer.

"At the same time, we saw lower-than-expected demand in some of our higher-margin end markets, namely Coatings and Adhesives. To reduce that impact, the team increased sales in the construction, energy and nutrition markets. The result was constant-currency sales growth, albeit with a weaker margin profile. In addition, given the lower-demand environment, we reduced our inventory levels which also reduced plant absorption. These dynamics contributed to earnings in the quarter that were weaker than we originally expected."

### Update on Cost Reduction Program

In early May 2018, Ashland announced a program to accelerate EBITDA margin growth by creating a leaner, more cost competitive company with improved operating efficiency, faster decision making and a stronger customer focus. Under this program, Ashland intends to eliminate a total of \$120 million of existing allocated costs, direct expenses within Specialty Ingredients SG&A, and facility-related costs as follows:

- **Approximately \$70 million of costs allocated to the Composites business and to the Marl BDO facility are expected to be offset or eliminated through transfers and reductions.**
- **Approximately \$50 million of costs are expected to be eliminated to drive improved profitability in Specialty Ingredients and accelerate achievement of its adjusted EBITDA margin target of 25-27 percent.**
- **As of March 31, 2019, the Company met its expectation to capture \$70 million in annualized run-rate savings and remains fully on track to achieve the \$120 million total run-rate savings by the end of calendar year 2019.**

### Reportable Segment Performance

To aid in the understanding of Ashland's ongoing business performance, the results of Ashland's reportable segments are described below on an adjusted basis. In addition, EBITDA, or adjusted EBITDA, is reconciled to operating income in Table 5, free cash flow and adjusted operating income are reconciled in Table 7, and adjusted income from continuing operations and adjusted diluted earnings per share are reconciled in Table 8 of this news release. (For a more detailed review of the segment results, please refer to the Investor Relations section of [ashland.com](http://ashland.com) to review the slides filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission in conjunction with this earnings release.) These adjusted results are considered non-GAAP financial measures. For a full description of the non-GAAP financial measures used, see the "Use of Non-GAAP Measures" section that further describes these adjustments below.

## Specialty Ingredients

- Sales declined 1 percent, to \$637 million, as improved pricing was more than offset by the impact of the previously discussed Colgate-Gantrez product reformulation, which reduced sales by 1 percentage point, and unfavorable foreign currency which reduced sales by 3 percentage points in the period.
- Personal Care sales grew 5 percent, excluding the impact of currency and Colgate-Gantrez, driven by innovations and new business wins with skin- and hair-care customers.
- Pharma sales grew 2 percent, excluding the impact of currency. Growth was led by our cellulosic-exipient technologies. These results are in the context of a strong prior-year period which benefited from the increased excipient capacity in both Hopewell and Doel.
- Adhesives sales were flat, excluding the impact of currency, as gains in pricing partially offset weak demand.
- Coatings sales grew 1 percent, excluding the impact of currency, as the team's successful effort to grow share in emerging regions was partially offset by weak demand for architectural coatings in North America and Europe.
- To offset weakness in other end markets, we focused growth efforts in lower-margin end markets. Sales in Construction, Energy and Performance Specialties grew by 4 percent, excluding the impact of currency. Sales in Nutrition & Other also grew by 4 percent, excluding the impact of currency.
- Pharmachem sales grew 2 percent, excluding the impact of currency, reflecting expanded customer relationships.
- The team demonstrated excellent progress on the cost reduction program. SG&A declined by \$8 million, or nearly 100 basis points as a percentage of sales, compared to the prior year.
- Operating income totaled \$70 million for the current quarter compared to \$89 million in the prior-year quarter; adjusted operating income totaled \$90 million for the current quarter compared to \$91 million in the prior-year quarter.
- Adjusted EBITDA totaled \$148 million for the current quarter compared to \$153 million in the prior-year quarter, including a \$6 million negative impact from unfavorable foreign currency.

## Intermediates & Solvents

- Reflects the results of the Lima, Ohio facility only; Marl now reported through discontinued operations.
- Sales, gross profit and Adjusted EBITDA all increased due to higher volumes and improved pricing compared to the prior year.

## Balance Sheet and Cash Flow

- Total debt was \$2.5 billion.
- Net debt was \$2.4 billion.
- During the quarter, cash provided by operating activities from continuing operations totaled \$15 million compared to \$28 million in the prior-year period.
- Free cash flow was (\$22) million compared to (\$3) million in the prior-year quarter. These figures include \$15 million in restructuring payments in the second quarter of fiscal 2019, and \$6 million in the year-ago period.

## Outlook

Although Ashland provides forward-looking guidance for adjusted EBITDA, free cash flow and adjusted diluted earnings per share, Ashland is not reaffirming or providing forward-looking guidance for U.S. GAAP-reported financial measures or a reconciliation of forward-looking non-GAAP financial measures to the most directly comparable U.S. GAAP measure. Such reconciliations have not been included because Ashland is unable, without unreasonable efforts, to estimate and quantify the most directly comparable U.S. GAAP components, largely because predicting future operating results is subject to many factors not in Ashland's control and not readily predictable and that are not part of Ashland's routine operating activities, including various domestic and international economic, political, legislative, regulatory and legal factors.

The company updated its financial outlook for fiscal 2019 as shown in the table below.

	<u>Prior Outlook</u>	<u>Updated Outlook</u>
<u>Adjusted EBITDA</u>		
• <u>Specialty Ingredients</u>	<u>\$610 - \$635 million</u>	<u>\$585 - \$610 million</u>

• Intermediates & Solvents	\$20 - \$30 million	Reaffirmed
• Unallocated and other	(\$50 - \$60 million)	(\$45 - \$55 million)
<b>Key Operating Metrics</b>		
• Adjusted diluted earnings per share (EPS)	\$3.10 - \$3.40	\$2.90 - \$3.20
• Free cash flow	~\$175 million*	\$165 - \$175 million*
<b>Corporate Items</b>		
• Depreciation & amortization	~\$260 million	~\$250 million
• Interest expense	\$85 - \$95 million	\$90 - \$100 million
• Effective tax rate	14 - 16%	Reaffirmed
• Capital expenditures	~\$160 million	Reaffirmed
• Diluted share count	~64 million	~63 million
		<p>* Includes estimated \$40 million in restructuring payments</p> <p><u>For the third quarter of fiscal 2019, Ashland expects adjusted earnings from continuing operations in the range of \$0.80 - \$0.90 per diluted share. This outlook assumes an effective tax rate of 15 percent.</u></p> <p><u>"For the remainder of fiscal year 2019, we remain focused on delivering on our innovation, pricing, operational improvement and SG&amp;A reduction plans," Wulfsohn said.</u></p> <p><u>"That said, given the continued strengthening of the U.S. dollar and lack of visibility as to the timing of market recovery, we have revised downward our full-year outlook. We now expect the high end of the updated Specialty Ingredient's Adjusted EBITDA outlook to be consistent with the low end of our prior outlook. The center of our new outlook range assumes a market demand recovery by our fiscal-fourth quarter and implies approximately 4 percent Adjusted EBITDA growth within Specialty Ingredients, inclusive of the impact of negative currency and the realization of \$20 million of SG&amp;A savings from the ongoing cost reduction program."</u></p> <p><u>He continued: "We remain committed to, and are making substantial progress toward achieving, the targets we laid out during our Investor Day in 2017. We expect to return to normalized sales growth later this calendar year as we lap the impact of currency and the Colgate-Gantrez reformulation and return to a normal demand environment. We believe this growth, combined with continuing gains from our \$120 million cost reduction program will enable Specialty Ingredients to return to high-single-digit Adjusted EBITDA growth."</u></p> <p><u>"Given our confidence in our business strategy, we believe our stock is a strong investment. Therefore, today we are announcing our intention to commence a \$200 million share-repurchase program to begin in early May. Furthermore, we remain committed to achieving our previously-communicated leverage target of approximately 2.5 times gross debt to Adjusted EBITDA following the closing of the Composites and Marl BDO divestiture," Wulfsohn said.</u></p> <p><u>For additional information on Ashland's second-quarter financial results, please see the slide presentation accompanying this news release.</u></p> <p><u>Conference Call Webcast</u>  <u>Ashland will host a live webcast of its second-quarter conference call with securities analysts at 9 a.m. EST Wednesday, May 1, 2019. The webcast will</u></p>

be accessible through Ashland's website at <http://investor.ashland.com>. Following the live event, an archived version of the webcast and supporting materials will be available for 12 months.

#### Use of Non-GAAP Measures

Ashland believes that by removing the impact of depreciation and amortization and excluding certain non-cash charges, amounts spent on interest and taxes and certain other charges that are highly variable from year to year, EBITDA, adjusted EBITDA, EBITDA margin and adjusted EBITDA margin provide Ashland's investors with performance measures that reflect the impact to operations from trends in changes in sales, margin and operating expenses, providing a perspective not immediately apparent from net income, operating income, net income margin and operating income margin. The adjustments Ashland makes to derive the non-GAAP measures of EBITDA, adjusted EBITDA, EBITDA margin and adjusted EBITDA margin exclude items which may cause short-term fluctuations in net income and operating income and which Ashland does not consider to be the fundamental attributes or primary drivers of its business. EBITDA, adjusted EBITDA, EBITDA margin and adjusted EBITDA margin provide disclosure on the same basis as that used by Ashland's management to evaluate financial performance on a consolidated and reportable segment basis and provide consistency in our financial reporting, facilitate internal and external comparisons of Ashland's historical operating performance and its business units and provide continuity to investors for comparability purposes. EBITDA margin and adjusted EBITDA margin are defined as EBITDA and adjusted EBITDA divided by sales for the corresponding period.

Key items, which are set forth on Table 8 and page 13 of the slide presentation accompanying this release, are defined as financial effects from significant transactions that, either by their nature or amount, have caused short-term fluctuations in net income and/or operating income which Ashland does not consider to most accurately reflect Ashland's underlying business performance and trends. Further, Ashland believes that providing supplemental information that excludes the financial effects of these items in the financial results will enhance the investor's ability to compare financial performance between reporting periods.

Tax-specific key items, which are set forth on Table 8 and page 13 of the slide presentation accompanying this release, are defined as financial transactions, tax law changes or other matters that fall within the definition of key items as described above. These items relate solely to tax matters and would only be recorded within the income tax caption of the Statement of Consolidated Income. As with all key items, due to their nature, Ashland does not consider the financial effects of these tax-specific key items on net income to be the most accurate reflection of Ashland's underlying business performance and trends.

The free cash flow metric enables Ashland to provide a better indication of the ongoing cash being generated that is ultimately available for both debt and equity holders as well as other investment opportunities. Unlike cash flow provided by operating activities, free cash flow includes the impact of capital expenditures from continuing operations, providing a more complete picture of cash generation. Free cash flow has certain limitations, including that it does not reflect adjustment for certain non-discretionary cash flows such as mandatory debt repayments. The amount of mandatory versus discretionary expenditures can vary significantly between periods.

Adjusted diluted earnings per share is a performance measure used by Ashland and is defined by Ashland as earnings (loss) from continuing operations, adjusted for identified key items and divided by the number of outstanding diluted shares of common stock. Ashland believes this measure provides investors additional insights into operational performance by providing earnings and diluted earnings per share metrics that exclude the effect of the identified key items and tax specific key items.

#### About Ashland

Ashland Global Holdings Inc. (NYSE: ASH) is a premier global specialty chemicals company serving customers in a wide range of consumer and industrial markets, including adhesives, architectural coatings, automotive, construction, energy, food and beverage, nutraceuticals, personal care and pharmaceutical. At Ashland, we are approximately 6,000 passionate, tenacious solvers - from renowned scientists and research chemists to talented engineers and plant operators - who thrive on developing practical

innovative and elegant solutions to complex problems for customers in more than 100 countries. Visit [ashland.com](http://ashland.com) to learn more.

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##### Forward-Looking Statements

This news release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Ashland has identified some of these forward-looking statements with words such as "anticipates," "believes," "expects," "estimates," "is likely," "predicts," "projects," "forecasts," "objectives," "may," "will," "should," "plans" and "intends" and the negative of these words or other comparable terminology. Ashland may from time to time make forward-looking statements in its annual reports, quarterly reports and other filings with the SEC, news releases and other written and oral communications. These forward-looking statements are based on Ashland's expectations and assumptions, as of the date such statements are made, regarding Ashland's future operating performance and financial condition, as well as the economy and other future events or circumstances. These statements include, but may not be limited to, the statements under "Update on Cost Reduction Program," "Reportable Segment Performance," "Outlook," Ashland's assessment on its progress towards becoming a premier specialty chemicals company, Ashland's ability to generate sufficient cash to finance its stock repurchase plans; and its expectations regarding its ability to drive sales and earnings growth, realize further cost reductions and complete the anticipated divestiture of its Composites business and Marl BDO facility.

Ashland's expectations and assumptions include, without limitation, internal forecasts and analyses of current and future market conditions and trends, management plans and strategies, operating efficiencies and economic conditions (such as prices, supply and demand, cost of raw materials, and the ability to recover raw-material cost increases through price increases), and risks and uncertainties associated with the following: the program to eliminate certain existing corporate and Specialty Ingredients expenses (including the possibility that such cost eliminations may not occur or may take longer to implement than anticipated), the expected divestiture of its Composites segment and the Marl BDO facility, and related merchant I&S products (including, in each case, the possibility that a transaction may not occur or that, if a transaction does occur, Ashland may not realize the anticipated benefits from such transaction), the impact of acquisitions and/or divestitures Ashland has made or may make (including the possibility that Ashland may not realize the anticipated benefits from such transactions); Ashland's substantial indebtedness (including the possibility that such indebtedness and related restrictive covenants may adversely affect Ashland's future cash flows, results of operations, financial condition and its ability to repay debt); severe weather, natural disasters, cyber events and legal proceedings and claims (including product recalls, environmental and asbestos matters); and without limitation, risks and uncertainties affecting Ashland that are described in Ashland's most recent Form 10-K (including Item 1A Risk Factors) filed with the SEC, which is available on Ashland's website at <http://investor.ashland.com> or on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. Various risks and uncertainties may cause actual results to differ materially from those stated, projected or implied by any forward-looking statements. Ashland believes its expectations and assumptions are reasonable, but there can be no assurance that the expectations reflected herein will be achieved. Unless legally required, Ashland undertakes no obligation to update any forward-looking statements made in this news release whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

<sup>1</sup>Run-rate savings are cost savings that have been achieved and will be realized in future periods

<sup>2</sup>Financial results are preliminary until Ashland's Form 10-Q is filed with the SEC

(TM) Trademark, Ashland or its subsidiaries, registered in various countries.

##### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Investor Relations:

Seth A. Mrozek

+1 (302) 594-5010

815-3793samrozek@ashland.com

Media Relations:

Joy Brock

+1 (859)

amillbrock@ashland.com

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[Ashland Q2 2019 Earnings Release & Financial Tables Combined](#)

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