

However, responsibility for operational risk management for risks threatening the existence of the Group and for the control and risk management processes with regard to the corporate accounting process remains directly with the divisions, corporate functions and legal entities. The measures taken by the GRMC ensure that relevant risks and any existing process weaknesses in the corporate accounting process are identified and eliminated as early as possible.

In the Board of Management and the Audit Committee of the Supervisory Board of Daimler AG, regular reports are given regarding the current risk situation and the effectiveness, functions and appropriateness of the internal control and risk management system. Furthermore, the responsible managers regularly discuss the risks of business operations with the Board of Management.

The Audit Committee of the Supervisory Board is responsible for **monitoring the internal control and risk management system**. The Internal Auditing department monitors whether the statutory conditions and the Group's internal guidelines are adhered to in the Group's entire monitoring and risk management system. If required, measures are then initiated in cooperation with the relevant management. The external auditors audit the system for the early identification of risks that is integrated in the risk management system for its fundamental suitability to identify risks threatening the existence of the Group; in addition, they report to the Supervisory Board on any significant weaknesses that have been discovered in the internal control and risk management system.

Opportunity management system

In 2013, the system of opportunity management, which is related to risk management, was expanded at Daimler in order to be able to consider risks and opportunities together.

Opportunity management at the Daimler Group is based on the risk management system with regard to material risks and risk threatening Daimler's existence. The objective of opportunity management is to recognize at an early stage the possible opportunities arising in business activities as a result of positive developments, and to utilize them as optimally as possible for the Group by taking appropriate measures. Taking advantage of opportunities can lead to goals being achieved or in the ideal case being overachieved. At the Daimler Group, a continuous process exists for opportunity management which includes all the opportunities that are relevant and implementable in the view of the supplying entities. Within the context of the operational planning, potential opportunities are identified in addition to risks. Those opportunities are considered that are possible but which have not so far been included in the planning. Unlike with risks, opportunities are assessed in relation only to their impact; there is no consideration of their probability of occurrence. The assessment of the impact takes place according to the principles described and is based on the same categories as the risk management system.

[↗ C.50](#)

The tasks of the persons responsible for opportunity management is, in addition to identifying and assessing the opportunities, also to develop and if appropriate initiate measures designed to utilize an opportunity, enhance an opportunity, or to implement it fully or partially in cooperation with a partner. When the utilization of opportunities depends on other topics whose development cannot be directly influenced by the reporting unit, those opportunities are to be documented and monitored. When the measures to be taken to utilize an opportunity are not assessed as being economical, such an opportunity is no longer pursued. The development of opportunities and the status of measures being taken are monitored at regular intervals.

Risks and opportunities

The following text describes in detail the risks and opportunities that can have a significant influence on the profitability, cash flows and financial position of the Daimler Group. In general, the reporting of risks and opportunities takes place for the individual segments. If no segment is explicitly mentioned, the following risks and opportunities relate to all the automotive divisions: Mercedes-Benz Cars, Daimler Trucks, Mercedes-Benz Vans and Daimler Buses.

In addition, risks and opportunities that are not yet known about or assessed as not material can influence our profitability, cash flows and financial position.

Industry and business risks and opportunities

The following text deals with the industry and business risks of the Daimler Group. A quantification of these risks and opportunities is shown in table [↗ C.51](#).

Economic risks and opportunities. Economic risks and opportunities constitute the framework for the risks and opportunities listed in the following categories and flow as premises into the quantification of these risks and opportunities.

With regard to the **world economy**, Daimler along with the majority of economic research institutes anticipates significant acceleration of growth. Economic developments in 2013 are described in detail in the "Economic Conditions and Business Development" section of this Management Report; growth assumptions for 2014 are explained in the Outlook section (see page 142). As the economic conditions have a significant influence on automobile sales markets and their development is one of the Group's biggest risks and opportunities, the assessment of the economy is connected with potential risks and opportunities.

Economic risks and opportunities are linked with assumptions and forecasts on the **general development** of the individual topics. Overall, economic risks for the business environment have tended to decrease slightly compared with the prior year and the opportunities for the world economy have increased slightly.