

The Annual Financial Report Rap

by Stefanie Giebert

Characters

John, Mark, Anne (accountants)
their boss

Three people in business attire, talking to a gathering of employees (the audience)

Person 1

Yes, well, you all know how boring the presentation of the financial report is and so the boss asked us to do this in a slightly different way this year. Hope you appreciate it.

Person 2

So this is MC Cash Flow and I am... the Big EBIT... and that's DJ Balanced Scorecard...!

Person 3

Well, of course you know that we're really, actually, John and Mark and Anne from accounting-

Person 1

But anyway - this... This is the annual financial report rap.

Person 1

Yo – man.

Person 3

Who're you calling a man?

Person 1

Yo, um, woman. Come on, let's get started.

(they take off their jackets, revealing oversized T-shirts and big gold-chains, etc., put on sunglasses and base-caps, grab a microphone each, transformed into rappers)

Person 1

Listen folks
we have something to tell
Our revenues last year by 10 percent fell.

Person 2

Orders decreased by 6 percent last quarter
Clients don't have money and so they don't order.

Person 1

Apart from the guys from the Middle East
Here orders rose by 10 percent at least

Person 3

But all that could not compensate
That orders on the other markets just weren't great.

all

This is the annual financial report rap
And we're headed for a capital gap.
Get up, move, yeah, go go go
While you hear about our cash flow.

Person2

The sale of standard products drastically declined.

Person 2

Also far behind
Are all the base orders
That convert into revenues
within the same quarter.

Person 1

By our earnings before tax and interest
We were not really that impressed.

Person 3

The EBIT margin deteriorates
By about 3 points and the CEO states
That the main driver of this deterioration
Is the lower capacity utilization
Compared to the levels of a year ago.

Person2

And because the product mix has changed also.

Person1

The third reason for this EBIT implosion
Is the short cycle business price erosion.

Person 2

The award of new projects was delayed
Because all the customers are afraid
That they won't get financing for large projects.

Person 3

And everything is even much more complex
Cause of the uncertainty over raw material costs
So in the end this led to a loss.

All

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Person 1

Industrial production continued to contract and so did our sales as a matter of fact.

Person 2

All in all the revenues were affected by delays in project execution because the customers expected us to postpone the distribution of our finished goods to them 'cause they didn't have vitamin M.

Person 1

So you're saying they couldn't pay?

Person 2

Yeah – and that caused the delay.

Person 3

Losses in the Q3 were further compounded Cause high foreign currency exchange rates abounded Particularly for the Dollar and the Yen

Person 2

Well, shit happens - now and then.

Person 1

And as if that wasn't yet enough The market for raw materials went rough.

Person 3

Resulting in higher expenses here Which added to the bad result I fear.

Person 2

And what do all these trends reflect?

Person3

A difficult financing environment – correct?

Person 2

That still prevails in most markets worldwide. You know - there's a crisis and we're inside.

Person 1

Sadly, we're unable to forecast How long this fricking crisis s'gonna last.

Person 2

You know there all the programs by the state Meant to stimulate and create New growth on the markets but we don't know

When this will impact our own cash flow.

All

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They stop rapping and look at the employees.

Person 1

Do you think they got it?

Person 2

What?

Person

That the company is more or less bankrupt?

Person 3

That was what we were telling them just now.

Person 2

I don't think so. Look at them.

Person 3

Yeah, they're dancing.

Person 1

Good work, mates!

Boss (*hurries over to them*)

Thank you, thank you, that was great. They're really enjoying themselves.

Person 1

Oh, no problem, we had a lot of fun preparing that.

Person 2

So, any time you want us to do this again in this way – we're game. Aren't we?

Person 3

Sure.

Boss

Um... I'm afraid... it won't happen again. Actually, you three are the first to know among the employees. We're bankrupt. So... you're fired. Don't take it personally.

Lights fade to black as the rappers stare at their boss, not quite believing the news.