BERTELSMANN

PRESS RELEASE

Bertelsmann Reports Record Nine-Month Group Revenues, with Organic Growth at 6.4 Percent

- **Group maintains strong growth momentum**
- **New record: Revenues of €14.7 billion after nine months**
- **Growth across nearly all divisions**
- **€3.0 billion invested in Boost strategy in 2026**
- **Full-year outlook confirmed: "Strong revenue growth and significant growth in Operating EBITDA adjusted"**

Gütersloh, November 17, 2026 – The international media, services, and education company Bertelsmann maintained its growth momentum in the third quarter of 2026. Reported Group revenues increased by 8.9 percent year on year to €14.7 billion (PY: €13.5 billion), setting a new nine-month record. Organic growth amounted to 6.4 percent. Penguin Random House, BMG, Arvato Group, Bertelsmann Education Group, and Bertelsmann Investments were the main contributors to this growth. In the first nine months of 2026 alone, investments in the Boost strategy, including the acquisition of Sky Deutschland (DACH) and the combination of BMG and Concord, totaled €3.0 billion.

Bertelsmann Chairman & CEO Thomas Rabe said: "Bertelsmann continued to grow in the first nine months of 2026. With organic revenue growth of 6.4 percent, we performed well in a challenging economic environment. I am particularly pleased that nearly all divisions contributed to this growth. This underscores the strength of our broadly diversified portfolio across businesses and regions."

Rabe continued: "Since the beginning of the year, we have completed the combinations of RTL and Sky, as well as BMG and Concord, and agreed on the combination of Afya and YDUQS in the Brazilian education market. As a result, Bertelsmann's Group revenue will increase to approximately €23 billion."

Highlights from the divisions:

RTL Group's streaming revenues (RTL+ in Germany and Hungary, M6+ in France, and Bedrock) grew by 28 percent, driven by subscriber growth, higher subscription prices in Germany, and increased advertising revenues in Germany and France. The number of paying streaming subscribers increased by 18 percent to 9.0 million, meaning RTL Group has already achieved its full-year 2026 target for paying subscribers. Groupe M6 recorded a significant increase in linear television audience shares and achieved outstanding reach in streaming and on social media, driven by its coverage of the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Groupe M6 also expanded its partnership with French entertainer Cyril Hanouna. Fremantle produced new formats including "Kill Jackie" and "Wonka's The Golden Ticket," and announced a multi-territory distribution agreement with Prime Video for the "Baywatch" remake, scheduled to premiere in January 2027. In June 2026, RTL Group completed the acquisition of Sky Deutschland (DACH). The transaction brought together two of the best-known media brands in the DACH region, with around 12.6 million paying subscribers.

Penguin Random House continued its run of fiction and nonfiction successes during the first nine months of 2026. Bestsellers included “The Correspondent” by Virginia Evans, “Dungeon Crawler Carl” by Matt Dinniman, and “Project Hail Mary” by Andy Weir, which enjoyed renewed popularity thanks to its film adaptation. Other successes included Caro Claire Burke’s debut novel “Yesteryear” and a successful series of books related to the Netflix hit “KPop Demon Hunters,” led by “For the Fans!” In the third quarter, “The French Illusion” by John Grisham, “Swan Song” by Charles Spencer, and “Hollywood, Ending” by John Green performed particularly well. In October, Penguin Random House author Anne Carson was awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature. Her works are published by Penguin Random House imprints in numerous markets worldwide.

BMG and Concord completed their combination in September, creating a new global music company. BMG also announced a global strategic alliance with the AI music platform Suno. The partnership aims to create new music experiences and revenue streams for artists and songwriters, while protecting the rights of the creators involved and ensuring fair compensation for the use of their music. BMG continued to invest in its music rights portfolio and deepened its partnership with Wolfmother’s Andrew Stockdale by acquiring his important music catalog. BMG also signed prominent artists and songwriters including Michelle Branch, Shaznay Lewis, and Christopher “Tricky” Stewart.

Arvato Group’s services businesses continued to grow strongly. Arvato opened several new distribution centers and further expanded its data center logistics business, among other activities. Having secured a banking license, fintech company Riverty began expanding its payment and consumer credit offerings across Europe through Riverty Bank S.A. Arvato Systems expanded its activities in sovereign cloud services.

As expected, **Bertelsmann Marketing Services**’ businesses declined slightly amid challenging conditions in the print markets and continued constraints on marketing budgets. Bertelsmann Marketing Services decided to discontinue operations at Vogel Druck as of June 30, 2027. The Territory agency group completed the comprehensive realignment of its businesses.

Bertelsmann Education Group continued to perform well in continuing education and compliance management in the US healthcare sector at Relias, as well as in medical education in Brazil at Afya. In September 2026, Afya and YDUQS agreed to combine their businesses; the transaction is expected to close in the second half of 2027. The combined company would serve more than 900,000 students, including around 40,000 medical students. Upon completion, Bertelsmann would hold a stake of around 48 percent.

Bertelsmann Investments continued its dynamic growth in the third quarter, recording organic growth of 45 percent through September. A major contributor was AppLike, a Bertelsmann Next company, which continued to grow strongly through the global expansion of its rewarded advertising solutions and the addition of new partners. The venture capital business also continued to develop at a rapid pace. At the end of September, Bertelsmann Investments held 335 interests in companies and funds worldwide, having made 33 new and 19 follow-on investments since the beginning of the year. In the third quarter, Bertelsmann Asia Investments invested in Nirva, a manufacturer of AI-native wearables, while futurepresent invested in Casap, an AI operations layer for the financial sector. In September, Bertelsmann Healthcare Investments made a follow-on investment in Penelope Health, an AI platform for US medical billing, among others. For Bertelsmann India Investments (BII), the August IPO of portfolio company Shiprocket marked a milestone. On its first day of trading, Shiprocket was valued at more than US$1 billion; BII continues to hold a 19 percent stake.

Bertelsmann Chief Financial Officer Rolf Hellermann said: “For the full year 2026, given the positive business performance and taking into account the acquisition of Sky Deutschland as of June 1, 2026, and the combination of BMG and Concord in September, we continue to expect strong revenue growth and significant growth in Operating EBITDA adjusted.”

About Bertelsmann
Bertelsmann is a media, services, and education company with more than 75,000 employees that operates in about 50 countries around the world. It includes the entertainment group RTL Group, the trade book publisher Penguin Random House, the music company BMG, the service provider Arvato Group, Bertelsmann Marketing Services, Bertelsmann Education Group, and Bertelsmann Investments. The company generated revenues of €19 billion in the 2025 financial year. Bertelsmann stands for creativity and entrepreneurship. This combination promotes first-class media content and innovative service solutions that inspire customers around the world. www.bertelsmann.com

Bertelsmann online



Enquiries:

Bertelsmann SE & Co. KGaA
Jan Hölkemann
Spokesperson / Corporate Communications
Phone: +49 5241 80-89923
jan.hoelkemann@bertelsmann.de