

SONY CORP
Form 6-K
January 22, 2010
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20549

FORM 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER

Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of January 2010
Commission File Number: 001-06439

SONY CORPORATION
(Translation of registrant's name into English)

1-7-1 KONAN, MINATO-KU, TOKYO, 108-0075, JAPAN
(Address of principal executive offices)

The registrant files annual reports under cover of Form 20-F.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F,

Form 20-F

Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form
is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities
Exchange Act of 1934, Yes No

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule
12g3-2(b):82-_____

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to
be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

SONY CORPORATION
(Registrant)

By: /s/ Nobuyuki Oneda
(Signature)
Nobuyuki Oneda
Executive Deputy President and
Chief Financial Officer

Date: January 22, 2010

List of materials

Documents attached hereto:

- i) Press release entitled Sony Ericsson reports fourth quarter and full year 2009 results
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January 22, 2010

Sony Ericsson reports fourth quarter and full year 2009 results

Q4 Highlights:

- Improved quarterly financial results reflected success of refreshed portfolio
 - Transformation programme bearing fruit and to continue
 - Announced first Android-based phone, the XPERIA™ X10

The consolidated financial summary for Sony Ericsson Mobile Communications AB (Sony Ericsson) for the fourth quarter and full year ended December 31, 2009 is as follows:

	Q4 2009	Q3 2009	Q4 2008	FY 2009	FY 2008
Number of units shipped (million)	14.6	14.1	24.2	57.1	96.6
Sales (Euro m.)	1,750	1,619	2,914	6,788	11,244
Gross margin (%)	23 %	16 %	15 %	15 %	22 %
Operating income (Euro m.)	-181	-193	-262	-1,018	-113
Operating margin (%)	-10 %	-12 %	-9 %	-15 %	-1 %
Restructuring charges (Euro m.)	150	2	129	164	175
Operating income excl. restructuring charges (Euro m.)	-32	-191	-133	-854	61
Operating margin excl. restructuring charges (%)	-2 %	-12 %	-5 %	-13 %	1 %
Income before taxes (IBT) (Euro m.)	-190	-199	-261	-1,043	-83
IBT excl. restructuring charges (Euro m.)	-40	-198	-133	-878	92
Net income (Euro m.)	-167	-164	-187	-836	-73
Average selling price (Euro)	120	114	121	119	116

Bert Nordberg, President, Sony Ericsson comments; “The refreshed portfolio, coupled with the business transformation programme has started to positively impact our financial results. Continued cost saving activities and resource realignment are necessary in order to build a leaner, more efficient organisation capable of meeting the demands of the changing competitive landscape. We will continue to focus on returning the company to profitability by establishing Sony Ericsson as the communication entertainment brand based on an exciting portfolio of mid- and high-end products, such as our recently announced Android-based phone, the XPERIA™ X10. 2010 will still be challenging as the full benefit of cost improvements will not impact results until the second half of the year, however we are confident that our business is on the right track.”

Units shipped in the quarter were 14.6 million, a sequential increase of 3% and a year-on-year decrease of 40%. Sales for the quarter were Euro 1,750 million, a sequential increase of 8% and a year-on-year decrease of 40%.

The sequential increase was driven by market seasonality and successful sales of Satio™ and Aino™ phones. The year-on-year decrease in both units and sales was mainly due to a downturn in the global handset market and a faster than anticipated shift to touch screen phones in the mid-priced sector of the market. Average Selling Price (ASP) for the quarter rose sequentially by 5% to Euro 120 due to a more favourable product mix.

Gross margin percentage improved sequentially and year-on-year mainly driven by the successful sales of new, higher-margin phones as well as the positive impact of cost reduction activities.

Income before taxes for the quarter, excluding restructuring charges, was a loss of Euro 40 million compared to a loss of Euro 198 million in the previous quarter. The reduced loss was due to the improved gross margin and the benefits of reduced operating expenses. Excluding restructuring charges, Sony Ericsson made a loss for the full year 2009 of Euro 878 million compared with an income of Euro 92 million in 2008. The year-on-year deterioration was mainly attributable to the lower sales.

As of December 31, 2009, Sony Ericsson had a net cash position of Euro 620 million.

During 2009, Sony Ericsson secured external funding of Euro 455 million to strengthen the balance sheet and improve liquidity, out of which Euro 350 million has been guaranteed by the parent companies on a 50/50 basis. Euro 255 million was drawn by the end of 2009, but the remaining Euro 200 million, a two-year committed back-up facility, has not been utilised.

The programme started in mid-2008 to reduce annual operating expenses by Euro 880 million is continuing; with the full benefit expected during the second half of 2010. Since the start of the programme Sony Ericsson has reduced its global workforce by approximately 2,500 people to 9,100 by the end of 2009. The total restructuring charges taken to date are Euro 339 million, and charges for the full programme are estimated to be well within the previously announced Euro 500 million.

Sony Ericsson estimates that the global handset market in units for the fourth quarter 2009 was flat year-on-year and that its market share was about 5% in the fourth quarter. Sony Ericsson believes that the global handset market for the full year 2009 decreased in volume by around 8% year-on-year to around 1.1 billion units and that its market share in units for the full year 2009 was about 5%.

Sony Ericsson forecasts a slight growth in units in the global handset market in 2010.

-END -

The liquid identity is a registered trademark of Sony Ericsson Mobile Communications AB.

Aino™, Satio™ and XPERIA™ are trademarks or registered trademarks of Sony Ericsson Mobile Communications AB. Sony is a registered trademark of Sony Corporation. Ericsson is a registered trademark of Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson.

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EDITOR'S NOTES:

Financial statements:

Consolidated income statement

Consolidated income statement full year

Consolidated income statement isolated quarters

Consolidated balance sheet

Consolidated statement of cash flows
Consolidated statement of cash flows full year
Consolidated statement of cash flows isolated quarters

Additional information:

Net sales by market area, by quarter

Sony Ericsson is a 50:50 joint venture by Sony and Ericsson established in October 2001, with global corporate functions located in London and operations in all major markets. Our vision is to become the industry leader in Communication Entertainment; where new styles of communicating through the internet and social media, become entertainment. Sony Ericsson offers exciting consumer experiences through phones, accessories, content and applications. For more information please visit, www.sonyericsson.com.

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A live webcast of the conference call discussing the company's results for the fourth quarter and full year ended December 31, 2009 will be available on January 22, 2010 at the following times:

TIMING:

15:30 UK time (GMT)

16:30 Central European time (CET)

10:30 US Eastern time (EST)

00:30 Japan time (JST) January 23, 2010

WEBCAST:

A live webcast of the conference call will be available at: www.ericsson.com/ericsson/investors

Or please click here to join the webcast directly:

www.thomson-webcast.net/uk/dispatching/?event_id=55bbf43ecfabff7e6e911983a216b4b0&portal_id=ccec29148a44ec4b807

The archived webcast will be available approximately one hour after the completion of the conference call.

CALL-IN NUMBERS:

UK and Europe +44 20 7806 1956

Sweden +46 8 5352 6407

US: +1 718 354 1389

Japan: +81 3 3570 8228

REPLAY:

A replay of the conference call will be available approximately two hours after the completion of the conference call until 11:00 pm UK time on 28 January, 2010.

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Replay pass code: 8140934#

This press release contains forward-looking statements that involve inherent risks and uncertainties. We have identified certain important factors that may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in such forward-looking statements. For a detailed description of risk factors see Sony's and Ericsson's filings with the US Securities and Exchange Commission, particularly each company's latest published Annual Report on Form 20-F.

Sony Ericsson
CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

EUR million	2009	Oct-Dec 2008	Change	
Net sales	1,750	2,914	-40	%
Cost of sales	-1,341	-2,476	-46	%
Gross profit	409	438	-7	%
Gross margin %	23.4 %	15.0 %	8	%
Research and development expenses	-299	-359	-17	%
Selling and administrative expenses	-299	-366	-18	%
Operating expenses	-599	-725	-17	%
Other operating income, net	8	24	-66	%
Operating income	-181	-262	-31	%
Operating margin %	-10.4 %	-9.0 %	-1	%
Financial income	4	28	-88	%
Financial expenses	-12	-27	-55	%
Income after financial items	-190	-261	-27	%
Taxes	36	81	-56	%
Minority interest	-12	-7	75	%
Net income	-167	-187	-11	%
Number of units shipped (million)	14.6	24.2	-40	%
ASP (EUR)	120	121	-1	%

EUR Million	2009	Oct-Dec 2008
Restructuring charges		
Cost of sales	41	67
Research and development expenses	72	35
Sales and administrative expenses	37	24
Other operating income, net	0	3
Total	150	129

Sony Ericsson
CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

EUR million	2009	Jan-Dec 2008	Change	
Net sales	6,788	11,244	-40	%
Cost of sales	-5,782	-8,750	-34	%
Gross profit	1,006	2,494	-60	%
Gross margin %	14.8 %	22.2 %	-7	%
Research and development expenses	-1,108	-1,379	-20	%
Selling and administrative expenses	-964	-1,249	-23	%
Operating expenses	-2,072	-2,628	-21	%
Other operating income, net	48	21	-	
Operating income	-1,018	-113	-	
Operating margin %	-15.0 %	-1.0 %	-14	%
Financial income	21	101	-79	%
Financial expenses	-46	-71	-35	%
Income after financial items	-1,043	-83	-	
Taxes	236	31	-	
Minority interest	-29	-21	35	%
Net income	-836	-73	-	
Number of units shipped (million)	57.1	96.6	-41	%
ASP (EUR)	119	116	2	%

EUR Million	2009	Jan-Dec 2008
Restructuring charges		
Cost of sales	39	75
Research and development expenses	84	62
Sales and administrative expenses	41	29
Other operating income, net	0	9
Total	164	175

Sony Ericsson

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT - ISOLATED QUARTERS

EUR million	2009				2008			
	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1
Net sales	1,750	1,619	1,684	1,736	2,914	2,808	2,820	2,702
Cost of sales	-1,341	-1,367	-1,483	-1,591	-2,476	-2,192	-2,168	-1,914
Gross profit	409	252	200	145	438	616	653	788
Gross margin %	23.4 %	15.5 %	11.9 %	8.4 %	15.0 %	21.9 %	23.1 %	29.2 %
Research and development expenses	-299	-260	-245	-303	-359	-337	-344	-339
Selling and administrative expenses	-299	-205	-235	-225	-366	-303	-310	-270
Operating expenses	-599	-465	-480	-528	-725	-640	-653	-610
Other operating income, net	8	21	6	13	24	-8	-2	6
Operating income	-181	-193	-274	-369	-262	-33	-2	184
Operating margin %	-10.4 %	-11.9 %	-16.3 %	-21.3 %	-9.0 %	-1.2 %	-0.1 %	6.8 %
Financial income	4	3	6	9	28	25	25	24
Financial expenses	-12	-9	-15	-10	-27	-15	-14	-15
Income after financial items	-190	-199	-283	-370	-261	-23	8	193
Taxes	36	42	74	84	81	6	0	-57
Minority interest	-12	-6	-4	-6	-7	-8	-3	-3
Net income	-167	-164	-213	-293	-187	-25	6	133
Number of units shipped (million)	14.6	14.1	13.8	14.5	24.2	25.7	24.4	22.3
ASP (EUR)	120	114	122	120	121	109	116	121

EUR Million	2009				2008		
	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1	Q4	Q3	Q2
Restructuring charges	41	0	-9	7	67	0	8
Cost of sales	72	1	9	2	35	26	2
Research and development expenses	37	1	1	3	24	3	1
Sales and administrative expenses	0	0	0	0	3	6	0
Other operating income, net	150	2	1	12	129	35	11
Total							

Sony Ericsson
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

EUR million	Dec 31 2009	Sep 30 2009	Jun 30 2009	Dec 31 2008
ASSETS				
Total fixed and financial assets	779	757	736	590
Current assets				
Inventories	358	397	404	531
Accounts receivable	832	917	936	1,629
Other assets	415	416	379	585
Other short-term cash investments	489	464	456	707
Cash and bank	389	532	509	418
Total current assets	2,483	2,726	2,685	3,870
Total assets				
Total assets	3,262	3,482	3,421	4,460
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Shareholders' equity				
Shareholders' equity	381	532	694	1,217
Minority interest	47	43	66	57
Total equity				