

United Drug plc

Preliminary Announcement of Results

Year ended 30 September 2006

Highlights

	2006 €'000	2005 €'000	Increase
Revenue: including Group share of joint ventures	1,914,995	1,738,036	10%
Group revenue	1,459,016	1,325,915	10%
Trading profit*	58,074	50,990	14%
Profit before tax**	55,198	48,367	14%
Adjusted diluted earnings per share (cent)***	20.22c	17.77c	14%
Dividend per share (cent)	6.35c	5.50c	15%

* excluding intangible amortisation, property profit (2005) and including share of joint ventures profit before financing costs

** excluding intangible amortisation, property profit (2005) and share of joint ventures tax charge

*** excluding intangible amortisation and property profit (2005)

United Drug believes that the adjusted trading profit, adjusted profit before tax and adjusted diluted earnings per share are more appropriate measures of the underlying group performance.

The logo for United Drug, featuring the word "United" in a large, white, sans-serif font above the word "drug" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. A horizontal line is positioned between the two words, and the "d" in "drug" is lowercase.

Preliminary Announcement

At a meeting of the Board of Directors, the preliminary announcement of the Group for the year ended 30 September 2006 was approved. The Group Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and Statement of Recognised Income and Expense, with comparative figures for the previous year, are attached.

Statement

The 2006 financial year represents another significant milestone in the development of United Drug. In addition to adding to our 20 year track record of delivering double digit profit and earnings growth, the Company has taken significant strides forward with acquisitions and green field initiatives in the UK and Ireland that have broadened our service offering in the manufacturer facing businesses. We have also bedded down our recently enhanced infrastructure to support our growing businesses. All of this has been achieved in a business that has seen a further improvement in margins and a strong cash flow that will support future growth.

Group turnover in 2006 of €1.46 billion increased by 10% over 2005. Headline profit before intangible amortisation, property profit and tax of €55.2 million is up by 14% and fully diluted earnings per share measured on the same basis increased 14% to 20.22 cent.

The Company's continued commitment to a progressive dividend policy and our strong cash flow is reflected in a proposed final dividend for 2006 of 4.64 cent per share, an increase of 16% over the 2005 final dividend. Combined with the interim dividend of 1.71 cent per share paid during the year, the proposed dividend brings the total dividend payable to shareholders for 2006 to 6.35 cent per share, an increase of 15% on the 2005 total dividend.

Some of the major developments in the Company during the year include the following:

Pharma Wholesale

United Drug Wholesale has further enhanced its position as the leading wholesaler supporting independent retail pharmacy in the growing Irish pharmaceutical market. The business performed strongly during the year with increased turnover and profits recorded.

Discussions between the Irish Health Service Executive (HSE) and the Irish Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association (IPHA) governing the pricing and supply of medicines were concluded during the year. A new agreement, with a four year term, came into effect in September this year. This agreement will reduce the price of off-patent drugs and medicines while providing certainty on pricing over the four year term. It is estimated that the new agreement will provide savings to the Government in the order of €300 million over the period to 2010.

In Northern Ireland, Sangers has also improved its market position in a market that has returned to more normal growth levels following the price reduction introduced in the UK in January 2005 through the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme (PPRS).

Supply Chain Services

Given the recent development of this part of the business and the broadening of our service offering, this division, previously known as the Contract Distribution Outsourcing division, has been renamed the "Supply Chain Services" division to better reflect the totality of the business. In 2006, TD Packaging, acquired in 2005, successfully completed its first year within the United Drug Group and fully achieved its first earn-out target. Another important development occurred in the second half of the year with the acquisition of the UK based MASTA business. This acquisition has given us a leading position in the sale and distribution of vaccines in the UK market.

The Supply Chain Services businesses in Ireland are now fully installed in and operating efficiently from the new Magna Park II facility that provides them with significant capacity for future development.

UDG, our UK distribution joint venture, had a very positive year and its profits grew strongly.

Medical & Scientific

Another good year in the Medical & Scientific division has been added to with the acquisition of Endoscopy UK giving us a further high quality product portfolio in a new therapeutic area. The year also saw our Presearch business, acquired in 2005, fully achieve its earn-out target and add to our growing UK operation based in Basingstoke.

Contract Sales Outsourcing

Both Ashfield and In2Focus have performed very well in the UK contract sales market and the combined businesses now allow us to offer a wider range of solutions to pharmaceutical manufacturers as they try to maximise returns on their sales effort. In2Focus has fully achieved its first year earn-out target and the year has also seen a very strong performance in our Irish contract sales business.

The business in detail:

PHARMA WHOLESALE

United Drug continues to provide a top-quality, customer focused service to our independent pharmacy customers that gives them access to a full range of support services enabling them compete effectively in the market place.

In the Republic of Ireland, United Drug Wholesale has again substantially increased turnover and profitability during the year. United Drug, through our *Catalyst* support package continues to assist ambitious, entrepreneurial pharmacists to acquire their own pharmacies and to grow their business in addition to providing a cost effective, top quality and customer focused wholesale service.

In the retail pharmacy market, United Drug's dynamic owner managed independent customers continue to outperform the corporate owned pharmacies of our wholesale competitors. As a result, we have again been able to further increase our market share in a market that continues to grow strongly.

The Irish economy continues to expand and develop. This economic growth, combined with our ageing and rapidly expanding population, is underpinning the growth in the Irish pharmaceutical market. This underlying growth in market volume will be reduced somewhat by the impact of the HSE/IPHA agreement on drug prices, which is due to take effect from March 2007, however, this agreement does provide certainty on drug pricing in the Irish market for the next four years.

United Drug Wholesale has further reduced its key expenses-to-sales ratio by getting better utilisation of our facilities in Ballina, Dublin and Limerick. Our policy of continually investing in our infrastructure and sharing best practice amongst our facilities throughout the island of Ireland has enabled us to deliver a better service at lower cost to our customers. In addition, our ongoing programme of leveraging the combined purchasing power of all Group operations to achieve better value from service providers has consolidated our position as the most efficient operator in our market.

In Northern Ireland, Sangers has also increased its sales, profits and market share during the year. The Northern Ireland pharmaceutical market has returned to normal growth levels after the once-off impact in January 2005 of the 7% reduction in the price of ethical pharmaceuticals under the UK Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme (PPRS). As the most efficient and most customer focused wholesaler in the market, Sangers are best placed to react to the ever evolving requirements of our pharmacy customers in Northern Ireland and is well positioned to continue to grow its business.

Overall, the Pharma Wholesale division has had another very successful year where sales, profits and market share have all increased. As the market leader and most efficient operator in both markets, United Drug is well positioned to continue to develop its business within these growing markets.

SUPPLY CHAIN SERVICES

The Supply Chain Services (SCS) division incorporates a number of business units involved in providing outsourced contract logistics, administration, packaging and speciality sales and logistics related services primarily to pharmaceutical, biotech and veterinary manufacturers. This past year has been particularly significant for three reasons:

Firstly, the transfer of businesses in 2005 to the new Magna Park facility was successfully bedded-in during the year. Our investment in warehouse capacity and technology contributed to the efficiency of operations, enabling higher productivity and giving us an ability to cope with significant increases in volume throughput.

Secondly, our decision in 2005 to acquire TD Packaging in the UK, providing contract packaging solutions to pharmaceutical manufacturers, was affirmed, and the Company enjoyed an excellent first year as part of the United Drug Group.

Thirdly, further expansion in the UK was achieved through the acquisition of MASTA in July. MASTA is a leading service provider in the travel health field, specialising in the sale and distribution of vaccines, medical information and clinical services. MASTA sells direct to the medical profession, occupational health departments of large organisations, and through MASTA branded travel clinics throughout the UK. This is a very specialist service and presents exciting growth opportunities in both the UK and Ireland.

United Drug Distributors (UDD), the largest business unit within SCS, offers storage and logistics services to pharmaceutical manufacturers in the Republic of Ireland and continues to be the leading player in its sector. Partnering with the manufacturer, this model allows the manufacturer to concentrate on marketing, sales and business/brand development activities whilst allowing UDD to focus on distribution and management of the full order-to-cash cycle. Manufacturers demand increasingly stringent standards. We continue to respond to these challenges with intense focus on our quality and operating activities within the new Magna Park facility, ensuring achievement of benefits the investment was designed to deliver. This investment has provided a platform for further significant business developments and, as a result, we have added new distribution contracts to our portfolio including the national vaccines distribution contract. This milestone contract was awarded by the HSE in August 2006 and will commence operations in January 2007. We are currently investing in a new dedicated fleet of refrigerated vehicles and customer care team. This is a significant step in our strategic plan towards speciality pharmacy/distribution in Ireland.

A key element of the partnership model is the delivery onwards to hospitals for the manufacturers with whom we contract. Operating on very tight margins, the ability to be efficient is fundamental. Again, infrastructure and technology investment have been key to delivering this goal over the past number of years.

The strategic aim to become a significant player in the provision of outsourced contract packaging services became a reality through the bedding-in of the acquisition of TD Packaging during 2006. TD Packaging provides a full range of packaging options for tablets requiring blister packing and bottling, for powders requiring sachet filling and for bottling of liquids. Again, new facilities and technology implemented during 2005 paid dividends during 2006, enabling higher throughput and a streamlining of activities. TD Packaging's customer base is primarily nutraceutical and pharmaceutical manufacturers. Business expanded in the year both organically, from repeat business with companies such as Gerard Laboratories, and by adding new clients.

UniDrug Distribution Group (UDG) provides full logistics services to pharmaceutical manufacturers in the UK. UDG had a very successful year, having completed the first full year of managing the pre-wholesale logistics for the full Pfizer range of products and after adding new contracts to its portfolio. UDG rolled out new technology in its despatch and transport activities during the year and these investments are already paying dividends. UDG is now very well placed to handle contracts of any scale requiring any combination of storage, transport or full order-to-cash services.

MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC

The Medical & Scientific (M&S) division of United Drug has enjoyed another year of growth and development.

In Ireland, the consolidated business of Unitech, IntraVeno and Intrapharma, now housed in the enlarged Magna Park facility have benefited significantly from the concentration on its core competencies of sales and marketing, and back-office support in a single location. Synergies in terms of shared services and the ability to bring a unified medical and diagnostics approach to the market have helped these businesses deliver further sales and profit growth. Specific highlights include Intrapharma's successful launch of Biotest's new Intratect immunoglobulin, which has enjoyed significant uptake in the market, and Intraveno's launch of the Xograph digital-imaging portfolio from Canon, Ziehm and

other leading manufacturers. These developments build on our strong track record in supplying and supporting high-tech diagnostic and therapeutic equipment to the hospital sector.

In Northern Ireland, the M&S businesses of Vector Scientific, Ulster Anaesthetics and Primacare also delivered strong sales and profit growth with particular successes including a tele-medicine system installation in the Antrim Area Hospital Trust and the continued growth of the Sysmex coagulation instrument base.

In the UK, Presearch, the analytical chemistry business acquired during 2005, met all its objectives including developing a presence in Ireland and achieved its full earn-out target during the year.

During the year, M&S continued its bolt-on acquisition policy with the acquisition of Endoscopy UK in May. Endoscopy is a specialist distributor of endoscopy systems, operating in the UK hospital sector. M&S in the UK now represents a balanced medical portfolio across the orthopaedic, vascular, MIS and endoscopy sectors, and a growing Analytical Chemistry and Scientific business under the Presearch banner. The combined UK businesses have performed well in the year against a backdrop of a reduction in spending by the NHS for major projects.

The M&S division's ability to deliver specialist services through dedicated front-end companies, supported by a best-in-class operational and administrative backroom hub allows us respond positively to the growing demand for a broad-based, preferred-supplier partner, without impacting our core values of delivering a specialised and focused clinical end-user service.

During the year, we added new clinical training resources to increase our ability to train and support new surgical teams in da Vinci robotic surgical techniques. The da Vinci robot, from Intuitive Surgical Inc., contributes significantly to improved patient outcomes in a number of operating procedures. International experience has demonstrated that increased public awareness of the significant benefits accruing to patient outcomes will continue to drive primary demand.

Following this year of growth, the M&S division is well-positioned to deliver further sales and profit growth for the year ahead.

CONTRACT SALES OUTSOURCING

The 2006 financial year has been an important and very successful year for our Contract Sales Outsourcing (CSO) division. The In2Focus acquisition is now well established and maintains a successful dual brand strategy for United Drug, and alongside Ashfield, maintains a clear market leadership position within the UK market place. Our combined businesses are now well placed to further roll-out our 'Sales Force Effectiveness' consultancy tool and other services that seek to allow our manufacturer clients achieve the highest return on investment from their sales and marketing activities.

Ashfield UK continues to strengthen its reputation as a leading player in the provision of contract sales representatives and nurse advisors within the UK pharmaceutical market place. It continues to nurture relationships with both existing and new clients alike and has cultivated new client business with Trinity Chiesi, Leo Laboratories, Napp Pharmaceuticals, Coloplast, AstraZeneca and Janssen Cilag, whilst broadening the depth of some of its existing client relationships.

The Irish market place continues to remain buoyant. This combined with a well managed business has ensured Ashfield Ireland once again achieved its best ever year. Both nursing and syndicated sales offerings have shown exceptional growth in 2006, as has the overall client base with notable new business wins with Janssen Cilag, Novartis, Sanofi Aventis, Altana, Amgen and Healthcare 21.

Our fledgling US business is now positioned to deliver growth in what is a large and somewhat under-developed contract sales market place. This year, it has won a new contract sales team with Pam Labs, however, more encouraging is it's offering of two new services to the US market. The new Sales Force Effectiveness (SFE) programme has been well received by the US pharmaceutical and device companies and this year we have run ten different SFE events within six different pharmaceutical companies. Additionally they have started a new nurse advisor service and have secured two new contracts with Novartis.

In2Focus is very highly regarded in the UK market for the provision of value added contract sales services. This business has performed particularly well in its first year within the United Drug Group and has won a number of new teams with clients such as AstraZeneca, Grunenthal, IVAX, Roche, Schering Healthcare, Schering Plough and Solvay. These new contracts added to the existing client base that includes Boehringer Ingelheim, GSK Consumer, Janssen Cilag, Johnson & Johnson, Lilly and Pfizer.

Sales Force Effectiveness within the UK business continues to go from strength to strength and the global business has seen significant growth resulting in programmes with the In Call Quality (ICQ) service now being run in 21 countries in 13 languages. One notable example being an event run earlier in the year in Berlin with representatives attending from 29 countries which was run in several different languages. The biggest ever ICQ event is scheduled to take place later in the year in Japan for 1,400 representatives in 19 different cities over a seven week period. Key clients this year have been AstraZeneca, Bristol Myers Squibb, GlaxoSmithKline Pharma, Novartis, Procter & Gamble, Roche, Sankyo, Sanofi Aventis, Schering Healthcare, Schering Plough, Servier and Wyeth.

The Business Research and Consulting arm has started to work more strategically with a number of clients over the last year and have been involved in defining and developing their campaigns for 2007. Client feedback has been very positive and key points highlighted are the very thorough approach, critical insights and highly actionable recommendations. Key clients in this area this year have been Abbott, AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Johnson & Johnson, Roche, Sankyo, Sanofi Aventis and Schering Plough.

Dividends

The Directors are proposing a final dividend of 4.64 cent per share, a 16% increase on the 2005 final dividend. In addition to the interim dividend, this gives a total dividend for the year of 6.35 cent per share. This is a 15% increase on the 2005 dividend and maintains our progressive dividend policy. The Directors are pleased to advise that all shareholders will be given the opportunity of receiving all or part of their 2006 final dividend as a scrip dividend in the form of new ordinary shares. The share alternative election/mandate forms, setting out the details of the share alternative offer and the procedures to be followed, will be posted to shareholders in January 2007. Cheques in respect of the final dividend or, alternatively, share certificates will be posted on 27 February 2007 to holders of ordinary shares whose names appear on the Company's register at the close of business on 1 December 2006.

2006 Annual Report and Annual General Meeting

The 2006 Annual Report will be published in January 2007 and the Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held on 27 February 2007.

Group Development and Outlook

Over the last 12 months, the Company has considerably increased the breadth of its offering to healthcare manufacturer and retail pharmacy clients assisting to improve the efficiency of their business operations. Part of this increased offering has come from the acquisition of additional high quality healthcare service companies. I am delighted to welcome the people from Endoscopy UK and MASTA to the United Drug Group and believe that all will make a significant contribution to our future development.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of all my colleagues to achieving this years successful outcome and to thank them for their support.

The Company now has in place the physical infrastructure, the management resources and the availability of capital to allow us to continue to grow strongly. Growth will be driven by leveraging those assets and seeking to provide an even broader range of value added, higher margin, services to existing and potential new clients in all parts of the business.

Liam FitzGerald

Chief Executive

22 November 2006

This announcement and further information is available on our web-site: www.united-drug.ie

Group Income Statement

for the year ended 30 September 2006

	Notes	2006 €'000	2005 €'000
Group revenue		1,459,016	1,325,915
Cost of sales		(1,266,916)	(1,149,660)
Gross profit		192,100	176,255
Other operating income		7,963	6,685
Distribution expenses		(141,797)	(130,692)
Administration expenses		(3,704)	(3,743)
Other operating expenses		(2,410)	(432)
Operating profit before property profit		52,152	48,073
Property profit	2	-	8,897
Operating profit		52,152	56,970
Share of joint ventures profit after tax		2,365	1,740
Financing costs		(3,916)	(3,708)
Financing income		1,175	1,084
Profit before tax		51,776	56,086
Income tax expense		(8,880)	(10,455)
Profit for the financial year attributable to equity holders of the Company		42,896	45,631
Earnings per share			
Basic	3	19.31c	20.89c
Diluted	3	19.14c	20.71c

Group Statement of Recognised Income and Expense

for the year ended 30 September 2006

	2006 €'000	2005 €'000
Items of income/(expense) recognised directly within equity:		
Currency translation effects	1,692	(171)
Group cash flow hedges:		
- Effective portion of cash flow hedges	(1,429)	-
- Deferred tax asset on cash flow hedges	178	-
Group defined benefit pension schemes:		
- Actuarial loss	(666)	(2,582)
- Movement in deferred tax asset	26	204
Net expense recognised directly within equity	(199)	(2,549)
Profit for the financial year	42,896	45,631
Total recognised income and expense for the year attributable to equity holders of the Company	42,697	43,082

The statement below has been included as a memorandum to the primary financial statements.

Group Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 September 2006

	2006 €'000	2005 €'000
Total equity at the beginning of year	240,577	195,886
Total recognised income and expense for the year	42,697	43,082
Impact of adopting IAS 32/IAS 39 on 1 October 2005	132	-
Equity shares issued	7,014	7,402
Scrip issue	4,481	4,685
Dividends	(12,602)	(10,815)
Expenses in respect of share options	920	629
Transfer to share entitlement scheme	18	74
Restriction arising from treasury shares	-	(366)
Total equity at end of year	283,237	240,577

Group Balance Sheet

as at 30 September 2006

	Notes	2006 €'000	2005 €'000
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment		56,658	58,801
Goodwill		123,018	91,700
Intangible assets		15,661	10,391
Investment in joint ventures		18,955	8,904
Deferred tax assets		722	2,282
Total non-current assets		215,014	172,078
Current assets			
Inventories		154,668	135,852
Trade and other receivables		262,785	264,104
Cash and cash equivalents	4	45,912	39,804
Total current assets		463,365	439,760
Total assets		678,379	611,838
EQUITY			
Issued share capital		11,563	11,382
Share premium		94,439	87,606
Other reserves		2,263	769
Retained earnings		174,972	140,820
Total equity attributable to equity holders of the Company		283,237	240,577
LIABILITIES			
Non-current liabilities			
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	4	81,683	89,993
Derivative financial instruments	4	3,684	-
Deferred tax liabilities		3,479	4,447
Trade and other payables		5,535	8,271
Employee benefits		12,930	12,708
Provisions		1,453	2,443
Total non-current liabilities		108,764	117,862
Current liabilities			
Bank overdraft	4	2,764	1,772
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	4	1,056	1,055
Derivative financial instruments	4	4,463	-
Trade and other payables		272,924	242,202
Income tax liabilities		4,811	8,370
Provisions		360	-
Total current liabilities		286,378	253,399
Total liabilities		395,142	371,261
Total equity and liabilities		678,379	611,838

Group Cash Flow Statement

for the year ended 30 September 2006

	2006 €'000	2005 €'000
Cash flows from operating activities		
Profit before tax	51,776	56,086
Share of joint ventures profit after tax	(2,365)	(1,740)
Financing income	(1,175)	(1,084)
Financing costs	3,916	3,708
Group operating profit	52,152	56,970
Property profit	-	(8,897)
Depreciation charge	7,305	6,672
Loss/(profit) on disposal of tangible assets	134	(25)
Amortisation of intangible assets	2,410	432
Charge in respect of share entitlement scheme	18	74
Share-based payments expense	920	629
Contributions to pension schemes in excess of IAS charge	-	224
Increase in inventories	(14,434)	(10,044)
Increase in debtors	(15,073)	(27,871)
Increase in creditors	11,998	8,651
Proceeds from sale of contract work-in-progress	-	30,289
Interest paid	(3,878)	(4,573)
Income taxes paid	(13,449)	(7,363)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	28,103	45,168
Cash flows from investing activities		
Proceeds from disposal of fixed assets	19,905	3,143
Interest received	1,175	1,084
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(5,215)	(15,157)
Acquisition of subsidiaries	(33,193)	(25,312)
Investment in joint ventures	(7,429)	-
Net cash outflow from investing activities	(24,757)	(36,242)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Proceeds from issue of shares (including share premium thereon, net of scrip dividend)	7,014	7,402
Receipt/(repayment) of interest-bearing loans and borrowings	2,565	(20,445)
Repayment of finance lease liabilities	(63)	(134)
Acquisition of treasury shares	-	(366)
Dividends paid to equity holders of the Company	(8,121)	(6,105)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing activities	1,395	(19,648)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents, including bank overdrafts	4,741	(10,722)
Cash and cash equivalents, including bank overdrafts at 1 October	38,032	48,671
Translation adjustment	375	83
Cash and cash equivalents, including bank overdrafts at 30 September	43,148	38,032

Notes to the preliminary announcement

for the year ended 30 September 2006

1 Basis of preparation

The financial information presented in this report has been prepared in accordance with the Group's accounting policies under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The transition date for implementation of IFRS by the Group was 1 October 2004. The financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2005, which were prepared in accordance with Irish Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (Irish GAAP), have been restated under IFRS with effect from the transition date.

Full details of the accounting policies adopted by the Group on implementation of IFRS, and of the impact on the reported results and balance sheet of the Group of the transition to IFRS, were published on 16 March 2006 and are available on the Group's website www.united-drug.ie.

2 Property profit

	2006 €'000	2005 €'000
Disposal of fixed assets	-	8,897

The prior year property profit related to the net gain which was recognised following the rationalisation of the Group's property portfolio as a result of the move by the Republic of Ireland based operating entities to Magna Business Park. This includes a profit on disposal of fixed assets of €11,397,000 and the associated costs of the property rationalisation programme of €2,500,000.

The net tax charge in respect of the above was €1,995,000.

3 Earnings per ordinary share

	2006 €'000	2005 €'000
Profit for the financial year	42,896	45,631
Adjustment for intangible amortisation	2,410	432
Adjustment for property profit (net of tax)	-	(6,902)
Earnings adjusted for intangible amortisation and property profit	45,306	39,161
	Number of shares	Number of shares
Weighted average number of shares	222,155,656	218,449,852
Number of dilutive shares under option	1,957,140	1,906,384
Weighted average number of shares, including share options	224,112,796	220,356,236
Basic earnings per share - cent	19.31	20.89
Diluted earnings per share - cent	19.14	20.71
Adjusted basic earnings per share - cent*	20.39	17.93
Adjusted diluted earnings per share - cent*	20.22	17.77

* excluding intangible amortisation and property profit in 2005

The 7,623,066 (2005: 7,623,066) treasury shares held by the Group do not rank for dividend and have therefore been excluded from the weighted average number of shares in issue used in the calculation of earnings per share.

Notes to the preliminary announcement continued

for the year ended 30 September 2006

4 Net debt

	2006 €'000	2005 €'000
<i>Current Assets</i>		
Cash and cash equivalents	45,912	39,804
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Overdrafts	(2,764)	(1,772)
Loan notes	(3,960)	-
Bank borrowings	(1,014)	(949)
Finance lease liabilities	(42)	(106)
Derivative financial instruments	(4,463)	-
<i>Non-current liabilities</i>		
Interest bearing loans and borrowings	(81,683)	(89,548)
Finance lease liabilities	-	(445)
Derivative financial instruments	(3,684)	-
Net debt	(51,698)	(53,016)

5 Dividends

	2006 €'000	2005 €'000
Dividends paid		
Final dividend for 2005 of 4.00 cent (2004: 3.48 cent)	8,804	7,532
Interim dividend for 2006 of 1.71 cent (2005: 1.50 cent)	3,798	3,283
Total dividends	12,602	10,815

The Directors have proposed a final dividend for 2006, subject to shareholder approval at the Annual General Meeting, of 4.64 cent per share (2005: 4.00 cent) thereby giving a total dividend for the year of 6.35 cent per share (2005: 5.50 cent). The final dividend for 2006 has not been provided for in the balance sheet at 30 September 2006, in accordance with IFRS.



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