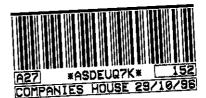
DU PONT (U.K.) LIMITED (REGISTERED NUMBER 565289)

**DIRECTORS' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS** 

**31 December 1995** 



# DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1995

The directors of DuPont (U.K.) Limited present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the Company for the year ended 31 December 1995.

### DIRECTORS AND DIRECTORS' INTERESTS

The following directors served during the year and up to the date of this report:

WO Walker PH McKie AP Strong PA Turton MC Mays J Kooger DJO Caffall CL Nathan P Mackey	(Chairman, appointed Managing Director 18 January 1995) (resigned 18 January 1996) (resigned 31 December 1995) (resigned 18 April 1996) (resigned 28 February 1995) (resigned 15 February 1996) (resigned 4 March 1996)
JR Kerr DHJ Mays MT Stewart RI Doig	(appointed 1 March 1995) (appointed 1 November 1995) (appointed 1 November 1995) (appointed 27 August 1996)

None of the directors had a beneficial interest in any contract to which the Company was a party during the year.

None of the directors had a beneficial shareholding in the Company or any other Company in the Conoco (U.K.) Limited group at any time during the year and up to the date of this report.

#### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The Company's principal business activity is the manufacture, sale and distribution of chemical products. The business encompasses fibres, printing and publishing, polymers, chemicals and specialities, electronics and medical products. A subsidiary of the Company engages in investment activities.

#### **BUSINESS REVIEW**

The directors consider that the Company has performed satisfactorily in its chosen markets during the past year, and has shown an improvement in trading results following the restructuring which has taken place over the last two years.

# DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1995 (CONTINUED)

#### **RESULTS AND DIVIDEND**

The Company made a profit for the financial year of £59,537,000 (1994 - £19,316,000).

A final dividend of £50,000,000 (1994 - £Nil) is proposed and hence retained profit of £9,537,000 (1994 - £19,316,000) will be added to reserves.

#### RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Company's research and development programmes are primarily focused on the extension of existing product lines, quality improvements and cost reduction.

#### **FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**

The directors consider that the company will continue to show an improvement in trading results in future years.

#### **FIXED ASSETS**

Additions to tangible fixed assets during the period amounted to £42,978,000 (1994 - £32,442,000) and represent the continuing investment in production plants in the UK.

#### **PERSONNEL**

It is the Company's policy to encourage full and fair consideration of disabled persons in connection with employment, training, career development and promotion opportunities.

The Company continues to provide its employees with regular information through its newspaper and magazines, bulletins, handbooks, videos and other internal communications. Additionally, managers keep employees specifically informed and consult them on those aspects of the business which affect them directly. The Company believes that such information and consultation enables employees to maximise their individual contributions towards the common aims of the business and to obtain maximum satisfaction from their participation.

# DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1995 (CONTINUED)

#### STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the profit or loss of the Company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

#### **AUDITORS**

The auditors, Price Waterhouse, have indicated their willingness to be re-appointed.

By Order of the Board

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J LEIPER Secretary

17 Oct. 1996

Registered office:

Wedgwood Way Stevenage Hertfordshire SG1 40N

Telephone: (0121) 200 3000 Telex: 884657 PRIWAT G Fax: (0121) 200 2464

# Price Waterhouse



# AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DU PONT (U.K.) LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements on pages 5 to 18 which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on pages 7 to 9.

## Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described on page 3 the Company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

#### Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material mis-statement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

#### Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs as at 31 December 1995 and of its profit for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

PRICE WATERHOUSE Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

17.10 1996

### PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1995

	<u>Notes</u>	Year ended 31 December 1995 £'000	Year ended 31 December 1994 £'000
TURNOVER	2	1,109,918	1,080,286
Cost of sales		<u>(889,399</u> )	(892,365)
GROSS PROFIT		220,519	187,921
Distribution costs Administrative expenses Other operating expenses		(37,777) (45,359) <u>(41,070</u> )	(38,175) (52,450) <u>(60,829</u> )
OPERATING PROFIT		96,313	36,467
Amounts written off investments Profit on sale of business Profit on sale of properties		148	(949) 2,969 <u>3,358</u>
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE INTEREST		96,461	41,845
Interest receivable and similar income Interest payable and similar charges	4 5	4,019 <u>(27,943</u> )	1,980 <u>(24,509</u> )
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION	3	72,537	19,316
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	6	(13,000)	
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES AFTER TAXATION	•	59,537	19,316
Dividend proposed		_(50,000)	<del></del>
RETAINED PROFIT FOR THE YEAR		9,537	19,316
Profit and loss account brought forward		80,659	61,343
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT CARRIED FORWARD		90,196	80,659

The results for the year are derived wholly from continuing operations, and all recognised gains and losses for the year are included in the profit and loss account.

The notes on pages 7 to 18 form part of these financial statements

### **BALANCE SHEET - 31 DECEMBER 1995**

	<u>Notes</u>		1995		1994
FIXED ASSETS		£,000	£,000	£'000	£'000
Tangible assets	7		302,720		313,734
Investments	9		<u>173,149</u>		173,749
CURRENT ASSETS			475,869		487,483
Stocks	10	75,645		107.460	
Debtors	. 11	188,629		107,460	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>39,708</u>		166,224	
				<u>52,606</u>	
CREDITORS (amounts falling		303,982		326,290	
due within one year)	12	(114,335)		<u>(61,965</u> )	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>189,647</u>		<u>264,325</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS					<del></del>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			665,516		754 000
			000,010		751,808
CREDITORS (amounts falling					
due after more than one year)	13		(288,321)		(350,687)
PROVISIONS FOR					
LIABILITIES AND CHARGES	14		. (14,732)		(46,481)
ACCRUALS AND DEFERRED INCOME	15		_(15,826)		(17,540)
					_(17,040)
			346,637		337,100
CAPITAL AND RESERVES	•		<del></del>		<del></del>
Called up share capital	16		167,364		167,364
Share premium account			5,410		5,410
Other capital reserves			83,667		83,667
Profit and loss account			90,196		_ <u>80,6</u> 59
****					_00,009
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	17		346,637		337,100

The notes on pages 7 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Board on 17 Oct 1996

VR Kerr DIRECTOR

6

#### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - 31 DECEMBER 1995

#### 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### (1) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified to include the current costing of a deferred liability and are in accordance with applicable accounting standards

At 31 December 1995 DuPont (U.K.) Limited was a wholly owned subsidiary of Conoco (U.K.) Limited, a company incorporated in England, and therefore under Section 229(2) of the Companies Act 1985, is exempt from producing group accounts. Under paragraph 8(c) of Financial Reporting Standard Number 1, the company is also exempt from producing a cash flow statement.

#### (2) Turnover

Turnover represents the amounts receivable for goods sold and services provided after deducting VAT.

#### (3) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation except for freehold land and assets in the course of construction.

Depreciation is provided on a straight line or sum of the digits basis to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets over their estimated useful lives which are:

Freehold land

Freehold and leasehold buildings

Long life fixtures, fittings and equipment

Plant and machinery

Short life equipment and computer hardware

Nil

8 to 50 years

6 to 10 years

10 years

3 to 6 years

Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the life of the lease if shorter than 10 years, or at the fixtures and fittings rates given above.

#### (4) Government grants

Government capital grants received on fixed asset additions are treated as deferred income and included in the balance sheet as Accruals and Deferred Income. The grants are credited to the profit and loss account over the estimated useful life of the assets to which they relate.

Interest relief grants are credited to the profit and loss account as and when they become receivable.

#### (5) Assets in the course of construction

Direct costs, including own labour, incurred on construction of plant and machinery for use by the company are capitalised. These costs are included in tangible assets as "assets in the course of construction" until the asset is operational. No depreciation is provided until an asset is operational.

#### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - 31 DECEMBER 1995 (CONTINUED)

#### 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

#### (6) Patents and technical information

Patents and technical information are stated at cost less amortisation provided at the rates of 10% or 20% per annum.

#### (7) Stocks and work in progress

Stocks and work in progress are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost comprises purchase price or direct production cost together with Customs and Excise duties, freight and manufacturing overheads as appropriate.

#### (8) Research and development expenditure

Research and development expenditure is charged to the profit and loss account in the period in which it is incurred.

#### (9) Foreign currency balances

Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies, primarily intercompany accounts, are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange prevailing at the balance sheet date.

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies occurring during the course of the year are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange prevailing at the dates of those transactions. All exchange differences are included in the profit and loss account.

#### (10) Deferred taxation

A deferred taxation provision, calculated using the liability method, is made only where the effects of timing differences between profits as stated in the accounts and those as computed for taxation purposes are likely to reverse in the foreseeable future.

In computing the company's taxation liability, full benefit is taken for non-taxable government grants received in respect of eligible expenditure.

#### (11) Operating leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the profit and loss account as they are incurred over the lease term.

#### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - 31 DECEMBER 1995 (CONTINUED)

#### 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

#### (12) Finance leases

Assets held under finance leases, whereby substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are transferred, are included in tangible fixed assets at their purchase cost and depreciated over the useful life of the assets. The capital element of the leasing commitment is shown as amounts payable under finance leases and the interest element of the finance charge is charged against profits over the primary lease period.

#### (13) Pensions

The expected cost of pensions in respect of the company's defined benefit pension scheme is charged to the profit and loss account over the estimated working lifetimes of employees in the scheme. Actuarial surpluses and deficits are spread over the remaining expected working lifetimes of employees.

#### (14) Goodwill

Goodwill on acquisition is capitalised and amortised over its estimated economic life.

#### (15) <u>Deferred Liability</u>

Deferred consideration relating to acquisitions is stated at its net present value at the balance sheet date, based on appropriate discount rates.

#### 2 TURNOVER

The analysis of turnover by class of business is as follows:

	1995	<u>1994</u>
•	£'000	£,000
Fibres	593,944	577,283
Printing and publishing	203,716	195,389
Polymers	168,735	172,140
Chemicals and specialities	63,110	59,881
Electronics	42,450	39,225
Medical products	25,893	25,772
Other	12,070	10,596
	1,109,918	1,080,286

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - 31 DECEMBER 1995 (CONTINUED)

#### 2 TURNOVER (CONTINUED)

The analysis of turnover by geographical destination is as follows:

	<u>1995</u> £'000	1994 £'000
UK Exports to Europe Exports outside Europe	521,869 516,479 	522,402 482,028 75,856
	1,109,918	1,080,286

The directors are of the opinion that disclosure of the result attributable to each class of business or geographical market would be seriously prejudicial to the Company.

#### 3 (1) PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION

Profit on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging/(crediting):

		<u> 1995</u>	<u> </u>
		£,000	£,000
	Directors' emoluments including pension contributions (Note 18)	933	523
	Depreciation - Owned assets	51,378	71,026
	<ul> <li>Assets held under finance leases</li> </ul>	4	14
	Capital grants credited	(3,019)	(4,773)
	Operating lease rental - hire of plant and machinery	2,966	2,693
	- other	445	463
	Auditors' remuneration, including expenses - audit	215	231
	- other services	•	
	Research and development expenditure	11,319	16,120
	Profit on disposal of fixed assets	(135)	(4,598)
	Exchange gains	(5,152)	(2,865)
	Exceptional re-organisation costs release	(8,360)	(21,580)
		<del>2022</del>	<del></del>
(2)	STAFF COSTS		
		1995	1994
		£,000	£,000
	Wages and salaries	110 744	
	Social security costs	112,744	142,231
	Other pension costs	8,900	9,878
	Other periatori coata	_21,209	<u>26,170</u>
		142,853	178,279

The average number of persons employed during the period was 4,566 (1994 - 4,969).

# NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - 31 DECEMBER 1995 (CONTINUED)

### 4 INTEREST RECEIVABLE AND SIMILAR INCOME

	•		
		<u>1995</u> £'000	<u>1994</u> £'000
	Bank deposits Group undertakings	3,834	1,690
	C. 55p Shortaningo	<u> 185</u>	_290
		4,019	1,980
		<del>* :::===</del>	<del></del>
5	INTEREST PAYABLE AND SIMILAR CHARGES		
		1995	1994
		£,000	£,000
	Bank borrowings repayable within five years	816	511
	Accrued interest on deferred liability	2,230	2,095
	Payable to group undertakings Other	24,845	21,891
	Other	52	<u>12</u>
	-	27,943	24,509
		<del></del>	
6	TAX ON PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		
	The taxation charge based on the profit on ordinary activities comprises:		
		<u>1995</u> £'000	1994 £'000
•	Corporation tax at 33% (1994 - 33%)		
	- current year	16,078	_
	- prior periods	(3,078)	-
	Deferred tax (Note 14)		
		13,000	-

No deferred tax provision has been made for accelerated capital allowances and other timing differences since, in the opinion of the directors, these will not reverse in the foreseeable future (Note 14).

# NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - 31 DECEMBER 1995 (CONTINUED)

#### 7 TANGIBLE ASSETS

<u>Cost</u>	Land and buildings	Motor vehicles fixtures, fittings and equipment £'000	Plant and machinery £'000	Assets in the course of construction £'000	<u>Total</u> £'000
At 31 December 1994 Additions Construction	92,087 36	31,563 2,521	497,973 304	40,285 40,117	661,908 42,978
allocations and transfers Disposals	538 <u>(1,735</u> )	2,526 <u>(7,094</u> )	23,850 <u>(6,680</u> )	(27,060) (44)	(146) <u>(15,553</u> )
At 31 December 1995	90,926	29,516	515,447	53,298	689,187
Depreciation	<del></del>			<del></del>	<del></del>
At 31 December 1994 Charge for period Disposals	29,643 2,691 <u>(1,226</u> )	22,353 2,415 <u>(4,945</u> )	296,178 46,278 <u>(6,920</u> )	<u>-</u>	348,174 51,384 <u>(13,091</u> )
At 31 December 1995	31,108	19,823	335,536	-	386,467
Net book amount	<del></del>				<del></del>
At 31 December 1995	59,818	9,693	179,911	53,298	302,720
At 31 December 1994	62,444	9,210	201,795	40,285	313,734
The net book amount of land and	buildings con	nprises:			<del></del>
				<u>1995</u> £'000	<u>1994</u> £'000
Freehold land and buildings Long leasehold land and buildings				59,742 76	61,480 <u>964</u>
				59,818	62,444

The net book value of tangible fixed assets includes an amount of £94,000 (1994 - £9,000) in respect of assets held under finance leases. The amount of depreciation charged during the period in relation to such assets was £4,000 (1994 - £14,000).

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - 31 DECEMBER 1995 (CONTINUED)

#### 8 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The company's authorised capital expenditure commitment at 31 December 1995 amounted to £12,406,000 (1994 - £18,203,000) of which contracted commitments amounted to £830,000 (1994 - £9,732,000).

#### 9 INVESTMENTS

	<u></u>		Subsidiary dertakings	
Cost	Shares £'000	Loans £'000	Other £'000	Total £'000
At 31 December 1994 Repayments	8,581 	8,271 (600)	166,177	183,029 (600)
At 31 December 1995	8,581	7,671	166,177	182,429
<u>Provisions</u>		<del></del>		
At 31 December 1994 and 1995	3,609	5,671	-	9,280
Net book amount		<del></del>		
At 31 December 1995	4,972	2,000	166,177	173,149
At 31 December 1994	4,972	2,600	166,177	173,749
	·			

The following companies were the principal operating subsidiaries of DuPont (U.K.) Limited at 31 December 1995 and were all registered and operating in England.

	Nature of business	% of share capital
DUK Shipping Limited Camtex Fabrics Limited DuPont (U.K.) Investments IDAC UK Limited	Ship owner and operator Shoe lining manufacturer Investment company Manufacture of automotive paints and finishes	100% 100% 100% 100%

During the year Camtex Fabrics Limited repaid £600,000 of the loan of £2,600,000 made in 1994.

# NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - 31 DECEMBER 1995 (CONTINUED)

10	STOCKS .	1995	1994
	Davis and state of the state of	£,000	£'000
	Raw materials and consumables Work in progress	20,137	32,044
	Finished goods and goods for resale	4,805 <u>50,703</u>	3,575 71,841
		75,645	107,460
	In the opinion of the directors, the replacement cost of stocks is not materially sheet value.	different to	the balance
11	DEBTORS		
		4005	4004
		<u>1995</u> £'000	<u>1994</u> £'000
	Trade debtors	103,519	109,844
	Amounts owed by group undertakings	74,731	38,017
	Other debtors	8,500	10,714
	Corporation tax Prepayments and accrued income	-	4,982
	Trepayments and accided income	<u>1,879</u>	<u>2,667</u>
		188,629	166,224
		<del></del>	
12	CREDITORS (amounts falling due within one year)		
		<u>1995</u>	<u> 1994</u>
		£'000	£,000
•	Bank loans and overdrafts	1,878	
	Trade creditors	44,183	50,383
	Amounts owed to group undertakings	44,416	3,793
	Corporation tax Other creditors	14,634	-
	Taxation and social security	1,986	1,895
	Accruals and deferred income	2,181 5,057	2,870 <u>3,024</u>
			<u> 0,024</u>
		114,335	61,965

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - 31 DECEMBER 1995 (CONTINUED)

#### 13 CREDITORS (amounts falling due after more than one year)

	<u>1995</u> £'000	<u>1994</u> £'000
Loans from group undertakings Amounts payable under finance leases	251,000	314,000
repayable between one and five years	79	8
Deferred liability	27,242	26,012
Other creditors	10,000	10,667
	288,321	350,687

The deferred liability represents the net present value of payments due to ICI over the period to its Fibres division, acquired in July 1993.

#### 14 PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES

	Deferred tax	Pensions and similar obligations £'000	Restructuring provisions	Total £'000
At 31 December 1994 Expended/utilised during the year Released during the year	- - 	8,234 (1,861) ( <u>2,982</u> )	38,247 (18,546) <u>(8,360</u> )	46,481 (20,407) ( <u>11,342</u> )
At 31 December 1995	-	3,391	11,341	14,732

Pensions and similar obligations includes an amount of £1,033,000 (1994 - £4,097,000) in respect of a deficit on the company pension schemes which is being spread over a period of 13 years as described in note 19.

At 31 December 1995 the full potential liability for deferred taxation at 33% (1994 - 33%) comprised:

	<u>1995</u> £'000	<u>1994</u> £'000
Capital allowances claimed for tax purposes in excess of depreciation charged in the accounts	42,648	44,735
Short-term timing differences	(2,905)	(13,679)
	39,743	31,056

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - 31 DECEMBER 1995 (CONTINUED)

#### 15 ACCRUALS AND DEFERRED INCOME

			£'000
	At 31 December 1994 New capital grants Released to profit and loss account		17,540 1,305 <u>(3,019</u> )
	At 31 December 1995		15,826
16	CALLED UP SHARE CAPITAL		
	At 31 December 1994 and 1995:		£'000
	Authorised:		
	200,000,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each		200,000
	Allotted, called up and fully paid:		
	167,363,540 Ordinary shares of £1 each		167,364
17	MOVEMENT IN SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS		
	·	<u>1995</u> £'000	<u>1994</u> £'000
	Retained profit for the financial year  New share capital subscribed	9,537 	19,316 <u>155,000</u>
	Net addition to shareholders' funds	9,537	174,316
	Opening shareholders' funds	<u>337,100</u>	<u>162,784</u>
	Closing shareholders' funds	346,637	337,100
			<del> </del>
	Shareholders' funds are all attributable to equity interests.		

#### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - 31 DECEMBER 1995 (CONTINUED)

#### 18 PARTICULARS OF DIRECTORS

The emoluments, excluding pension contributions, of the chairman (being also the highest paid director) were:

	<u>1995</u> £'000	<u>1994</u> £'000
Chairman	162	112

The emoluments of all directors, excluding pension contributions, were within the following ranges:

			. <u>1995</u> <u>Number</u>	1994 Number
£0	-	£ 5,000	4	3
£ 5,001 £ 50,001	-	£ 10,000 £ 55,000	1	-
£ 70,001 £ 80,001	-	£ 75,000 £ 85,000	·	1
£ 85,001 £ 90,001	-	£ 90,000 £ 95,000	1	1
£ 95,001	-	£100,000	1	-
£105,001 £110,001	-	£110,000 £115,000	1	1
£115,001 £160,001	-	£120,000 £165,000	1	-

#### 19 PENSION COSTS

The company operates two pension schemes providing benefits based on final pensionable pay. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the company, being invested in trustee administered funds. Contributions to the schemes are charged to the profit and loss account so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the company. The contributions are determined by a qualified actuary on the basis of triennial valuations using the projected unit method.

#### Scheme A

The most recent valuation was as at 31 December 1991. The next evaluation of the scheme's assets, has been performed at 31 December 1994, however its results are only in draft format and have not yet been recognised.

The assumptions which have the most significant effect on the results of the valuation are those relating to the rate of return on investments and the rates of increase in salaries. It was assumed that the investment returns would be 9% per annum and that salary increases would average between 6.5% and 8.5% per annum.

#### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - 31 DECEMBER 1995 (CONTINUED)

#### 19 PENSION COSTS (CONTINUED)

The pension charge for the period was £19,296,000 (1994 - £23,328,000). This includes a credit of £1,759,000 (1994 - charge of £1,106,000) in respect of the amortisation of experience surpluses that are being recognised over 13 years, the average remaining service life of employees. At 31 December 1995 there was an accrual in respect of pensions of £651,000 (1994 - £3,328,000) (see note 14).

The most recent valuation showed that the market value of the scheme's assets was £114,648,000 and that the actuarial value of those assets represented 109% of the benefits that had accrued to members, after allowing for expected future increases in earnings. However, the valuation excludes the effect of the transfer of ex iCl assets into a newly formed special section within the fund. This will be evaluated in the next actuarial valuation which will be as at 31 December 1994 which is not yet finalised.

#### Scheme B

The most recent actuarial valuation was as at 6 April 1993. This showed that the market value of the scheme's assets was £25,336,000 and that the actuarial value of those assets represented 76% of the benefits that had accrued to members, after allowing for expected future increases in earnings. It was assumed that investment returns would be 9% per annum and that salary increases would average between 6.5% and 8.5% per annum.

The pension charge for the period was £1,913,000 (1994 - £2,842,000). This includes £445,000 (1994 - £604,000) in respect of the amortisation of the past service deficit in the scheme, which is being recognised over 13 years, the average remaining service life of employees. At 31 December 1995 there was an accrual in respect of pensions of £382,000 (1994 - £769,000) (see Note 14).

#### 20 GUARANTEES AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

At 31 December 1995 the Company had given specific counter indemnities of £7,395,736 (1994 - £6,408,000) in respect of bonds given on its behalf to HM Customs & Excise and others.

#### 21 ULTIMATE HOLDING COMPANY

The Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Conoco (U.K.) Limited, registered in England. The ultimate holding company is El du Pont de Nemours and Company, incorporated in the state of Delaware, USA. Group accounts for the smallest and largest groups for which group accounts are prepared may be obtained from the following address:

DuPont (U.K.) Limited Wedgwood Way Stevenage Hertfordshire SG1 4QN