DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER 1996

Company No. 01672034

HARDING AND HUMPHRIES

CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS

5 Victoria Buildings Victoria Road Freshfield

LIVERPOOL L37 7DB



DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1996

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 1996.

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is
 inappropriate to presume 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.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND REVIEW OF BUSINESS

The company's principal activity is that of distributors of engineering components.

The results for the year are set out on page 3.

The directors consider the profit achieved on ordinary activities before taxation to be particularly satisfactory given the difficult trading conditions.

DIVIDENDS

Interim dividends of £45,732 (net) were paid during the year.

The directors do not recommend a final dividend and the retained profits of £367,520 will be added to reserves.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The company will continue to develop its principal activity.

FIXED ASSETS

Details of movements in fixed assets are set out in note 4 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the directors the value of the company's freehold land and buildings is not materially different from the book value in these financial statements.

DIRECTORS

The directors at 31st December 1996 and their beneficial interests in the company's issued ordinary share capital were as follows:
NUMBER OF SHARES

	1990	1333
B. Readman	17	17
Mrs E. Readman	34	34
I. Readman	18	18
A. Keeley	5	5

AUDITORS

The Auditors, Messrs Harding and Humphries, will be proposed for re-appointment in accordance with Section 385 of the Companies Act 1985.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Mrs E. Readman

2. Readman

Date 22.09.1997

SECRETARY

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AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF IPL FLUID POWER LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements on pages 3 to 10 which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 5.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS

As described on page 1 the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of 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 misstatement, 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 31st December 1996 and of its profit for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

FORMBY

Date....23 207.....

HARDING AND HUMPHRIES

CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANT
REGISTERED AUDITOR

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PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1996

		1	1996		995
	<u>notes</u>	£	£	£	£
Turnover	2.		4,761,537		3,637,771
Cost of Sales			2,887,059		2,261,950
GROSS PROFIT			1,874,478		1,375,821
Administration expenses		1,205,648		857,535	
Interest payable and similar charges		75,206		61,883	
			1,280,854		919,418
Grant received			593,624 1,300		456,403
NET PROFIT/(LOSS) ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION	3.		594,924		456,403
Tax on profit/(loss) on ordinary activities	7.		181,672		131,574
NET PROFIT/(LOSS) FOR THE YEAR AFTER TAXATION			413,252		324,829
Dividend - net			45,732		40,500
Retained profit/(loss) for the y	'ear		367,520		284,329
Retained profit/(loss) brought i	forward		553,952		269,623
RETAINED PROFIT/(LOSS) CARRIED I	ORWARD		£921,472		£553,952

There were no recognised gains and losses for 1996 or 1995 other than those included in the Profit & Loss Account.

The notes on pages 5 to 8 form part of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1996

		1.	996	96 199	
	NOTES	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets			481,378		422,655
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks - Finished Goods - Raw Materials		657,298		556,975	
Directors current accounts Debtors due within one year		560			
- Trade - Prepayments		1,097,565 21,478		861,563 8,270	
Bank - Current Account - Deposit Account		114,124	_	22,974 111,624	_
		1,891,025		1,561,406	
CREDITORS - amounts falling due within one year	5.	1,069,570		710,573	
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)			821,455	_	850,833
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABIL	<u>ITIES</u>		1,302,833		1,273,488
CREDITORS - amounts falling due after more than one year	5.		371,287	_	709,462
<u>NET ASSETS</u>			£931,546		£564,026
Represented by:				-	
CAPITAL AND RESERVES					
Issued Share Capital	6.		100		100
Profit and Loss Account Share Premium Account			921,472 9,974 ———		553,952 9,974
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS			£931,546	i —	£564,026

DIRECTOR Meles

DIRECTOR B. Reachan

Approved by the Board on 22-9-97

The notes on pages 5 to 8 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1996

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The significant accounting policies of the company are consistent with the previous year and are as follows:-

a) Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and include the results of the company's operations which are described in the Directors' Report and all of which are continuing.

b) Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible Fixed Assets are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation. The company's policy is to provide depreciation at rates which are calculated to write off the cost of the assets over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Equipment 20% on written down value Motor vehicles 25% on written down value Freehold land & building 1% on cost

c) Deferred Taxation

In the past accelerated capital allowances have been received which have effectively deferred the payment of corporation tax. A provision has now been created, where material, against such future liability, providing taxation at 33% on the excess of capital allowances received, and depreciation charged in the accounts after deducting any available corporation tax losses.

d) Leasing and Hire Purchase

Assets obtained under hire purchase contracts and finance leases are capital-ised as tangible fixed assets and depreciated over their useful lives. Finance leases are those where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership are assumed by the company. Obligations under such agreements are included in creditors net of the finance charge allocated to future periods. The finance element of the rental payment is charged to the profit and loss account so as to produce a constant periodic rate of charge on the net obligation outstanding in each period.

e) Operating Leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to profit and loss account as incurred.

f) Stocks and Work in Progress

Stocks and work in progress have been valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

g) Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the company to the fund in respect of the year.

2. TURNOVER

The company's turnover comprises the invoiced value of goods and services supplied by the company, net of value added tax and trade discounts. The whole of the turnover and profit before tax is attributable to the one principal activity of the company.

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1996

3. NET PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

	The net profit is state	d after charging	j:-		1996	1995
					£	£
	Depreciation of tangibl - owned by the compar - held under finance	ıy			29,482 32,408	33,188 22,864
	(Profit)/Loss on dispos	sal of tangible :	fixed assets	;	15,469	4,465
	Auditors' remuneration				2,500	2,300
	Operating lease rental:	S			4,012	3,092
	Directors' remuneration	n for services a	s directors		234,411	213,117 288,770
	Wages and salaries				366,775 57,676	50,067
	Social security expense	es			60,146	10,514
	Staff pension costs Interest payable on ba	nk loans, overdr	afts and otl	ner loans:	32,961	35,143
	- repayable within fi	ve years			33,715	15,933
	- repayable in more t	han five years			8,530	10,807
	- finance leases and	hire purchase co	ntracts		u, 340	10,00.
4.	FIXED ASSETS (i) Tangible Assets	Freehold Land	Motor		Motor	
	(1) Tanginie Assets	and Building	Cars	Equipment	Van	<u>Total</u>
	COST	£	£	£	£	£
				756 000	9,823	563,130
	As at 31st Dec.1995	212,087	185,018	156,202 50,500	9,023	172,807
	Additions	7,504	114,803 (120,270)			(121,470)
	Disposals		(120,270)	(1,200)		
	As at 31st Dec. 1996	219,591	179,551	205,502	9,823	614,467
						
	DEPRECIATION	4 241	69,555	64,837	1,842	140,475
	As at 31st Dec. 1995	4,241	(68,419)	-	•	(69,276
	Disposals Charge for the year	2,138	36,644	21,116	1,992	61,890
	Charge for the Year					
	As at 31st Dec. 1996	6,379	37,780	85,096	3,834	133,089
						
	NET BOOK VALUE					- 400 455
	As at 31st Dec. 1995	£207,846	£115,463	£91,365	£7,981	£422,655

	As at 31st Dec. 1996	£213,212	£141,771	£120,406	£5,989	£481,378
	DISPOSAL OF ASSETS					
	Cost		120,270	1,200		121,470
	Depreciation		68,419	857		69,276
	-					
	West track and the		51,851	343		52,194
	Net book value Proceeds		36,450	275		36,725
	Liocaena					
			67 F 407	eco		£15,469
	(Profit)/Loss		£15,401	£68 ====		222222

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1996

(ii) There were no capital commitments at 31st December 1996 (1995 £ nil)

(iii) Included above are assets held under finance leases or hire purchase contracts as follows:-

> Motor vehicles £ 174,524 (cost) £ nil Equipment

5. CREDITORS	<u> </u>	
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CREDITORS	<u>WITHIN</u> 1996 £	ONE YEAR 1995 £	2 to 5 1996 £	YKARS 1995 £	OVER 5 YEARS 1996 1995 £ £
Loans - UK bank	24,000	24,000	82,250	95,034	224,649 555,682
German bankPension fund		75,000	25,000	25,000	224,049 303,002
Bank overdraft (secured) Hire purchase & finance leases	144,365 43,857	32,444 188	31,328	29,775	
Directors current accounts Trade creditors	491,738	309,385			
Other creditors, including taxation & social security	168,837 1,784	142,292			
Accruals Current taxation	166,150	121,533			
Advance corporation tax payabl Deferred taxation	c 3,032	2,441	8,060	3,971	
£1 =	,069,570	710,573	146,638	153,780	224,649 555,682

6. SHARE CAPITAL

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	Ordinary shares of £1 each	1,000	100
7.	TAXATION	1996	1995
	Deferred taxation (written back0 Corporation tax on ordinary activities	4,089 177,583	(85) 131,659
		£181,672	£131,574

8. CURRENT TAXATION

There is a liability to U.K. Corporation Tax on the results for the year. The rate of corporation tax used is 33% but allowing for marginal relief.

IPL FLUID POWER LIMITED

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1996

9. DIRECTORS EMOLUMENTS

The highest paid director received remuneration of £ 79,001 (1995 £70,946)

The number of other directors whose emoluments fell in bands of £5,000 were:

Number

Up to £5,000	1
£70,001 - £75,000	1
£75,001 - £80,000	1

The average number of other employees employed by the company during the year was 30. (1995 24)

10. BANK OVERDRAFT, LOANS AND FINANCE CONTRACTS

The bank overdraft is secured by a charge over properties and other company assets. The finance leases are secured on the assets concerned.

11. LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31st December 1996 the company had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as set out below:-

	<u>Land & Bu</u> 1996	<u>ildings</u> 1995	<u>Othe:</u> 1996	<u>rs</u> 1995
Operating leases which expire -				
WITHIN ONE YEAR IN SECOND TO FIFTH YEARS INCLUSIVE OVER FIVE YEARS			£600 £3,411	£3,271 £740

12. FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSLATION

Unsettled monetary items at 31st December 1996 have been shown using the rate of exchange at the Balance Sheet date, in accordance with the closing rate method referred to in SSAP 20.

There are no non-monetary foreign currency items in these accounts.

Profits and losses arising from translation have been passed through the Profit and Loss Account.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1996

	1996		1995		
	£.	£	£	£	
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities (note 1)		604,690		(171,158)
Returns on investments and servicing of finance:					
Interest received Interest paid	- (75,206)		- (61,883)	
	- 	(75,206)	(61,883)
Taxation:					
Corporation tax paid (including ACT)		(131,658)	(32,793)
Capital expenditure:					
Payments to acquire tangible fixed asset: Receipts from sale of tangible fixed asset	s (172,807) ets 36,725	i	(158,257 81,447)	
		(136,082)	(76,810)
		261,744	-	(342,644	-
Equity dividends paid		(45,732)	(40,500)
Management of Liquid Resources		216,012		(383,144)
Financing:					
Loans Hire purchase	(393,817 12,966)	543,889 (1,777		
		(380,851)	542,112	
Increase/(Decrease) in Cash		£(164,839		£158,968	

NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1996

1. Reconciliation of operating profit to net cash inflow for operating activities:

	£	
Operating profit (before interest and tax) Depreciation Loss on sale of fixed assets Increase in stocks Increase in debtors Increase in creditors (directors' current accounts, trade	670,130 61,890 15,469 (100,323 (249,210	
creditors, other creditors and accruals)	200,101	
Net Cash Inflow from Operating Activities	£604,690	

2. Reconciliation of Net Cash Flow to movement in net debt:

Decrease in cash in period Cash used to make loan repayments	(164,839) 393,817
Change in net debt	228,978
Net debt at 1st January 1996	(640,118)
Net debt at 31st December 1996	£(411,140) =======

3. Analysis of changes in Net Profit:

	31.1.96 Flows £ £	31.12.96 £
Cash in hand and at bank Overdrafts	134,598 (20,474) (144,365)	114,124 (144,365)
	(164,839)
Debt due within one year Debt due after one year	(99,000) 50,000 (675,716) 343,817	(49,000) (331,899)
	393,817	
TOTAL	£(640,118) £228,978	£(411,140)

Cash At

At