Registration Number: 1793902

# REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 29 MARCH 1998

#### **INDEX**

Directors and Officers	Pages 1
Report of the Directors	Pages 2-4
Report of the Auditors	Page 5
Accounting Policies	Pages 6-7
Profit and Loss Account	Page 8
Balance Sheet	Page 9
Cash Flow Statement	Page 10
Notes to the Financial Statements	Page 11-20



#### **DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

#### **DIRECTORS**

D C Preece

Chairman and Chief Executive

Ms J A Hilder

J M Feeney

P C MccGwire

A P Garvey

Managing

G R George

P N Ketteringham

#### **SECRETARY**

D W Armour

#### REGISTERED OFFICE

Hambledon House

Catteshall Lane

Godalming

Surrey

GU7 1JJ

Registration Number: 1793902 Registered in England and Wales

#### **AUDITORS**

**Grant Thornton** 

**Chartered Accountants** 

5 St. George's Yard

Castle Street

Farnham

Surrey

GU97LW

#### **DIRECTORS' REPORT**

The Directors submit their report and the financial statements of TMS Information Solutions Limited for the period ended 29 March 1998.

#### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activities of the company during the period continued to be that of management consulting, information development, translation and localisation, and resourcing contract and permanent staff.

Intranet and internet related consulting and development has assumed an important role in our business and will increasingly continue to do so in the future.

#### REVIEW OF THE BUSINESS

Turnover has increased by 16.2% to £7,873,048 during the period and the directors believe this trend will continue. The directors also consider that the company is in a position to take advantage of future opportunities for growth.

#### RESULTS AND DIVIDENDS

The trading profit for the period after taxation was £337,420. (1997 - £246,628).

The Directors recommend a final dividend on the 'A' ordinary shares of £5.37 per share (amounting to £35,800) and a final dividend on the ordinary shares of £5.37 per share (amounting to £107,400), which leaves a profit of £165,692 to be retained.

#### **FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**

The Directors consider that the ongoing programme of change and consolidation, productive capital expenditure, together with the opportunities being developed, particularly in the IT sector, will further strengthen the company's market position and provide for future growth and profitability.

#### **YEAR 2000**

A company-wide programme, designed to address the impact of the Year 2000 on our business has been commissioned by the Board and is under way. Resources have been allocated and the Board receives regular reports on progress.

A significant risk analysis has been performed to determine the impact of the issues on all our activities. From this, prioritised actions plans have been developed which are designed to address the key issues in advance of the critical dates and without disruption to the business.

Given the complexity of the problem, it is not possible for any organisation to guarantee that no Year 2000 problems remain. However the Board believes that it will achieve an acceptable state of readiness.

#### **DIRECTORS' REPORT continued**

#### FIXED ASSETS

There were no significant changes in tangible fixed assets during the period. Movements are shown in note 8 to the financial statements.

#### **DIRECTORS AND THEIR INTERESTS**

The following directors have served on the Board thorough out the period:-

D C Preece

Ms J A Hilder

J M Feeney

P C MccGwire

A P Garvey

N D Williams

Resigned 16 February 1998

G R George

Appointed 10 September 1997

P N Ketteringham

Appointed 26 February 1998

#### **DIRECTORS INTERESTS IN SHARES**

Directors interests in the shares of the company, including family interests, were as follows

	Ordinary sha	Ordinary shares of £1 each	
	29.3.98	31.3.97	
D C Preece	10,000	10,000	
Ms J A Hilder	10,000	10,000	

No other directors had any interests in the shares of the company.

#### **DIRECTORS' REPORT continued**

#### STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Company law requires the directors to prepare accounts for each financial period which gives 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 accounts, the directors are required to:

- \* select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- \* make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- \* prepare the accounts 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 accounts 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.

By order of the Board

Mr. D W Armour Secretary

27 July 1998

# REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF TMS INFORMATION SOLUTIONS LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements on pages 1 to 20 which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out on pages 6 and 7.

#### Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described on page 4 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 judgments 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 consider 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 a fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 29 March 1998 and of its profit for the period then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

**GRANT THORNTON** 

REGISTERED AUDITORS & CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

27 July 1998

#### **ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Period ended 29 March 1998

#### **Accounting Convention**

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards. The accounting policies remain unchanged from prior years.

#### Turnover

Turnover is the total amount receivable by the company for goods supplied and services provided, excluding VAT.

#### **Fixed Assets**

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.

#### Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost less estimated residual value of all tangible fixed assets over their useful lives. The rates generally applicable are:

Leasehold Properties
Computers and Office Equipment
Motor Vehicles

over the lease term over 3 to 15 years over 4 years

#### Stocks and Work in progress

Work in progress is valued at the lower of cost incurred and net realisable value as follows:

Work in progress

cost of direct materials and labour plus attributable overheads based on normal levels of activity

Net realisable value is based on estimated selling price less any further costs expected to be incurred to completion and disposal.

#### **ACCOUNTING POLICIES continued**

Period ended 29 March 1998

#### **Deferred Taxation**

Provision is made at current rates for taxation deferred in respect of all material timing differences except to the extent that, in the opinion of the directors, there is reasonable probability that the liability will not arise in the foreseeable future.

#### **Foreign Currencies**

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheets date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating profit.

#### Leasing and hire purchase commitments

Assets obtained under finance leases and hire purchase contracts are capitalised in the balance sheet and are depreciated over their lease term. The interest element of the rental obligations is charged to the profit and loss account over the balance of capital repayments outstanding. All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.

All other leases are regarded as operating leases and the payments made under them are charged to the profit and loss account on a straight line basis over the lease term.

#### **Pensions**

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the profit and loss account as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

#### PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

Period ended 29 March 1998

	Notes	29.3.98 £	31.3.97 £
TURNOVER	1	7,873,048	6,773,169
Cost of Sales		5,385,884	4,529,681
Gross Profit		2,487,164	2,243,488
Administrative Expenses		2,007,855	1,864,040
OPERATING PROFIT	2	479,309	379,448
Interest Payable (net)	5	24,952	38,474
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION Tax on profit on ordinary activities	6	454,357 116,937	340,974 94,346
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES AFTER TAXATION		337,420	246,628
Dividends including non-equity dividends	7	171,728	51,250
PROFIT RETAINED FOR FINANCIAL PERIOD	14	165,692	195,378

There were no recognised gains or losses other than the profit or loss for the period. All results for the period relate to continuing operations.

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form an integral part of the financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET 29 March 1998

	Notes	29.3.98 £	31.3.97 £
FIXED ASSETS	8	495,312	319,568
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock & Work in Progress		23,545	11,844
Debtors	9	1,810,654	1,609,051
Cash at Bank and in Hand		162,878	70,675
		1,997,077	1,691,570
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Amounts falling due within one year	10	1,543,474	1,314,065
NET CURRENT ASSETS		453,603	377,505
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIE	S	948,915	697,073
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	11/12	172,476	86,326
		776,439	610,747
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Called up share capital	13	276,667	276,667
Share premium account		137,291	137,291
Profit and loss account	14	362,481	196,789
SHAREHOLDERS FUNDS	15	776,439	610,747
Equity shareholders funds		382,481	216,789
Non-equity shareholders funds		393,958	393,958
		776,439	610,747

The financial statements approved by the Board of Directors on 27 July 1998 and signed on its behalf by

D C Preece Director

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form an integral part of the financial statements.

### CASH FLOW STATEMENT

#### Period ended 29 March 1998

	Note	29.3.98 £	31.3.97 £
NET CASH INFLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	16	496,076	272,673
RETURNS ON INVESTMENT AND SERVICING OF FINAN Interest received Interest paid Interest element of finance lease rental payments Non-equity dividends paid	NCE	2,077 (9,227) (17,802) (26,250) (51,202)	(20,800) (17,674) (26,250) (64,724)
TAXATION Corporation tax paid		(94,891)	(7,168)
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets Receipts from sales of tangible fixed assets		(141,818) 5,200 (136,618)	(76,476) 14,450 (62,026)
CASH INFLOW BEFORE FINANCING		213,365	138,755
EQUITY DIVIDENDS PAID		(27,278)	-
FINANCING Repayments of capital element of finance lease rentals		(93,884)	(73,634)
INCREASE IN CASH		92,203	65,121

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form an integral part of the financial statements.

#### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

#### Period ended 29 March 1998

#### 1 TURNOVER

2

Turnover, which is stated net of value added tax, represents amounts invoiced to third parties. Turnover is attributable to one continuing activity, that of management consulting, information development, translation and localisation, and resourcing contract and permanent staff.

An analysis of turnover by geographical market is as below:

		29.3.98 £	31.3.97 £
	United Kingdom	6,701,261	6,041,502
	Outside the United Kingdom	1,171,787	731,667
		7,873,048	6,773,169
2	OPERATING PROFIT		
	This is stated after charging		
	Auditors remuneration	7,000	6,750
	Amortisation of leasehold improvements	6,120	6,120
	Depreciation of owned fixed assets	100,137	115,057
	Depreciation of assets held under finance leases		
	and hire purchase contracts	51,486	23,389
	Profit on disposal of fixed assets	4,849	5,443
	Operating lease rentals		
	plant and machinery	-	-
	motor vehicles	20,886	8,445
	land and buildings	121,350	116,350
	Foreign exchange losses	8,383	6,531

#### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS continued

		29.3.98 £	31.3.97 £
3	DIRECTOR'S EMOLUMENTS	~	~
	Emoluments Contributions to money purchase pension schemes	308,513 11,512	268,868 7,289
		320,025	276,157
4	The emoluments, including pension contributions, of the chairman, we director, were £123,101. (1997 - £119,499)  STAFF COSTS	ho was also the high	nest paid
•			
	Wages and salaries	1,382,073	1,196,460
	Social security costs Other pension costs	91,135	126,763
	Other pension costs	29,372	16,366
		1,502,580	1,339,589
	The average weekly number of employees during the period was as fo		
	The average weekly number of employees during the period was as fo	illows:	1,339,589
	The average weekly number of employees during the period was as fo		
	The average weekly number of employees during the period was as fo	dlows: <b>29.3.98</b>	1,339,589 31.3.97
	Administration Marketing	29.3.98 No.	1,339,589 31.3.97 No.
	Administration	29.3.98 No.	1,339,589 31.3.97 No.

# NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS continued

		29.3.98 £	31.3.97
5	INTEREST PAYABLE / (RECEIVABLE)	r.	£
	Bank loans and overdrafts	4,303	16,050
	Other loans not wholly repayable within 5 years Finance charges payable under finance leases and	4,924	4,750
	hire purchase contracts	17,802	17,674
		27,029	38,474
	Bank deposit account	(2,077)	-
		24,952	38,474
6	TAX ON PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		
	Based on the profit for the period:		
	Corporation tax at 31% (1997 - 33%) Under provision for previous years	112,907	94,346
	order provision for previous years	4,030	<del></del>
	•	116,937	94,346
7	DIVIDENDS		Ì
	Equity dividends 'A' Ordinary		
	- proposed final dividend of £5.37 per share (1997: £3.75)	35,800	25,000
	- under provided final dividend re 1996/7	2,278	-
		38,078	25,000
	Ordinary - proposed final dividend of £5.37 per share	107,400	
	, i		
	Non-equity dividends	145,478	25,000
	Preference dividend of 10.5p per share (1997: 10.5p)	26,250	26,250
		171,728	51,250

#### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS continued

	Land and Buildings. Short- Leasehold	Computers and Office Equipment	Motor Vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 April 1997	91,731	796,506	213,108	1,101,345
Additions	· -	316,531	17,307	333,838
Disposals	-	(291,409)	(37,700)	(329,109)
At 29 March 1998	91,731	821,628	192,715	1,106,074
Depreciation				
At 1 April 1997	29,295	630,922	121,560	781,777
Provided during the period	6,120	105,236	46,387	157,743
Disposals	-	(291,409)	(37,349)	(328,758)
At 29 March 1998	35,415	444,749	130,598	610,762
Net Book Value				
At 29 March 1998	56,316	376,879	62,117	495,312
At 31 March 1997	62,436	165,584	91,548	319,568
Included in the amounts for fixe leased assets and assets acquired		•	Ū	
			29.3.98	31.3.97
			£	£
Motor Vehicles			33,741	85,742

#### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS continued

#### Period ended 29 March 1998

		29.3.98	31.3.97
		£	£
9	DEBTORS		
	Trade debtors	1,578,824	1,448,894
	Corporation tax	49,182	13,247
	Other debtors	3,528	7,768
	Prepayments and accrued income	179,120	139,142
		1,810,654	1,609,051
10	CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year		
	Cicobii oito, amounto ianing due within one year		
	Directors current account	19,200	160
	Obligations under finance leases and hire purchase	73,568	60,933
	Trade creditors	691,603	683,592
	Corporation tax	151,988	94,007
	Other taxes and social security	185,286	216,670
	Accruals and deferred income	278,629	233,703
	Proposed dividends	143,200	25,000
		1,543,474	1,314,065
11	LOANS		
	Medium term loan - 3i Group plc	50,000	50,000

The medium term loan of £50,000 is repayable in full on 31 December 2001 and bears interest at a of 9.5% p.a. or 2.5% above LIBOR, if higher. The loan is secured by a fixed and floating charge over all assets, subject to priority being given to Lloyds Bank plc limited to £450,000.

#### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS continued

OBLIGATIONS UNDER FINANCE LEASES	29.3.98 £	31.3.9
AND HIRE PURCHASE CONTRACTS		
Amounts falling due after more than one year	122,476	36,32
Hire purchase obligations		
Payable within one year	40,794	39,86
Payable after one year	72,278	1,05
	113,072	40,92
Less: Finance charges allocated to future periods	14,922	8,98
	98,150	31,94
Obligations falling due:		
Within one year	35,251	31,27
Between one and two years	34,584	66
Between two and five years	28,315	
	98,150	31,94
Finance lease obligations		
Payable within one year	46,435	35,30
Payable after one year	73,093	42,13
	119,528	77,44
Less: Finance charges allocated to future periods	21,634	12,12
	97,894	65,31
Obligations falling due:		
Within one year	38,317	29,65
Between one and two years	32,481	19,68
Between two and five years	27,096	15,97
	97,894	65,31

#### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS continued

#### Period ended 29 March 1998

SHARE CAPITAL	29.3.98 £	31.3.97 £
Authorised, allotted, called up and fully paid		
20,000 ordinary shares of £1 each	20,000	20,000
6,667 'A' ordinary shares of £1 each	6,667	6,667
250,000 10.5% preference shares	250,000	250,000
	276,667	276,667

#### **Preference Shares**

13

The preference shares are non-equity shares which carry an entitlement to a dividend at the rate of 10.5% of the subscription price per annum payable twice yearly. They maybe redeemed at £1.00 per share at any time at the option of the company. Holders of these shares have no voting rights.

Preference shareholders have the right on a winding-up to receive, in priority to any other class of shares, the sum of £1.00 per share, together with any arrears of dividend.

#### **Ordinary Shares**

The 'A' ordinary shares carry an entitlement to a participating dividend of 8% of net profit earned in the relevant period. On winding-up the 'A' ordinary shares receive, in priority to the ordinary shares, £1.00 per share and all arrears of dividend.

All ordinary shares have one vote for every share held.

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS continued

		29.3.98	31.3.97		
14	PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT	£	£		
	Profit & Loss account at 1 April 1997	107.700	1 411		
	Retained profit for the period	196,789 165,692	1,411 195,378		
	Profit & Loss account at 29 March 1998	362,481	196,789		
15	RECONCILIATION OF SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS AND MOVEMENT ON RESERVES				
	Shareholders fund at 1 April 1997	610,747	415,369		
	Profit for the period after taxation	337,420	246,628		
	Dividend	(171,728)	(51,250)		
	Shareholders fund at 29 March 1998	776,439	610,747		
16	NET CASH INFLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES  Reconciliation of operating profit to net cash inflow from operating activities				
	reconciliation of operating profit to not easi filliow from operating activities				
	Operating profit	479,309	379,448		
	Depreciation	157,743	144,566		
	Profit on sale of tangible fixed assets Increase in debtors	(4,850)	(5,443)		
	(Increase)/Decrease in stocks	(165,668)	(555,035)		
	Increase in creditors	(11,701) 41,243	4,686		
	moreuse m ereanors	+1,44J	304,451		
		496,076	272,673		

#### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS continued

			29.3.98 £	31.3.97 £
17	RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH FLOWS TO	MOVEMENT I		
	Increase in cash in the period		92,203	59,678
	Cash outflow from finance leases		93,884	73,634
	Change in net debt resulting from cash flows		186,087	133,312
	Inception of finance leases / hire purchase		(192,669)	(113,938)
	Movement in net debt in the period		(6,582)	19,374
	Net Debt at 1 April 1997		(76,584)	(95,958)
	Net Debt at 29 March 1998		(83,166)	(76,584)
18	ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT			
		At 1.4.97	Cash Flow	At 29.3.98
	Cash in hand and at bank	70,675	92,203	162,878
	Debt	(50,000)	<del>-</del>	(50,000)
	Finance leases	(97,259)	(98,785)	(196,044)
		(76,584)	(6,582)	(83,166)
19	CAPITAL COMMITMENTS			
			Contracted	Committed
	Capital commitments at the period-end were		for	only
	Motor Vehicles		val.	21,220
	Leasehold Improvements		21,287	3,368
		-		<del></del> -

#### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS continued

Period ended 29 March 1998

#### 20 TRANSACTIONS WITH DIRECTORS

No payments were made (1997 - £8,665) to Corporate and Capital Structures, of which Mr. P C MccGwire is proprietor, for management services.

#### 21 PENSION COMMITMENTS

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its directors and employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund.

#### 22 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There were no contingent liabilities at 1 April 1997 or 29 March 1998.

#### 23 LEASE COMMITMENTS

The company has entered into commitments in respect of finance leases commencing after the balance sheet date amounting to £21,220 (1997: £8,880).

Operating lease payments amounting to £141,830 (1997:£126,567) are due within one year. The leases to which these amounts relate expire as follows

Other
ĺ
£
10,217
-
-
-
0,217