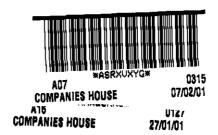
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#### PHOENIX POLYMERS LIMITED

Company No. 02429814

# ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2000





### Phoenix Polymers Limited Report of the Directors

The directors submit their report together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2000.

#### Principal Activities and Business Review

The principal activities of the group are the processing of polymers and until January 2000, the research and development in the field of biotechnology.

The group has progressed satisfactorily and the directors anticipate it will continue to be profitable. The directors continue to seek suitable acquisitions and investments which will enhance the group's current trading activities.

#### Results and Dividends

The group profit for the year after taxation was £270,745 (1999 - £248,536).

Dividends of £330,000 were paid during the year.

#### Fixed Assets

The movements in fixed assets are shown in note 12 to the financial statements. In the opinion of the directors, the freehold properties do not have a market value significantly in excess of the amounts shown in the financial statements.

#### Directors

The directors of the company during the year were:

M.G.C. Hart

R.R.R. Ridley

M.G.C. Hart's interest, including family interests, in the share capital of the company at 31st March 2000 and 31st March 1999 was 100,000 "B" ordinary shares.

R.R.R. Ridley has no beneficial interest in the share capital of the company.

The directors have no interest in the shares of any other group company.

#### **Donations**

The group made charitable donations during the year amounting to £1,455.

#### Post Balance Sheet Event

On 5th July 2000, Phoenix Rubber Limited, a subsidiary of Phoenix Polymers Limited, announced that it would be closing the majority of its manufacturing plant in September 2000. The company has decided to run down a substantial proportion of its trading activities following a significant decline in demand from the cable industry which it serves.

In accordance with FRS3, the trading results of these activities for the year have been disclosed under continuing operations as the termination was completed more than three months after the commencement of the subsequent accounting period.

#### Auditors

Kingston Smith have indicated their willingness to continue in office and in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act it is proposed that they be re-appointed auditors to the company for the ensuing year.

By Order of the Board

R.R. Ridley

Secretary

Pipegate Market Drayton Shropshire TF9 4HY

Date: 17.1.01

### Phoenix Polymers Limited Directors' Responsibilities and Report of the Auditors

#### 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 and prepare the financial statements on a 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 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' Report to the Members of Phoenix Polymers Limited

We have audited the financial statements on pages 3 to 17 which have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified for the revaluation of freehold land and buildings and the accounting policies set out on pages 8 and 9.

#### Respective Responsibilities of Directors and Auditors

As described above the 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 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 affairs of the company and of the group as at 31st March 2000 and of the profit of the group for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

KINGSTON SMITH Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

Devonshire House 60 Goswell Road London EC1M 7AD

Date: 18th January 2001

#### Phoenix Polymers Limited Consolidated Profit and Loss Account For the year ended 31st March 2000

	Note	Total 2000 £	Total 1999 £
Turnover-continuing operations	2	4,954,396	5,905,716
Cost of sales		(4,098,411)	(4,583,598)
Gross Profit		855,985	1,322,118
Administrative expenses		(900,823)	(951,748)
		(44,838)	370,370
Other operating income	5	20,626	22,361
Operating (loss)/profit - continuing operations	6	(24,212)	392,731
Investment written off		142,382	(132,175)
Loss on disposal of discontinued operations	14	(9,357)	
		108,813	260,556
Interest receivable and similar income	7	203,387	194,001
Interest payable and similar charges	8	(151)	(364)
Profit on Ordinary Activities before Taxation		312,049	454,193
Taxation	9	(41,304)	(205,657)
Profit on Ordinary Activities after Taxation		270,745	248,536
Dividends	10	(330,000)	(66,000)
(Deficit)/Surplus for the Year		(59,255)	182,536

There are no recognised gains or losses in the year other than the loss for the year.

#### Phoenix Polymers Limited Consolidated Balance Sheet at 31st March 2000

	Note	2000 £	2000 <b>£</b>	1999 <b>£</b>	1999 £
Fixed Assets		₽.	₽0	25	₽
Intangible fixed assets	11		424,736		509,688
Tangible assets	12		3,396,596		3,614,997
			3,821,332		4,124,685
Current Assets					
Stocks	15	414,495		745,289	
Debtors	16	999,170		1,080,929	
Investments	17	108,744		417,996	
Cash at bank and in hand	_	3,185,278	_	2,519,464	
		4 707 607		4749479	
		4,707,687		4,763,678	
Creditors: Amounts falling due					
within one year	18	788,515	_	1,047,261	
	_				
Net Current Assets			3,919,172		3,716,417
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			7,740,504		7,841,102
Provisions for Liabilities and					
Charges	19	523,264	_	564,607	
			(523,264)		(564,607)
Net Assets			7,217,240		7,276,495
Net Assets			7,217,240	;	1,210,493
Capital and Reserves					
Called up share capital - equity interests	20		200,000		200,000
Revaluation reserve	20,21		541,987		541,987
Profit and loss account	20		6,475,253		6,534,508
Total Shareholders' Funds	20		7,217,240		7,276,495

Approved by the Board on 17 Jan 01

M.G.C. Hart Michael Hort Director

#### Phoenix Polymers Limited Balance Sheet at 31st March 2000

	Note	2000	2000	1999	1999
Fixed Assets		£	£	£	£
Investments	13		1,892,017		1,892,017
Current Assets					
Debtors	16	768,728		868,809	
Debtors: Amounts recoverable from group undertakings after more					
than one year		1,730,000		1,730,000	
Investments	17	91,744		400,996	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,884,733		1,214,671	
		4,475,205		4,214,476	
Creditors: Amounts falling due					
within one year	18	349,398		323,355	
Net Current Assets			4,125,807		3,891,121
Net Assets			6,017,824		5,783,138
Capital and Reserves					
Called up share capital - equity interests	20		200,000		200,000
Revaluation reserve	20,21		541,987		541,987
Profit and loss account	20		5,275,837		5,041,151
Total Shareholders' Funds	20		6,017,824		5,783,138

Approved by the Board on 17 Ton 01

M.G.C. Hart Michael Hat Director

#### Phoenix Polymers Limited Consolidated Cash Flow Statement For the year ended 31st March 2000

	Note	2000 ₤	2000 ₤	1999 <b>£</b>	1999 <b>£</b>
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	A		812,323		869,444
Returns on Investments and Servicing of Finance Interest received and similar income		203,387		194,001	
Interest paid		(151)		(364)	
Net Cash Inflow from Returns on Investments and Servicing of Finance			203,236		193,637
Taxation Corporation tax paid (including advance corporation tax)			(67,500)		(299,199)
Capital Expenditure Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets Receipts from sale of tangible fixed assets		(285,687) 33,546		(251,171) 125,374	
Net Cash Outflow for Capital Expenditure and Financial Investment	·		(252,141)		(125,797)
Acquisitions and Disposals Sale of subsidiary undertaking		(9,357)			
Net cash outflow for acquisitions and disposals			(9,357)		-
Equity Dividends Paid			(330,000)		(66,000)
Cash inflow before use of liquid resources and financing			356,561		572,085
Management of Liquid Resources Sale/(Purchase) of Investments		309,252		(383,996)	
Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) for Management of Liquid Resources			309,252		(383,996)
Financing Repurchase of unsecured loan stock Long term loan					
					<del></del>
Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	В		665,813		188,089

## Phoenix Polymers Limited Notes to the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement For the year ended 31st March 2000

A	Reconciliation of Operating Profit to Net Cash Inflow from Operating Activities			2000 £	1999 £
	Operating (loss)/profit			(24,212)	392,731
	Depreciation			365,544	347,128
	Amortisation of goodwill			84,952	84,952
	Write up/(down) of investments			142,382	(132,175)
	(Profit)/Loss on sale of tangible fixed assets			104,998	(6,515)
	Decrease/(increase) in stock			330,794	(76,763)
	(Increase)/decrease in debtors			(5,355)	547,379
	Increase/(decrease) in creditors			(186,780)	(287,293)
				812,323	869,444
В	Reconciliation of Net Cash Flow to Movem	nent in Net Debt		2000 £	1999 £
	Increase in cash in the period			665,813	188,089
	Net debt at 1st April 1999			2,519,465	2,331,376
	Net debt at 31st March 2000			3,185,278	2,519,465
С	Analysis of Changes in Net Debt	At 1st April 1999	Cash Flows	Disposal	At 31st March 2000
	Cash in hand at bank	£ 2,519,465	£ 665,813	£	£ 3,185,278

#### 1 Accounting Policies

#### Accounting Basis and Standards

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets, and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

#### Turnover

The turnover of the group is the amount invoiced to external customers, net of value added tax, trade discounts and other allowances.

#### **Investment Income**

Unvestment income is accounted for on a receivable basis.

#### Consolidation

The consolidated profit and loss account and balance sheet include the financial statements of the parent company and all of its subsidiary undertakings made up to the end of the financial year.

The acquisition method of accounting is used to consolidate the results of subsidiary undertakings in the group financial statements. Under acquisition accounting, the results of subsidiary undertakings are included or excluded from the date of acquisition or disposal.

No minority interests have been included as the companies involved are loss making and the minorities holding has no value.

In accordance with the exemptions allowed by Section 230 of the 1985 Companies Act the company has not presented its own profit and loss account.

#### Depreciation

Depreciation on fixed assets, except freehold land and buildings, is provided at rates estimated to write off the cost or revalued amount, less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Freehold land and buildings 2% straight line Sprinkler system 5% straight line

Plant and equipment 8% - 12 1/2% reducing balance

Vehicles 25% reducing balance

Fixtures and fittings 10% reducing balance and 25% straight line

#### Goodwill

Goodwill arising on consolidation is amortised over a period of 20 years. In the opinion of the directors this represents the period over which the group will derive direct economic benefit.

#### Stock and Work in Progress

Stock and short term work in progress has been valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost of finished goods comprise the cost of materials, direct labour and factory overheads.

Long term work in progress is stated at costs incurred, which comprise cost of direct materials and labour plus appropriate overhead expenses, less amounts transferred to cost of sales and after attributable payments on account not taken to turnover. Immediate provision is made for all foreseeable losses.

#### **Deferred Taxation**

Deferred taxation is accounted for under the liability method in respect of the taxation effects of all timing differences which are expected to reverse in the future, calculated at the rate at which it is estimated that tax will be payable.

#### 1 Accounting Policies (Continued)

#### Research and Development

Research and development expenditure is written off in the year in which it is incurred.

#### Foreign Currencies

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into Sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the end of the financial year. All exchange differences are dealt with in the profit and loss account.

#### **Pension Scheme Arrangements**

The main pension schemes of the group are funded by contributions partly from employees and partly from the group. Such contributions are held in a group personal pension plan completely independent of the group's finances. The contributions made by the group are charged against the profits on an accruals basis.

#### 2 Turnover

Turnover is attributable to the principal activity of the group which arose as follows:

		2000	1999
		£	£
	United Kingdom	4,659,755	5,600,855
	Europe	227,641	263,386
	Middle East and Africa	55,115	21,667
	North America	11,885_	19,808
		4,954,396	5,905,716
3	Staff Costs - Group	2000	1999
		£	£
	Staff costs consist of:		
	Wages and salaries	1,270,218	1,371,495
	Social security costs	126,135	141,797
	Other pension costs	72,801	68,368
		1,469,154	1,581,660
	Staff Costs - Company		
	The average weekly number of employees		
	during the year was as follows:	Number	Number
	Production	56	63
	Administration	26_	26
		82	89

#### **Phoenix Polymers Limited**

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st March 2000 (Continued)

4	Directors' Emoluments included above - Group	2000 £	1999 £
	Emoluments	147,694	142,946
	Pension contributions	7,631	7,631
		155,325	150,577
	·		
	Number of directors in money purchase pension scheme	2	2
5	Other Operating Income - Group	2000	1999
		£	£
	Other sundry income	20,626	22,361
6	Operating (Loss)/Profit - Group	2000	1999
		£	£
	Operating profit is stated after charging/(crediting):		
	Depreciation:		
	Owned tangible fixed assets	365,544	347,128
	(Profit)/loss on sale of fixed assets	104,998	(6,515)
	Auditors' remuneration	24,920	22,319
	Auditors' remuneration for non audit services	14,969	11,754
	Goodwill amortised	84,952	84,952
	Foreign exchange loss	916	1,172
7	Interest Receivable and Similar Income - Company	2000	1999
		£	£
	Interest	158,663	171,715
	Dividends	44,724	22,286
		203,387	194,001
8	Interest Payable and Similar Charges - Company	2000	1999
Ü	Interest Layable and omnia on arges Company	£	£
	Bank loans, overdrafts and other loans wholly	<b>7</b> 0	æ.
	repayable within five years	<u> 151</u>	364
9	Taxation - Group	2000	1999
	Zanarion Group	£	£
	Corporation tax at 31% based on the profit	N	~
	for the year	97,000	181,043
	Transfer from deferred taxation	(41,343)	(39,491)
	Overprovision in respect of prior years	(14,353)	59,648
	Tax credit on franked investment income		4,457
		41,304	205,657

The tax charge has been adjusted for the availability of group relief.

10	Dividends - Company			2000 <b>£</b>	1999 £
	On 100,000 "A" shares of £1 each Interim - paid Final - proposed			165,000	33,000
	On 100 000 "P" shares of (1 assh			165,000	33,000
	On 100,000 "B" shares of £1 each Interim - paid Final - proposed			165,000	33,000
				330,000	66,000
11	Intangible Assets - Group			2000 £	1999 £
	Goodwill arising on Consolidation			₽.	<b>t</b> .
	Balance at 1st April 1999			509,688	<b>594,64</b> 0
	Amounts written off in year			(84,952)	(84,952)
	Balance at 31st March 2000			424,736	509,688
12	Tangible Assets - Group	Freehold Land and Buildings	Plant Equipment and Vehicles	Fixtures and Fittings	Total
	Cost or Valuation	£	£	£	£
	At 1st April 1999	1,509,968	5,266,560	197,741	6,974,269
	Additions	-	281,320	4,367	285,687
	Disposals		(271,386)	(6,272)	(277,658)
	At 31st March 2000	1,509,968	5,276,494	195,836	6,982,298
	Depreciation				
	At 1st April 1999	<b></b>	3,224,615	134,657	3,359,272
	Charge for the year	24,004	328,082	13,458	365,544
	Eliminated on disposals	-	(136,210)	(2,904)	(139,114)
	At 31st March 2000	24,004	3,416,487	145,211	3,585,702
	Net Book Value				
	At 31st March 2000	1,485,964	1,860,007	50,625	3,396,596
	At 31st March 1999	1,509,968	2,041,945	63,084	3,614,997
	Freehold land and buildings are stated at:			2000 £	1999 <b>£</b>
	At valuation			850,000	850,000
	At cost			659,968	659,968
				1,509,968	1,509,968

#### 12 Tangible Assets - Group (continued)

The historical cost of freehold land and buildings is:	2000 £	1999 £
Cost	967,981	967,981

Freehold land and buildings were revalued on an open market basis on 31st March 1989.

Commitment for capital expenditure:

	Grou	ıp	Comp	any
	2000	1999	2000	1999
	£	£	£	£
Authorised and contracted for	<b>54,5</b> 00	38,810	-	-
Authorised but not contracted for		72,500		
	54,500	111,310	-	

The directors have decided to follow the transitional provisions of FRS15 by not updating the valuation of freehold land and buildings. The freehold land and buildings were last revalued in 1989.

13	Investments - Company	2000 £	1999 £
	Shares in group undertakings	25	£
	Cost		
	At 1st April 1999	1,892,017	1,936,720
	Permanent diminution in value		(44,703)
	At 31st March 2000	1,892,017	1,892,017

The following were group undertakings at the end of the year (all of which have been included in the consolidation):

	Holding	Country of Incorporation	Nature of Business	Class of Share
Phoenix Rubber Limited	100%	England	Processing Synthetic Polymers	Ordinary
du Vergier Limited	100%	England	Processing Synthetic Polymers	Ordinary
Phoenix Vinyl Compounds	100%	England	Non trading	Ordinary
Acrilite Limited	100%	England	Non trading	Ordinary

#### 14 Disposal of Subsidiary Undertaking

On 16th February 2000 the group disposed of Implyx Limited. The subsidiary's loss to this date was £68,342. A loss of £9,357 resulted from this disposal.

15	Stocks	Group		Company	
		2000	1999	2000	1999
		£	£	£	£
	Raw materials and consumables	300,352	394,690	-	-
	Work in progress	15,476	8,243	-	-
	Finished goods and goods for resale	57,741	101,430	-	-
	Long term work in progress	40,926	240,926	<del></del>	~
		414,495	745,289	<u> </u>	-
16	Debtors	Group	,	Comp	any
		2000	1999	2000	1999
	Trade debtors	<b>£</b> 851,739	<b>£</b> 934,969	£	£
	Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	691,992	861,999
	Other debtors	100,045	105,149	66,342	472
	Prepayments and accrued income	47,386	40,811	10,394	6,338
		999,170	1,080,929	768,728	868,809
17	Investments	Group		Compa	any
		2000	1999	2000	1999
		£	£	£	£
	Other investments	17,000	17,000	-	<b>→</b>
	Listed investments	91,744	400,996	91,744	400,996
		108,744	417,996	91,744	400,996

At 31st March 2000 the listed investments had a market value of £132,400. These have not been revalued as the charge in value was not considered to be permanent in nature.

18	Creditors: Amounts falling due	Group		Company	
	within one year	2000	1999	2000	1999
		£	£	£	£
	Trade creditors	212,378	309,387	-	-
	Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	-	135,194	143,134
	Corporation tax	109,066	169,000	98,749	143,500
	Advance corporation tax on dividends		12,043	-	12,043
	Social security and other taxes	157,386	193,121	5,139	5,081
	Other creditors	132,090	119,622	108,053	18,054
	Accruals and deferred income	177,595	244,088	2,263	1,543
		788,515	1,047,261	349,398	323,355

19	Provision for Liabilities and Charges	2000	1999
	-	£	£
	Balance brought forward	564,607	604,097
	Amount transferred to profit and loss account in the year	(41,343)	(39,490)
	Balance carried forward	523,264	564,607

Provision for deferred taxation has been made in these financial statements in accordance with the accounting policy described in note 1. The amounts provided and the full potential liability are as follows:

	2000	)	199	9
Group	Amount Provided	Potential Liability	Amount Provided	Potential Liability
Deferred Taxation - Group Accelerated capital allowances	<b>£</b> 473,527	<b>£</b> 473,527	<b>£</b> 514,870	<b>£</b> 514,870
Revaluation surplus	-	73,443	-	73,443
Chargeable gain rolled over	49,737	49,737	49,737	49,737
	523,264	596,707	564,607	638,050
Company			_	

20	Reconciliation of Movements in Shareholders'	Funds - Group		7) W	
	<b>2000</b> At 1st April 1999	Share Capital £ 200,000	Revaluation Reserve £ 541,987	Profit and Loss Account £ 6,534,508	<b>Total</b> £ 7,276,495
	Transfer from profit and loss account			(59,255)	(59,255)
	At 31st March 2000	200,000	541,987	6,475,253	7,217,240
	1999	Share Capital	Revaluation Reserve	Profit and Loss Account	Total £
	At 1st April 1998 Transfer from profit and loss account	200,000	541,987	6,351,972 182,536	7,093,959 182,536
	At 31st March 1999	200,000	541,987	6,534,508	7,276,495
	Reconciliation of Movements in Shareholders' 2000	Funds - Company Share Capital	Revaluation Reserve	Profit and Loss Account	Total
	At 1st April 1999	£ 200,000	£ 541,987	£ 5,041,151	£ 5,783,138
	Transfer from profit and loss account			234,686	234,686
	At 31st March 2000		541,987	5,275,837	6,017,824
	1999	Share Capital	Revaluation Reserve £	Profit and Loss Account £	Total £
	At 1st April 1998	200,000	541,987	<b>4,789,52</b> 6	5,531,513
	Transfer from profit and loss account			251,625	251,625
	At 31st March 1999	200,000	541,987	5,041,151	5,783,138
	The authorised and issued share capital comprises:			2000 £	1999 £
	Authorised:				
	250,000 "A" Ordinary shares of £1 each			250,000	250,000
	250,000 "B" Ordinary shares of £1 each			250,000	250,000
				500,000	500,000
	Issued: 100,000 "A" Ordinary shares of £1 each			100,000	100,000
	100,000 'B" Ordinary shares of £1 each			100,000	100,000
				200,000	200,000

21	21 Revaluation Reserve	Group		Company	
		2000	1999	2000	1999
		£	£	£	£
	Freehold land and buildings	541,987	541,987	541,987	541,987

The revaluation reserve relates to a surplus on revaluation of freehold land and buildings. No deferred taxation has been provided in respect of this reserve, as the directors have no intention of disposing of the du Vergier property to which the revaluation relates.

#### 22 Pension Commitments

Until April 1998 the group operated, for certain employees, a defined benefits scheme. This scheme is now closed and it is intended to wind up this scheme. Under this scheme contributions were calculated by reference to the Actuarial review dated 5th April 1995 which adopted the "accrued funding method" and the principal assumption used was that the investment return would exceed future salary increases by 1% per annum. The assets of the scheme are held separately from the assets of the group.

From April 1998 the group operate, for certain employees, either a group personal pension plan or contribute to individual personal pension plans. The assets of all schemes are held separately from the assets of the group.

Contributions are charged to the profit and loss account as paid. The pension cost represents contributions paid by the group amount to £34,029 (1998 - £30,999).

There were no contributions outstanding to the schemes at 31st March 2000.

#### 23 Contingent Liabilities

The group has entered into an unlimited multilateral guarantee with other group companies to secure the bank borrowings of the group companies which is secured by a fixed charge on the freehold properties and a floating charge over all the group's assets. At 31st March 2000 the potential liability amounted to £Nil (1999 - £Nil).

#### 24 Related Party Transactions

During the year du Vergier Limited made payments on behalf of Nuclyx Limited, a company in which M. Hart is a director. These were for goods and services on normal commercial terms and amounted to £29,304. At 31st March 2000, du Vergier Limited was owed £13,130 by Nuclyx Limited.