

**Registered number**  
**2443484**

**ntl CABLECOMMS STOCKPORT**

**Report and Accounts**

**31 December 2003**



**ntl CABLECOMMS STOCKPORT**

**Registered number**

**2443484**

**Directors**

ntl Directors Limited

ntl Secretaries Limited

**Company Secretary**

ntl Secretaries Limited

**Auditors**

Ernst & Young LLP

1 More London Place

London

SE1 2AF

**Bankers**

National Westminster Bank PLC

PO Box 9

31 Promenade

Cheltenham

Gloucs

GL50 1LH

**Solicitors**

Travers Smith Braithwaite

10 Snow Hill

London

EC1A 2AL

**Registered Office**

ntl House

Bartley Wood Business Park

Hook

Hampshire RG27 9UP

## **ntl CABLECOMMS STOCKPORT**

### **Directors' Report**

The directors present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2003.

#### **RESULTS AND DIVIDENDS**

The company made a loss for the year of £3,573,000 (2002 – loss of £31,271,000). The preference dividend of £319,000 to the non-equity shareholders for the year ended 31 December 2003 (2002 – £319,000) has not been declared, but an appropriation equal to the dividend has been made in the profit and loss account in accordance with FRS 4 "Capital Instruments". The retained loss for the year of £3,892,000 (2002 – retained loss of £31,590,000) has been transferred to reserves.

#### **PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY**

The principal activity of the company is to provide cable television services and telecommunication services and run certain of the telecommunication systems over which they are provided.

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

The directors who served during the year and thereafter and their interests in the share capital of the company were as follows:

R M Mackenzie	(appointed 10 January 2003; resigned 1 October 2004)
J B Knapp	(resigned 1 October 2003)
J Gregg	(resigned 10 January 2003)
B Richter	(appointed 10 January 2003; resigned 1 May 2003)
S E Schubert	(appointed 1 May 2003; resigned 1 October 2004)
G N Roberts	(alternate director to R M Mackenzie)
	(appointed 24 March 2004; resigned 31 August 2004)
R C Gale	(alternate director to S E Schubert)
	(appointed 24 March 2004; resigned 1 October 2004)
ntl Directors Limited	(appointed 1 October 2004)
ntl Secretaries Limited	(appointed 1 October 2004)

The directors had no interest in the share capital of the company requiring disclosure under the Companies Act 1985. The company seeks exemption under SI802, The Companies (Disclosure of Directors' Interests) (Exceptions) Regulations 1985, not to disclose the directors' interests in the common stock of NTL Incorporated, a company incorporated in the USA and the ultimate parent undertaking of the company.

NTL Incorporated has indemnified one or more directors of the company against liability in respect of proceedings brought by third parties, subject to the conditions set out in the Companies Act 1985. Such qualifying third party indemnity provision is in force as at the date of approving the directors' report.

#### **COMPANY SECRETARY**

On 24 March 2004, G E James was appointed joint company secretary and resigned on 1 October 2004.

On 1 October 2004, Robert Mackenzie resigned as joint company secretary and ntl Secretaries Limited was appointed as company secretary.

**ntl CABLECOMMS STOCKPORT**  
**Directors' Report**

**AUDITORS**

Ernst & Young LLP will be re-appointed as the company's auditor in accordance with the elective resolution passed by the company under section 386 of the Companies Act 1985.

By order of the board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G E James', written over a horizontal line.

G E James

For and on behalf of ntl Secretaries Limited

**12 JUL 2005**

## **ntl CABLECOMMS STOCKPORT**

### **STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE ACCOUNTS**

Company law requires the directors to prepare accounts 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 accounts, 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 accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business; and
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts.

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.

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ntl CABLECOMMS STOCKPORT**

We have audited the company's accounts for the year ended 31 December 2003, which comprise the Profit and Loss Account, Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses, Balance Sheet, and the related notes 1 to 14. These accounts have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the company's member, as a body, in accordance with Section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's member those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's member as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

### **Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors**

As described in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with United Kingdom law and accounting standards.

Our responsibility is to audit the accounts in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and United Kingdom Auditing Standards.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the accounts give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the Directors' Report is not consistent with the accounts, if the company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and transactions with the company is not disclosed.

We read the Directors' Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

### **Basis of audit opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with United Kingdom 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 accounts. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the accounts, 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 accounts 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 accounts.

### **Opinion**

In our opinion the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at 31 December 2003 and of its loss for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

*Ernst & Young LLP*

Ernst & Young LLP  
Registered Auditor  
London

**12 JUL 2005**

**ntl CABLECOMMS STOCKPORT**  
**Profit and Loss Account**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2003**

	Notes	2003 £'000	2002 £'000
Turnover	2	21,012	19,354
Cost of sales		(6,569)	(7,077)
<b>Gross profit</b>		<u>14,443</u>	<u>12,277</u>
Other operating expenses		(15,571)	(41,829)
<b>Operating loss</b>	3	<u>(1,128)</u>	<u>(29,552)</u>
Interest payable	5	(2,445)	(1,719)
<b>Loss on ordinary activities before taxation</b>		<u>(3,573)</u>	<u>(31,271)</u>
Taxation	6	-	-
<b>Loss for the financial year</b>		<u>(3,573)</u>	<u>(31,271)</u>
Dividends	9	(319)	(319)
<b>Retained loss for the financial year</b>	10	<u>(3,892)</u>	<u>(31,590)</u>

**STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES**

The company has no recognised gains or losses other than those reflected in the profit and loss account for the years ended 31 December 2003 and 31 December 2002.

**ntl CABLECOMMS STOCKPORT**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**as at 31 December 2003**

	Notes	2003 £'000	2002 £'000
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	7	18,665	18,251
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	8	(43,940)	(39,953)
<b>Net current liabilities</b>		(43,940)	(39,953)
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>(25,275)</u>	<u>(21,702)</u>
<b>Capital and reserves</b>			
Called up share capital	9	80,466	80,466
Profit and loss account	10	(105,741)	(102,168)
<b>Shareholders' deficit</b>		<u>(25,275)</u>	<u>(21,702)</u>
Equity interests	11	(28,218)	(24,326)
Non-equity interests	11	2,943	2,624
		<u>(25,275)</u>	<u>(21,702)</u>



R M Mackenzie  
For and on behalf of ntl Directors Limited

**12 JUL 2005**



**ntl CABLECOMMS STOCKPORT**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2003**

**1 Accounting policies**

***Fundamental accounting concept***

The accounts have been prepared on the going concern basis because the ultimate parent undertaking has given the necessary assurances such that sufficient resources will be made available for the foreseeable future so that the company can meet its liabilities as and when they fall due.

***Accounting convention***

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards.

***Depreciation and prematurity period***

***Network assets:***

Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset over its estimated useful lives as follows:

Freehold buildings	-	50 years
Leasehold buildings	-	length of lease
Cable and ducting	-	40 years
Network	-	15 years
Head end equipment	-	15 years
Subscriber equipment	-	4-15 years
Computer equipment	-	3-5 years

During the time while the company's cable systems are partially under construction and partially in service ("the prematurity period"), depreciation of the network is charged monthly on its estimated costs at the end of the prematurity period, which is taken as two years, using the above rates scaled down by the ratio of average, actual or estimated number of subscribers, whichever is greater, in the current period to the estimated subscriber base at the end of this period.

***Other:***

Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset over its estimated useful lives, as follows:

Freehold buildings	-	50 years
Leasehold land and buildings	-	length of lease
Furniture and fixtures	-	10 years
Plant and office equipment	-	3-10 years
Motor vehicles	-	4 years
Computer equipment	-	3-5 years
Satellite equipment	-	4 years

**ntl CABLECOMMS STOCKPORT**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2003**

**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

***Impairment review***

In accordance with FRS 11 "Impairment of Fixed Assets and Goodwill", the carrying values of the company's intangible and tangible fixed assets have been compared with their recoverable amounts, represented by their value in use to the company.

The directors consider that the underlying assets of the company's core telecommunications operations are only now beginning to be properly exploited. In addition there are significant barriers to entry, both in terms of the necessary capital investment and regulatory control of the telecommunications sector, which limit the extent to which future competition will erode the expected rates of growth and the level of returns that the assets are expected to generate. As a result the value in use has been derived from discounted cash flow projections that have assumed a period of ten years from 1 January 2003 before applying the UK's long-term growth rate.

The discount rate used to arrive at this calculation was 21.4% on a pre-tax basis.

***Deferred taxation***

Deferred taxation is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated, but not reversed at the balance sheet date where transactions or events have occurred at that date that will result in an obligation to pay more, or a right to pay less or to receive more, tax, with the following exceptions:

- (a) provision is made for tax on gains arising from the revaluation (and similar fair value adjustments) of fixed assets, and gains on disposal of fixed assets that have been rolled over into replacement assets, only to the extent that, at the balance sheet date, there is a binding agreement to dispose of the assets concerned. However, no provision is made where, on the basis of all available evidence at the balance sheet date, it is more likely than not that the taxable gain will be rolled over into replacement assets and charged to tax only when the replacement assets are sold;
- (b) provision is made for deferred tax that would arise on remittance of the retained earnings of overseas subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures only to the extent that, at the balance sheet date, dividends have been accrued as receivable; and
- (c) deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that the directors consider that it is more likely than not that there will be suitable taxable profits from which the future reversal of the underlying timing differences can be deducted.

Deferred tax is measured on an undiscounted basis at the tax rates that are expected to apply in the periods in which timing differences reverse, based on tax rates and laws enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date.

***Cash flow statement***

The company has taken advantage of the exemption under FRS 1 (revised) not to prepare a cash flow statement as it is a subsidiary which is at least 90% controlled by the ultimate parent undertaking (see note 14).

**2 Turnover**

Turnover represents the invoiced amount of services provided, stated net of value added tax, and is attributable to one continuing activity, being the provision of information, communications and entertainment services, all of which is attributable to the United Kingdom.

**ntl CABLECOMMS STOCKPORT**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2003**

<b>3 Operating loss</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>

This is stated after charging:

Depreciation of fixed assets	2,904	4,692
Impairment charge (see note 4)	-	24,161

The directors' and auditors' remuneration is paid by ntl Group Limited and disclosed in the accounts of NTL (UK) Group, Inc.

ntl Group Limited, a fellow group company, employs most of the employees of the NTL Group. Details of staff numbers and staff costs for the group are disclosed in the accounts of ntl Group Limited. The company does not have any directly employed associates.

Certain expenses are specifically attributable to the company. Where costs are incurred by other group companies on behalf of the company, expenses are allocated to the company on a basis that, in the opinion of the directors, is reasonable.

<b>4 Impairment charge</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>

Impairment of tangible fixed assets	-	24,161
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<b>5 Interest payable</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>

Interest on amounts owed to group companies	2,445	1,719
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**ntl CABLECOMMS STOCKPORT**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2003**

**6 Taxation**

**(a) Tax on loss on ordinary activities**

The tax charge is made up as follows:

	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Current tax charge:</b>		
Current tax on income for the period	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-
<b>Deferred tax:</b>		
Origination and reversal of timing differences	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total tax charge on loss on ordinary activities</b>	<hr/> -	<hr/> -

**(b) Factors affecting current tax charge**

The difference between the effective statutory rate and the actual current tax charge is reconciled as follows:

	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Loss on ordinary activities before tax</b>	<hr/> (3,573)	<hr/> (31,271)
Loss on ordinary activities multiplied by the applicable statutory rate 30% (2002 - 30%)	(1,072)	(9,381)
Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	17	1,368
Depreciation in excess of capital allowances	934	8,713
Utilisation of losses brought forward	-	(700)
Unrelieved tax losses	121	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total current tax charge</b>	<hr/> -	<hr/> -

**(c) Factors that may affect future tax charges**

Deferred tax assets have not been recognised in respect of tax losses of £15,324,962 and depreciation in excess of capital allowances of £12,540,613 as there is insufficient certainty as to the availability of future taxable profits.

**ntl CABLECOMMS STOCKPORT**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2003**

**7 Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Network £'000</b>	<b>Other £'000</b>	<b>Total £'000</b>
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 January 2003	84,468	319	84,787
Additions	3,318	-	3,318
At 31 December 2003	<u>87,786</u>	<u>319</u>	<u>88,105</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 January 2003	66,415	121	66,536
Charge for the year	2,892	12	2,904
At 31 December 2003	<u>69,307</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>69,440</u>
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 December 2003	<u>18,479</u>	<u>186</u>	<u>18,665</u>
At 31 December 2002	<u>18,053</u>	<u>198</u>	<u>18,251</u>

Included in 'Other' are the following net book values of land and buildings:

	<b>2003 £'000</b>	<b>2002 £'000</b>
Short leasehold	<u>187</u>	<u>198</u>

**8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2003 £'000</b>	<b>2002 £'000</b>
Amounts owed to parent undertakings	<u>43,940</u>	<u>39,953</u>

**ntl CABLECOMMS STOCKPORT**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2003**

<b>9 Share capital</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Authorised:		
2 preference shares of £1 each	-	-
80,465,934 'A' ordinary shares of £1 each	80,466	80,466
	<u>80,466</u>	<u>80,466</u>
Allotted, called up and fully paid:		
2 preference shares of £1 each	-	-
80,465,934 'A' ordinary shares of £1 each	80,466	80,466
	<u>80,466</u>	<u>80,466</u>

***Shareholders' voting rights***

In the opinion of the directors, the primary rights attached to the various classes of shares are as follows:

***£1 preference shares***

The right to attend and speak but not vote at all general meetings of the company.

***£1 'A' ordinary shares***

The right to attend, speak and vote at all general meetings of the company.

***Distributable profits***

Distributable profits are allocated on the following basis:

***Preference Shareholders***

The company's articles of association provide for a fixed cumulative dividend at the rate of £319,000 per annum. This dividend will accrue on a daily basis from 31 December 1993 until 31 December 2013. After payment of the preference dividend, the preference shareholders are entitled to 15% of the remaining distributable profits.

***Ordinary Shareholders***

After payment of the preference dividend, ordinary shareholders are entitled to 85% of the remaining distributable profits.

***Dividends***

The preference dividend of £319,000 to the non-equity shareholders for the year ended 31 December 2003 (2002 - £319,000) has not been declared. An appropriation equal to the dividend has been made in the profit and loss account in accordance with FRS 4 "Capital Instruments" and is shown in the Reconciliation of Shareholders' Deficit and Movements on Reserves (see note 11).

**ntl CABLECOMMS STOCKPORT**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2003**

<b>10 Profit and loss account</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
At 1 January	(102,168)	(70,897)
Retained loss	(3,892)	(31,590)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Undeclared dividends due to non-equity shareholders	(106,060)	(102,487)
	319	319
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December	(105,741)	(102,168)
<i>Cumulative undeclared dividends due to non-equity shareholders</i>		
At start of year	2,624	2,305
Appropriated during the year	319	319
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At end of year	2,943	2,624
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>11 Reconciliation of shareholders' deficit and movements on reserves</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Loss for the year	(3,573)	(31,271)
Non-equity dividends not declared	(319)	(319)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(3,892)	(31,590)
Reversal of non-equity dividends	319	319
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net movement in shareholders' deficit	(3,573)	(31,271)
Opening shareholders' (deficit)/funds	(21,702)	9,569
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Closing shareholders' deficit	(25,275)	(21,702)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total shareholders' deficit</b>		
Equity share capital	80,466	80,466
Non-equity share capital	-	-
Profit and loss account	(105,741)	(102,168)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total shareholders' deficit	(25,275)	(21,702)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**ntl CABLECOMMS STOCKPORT**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2003**

<b>11 Reconciliation of shareholders' deficit and movements on reserves (continued)</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Shareholders' funds allocated to non-equity</b>		
Non-equity share capital	-	-
Cumulative dividends not yet declared	2,943	2,624
	<u>2,943</u>	<u>2,624</u>
<b>Shareholders' deficit allocated to equity</b>		
Difference between shareholders' deficit and amount allocated to non-equity interests	<u>(28,218)</u>	<u>(24,326)</u>
<b>Made up as follows:</b>		
Equity share capital	80,466	80,466
Profit and loss account	(105,741)	(102,168)
Cumulative dividends due to non-equity shareholders	(2,943)	(2,624)
	<u>(28,218)</u>	<u>(24,326)</u>

**12 Contingent liabilities**

The company, along with fellow subsidiary undertakings, is party to a senior secured credit facility with a syndicate of banks. The company is a guarantor of borrowings under this facility of certain other group companies. At 31 December 2003 the maximum contingent liability represented by outstanding borrowings by these companies amounted to approximately £2,785 million (2002 - £3,193 million). Borrowings under the facility are secured by security over the assets of certain members of the NTL Group including those of the company.

In April 2004, this facility was replaced by a new senior secured credit facility under which the group's assets are secured.

**13 Related parties**

The company has taken advantage of the exemption under FRS 8 not to disclose transactions with group undertakings as a subsidiary undertaking which is at least 90% controlled by the ultimate parent undertaking.

**14 Parent undertaking and controlling party**

The company's immediate parent undertaking is ntl CableComms Holdings No. 1 Limited.

The company's results are included in the group accounts of ntl CableComms Holdings No. 1 Limited and ntl Communications Limited, copies of which may be obtained from ntl, ntl House, Bartley Wood Business Park, Hook, Hampshire RG27 9UP.

The company's ultimate parent undertaking and controlling party is NTL Incorporated, a company incorporated in the state of Delaware, United States of America. Copies of the accounts, which include the results of the company, are available from The Secretary, NTL Incorporated, ntl House, Bartley Wood Business Park, Hook, Hampshire RG27 9UP.