REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

♦ Year ended 31 March 1999 ♦



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COMPANY NO: 02854737

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COMPANY INFORMATION

Directors

Otto J Ruesch Jeanette Weaver Pierre F V Merle

Secretary

Pierre F V Merle

Registered office

5 Great College Street Westminster

London SW1P3SJ

Registered number

02854737

Auditors

RSM Robson Rhodes Chartered Accountants

186 City Road

London EC1V 2NU

Bankers

NatWest Bank **Bond Street** London

NatWest Bank Bishopsgate London

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 1999.

Principal activities

The company operates as a financial institution specialising in international payments and related services.

Business review and future developments

The results for the year ended 31 March 1999 are considered satisfactory and the directors are optimistic about future trading prospects.

Results and dividends

The profit for the year after tax amounted to £475,569 (1998: £288,129) which has been transferred to reserves. The directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend.

Year 2000

The Company has a strategic plan in place for ensuring the company is year 2000 compliant. The overall cost of the plan is not expected to be significant due to the fact that computer equipment and software have been regularly updated. The company's project team began implementation of the plan during 1997 and the major phases of the plan are progressing on schedule.

Directors

The present directors of the company are set out on page 1. All directors served throughout the year.

Those directors serving at the end of the year had no interests in the share capital of the company at 31 March 1999.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS (Continued)

Directors' responsibilities for financial statements

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 these financial statements, the directors have:

- selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently;
- made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- followed applicable accounting standards; and
- prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis.

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

The auditors, RSM Robson Rhodes are willing to continue in office, and a resolution for their reappointment will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

Approval

Director

The report of the directors was approved by the Board on 24000 and signed on its behalf by:

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AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF RUESCH INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements on pages 5 to 13 which have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out on page 8.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described on page 3 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 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 as at 31 March 1999 and of its profit for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

RSM Robson Rhodes

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor

KSM Rebour Rhoden

London

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PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the year ended 31 March 1999

	Note	1999 £	1998 £
Turnover - continuing operations Cost of sales	1	230,483,866 (229,241,708)	163,116,920 (162,256,535)
Gross profit		1,242,158	860,385
Administrative expenses Other operating income		(827,926) 292,974	(641,002) 232,085
Operating profit - continuing operations	2	707,206	451,468
Interest payable		(11,269)	(22,499)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation Tax on profit on ordinary activities	5	695,937 (220,368)	428,969 (140,840)
Retained profit for the year	10	475,569	288,129

There were no recognised gains or losses other than those reported above.

BALANCE SHEET at 31 March 1999

	Note	1999 £	1998 £
Fixed assets Tangible assets	6	133,609	95,511
Current assets Debtors Cash at bank and in hand	7	17,373,273 5,910	11,647,805 1,499,801
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	17,379,183 (16,640,427)	13,147,606 (12,846,321)
Net current assets		738,756	301,285
Net assets		872,365	396,796
Capital and reserves Share capital Profit and loss account	9 10	100 872,265	100 396,696
Equity Shareholders' funds	11	872,365	396,796

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 2 mu 2000 and signed on its behalf by:

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CASHFLOW STATEMENT for the year ended 31 March 1999

	Note	1999 £	1998 £
Net cash inflow from operating activities	14	(1,308,431)	1,104,189
Returns on investment and servicing of finance - interest paid		(11,269)	(22,499)
Taxation		(138,465)	(52,405)
Capital expenditure -payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		(74,637)	(66,118)
(Decrease)/increase in cash in the period		(1,532,802)	963,167
Net funds at beginning of period		1,499,801	536,634
Net (debt)/funds at end of period		(33,001)	1,499,801

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 31 March 1999

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards under the historical cost convention.

Turnover

Turnover from spot sales of foreign currencies is recognised upon consummation of the sales transactions.

Turnover from forward contracts is recorded on the date of inception for the contracted amount.

Service charge income is recognised when the services are performed.

Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currency are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at 31 March. Exchange differences are taken to the profit and loss account.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided evenly on the cost (or valuation where appropriate) of tangible fixed assets, to write them down to their estimated residual values over their expected useful lives. No depreciation is provided on freehold land. The principal annual rates used for other assets are:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	20%
Leasehold improvements	10%

Leased assets

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the profit and loss account on a straight line basis over the terms of the lease.

Taxation

The charge for taxation is based on the profit for the year and takes into account taxation deferred or accelerated because of timing differences between the treatment of certain items for accounting and taxation purposes.

Provision for deferred taxation is made under the liability method only to the extent that it is probable that the liability will become payable in the foreseeable future.

Pensions

The company pays contributions into individual's personal pension plans. The pension costs represent contributions payable by the company in the year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) 31 March 1999

2. OPERATING PROFIT

Operating profit is arrived at after charging/(crediting):

	1999	1998
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	9,200	8,750
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	36,539	28,954
Operating lease rentals - land and buildings	44,625	44,625

3. EMPLOYEES

Average weekly number of employees, including directors:

	1999 No	1998 No
Administration	14	11
Staff costs, including directors:		
	1999 £	1998 £
		~
Wages and salaries	342,119	261,238
Social security costs	34,088	26,124
Other pension costs	8,231	4,194
	384,438	291,556
		

4. DIRECTORS

The directors received emoluments in the period to 31 March 1999 of £nil (1998: £nil).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) 31 March 1999

5. TAXATION ON PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

	1999 £	1998 £
UK Corporation tax for the current year at 31% Under provision in respect of the prior year	220,368	138,465 2,375
	220,368	140,840
		

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Leasehold improvements £	Software Development £	Fixtures & fittings £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 April 1998	26,174	-	166,804	192,978
Additions	21,973	7,048	45,616	74,637
At 31 March 1999	48,147	7,048	212,420	267,615
Depreciation				
At 1 April 1998	10,426	_	87,041	97,467
Charge in period	3,485	1,958	31,096	36,539
At 31 March 1999	13,911	1,958	118,137	134,006
11.01				
Net book value				
At 31 March 1999	34,236	5,090	94,283	133,609
				====
At 31 March 1998	15,748	-	79,763	95,511
				

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) 31 March 1999

7. DEBTORS

7.	DEBIORS		
		1999 £	1998 £
	Trade debtors	17,319,192	11,596,379
	Other debtors	23,875	23,627
	Prepayments and accrued income	30,206	27,799
		17,373,273	11,647,805
		====	
8.	CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WI	THIN ONE YEAR	
		1999	1998
		£	£
	Bank loans and overdrafts	38,911	-
	Trade creditors	13,748,513	9,120,900
	Amounts owed to group undertaking	1,938,575	3,218,351
	Other creditors	627,460	308,104
	Accruals and deferred income	66,600	60,501
	Corporation tax	220,368	138,465
		16,640,427	12,846,321
9.	SHARE CAPITAL		
		1999 £	1998 £
	Authorised, allotted and fully paid		
	100 Ordinary shares at £1 each	100	100

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) 31 March 1999

10. RESERVES

	Profit and loss account £
Retained reserves at 31 March 1998 Profit for the year	396,696 475,569
At 31 March 1999	872,265

11. RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS IN SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS

	1999 £	1998 £
Total recognised gains	475,569	288,129
Opening shareholders' funds	396,796	108,667
Closing shareholders' funds	872,365	396,796

12. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

Operating lease commitments

The payments which the company is committed to make in the next year under operating leases are as follows:

	1999 £	1998 £
(i) Land and buildings, leases expiring beyond five years	44,625	44,625

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) 31 March 1999

13. PARENT UNDERTAKING

The immediate parent undertaking is Ruesch Holding Inc, a company incorporated in the United States of America.

The ultimate parent undertaking is Ruesch International Monetary Services Inc, a company incorporated in the United States of America.

14. RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING PROFIT TO NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	1999 £	1998 £
Operating profit	707,206	451,468
Increase in debtors	(5,725,468)	(8,134,706)
Increase in creditors	3,673,292	8,758,473
Depreciation/amortisation	36,539	28,954
Net cash inflow from operating activities	(1,308,431)	1,104,189

15. ANALYSIS OF NET DEBT

	At 31 March 1998 £	Cash Flow £	At 31 March 1999 £
Cash at bank and in hand Overdraft	1,499,801	(1,493,891) (38,911)	5,910 (38,911)
			<u></u>
	1,499,801	(1,532,802)	(33,001)