70022/1

Registrar's Copy

Company No: 3161100

AUTOSIGNS HOLDINGS PLC AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

Annual Report

Year ended 31 December 1999

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Pannell House

15 Charles Street

LEICESTER LE1 1LD





AUTOSIGNS HOLDINGS PLC AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

COMPANY INFORMATION

Directors

J Parton

O Rasmussen I S Foster T Morgan C E Parton J K Shaw

Secretary

C Richards

Company Number

3161100

Registered Office

North Mills Frog Island Leicester LE3 5DH

Auditors

Pannell Kerr Forster Pannell House 159 Charles Street

Leicester LE1 1LD

Bankers

National Westminster Bank Plc

Bede House

11 Western Boulevard

Leicester LE2 7EJ

AUTOSIGNS HOLDINGS PLC AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

CONTENTS

	Page
DIRECTORS' REPORT	1 - 2
STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES	3
AUDITORS' REPORT	4
CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT	5
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET	6
BALANCE SHEET	7
CASH FLOW STATEMENT	8
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	9 - 19

AUTOSIGNS HOLDINGS PLC AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES DIRECTORS' REPORT YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1999

The directors present their annual report together with the audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 December 1999, comprising the results of the company and its subsidiaries.

Results and dividends

The loss for the year, after taxation, amounted to £89,009 (1998 - £60,918 profit).

The directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend (1998 £50,000).

Principal activity and review of business

The principal activity of the company during the year was that of a parent company to its wholly owned subsidiaries Autosigns Limited and Retail Site Enhancement Limited.

The principal activity of Autosigns Limited was the manufacture and distribution of display and promotional materials for the motor industry.

Retail Site Enhancement Limited's principal activity was the production and sale of specialised window and floor graphics into the retail market. However, in the absence of a buoyant market for its product the company sold the remainder of its stock and became dormant from 5 May 1999. The directors do not consider that it will recommence trading in the foreseeable future.

The directors are disappointed with the results for the year but, in view of current market conditions, consider that the group has done well to maintain turnover at its current level. For the same reason they consider the financial position at the end of the year to be satisfactory and believe the group to be well placed to take advantage of improved trading conditions in the future.

Directors

The directors who served during the year and their interests in the company's issued share capital at the balance sheet date and at the start of the year were:

	Ordinary £1 shares	
	1999	1998
J Parton	125,000	125,000
O Rasmussen	25,000	25,000
I S Foster	25,000	25,000
T Morgan	5,000	5,000
C E Parton	25,000	25,000
J K Shaw	5,000	5,000

Charitable donations

During the year donations totalling £370 were made to charitable organisations.

Payment policy and practice

It is the policy of the directors to pay creditors in accordance with the terms and conditions agreed.

At the year end trade creditors shown in the balance sheet represented 64 days worth of supplies invoiced during the year (1998 - 91 days).

AUTOSIGNS HOLDINGS PLC AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES DIRECTORS' REPORT (continued) YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1999

Auditors

The auditors, Pannell Kerr Forster, will be proposed for reappointment in accordance with section 385 of the Companies Act 1985.

By order of the board

) Rasmussen

Director 8 June 2000

AUTOSIGNS HOLDINGS PLC AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES 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 the group, and of the profit or loss of the group 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;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 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 the group 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 SHAREHOLDERS OF AUTOSIGNS HOLDINGS PLC AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

We have audited the financial statements on pages 5 to 19 which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out on pages 9 to 10.

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 as 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 the group as at 31 December 1999, and of the group's loss for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

Leicester

8 June 2000

amer Ken Farber

PANNELL KERR FORSTER Registered Auditors

AUTOSIGNS HOLDINGS PLC AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1999

	Notes	1999 £	1998 £
TURNOVER	2	2,883,926	2,870,360
Cost of sales		(2,086,563)	(1,854,771)
GROSS PROFIT		797,363	1,015,589
Distribution costs		(552,801)	(546,618)
Administrative expenses		(319,967)	(326,059)
OPERATING (LOSS)/PROFIT	3	(75,405)	142,912
Interest payable and similar items	6	(38,388)	(40,135)
A OCCUMPATIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES			
(LOSS)/PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION		(113,793)	102,777
TAXATION	7	24,784	(41,859)
(LOSS)/PROFIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR		(89,009)	60,918
DIVIDENDS	8	٠	(50,000)
		(89,009)	10,918

All amounts relate to continuing operations.

Movements in reserves are set out in note 20.

There were no recognised gains or losses for the year other than those included in the profit and loss account.

AUTOSIGNS HOLDINGS PLC AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET **31 DECEMBER 1999**

	Notes		1999 £		1998 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible	9		95,676		101,585
Tangible	10		431,556		356,419
			527,232		458,004
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	12	186,942		162,301	
Debtors	13	419,326		607,904	
Cash at bank and in hand		10,680		26,665	
		616,948		796,870	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due		•		•	
within one year	14	(745,174)		(762,176)	
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSI	ETS		(128,226)		34,694
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			399,006		492,698
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year	15		(236,361)		(241,044)
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES					
AND CHARGES	18		(270)		(270)
NET ASSETS			162,375		251,384
					·
CAPITAL AND RESERVES	10		210.000		010.000
Called up share capital	19		210,000		210,000
Profit and loss account	20		(47,625)		41,384
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	21		162,375		251,384

The financial statements were approved by the board on 8 June 2000

Signed on behalf of the board of directors

Director Malestee O Rasmussen

T Morgan

AUTOSIGNS HOLDINGS PLC BALANCE SHEET **31 DECEMBER 1999**

	Notes		1999 £		199 8 £
FIXED ASSETS Investments	11		525,000		526,000
CURRENT ASSETS Debtors Cash at bank and in hand	13	<u>-</u> 41		27,000 41	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	14	(234,597)		27,041 (182,587)	
NET CURRENT LIABILITIES			(234,556)	·	(155,546)
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			290,444		370,454
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year	15		(70,023)		(131,317)
NET ASSETS			220,421		239,137
CAPITAL AND RESERVES					
Called up share capital	19 20		210,000		210,000
Profit and loss account	20		10,421		29,137
EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	21		220,421		239,137

The financial statements were approved by the board on 8 June 2000

Signed on behalf of the board of directors

O Rasmussen

T Morgan

Director Masclesses

AUTOSIGNS HOLDINGS PLC AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1999

	1999	1998
	£	£
Reconciliation of operating (loss)/profit to net cash		
(outflow)/inflow from operating activities		
Operating (loss)/ profit	(75,405)	142,912
Amortisation of intangible assets	5,909	5,909
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	110,279	100,230
Loss on sale of fixed assets	1,268	
Decrease in debtors	186,578	5,121
Increase in stocks	(24,641)	(26,736)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(110,844)	111,908
Net cash inflow from operating activities	93,144	339,344
	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	
CLACKE EV. O.W. O'T A THE MEDIUM (** - 4, 22)		
CASH FLOW STATEMENT (note 22)	93,144	220.244
Net cash inflow from operating activities Returns on investments and servicing of finance	(88,388)	339,344
Taxation	(4,853)	(40,135)
Capital expenditure	(11,235)	(100,680)
Equity dividends paid	(11,235)	(82,687) (108,000)
Equity dividends paid	•	(108,000)
	(11,332)	7,842
Financing	(158,366)	(89,883)
Decrease in cash	(169,698)	(82,041)
	=	
Deconcilisation of not cook flow to movement in not 3-b4 (
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net debt (note 23) Decrease in cash in the period	(169,698)	(00 0.41)
Cash flow from increase in debt and lease financing	(17,083)	(82,041)
Cash from filtease in near and lease imancing	(17,003)	89,883
Change in net debt	(186,781)	7,842
Net debt at 1 January 1999	(308,542)	(316,384)
Net debt at 31 December 1999	(495,323)	(308,542)

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of preparation of financial statements

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

(b) Basis of consolidation

The financial statements of the company and its group undertakings have been consolidated to 31 December 1999. The profit and loss of the company is not presented as permitted by Section 230 of the Companies Act 1985.

(c) Turnover

Turnover comprises the invoiced value of goods and services supplied by the group, net of value added tax and trade discounts.

(d) Intangible fixed assets

Goodwill arising on consolidation represents the excess of the fair value of the consideration given over the fair value of the separable net assets acquired and is amortised over a period of 20 years.

(e) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off their cost over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings Improvements to leasehold buildings Plant and equipment

4 % over the period of the lease 10 - 20 %

(f) Finance and operating leases

Tangible fixed assets acquired under finance lease or hire purchase are capitalised on the basis of actual cost or discounted minimum lease payments. Instalments payable under each agreement are apportioned between capital and revenue to write off the finance charge in equal amounts over the period of the agreement.

Operating lease rentals are charged in the profit and loss account as they fall due.

(g) Investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at cost less provision for diminution in value.

(h) Stocks and work in progress

Stocks and work in progress are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost comprises the direct cost of acquisition and includes direct labour with a relevant proportion of direct overheads. Net realisable value is based on estimated selling price allowing for all further costs of completion and disposal.

Provision has been made, where necessary, for obsolete, slow moving and defective stocks.

(i) Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate ruling when settlement occurs. Normal fluctuations on trading are dealt with in the results for the year.

(j) Deferred taxation

Provision is made for deferred tax using the liability method to the extent that it is probable that a liability will crystallise.

TURNOVER 2

Turnover is attributable to one class of business.

	Turnover is analysed by geographical market as follows:		
		1999	1998
		£	£
	United Kingdom	2,329,716	2,597,899
	European Union	498,675	195,903
	Other	55,535	76,558
	Total	2,883,926	2,870,360
3	OPERATING (LOSS)/ PROFIT		
	The operating (loss)/ profit is stated after charging / (crediting):		
	2 5 (6)	1999	1998
		£	£
	Amortisation of intangible assets	5,909	5,909
	Depreciation of tangible fixed assets:	·	,
	- owned by the company	68,811	77,864
	- held under finance lease or hire purchase contracts	41,468	22,366
	Audit fees	5,670	5,400
	Auditors' remuneration - non-audit services	4,395	150
	Operating lease rentals:	,	
	- plant and machinery	51,390	74,499
	- land and buildings	34,500	34,500
4	DIRECTORS' EMOLUMENTS AND BENEFITS		
		1999	1998
		£	£
	Directors' emoluments	186,000	177,063
		•	•

No directors (1998 - none) were members of company pension schemes.

5	STAFF COSTS		
	Staff costs, including directors' emoluments, were as follows:		
		1999	1998
	We are and extended	£	£
	Wages and salaries Social security costs	881,646 77,376	844,796 77,491
	books scourcy costs		
		959,022	922,287
	The average monthly number of employees, including executive directors, d	luring the year was:	
		No.	No.
	Production	32	32
	Sales and distribution	9	9
	Administration and management	10	10
		51	51
6	INTEREST PAYABLE AND SIMILAR ITEMS	 	
		1999	1998
		1999 £	1998 £
	Bank loans and overdrafts	25,806	26,474
	Other loans	2,772	7,739
	Finance charges under finance lease	0.010	5.000
	and hire purchase contracts	9,810	5,922
		38,388	40,135
_	TAYA TYON		
7	TAXATION		
		1999	1998
	Current year taxation	£	£
	UK corporation tax at 26% (1998 - 30%)	(24,784)	40,487
	Adjustments in respect of prior periods Corporation tax	-	1,372
		(24,784)	41,859
8	DIVIDENDS		
		1999	1998
		£	£
	Ordinary shares Final proposed - equity shares	-	50,000

9 INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Group

	Goodwill £
At 1 January 1999 and	
31 December 1999	118,182
Amortisation	
At 1 January 1999	16,597
Charge for the year	5,909
At 31 December 1999	22,506
Net book amount	
At 31 December 1999	95,676
At 31 December 1998	101,585

10 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Group

	Freehold land & buildings £	Leasehold improvements £	Plant and equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 January 1999	160,857	66,348	1,136,058	1,363,263
Additions	-	2,398	191,286	193,684
Disposals	-	-	(13,780)	(13,780)
At 31 December 1999	160,857	68,746	1,313,564	1,543,167
Depreciation				
At 1 January 1999	26,817	58,770	921,257	1,006,844
Charge for year	6,432	4,409	99,438	110,279
On disposals	-	-	(5,512)	(5,512)
At 31 December 1999	33,249	63,179	1,015,183	1,111,611
Net book amount			······································	
At 31 December 1999	127,608	5,567	298,381	431,556
At 31 December 1998	134,040	7,578	214,801	356,419

The net book amounts of plant and equipment above include £173,862 (1998 - £58,149) in respect of assets held under finance leases or hire purchase contracts.

11 FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Shares in subsidiary undertakings £	Participating interests £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 January 1999			
and 31 December 1999	526,000	6,000	532,000
Provisions			
At 1 January 1999	-	6,000	6,000
Charge to profit and loss	1,000	-	1,000
At 31 December 1999	1,000	6,000	7,000
Net book amount		***	
At 31 December 1999	525,000	-	525,000
At 31 December 1998	526,000		526,000
At 31 December 1996	520,000	<u></u>	520,000

The company owned the entire share capital of Autosigns Limited and Retail Site Enhancement Limited at the year end, both of which are incorporated in Great Britain. The former manufactures and distributes display and promotional materials to the motor industry, while the latter produced and sold specialised window and floor graphics to the retail market until it became dormant on 5 May 1999.

The participating interest represents an investment in Uni-shields Limited, a company registered in the Isle of Man.

12 STOCKS

	GROUP		COMI	PANY
	1999	1998	1999	1998
	£	£	£	£
Raw materials	-	16,760	-	-
Finished goods	186,942	145,541	-	-
	186,942	162,301	-	-

13 DEBTORS

	GROUP		COMPANY	
	1999	1998	1999	1998
	£	£	£	£
Due within one year				
Trade debtors	376,954	558,818	-	-
Other debtors	150	150	-	-
Prepayments and	47.000	21.026		
accrued income	17,222	21,936	•	-
Corporation tax				
recoverable	4,527	27,000	-	27,000
	398,853	607,904	•	27,000
Due after one year Advance corporation				
tax recoverable	20,473	-	-	-
	419,326	607,904	-	27,000

14 CREDITORS:

Amounts falling due within one	year			
	GRO	UP	COMPANY	
	1999	1998	1999	1998
	£	£	£	£
Bank loans				
and overdrafts	190,850	38,731	25,137	22,883
Trade creditors	292,403	375,562	_	-
Amounts owed to				
group undertakings	-	-	166,603	64,046
Corporation tax	-	31,637	-	_
Other tax and social				
security	45,066	91,154	-	-
Proposed dividends	-	50,000	-	50,000
Net obligations under finance lea	se and			
hire purchase contracts				
(note 17)	43,792	20,432	-	-
Other creditors	128,918	116,410	41,857	44,658
Accruals and				
deferred income	44,145	38,250	1,000	1,000
	745,174	762,176	234,597	182,587
				

15 CREDITORS:

semonnes mund and attent more	chan one year			
	GROUP		COMPANY	
	1999	1998	1999	1998
	£	£	£	£
Bank loans (note 16)	149,520	190,581	70,023	96,317
Net obligations under finance lea	ise and			
hire purchase contracts				
(note 17)	86,841	15,463	-	-
Other creditors	-	35,000	-	35,000
	236,361	241,044	70,023	131,317

16 LOANS

Loans fall due for payment as follows:

• •	GROUP		COMPANY	
	1999	1998	1999	1998
	£	£	£	£
Bank loans				
Within one year	37,137	38,731	25,137	22,883
Between one and two years	34,000	38,731	22,000	22,000
Between two and five years	84,023	113,119	48,023	74,317
After more than five years	31,497	38,731	-	-
	186,657	229,312	95,160	119,200

The bank loan is secured by a mortgage debenture incorporating a specific equitable charge over the leasehold factory and a charge over the freehold building.

The bank loans are being repaid by monthly instalments of interest and capital. Interest at 2% over base rate is charged on loans due after more than 5 years.

17 FINANCE LEASES

Net obligations under finance lease and hire purchase agreements fall due as follows:

· ·	GROUP		COMPANY	
	1999	1998	1999	1998
	£	£	£	£
Within one year	43,792	20,432	-	-
Between one and five years	86,841	15,463	-	
				
	130,633	35,895	-	-
	<u></u>			

18 PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES

GROUP

	Deferred tax is analysed as follows:				
		Provide		Not pro	
		1999	1998	1999	1 998
		£	£	£	£
	Capital allowances	270	270	-	-
	The company has no potential deferred	tax liability.			
19	SHARE CAPITAL				
			Authorised		alled up and / paid
			£	No.	£
	At 1 January 1999				-
	and 31 December 1999				
	Ordinary shares of £1 each		210,000	210,000	210,000
					
20	RESERVES				
				GROUP	COMPANY
	Profit and loss account			£	£
	At 1 January 1999			41,384	29,137
	Loss for the year			(89,009)	(18,716)
	At 31 December 1999			(47,625)	10,421

21	EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS		
	GROUP	1999	1998
	Shareholders' funds at 1 January 1999 (Loss)/profit for the year Dividends	£ 251,384 (89,009) -	£ 240,466 60,918 (50,000)
	Shareholders' funds at 31 December 1999	162,375	251,384
	COMPANY	1999 £	1998 £
	Shareholders' funds at 1 January 1999	239,137	238,747
	(Loss)/profit for the year	(18,716)	50,390
	Dividends		(50,000)
	Shareholders' funds at 31 December 1999	220,421	239,137
22	GROSS CASH FLOWS		
		1999	1998
	Water and and and and a figure	£	£
	Returns on investments and servicing of finance Interest paid	(28,578)	(34,213)
	Interest element of finance lease rentals	(9,810)	(5,922)
	Dividends paid	(50,000)	-
		(88,388)	(40,135)
	Capital expenditure		
	Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	(18,235)	(82,687)
	Receipts from sales of tangible fixed assets	7,000	
		(11,235)	(82,687)
	Financing		(51.400)
	Loans repaid Capital element of finance lease rentals	(77,655) (80,711)	(64,405) (25,478)
	Capital Continue of Minimo Additional Continue		
		(158,366)	(89,883)

23 ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 1 January 1999 £	Cash flows £	Other changes £	At 31 December 1999 £
Cash at bank and in hand	26,665	(15,985)	-	10,680
Overdrafts	•	(153,713)	-	(153,713)
		(169,698)		
Debt due within 1 year	(73,731)	77,655	(76,061)	(72,137)
Debt due after 1 year	(225,581)	-	76,061	(149,520)
Finance leases	(35,895)	(94,738)	-	(130,633)
Total	(308,542)	(186,781)	-	(495,323)

24 OTHER COMMITMENTS

At 31 December 1999 the group had annual commitments under operating leases as follows:

	Land a	Land and buildings		Other	
	1999	1998	1999	1998	
	£	£	£	£	
Expiry date:					
Within 1 year	-	34,500	2,888	20,328	
Between 1 and 5 years	34,500	•	51,685	54,171	
	24.500	24.500	CA 573	74.400	
	34,500	34,500	54,573	74,499	
					

The company had no leasing commitments.

25 CONTROLLING PARTY

Ultimate control of the company lies with J Parton, a director of the company.