Strategic Report, Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 28 February 2021

for

**Advanced Ticketing Limited** 

A06

26/02/2022 COMPANIES HOUSE

# Contents of the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 28 February 2021

	Page
Company Information	1
Strategic Report	2
Directors' Report	4
ndependent Auditors' Report	6
Statement of Comprehensive Income	9
Statement of Financial Position	10
Statement of Changes in Equity	11
Notes to the Financial Statements	12

# Company Information for the Year Ended 28 February 2021

DIRECTORS:

G J Wilson R J Kerr

REGISTERED OFFICE:

Ditton Park Riding Court Road Datchet Berkshire SL3 9LL

**REGISTERED NUMBER:** 

03830932 (England and Wales)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS:

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP Registered Auditors & Chartered Accountants One Chamberlain Square

Birmingham B3 3AX

## Strategic Report for the Year Ended 28 February 2021

The directors present their strategic report for the year ended 28 February 2021.

#### **PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES**

The principal activity of the Company during the year under review was that of an application service provider and is principally engaged in the development and provision of services to businesses involved in ticketing.

#### **REVIEW OF BUSINESS**

The results for the year and financial position of the Company are shown in the financial statements.

The Company is well-established, supplying software and services to the sports and entertainment markets. Its customers range from major premiership football clubs to smaller event and festival organisers. Revenues are generated by the sale of licences and services, software maintenance and transaction fees. The Company operates in both the UK and abroad through a network of agents. The Company is seeking to increase its customer base and is aligning its objectives to those of its customers by refining its on-line ticket selling software.

Three products constitute the Company's portfolio. TALENT is aimed at larger sports clubs and accounts for 84% of the revenue. The Venue and Web products are aimed at theatres, events and festival operators and accounts for the remaining 16% of revenue. In the reporting year 17% (2020: 4%) of revenue was achieved from licences, 18% (2020: 17%) from services and 65% (2020: 85%) from recurring revenues, with the remainder from other revenues. The reduction in licences results from the Company selling increasingly as a subscription model.

During the reporting year, revenue fell from £3,443,000 in the prior reported year to £2,098,000. The revenue decreased due to sporting events being cancelled due to the covid pandemic. Operating loss was £574,000 (2020: £187,000 profit). The company had net assets of £5,198,000 (2020: £5,559,000).

The strategy of the Company is to ally with its customers' online strategy allowing the company to strengthen its partner relationship with the customers. Software development is focussed on enabling customers greater functionality to sell their products online whist enjoying the operational efficiencies that result.

The average monthly number of employees employed by the company in the year was 25 (2020: 33).

#### GOING CONCERN

The directors' have considered it is appropriate to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. In reaching this position, a downside severe cash flow scenario has been reviewed. The assumptions modelled in this scenario are based on an estimated potential impact of Covid-19 restrictions and regulations, and also considering the Group's potential responses over the next 12 months.

The downside scenario assumptions include a range of estimated impacts primarily based on the rate of acquiring new software contracts and professional services assignments while also assessing the retention of the existing client base. The business has positively traded throughout the Covid period; however, it has seen a lower level of new business activity than in the pre-Covid period. For this downside assessment scenario revenue, profit and cash flow are assumed not to return to the pre-Covid levels within the next 12-month period.

Advanced operates business divisions which are focused on key market segments. Each unit has experienced sensitivity in its results arising from the impact on their markets due to Covid-19. Overall, as a portfolio of markets the business has remained consistent with Health and Care outperforming expectations and others such as Legal operating below historic levels.

Additional further areas could be assessed in mitigating the downside scenario. These are within management's control and could include reductions to discretionary spend, delaying recruitment and reducing other controllable spend. We have assumed no significant structural changes to the business will be needed in the scenario modelled and any mitigations are not considered to have any significant impacts on customer experience.

The business is not directly dependent on sales between the UK and EU as the business is focused materially on UK businesses and enterprises.

## Strategic Report for the Year Ended 28 February 2021

#### PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

Below are details of the Company's principal risks and the mitigating activities in place to address them.

#### **Financial Risk Management**

#### Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a counter party to a transaction with the Company fails to discharge its obligations in respect of the instrument. The Company's credit risk arises on (i) transactions with customers following delivery of goods and/or services or on (ii) cash and cash equivalents placed with banks and financial institutions.

In order to manage credit risk the Directors set limits for customers based on a combination of payment history and third party credit references. Credit limits are reviewed by the credit controller on a regular basis in conjunction with debt ageing and collection history.

#### Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Company cannot meet financial liabilities when they fall due. The Company's policy for managing liquidity risk is to ensure that the business has enough financial resource to meet its day-to-day activities at any point in time. Management believes that the cash resources on hand, together with the profits of the business more than cover the resources needed to meet the financial obligations of the Company.

#### Other Principal Risks and Uncertainties

#### Macroeconomic risk

A prime risk and area of uncertainty facing the Company is demand within its marketplace. Global market uncertainty, and national issues including the focus on national debt, have a direct or indirect impact on the organisations and businesses with which the Company trades. The Directors seek to manage these risks by development of the Company's portfolio of market offerings, which enable it to leverage new revenue streams from new and existing customers, together with seeking to ensure a strong level of recurring revenue

The United Kingdom exited the European Union on the 31st January 2020. A significant portion of the company's revenue is recurring from existing customers which provides highly predictable cashflows. The company has a range of markets, products and services which overall reduces the risk on any single element. The company is not directly dependent on sales between the UK and the EU as the business is focused materially on UK businesses and enterprises.

#### Innovation risk

The IT market is subject to rapid, and often unpredictable, change. As a result the Company's products and services might become unattractive to its customer base. The Company monitors technology and market developments and invests to keep its existing offerings up-to-date as well as seeking out new opportunities and initiatives.

#### FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The directors believe that there is considerable scope for expansion and growth within the existing client base and market place as the benefits of being a member of a leading software group bear fruit.

#### ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

R J Kerr - Director

Date: 24 February 2022

#### **Directors' Report** for the Year Ended 28 February 2021

The directors present their report with the audited financial statements of the Company for the year ended 28 February 2021.

Reporting requirements on the Company's principal activities and future developments, financial risk management, its principal risks and uncertainties and its key performance can be found in the Strategic Report which starts on page 2.

The directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend (2020: £nil).

G J Wilson has held office during the whole of the period from 1 March 2020 to the date of this report.

Other changes in directors holding office are as follows:

R J Kerr was appointed as a director on 1 February 2022.

A W Hicks resigned from being a director on 1 February 2022.

The directors in place during the year and also at the date of approval benefit from qualifying third party indemnity provisions provided by the parent undertaking.

#### POLITICAL DONATIONS AND EXPENDITURE

There were no political donations made during the year (2020: £nil).

The Company is committed to offering equal employment opportunities and its policies are designed to attract, retain, and motivate the best staff regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, age or disability.

The Company encourages the participation of all employees in the operation and development of the business and has a policy of regular communications. The Company incentivises its employees and senior management through the payment of bonuses linked to performance objectives.

The Company has a wide range of other written policies, designed to ensure that it operates in a legal and ethical manner. These include policies related to health and safety, "whistle blowing", anti-bribery and corruption, business gifts, grievance, career planning, parental leave, systems and network security. All of the Company's policies are published internally.

#### STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they 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 the financial statements, the directors are required to:

- o select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; o state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102, have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- o make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- o prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and 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 2006.

The directors 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.

## Directors' Report for the Year Ended 28 February 2021

#### STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITOR

So far as the directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the Company's auditors are unaware, and each director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditors are aware of that information.

#### **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS**

In accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006 by ordinary resolution of the members PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP have been reappointed as auditors of the company.

#### ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

R J Kerr - Director

Date: 24 February 2022

# Independent auditors' report to the members of Advanced Ticketing Limited

## Report on the audit of the financial statements

#### **Opinion**

In our opinion, Advanced Ticketing Limited's financial statements:

- . give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 28 February 2021 and of its loss for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law); and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

We have audited the financial statements, included within the Strategic Report, Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 28 February 2021 (the "Annual Report"), which comprise: the Statement of Financial Position as at 28 February 2021; the Statement of Comprehensive Income and the Statement of Changes in Equity for the year then ended; and the notes to the financial statements, which include a description of the significant accounting policies.

#### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities under ISAs (UK) are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Independence

We remained independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, which includes the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this conclusion is not a guarantee as to the company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

#### Reporting on other information

The other information comprises all of the information in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify an apparent material inconsistency or material misstatement, we are required to perform procedures to conclude whether there is a material misstatement of the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report based on these responsibilities.

With respect to the Strategic report and Directors' Report, we also considered whether the disclosures required by the UK Companies Act 2006 have been included.

Based on our work undertaken in the course of the audit, the Companies Act 2006 requires us also to report certain opinions and matters as described below.

#### Strategic report and Directors' Report

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, the information given in the Strategic report and Directors' Report for the year ended 28 February 2021 is consistent with the financial statements and has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we did not identify any material misstatements in the Strategic report and Directors' Report.

## Responsibilities for the financial statements and the audit

## Responsibilities of the directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The directors are also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Based on our understanding of the company and industry, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to employment and health and safety regulations, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006 and Direct taxes. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to inappropriate manual journals to manipulate the financial position of the business and management bias in estimates. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- discussions with management, including enquiries into the existence and response to any known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- testing of journals which may appear to have unusual accounting entries;
- · challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in relation to estimates and judgements; and
- reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the FRC's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditors' report.

#### Use of this report

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the company's members as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving these opinions, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

## Other required reporting

#### Companies Act 2006 exception reporting

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- we have not obtained all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- · certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns.

We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

Most Palmer

Matt Palmer (Senior Statutory Auditor) for and on behalf of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors Birmingham 24 February 2022

## Statement of Comprehensive Income for the Year Ended 28 February 2021

	Notes	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
TURNOVER	3	2,098	3,443
Cost of sales		(256)	(260)
GROSS PROFIT		1,842	3,183
Administrative expenses - ongoing		(2,102)	(2,963)
Administrative expenses – exceptional	7	(314)	(33)
OPERATING (LOSS)/PROFIT	6	(574)	187
Interest receivable and similar income	8	95	89
(LOSS)/PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION		(479)	276
Tax on (loss)/profit	9	118	(51)
(LOSS)/PROFIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEA	R	(361)	225
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	•	<u></u> :	
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE (LOSS)/INCOME THE YEAR	FOR	<u>(361</u> )	225

## Advanced Ticketing Limited (Registered number: 03830932)

# Statement of Financial Position 28 February 2021

	Notes	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
FIXED ASSETS Intangible assets Tangible assets	10 11	1,618 	1,777 112
		<u>1,670</u>	1,889
CURRENT ASSETS Debtors Cash at bank	12	4,957 <u>97</u>	1,670 <u>813</u>
CREDITORS		5,054	5,483
Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(1,526)</u>	<u>(1,813</u> )
NET CURRENT ASSETS		3,528	3,670
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIAB	LITIES	<u>5,198</u>	5,559
CAPITAL AND RESERVES Called up share capital Retained earnings	· 14	500 <u>4,698</u>	500 5,059
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS		<u>5,198</u>	<u>5,559</u>

The financial statements on pages 9 to 19 were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on 24 February 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

R J Kerr - Director

# Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ended 28 February 2021

	Called up share capital £'000	Retained earnings £'000	Total equity £'000
Balance at 1 March 2019	500	4,834	5,334
Changes in equity Total comprehensive income Balance at 29 February 2020		<u>225</u> 5,059	
Changes in equity Total comprehensive loss	. ——— <del>—</del>	(361)	(361)
Balance at 28 February 2021	500	4,698	5,198

#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Basis of preparing the financial statements

Advanced Ticketing Limited (the "Company") is a private company, limited by shares, registered in England and Wales. The registered number and the address of the registered office is given on the Company Information page and the nature of the Company's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Directors' Report.

These financial statements were prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102") as issued in August 2014 and the Companies Act 2006. The presentation currency of these financial statements is sterling. All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest £1.000.

The accounting policies set out below have, unless otherwise stated, been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements.

Judgements made by the directors, in the application of these accounting policies that have significant effect on the financial statements and estimates with a significant risk of material adjustment in the next year are discussed below in note 2.

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

The directors' have considered it is appropriate to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. In reaching this position, a downside severe cash flow scenario has been reviewed. The assumptions modelled in this scenario are based on an estimated potential impact of Covid-19 restrictions and regulations, and also considering the Group's potential responses over the next 12 months.

The downside scenario assumptions include a range of estimated impacts primarily based on the rate of acquiring new software contracts and professional services assignments while also assessing the retention of the existing client base. The business has positively traded throughout the Covid period; however, it has seen a lower level of new business activity than in the pre-Covid period. For this downside assessment scenario revenue, profit and cash flow are assumed not to return to the pre-Covid levels within the next 12-month period.

Advanced operates business divisions which are focused on key market segments. Each unit has experienced sensitivity in its results arising from the impact on their markets due to Covid-19. Overall, as a portfolio of markets the business has remained consistent with Health and Care outperforming expectations and others such as Legal operating below historic levels.

Additional further areas could be assessed in mitigating the downside scenario. These are within management's control and could include reductions to discretionary spend, delaying recruitment and reducing other controllable spend. We have assumed no significant structural changes to the business will be needed in the scenario modelled and any mitigations are not considered to have any significant impacts on customer experience.

The business is not directly dependent on sales between the UK and EU as the business is focused materially on UK businesses and enterprises.

The Company's parent undertaking Aston Midco Limited includes the Company in its consolidated financial statements. The consolidated financial statements of Aston Midco Limited are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the EU and are available to the public and may be obtained from Companies House.

In these financial statements, the company is considered to be a qualifying entity (for the purposes of this FRS) and has applied the exemptions available under FRS 102 in respect of the following disclosures:

- Reconciliation of the number of shares outstanding from the beginning to end of the period;
- Cash Flow Statement and related notes; and
- Key Management Personnel compensation.

As the consolidated financial statements of Aston Midco Limited include the equivalent disclosures, the Company has also taken the exemptions under FRS 102 available in respect of the following disclosures:

The disclosures required by FRS 102.11 Basic Financial Instruments and FRS 102.12 Other Financial Instrument
Issues in respect of financial instruments not falling within the fair value accounting rules of Paragraph 36(4) of
Schedule 1.

#### Preparation of consolidated financial statements

The financial statements contain information about Advanced Ticketing Limited as an individual company and do not contain consolidated financial information as the parent of a group. The Company is exempt under Section 400 of the Companies Act 2006 from the requirements to prepare consolidated financial statements as it and its subsidiary undertaking are included by full consolidation in the consolidated financial statements of its parent undertaking Aston Midco Limited, a company registered in Jersey.

#### Turnover

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts, rebates, value added tax and other sales taxes.

## Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 28 February 2021

The Company's revenues are derived from the sale of software product licences, the associated consultancy services, hardware, maintenance, managed services and supplies of third party software. All revenue is reported exclusive of value added tax.

The Company will only recognise revenue when:

- persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists. This is typically a signed contract or customer purchase order;
- the price to the customer is fixed or determinable;
- delivery has occurred; and
- collectability is reasonably assured and there are no material outstanding conditions or contingencies attaching to the receipt of monies due.

The Company recognises revenue on each element of a contract as follows:

- software product licence revenue is recognised when risks and rewards have passed to the customer and there is no significant ongoing obligation on the company. Where software is sold as part of a bundled arrangement, the Company allocates revenue to each component based on its fair value;
- hardware revenue is recognised on delivery of the goods;
- consultancy services (including training) the Company performs a number of professional services to its customers.
   These can include implementation and configuration of the software and training of the customer's staff. Revenue is recognised as the services are performed:
- product maintenance The Company provides software updates to its customers as part of the ongoing maintenance contract. Revenue is recognised rateably over the duration of the contract; and
- managed services Where the Company provides hosting services, revenue is recognised rateably over the duration of the contract.

Typically, a number of the above elements maybe sold together as a bundled contract. Revenue is recognised separately for each component if it is considered to represent a separable good or service and a fair value can be reliably established.

The Company derives fair value for its consultancy services based on day rates for consultants and for product maintenance based on maintenance renewal prices. Where software is included within a bundled arrangement, the residual value of the contract is ascribed to the software after a fair value has been allocated to all other components.

Revenues for arrangements that involve significant modification, or customisation of the software maybe recognised based on achievement of contract specific milestones, or using the percentage of completion method depending on the terms of the contract. The Company determines the stage of completion based on an assessment of direct labour costs incurred to date as a percentage of total estimated project costs required to complete the project.

If collectability is not reasonably assured at the outset of a contract, the Company defers revenue and only recognises revenue on receipt of the cash and to the extent that it has discharged its obligations under the contract.

Deferred revenues primarily relate to managed services and customer support fees, which have been invoiced to the customer prior to the performance of these services. Deferred revenue is generally recognised over a period of one to three years.

#### Interest receivable and Interest payable

Interest payable and similar charges include interest payable from intercompany and bank loans. Interest receivable and similar income include interest receivable on intercompany lending.

Interest income and interest payable are recognised in Statement of Comprehensive Income as they accrue, using the effective interest method. Dividend income is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income on the date the company's right to receive payments is established. Foreign currency gains and losses are reported on a net basis.

#### Goodwill

Goodwill is stated at cost less any accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Goodwill is allocated to cash-generating units or group of cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the business combination from which it arose.

#### Research and development

Expenditure on research and development is written off in the year in which it is incurred.

#### Patents and trademarks

Patents and trademarks are included at cost and amortised in equal annual instalments over the useful economic life of the asset. Any impairment is written off immediately.

#### **Amortisation**

Amortisation is charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of intangible assets. Intangible assets are amortised from the date they are available for use. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

- Patents and trademarks (5 years). The basis for choosing these useful lives is the expected life over which we derive a
- Goodwill is amortised on a straight line basis over its useful life. Goodwill has no residual value. The finite useful life of goodwill is estimated to be 20 years.

The company reviews the amortisation period and method when events and circumstances indicate that the useful life may have changed since the last reporting date.

Goodwill and other intangible assets are tested for impairment in accordance with Section 27 of FRS 102 Impairment of assets when there is an indication that goodwill or an intangible asset may be impaired.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of tangible fixed assets by equal instalments over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

Fixtures and equipment

- 33% on cost

Computer equipment

- 33% on cost

Leasehold improvements

- 33% on cost

#### Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings

Straight line over 3 years

Computer equipment

Straight line over 3 years

#### Taxation

Tax on the profit or loss for the year comprises current and deferred tax. Tax is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity.

Current tax is the expected tax payable or receivable on the taxable income or loss for the year, using rates enacted or substantively enacted at the statement of financial position date, and any adjustment to tax payable in respect of previous years.

#### Deferred tax

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the statement of financial position date.

Timing differences arise from the inclusion of income and expenses in tax assessments in periods different from those in which they are recognised in financial statements. Deferred tax is measured using tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the year end and that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits.

#### Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated to the Company's functional currency at the foreign exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the Statement of Financial Position date are retranslated to the functional currency at the foreign exchange rate ruling at that date. Non-monetary assets and liabilities that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction. Non-monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies that are stated at fair value are retranslated to the functional currency at foreign exchange rates ruling at the dates the fair value was determined. Foreign exchange differences arising on translation are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

#### Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

A defined contribution plan is a post-employment benefit plan under which the Company pays fixed contributions into a separate entity and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further amounts. Obligations for contributions to defined contribution pension plans are recognised as an expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the periods during which services are rendered by employees.

#### Trade and other debtors / creditors

Trade and other debtors are recognised initially at transaction price less attributable transaction costs. Trade and other creditors are recognised initially at transaction price plus attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment losses in the case of trade debtors. If the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, for example if payment is deferred beyond normal business terms, then it is measured at the present value of future payments discounted at a market rate of instrument for a similar debt instrument.

#### Financial guarantee contracts

Where the Company enters into financial guarantee contracts to guarantee the indebtedness of other companies within its group, the company treats the guarantee contract as a contingent liability until such time as it becomes probable that the company will be required to make a payment under the guarantee.

#### 2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

#### Key sources of estimation uncertainty

The Company considers the following uncertain estimations as at balance sheet date that may have any material impact on the carrying amounts of its assets and liabilities in applying the Company's accounting policy:

#### Revenue recognition

Revenue for arrangements that involve significant modification or customisation of the software may be recognised based on achievement of contract-specific milestones. The Company determines the stage of completion based on an assessment of direct labour costs incurred to date as a percentage of total estimated project costs required to complete the project.

If collectability is not reasonably assured at the outset of a contract, the Company defers revenue and only recognises revenue on receipt of the cash and to the extent that it has discharged its obligations under the contract.

#### Useful lives of tangible and intangible assets

Intangible and tangible assets are amortised or depreciated over their useful lives. These useful lives are based on management's estimates of the length of the period that the assets will generate revenue. These estimates are periodically reviewed for continued appropriateness. Changes to estimates can result in significant variations in the carrying value and amounts charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income in specific periods.

#### Taxation

The Company is subject to UK corporate taxation and judgement is required in determining the provision for income and deferred taxation. The Company recognises taxation assets and liabilities based upon estimates and assessments of many factors including past experience, advice received on the relevant taxation legislation and judgements about the outcome of future events. To the extent that the final outcome of these matters is different from the amounts recorded, such differences will impact on the taxation charge made in the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the period in which such determination is made.

#### Recoverability of intercompany debtors

Management review the recoverability of intercompany debtors as needed, taking into account the evidence available at the time and provide for any doubtful debts accordingly.

#### Critical accounting judgements in applying the Company's accounting policies

The Company does not consider there to be any critical accounting judgements involved in applying the Company's accounting policies.

#### 3. TURNOVER

The turnover and loss (2020 - profit) before taxation are attributable to the one principal activity of the company.

An analysis of turnover by class of business is given below:

	2021	2020
	£'000	£,000
Licences	363	129
Consultancy	383	355
Maintenance & managed services	1,352	2,959
	2,098	3,443

The turnover of the company is undertaken mainly in the UK. No material part of the revenue was derived from outside of the UK for the year ended 2021 and 2020.

#### 4. EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS

Wages and salaries Social security costs Other pension costs	2021 £'000 1,207 147 66	2020 £'000 1,536 159 65
	1,420	1,760
The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:	2021	2020
Sales Technical Admin	4 19 2	6 23 4
	<u>25</u>	33

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the Company's pension scheme are charged to the profit and loss account in the period to which they relate.

The total charged to income represents contributions paid to those schemes by the Company at rates specified in the rules of the plan.

#### 5. **DIRECTORS' EMOLUMENTS**

The directors are also directors of other companies in the Aston Midco Group. These directors' services to the Company do not occupy a significant amount of their time and as such the directors do not consider that they have received any remuneration for their incidental services to the Company during the year (2020: nil). The directors are remunerated for their services to this Company by another Group company.

#### 6. OPERATING (LOSS)/PROFIT

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Depreciation - owned assets	60	67
Goodwill amortisation	159	159
Research and development	<u>619</u>	1,255

Amounts receivable by the company's auditors and their associates in respect of the audit of these financial statements of associated is £10,000 (2020: £9,000).

#### 7. EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Transformation costs	314	33

Transformation projects primarily relate to information technology systems implementation and finance transformation.

#### 8. INTEREST RECEIVABLE AND SIMILAR INCOME

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Inter-company loan interest	<u>95</u>	89

#### 9. TAX ON (LOSS)/PROFIT

Analysis	of th	e tax	(credit)	/charge
----------	-------	-------	----------	---------

The tax (credit)/charge on the loss for the year was as follows:

The tax (disaut) and age and the tees to the year theo do to lenette.	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Current tax: UK corporation tax	(1)	1
Deferred tax: Deferred tax timing difference Change in tax rate Prior year adjustment	(8) (77) (32)	8 - 42
Total deferred tax	<u>(117</u> )	50
Tax on (loss)/profit	(118)	51

UK corporation tax was charged at 19% in 2020.

## Reconciliation of total tax (credit)/charge included in profit and loss

The tax assessed for the year is lower than the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK. The difference is explained below:

. (Loss)/profit before tax	2021 £'000 <u>(479</u> )	2020 £'000 
(Loss)/profit multiplied by the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19% (2020 - 19%)	(91)	52
Effects of: Expenses not deductible for tax purposes Income not taxable for tax purposes Adjustments to tax charge in respect of previous periods Group Relief	99 (5) (32) (89)	36 (42) 5
Total tax (credit)/charge	<u>(118</u> )	51

#### Factors that may affect future tax charges

In the Spring Budget 2021, the Government announced that from 1 April 2023, the corporation tax rate will increase to 25%. Since the proposal to increase the rate to 25% had not been substantively enacted at the balance sheet date, its effects are not included in these financial statements.

Deferred taxes at the statement of financial position date have been measured using these enacted tax rates and reflected in the financial statements.

#### **Deferred** tax

	£'000	£'000
Unutilised tax losses Depreciation in excess of capital allowances Other timing differences	(719) (41) (12)	(613) (37) (5)
Deferred tax	<u>(772</u> )	(655)
Opening deferred tax asset Deferred tax credit in the profit and loss account for the year	(655) (117)	(705) 50
Closing deferred tax asset	<u>(772</u> )	<u>(655</u> )

10.	INTANGIBLE ASSETS		Goodwill	Intangibles	Totals
			£'000	£'000	£'000
	COST				
	At 1 March 2020		3,183	413	3,596
3+	and 28 February 2021		3,103		3,330
	AMORTISATION				
	At 1 March 2020		1,406	413	1,819
	Amortisation for year		159	-	159
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
	At 28 February 2021		1,565	413	1,978
	·			•	
	NET BOOK VALUE			•	
	At 28 February 2021		<u>1,618</u>		<u>1,618</u>
		•			
	At 29 February 2020		<u>1,777</u>	<del>-</del>	<u>1,777</u>
11.	TANGIBLE ASSETS				
			Fixtures	_	
		Leasehold	and	Computer	
		improvements	fittings	equipment	Totals
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£,000
	COST				
	At 1 March 2020 and 28 February 2021	287	91	25	403
	and 20 February 2021				
	DEPRECIATION				
	At 1 March 2020	179	89	23	291
	Charge for year	57	1	2	60
	ů ,	<del></del>			
	At 28 February 2021	236	90	25	351
	NET BOOK VALUE		à		
	At 28 February 2021	<u>51</u>	1	<u>—</u>	<u>52</u>
		400	•	•	440
	At 29 February 2020	<u>108</u>	2	2	112
40	DESTABA				
12.	DEBTORS			2021	2020
				£'000	£'000
	Trade debtors			691	747
	Amounts owed by group undertakings			3,455	2,943
	Tax			· -	9
	Deferred tax asset			772	655
	VAT			10	-
	Prepayments and accrued income			29	<u>316</u>
				4 057	4.070
				4,957	<u>4,670</u>

Amounts owed by group undertakings include an amount of £2,168,000 (2020: £2,073,000) bearing interest at LIBOR plus 4%. All amounts are unsecured and repayable on demand.

Trade debtors are stated after provisions for impairment of £53,000 (2020: £10,000).

#### 13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Trade creditors	34	91
Amounts owed to group undertakings	402	435
Other taxation and social security	39	37
VAT	-	132
Other creditors	47	-
Accruals	128	253
Deferred income	876	<u>865</u>
	<u>1,526</u>	1,813

Amounts owed to group undertakings are unsecured, bear no interest and are repayable on demand.

#### Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 28 February 2021

#### **CALLED UP SHARE CAPITAL** 14

Allotted, issued and fully paid:

Number: Class: Nominal value: £1.00

2021 500,000

2020 500,000

500,000 Ordinary

#### 15. **CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

The Company had guaranteed bank borrowings of fellow group undertakings. As at year end, the company is an obligor to a banking facility held by Aston Finco Sarl, comprising of a first Lien loan of \$330,000,000 (2020: \$330,000,000) (\$326,700,000) outstanding as at 28 February 2021 (2020: \$330,000,000 outstanding)) and £395,000,000 (2020: £285,000,000) (£391,350,000 outstanding as at 28 February 2021 (2020: £285,000,000 outstanding)) repayable at 1% per annum with the balance payable on 9 October 2026, a £75,000,000 (2020: £75,000,000) revolving credit facility (£6,500,000 drawn (2020:Nil)) and a second Lien loan of \$115,000,000 (2020: \$115,000,000) and £175,000,000 (2020: £175,000,000) falling due on 9 October 2027. The interest rates on both loans vary between 4.25% and 8.25% over LIBOR. In prior year, an agreement was reached between Aston Bidco (Holding) Limited and Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs and HSBC to hedge 100% of the USD debt in a cross-currency swap, thus limiting the Group's exposure to USD/GBP exchange variances.

#### **RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES** 16.

The company has taken advantage of exemption, under the terms of Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', not to disclose related party transactions with wholly owned subsidiaries within the group.

#### **ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY** 17.

The immediate parent company is Computer Software Holdings Limited, a company registered in England and Wales.

The parent company of the smallest and largest group in which the Company is included in consolidated financial statements is that of Aston Midco Limited a company registered in Jersey.

The consolidated financial statements of Aston Midco Limited are available to the public from Companies House.

On 9 October 2019, the Advanced Group of companies was jointly acquired by Aston Lux Acquisition S.à.r.I (which is owned funds advised or managed by BC Partners LLP) and funds within the Vista Fund VII Limited Partnership. There is no ultimate controlling party as each of the majority shareholders own the same percentage of the shares and the voting rights.