Directors' report and financial statements

31 March 1996

Registered number 873028

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Directors' report and financial statements

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Directors' report

The directors present their annual report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 1996.

Principal activities

The principal activities of the company and its subsidiary undertakings are that of manufacturing, wholesaling and servicing of equipment and accessories to the oil and gas industry.

Business review

Turnover rose to £10,659,813 (1994: £8,635,410) and profit on ordinary activities before tax rose to £1,589,296 (1994: £660,344).

The company increased turnover and profits before taxation during the year and strengthened its position in the market, through sales of diversified product lines. The company looks forward to continued growth in the coming year as a result of buoyant market conditions.

On 31 January 1996 the Group acquired the entire share capital of Environmental Procedures (UK) Limited. The post acquisition results have been consolidated in the Group financial statements.

On 24 April 1996 the entire share capital of Drexel Oilfield Services Limited and its subsidiary companies was acquired by Tuboscope Vetco International Inc.

Proposed dividend and transfer to reserves

The directors recommend that no dividend be paid. The retained profit for the financial year is £1,109,138.

Directors and directors' interests

The directors who held office during the year were as follows:

LY Loh (Chairman) D Barrett JE McAnally CD Harriman PJ Stuart HM Murray

FB McCafferty

DS Lumsden

None of the directors who held office at the end of the financial year had any disclosable interests in the shares of the company and its subsidiary undertakings.

Auditors

In accordance with Section 384 of the Companies Act 1985, a resolution for the re-appointment of KPMG as auditors of the company is to be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

By order of the board

rotemust. C.

DS Lumsden

Secretary

5A Furze Hill Purley Surrey CR8 3LB

28 June 1996



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 group and of the profit or loss 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 group 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 to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the group and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.





37 Albyn Place Aberdeen AB10 1JB

Report of the auditors to the members of Drexel Equipment (UK) Limited

We have audited the financial statements on pages 4 to 21.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described on page 2, 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 group'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 March 1996 and of the profit of the group for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

Chartered Accountants Registered Auditors 7 August 1996



Consolidated profit and loss account for the year ended 31 March 1996

	Note	1996 £	1995 £
Turnover Cost of sales	2	10,659,813 (7,687,826)	8,635,410 (6,566,629)
Gross profit Distribution costs Administrative expenses		2,971,987 (690,214) (658,150)	2,068,781 (768,146) (593,788)
Operating profit Interest receivable and similar income Interest payable and similar charges	6	1,623,623 10,749 (45,076)	706,847 6,194 (52,697)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation Tax on profit on ordinary activities	3-5 7	1,589,296 (480,158)	660,344 (257,756)
Profit for the financial year		1,109,138	402,588
Profit retained in The holding company Subsidiary company		1,060,523 48,615	402,588
		1,109,138	402,588

A statement of movements on reserves is given in note 17.

Turnover and profit on ordinary activities before interest arise wholly from continuing operations.

There are no other recognised gains and losses other than the profit for the financial year.



Consolidated balance sheet at 31 March 1996

	Note	£	1996 £	£	1995 £
Fixed assets Tangible assets	8		2,557,023		2 047 170
****B1010 #000#0	•		2,007,020		2,047,179
Current assets					
Stocks	10	2,882,371		1,521,407	
Debtors	ĨĬ	3,257,280		2,483,625	
Cash at bank and in hand		199,471		121,165	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
Creditors em conte falling		6,339,122		4,126,197	
Creditors: amounts falling	12	(2.964.210)		(0.05/.5/0)	
due within one year	12	(3,864,219)		(2,076,763)	
Net current assets			2,474,903		2,049,434
Total assets less current					
liabilities			5,031,926		4,096,613
Creditors: amounts falling			2,031,720		4,050,013
due after more than one					
year	13		(281,560)		(371,844)
Provisions for liabilities			, , ,		(5.1,011)
and charges	14		(62,500)		-
Net assets			4 605 066		
Tet assets			4,687,866		3,724,769
Canital and recovers			- W. J.		
Capital and reserves Called up share capital	15		1 250 421		1.000.401
Share premium account	13 17		1,258,421		1,258,421
Revaluation reserve	17		202,167 202,116		202,167
Profit and loss account	17		3,025,162		206,516
1 10111 with 1000 mcount	17		3,023,102		2,057,665
Equity shareholders' funds	16		4,687,866		3,724,769
					



Balance sheet at 31 March 1996	Note	£	1996 £	£	1995 £
Fixed assets Tangible assets Investments	8 9		2,628,734 32,895		2,047,179
			2,661,629		2,047,179
Current assets Stocks Debtors Cash at bank and in hand	10 11	2,882,371 2,892,204 122,032		1,521,407 2,483,625 121,165	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	5,896,607 (3,428,884)		4,126,197 (2,076,763)	
Net current assets			2,467,723		2,049,434
Total assets less current liabilities Creditors: amounts falling			5,129,352		4,096,613
due after more than one year	13		(281,560)		(371,844)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	14		(62,500)		
Net assets			4,785,292		3,724,769
Capital and reserves Called up share capital Share premium account Revaluation reserve Profit and loss account	15 17 17 17		1,258,421 202,167 202,116 3,122,588		1,258,421 202,167 206,516 2,057,665
Equity shareholders' fund	ls 16		4,785,292		3,724,769

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 28 June 1996 and were signed on its behalf by.

PJ Stuart Director

Consolidated cash flow statement for the year ended 31 March 1996

	Note	£	1996 £	£	1995 £
Net cash inflow from operating activities	18		1,037,993		654,905
Return on investments and servicing of finance Interest paid Interest received		(45,076) 10,749		(52,697) 6,194	
Net cash outflow from returns on investments and servicing of finance			(34,327)		(46,503)
Taxation UK corporation tax paid			(267,000)		(214,755)
Investing activities Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets Receipts from sales of tangible fixed assets Purchase of subsidiary undertaking	20	(668,302) 103,187 32,283		(475,729) 66,273 -	
Net cash outflow from investing activities			(532,832)		(409,456)
Net cash (outflow) inflow before financing			203,834		(15,809)
Financing Loans advanced Repayment of amounts borrowed Capital element of finance lease rental payments		(98,337)		310,000 (106,908) (24,613)	
Net cash (outflow) inflow from financing	22		(125,528)		178,479
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	19		78,306		162,670



Notes

(forming part of the financial statements)

1 Accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and under the historical cost accounting rules, modified to include the revaluation of certain land and buildings.

Basis of consolidation

The group accounts consolidate the financial statements of Drexel Equipment (UK) Limited and its subsidiary undertakings made up to 31 March 1996.

Unless otherwise stated, the acquisition method of accounting has been adopted. Under this method, the results of subsidiary undertakings acquired or disposed of in the year are included in the consolidated profit and loss account from the date of acquisition or up to the date of disposal. Goodwill arising on consolidation (representing the excess of the fair value of the consideration given over the fair value of the separable net assets acquired) is written off against reserves on acquisition.

In the company's accounts, investments in subsidiary undertakings are stated as cost less amounts written off.

In accordance with Section 230(4) of the Companies Act 1985, Drexel Equipment (UK) Limited is exempt from the requirement to present its own profit and loss account.

The amount of the profit for the financial year dealt with in the financial statements of Drexel Equipment (UK) Limited is disclosed in note 17 to these accounts.

Tangible fixed assets

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

Freehold buildings - 50 years
Plant and machinery - 5 to 7 years
Rental equipment - 10 years
Motor vehicles - 4 years
Fixtures and fittings - 5 to 10 years

No depreciation is provided on freehold land.

During the year the depreciation policy on lease fleet assets changed. These assets are now depreciated over 10 years with a residual value of 25% of original cost (1995: 4-8 years with nil residual value). The change in policy has resulted in a £200,000 fall in the depreciation charge in the year.



Notes (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Gains or losses on disposals of rental equipment

The trading activities of offshore rental equipment in which the company trades, are an integral part of the company's business. Gains or losses on disposals of these assets, which are a recurring feature of the company's business are considered to be operating items and accordingly are included within operating profit and are separately disclosed within the company's financial statements.

Stocks and work in progress

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value. Cost includes direct materials, labour and works overheads and excludes cost of selling and administration. Net realisable value is the price at which stocks can be sold in the normal course of business after allowing for the cost of realisation and, where appropriate, the cost of conversion from their existing state to a finished condition. Provision is made where necessary for obsolete, slow moving and defective stocks.

Taxation

The charge for taxation is based on the profit for the year and takes into account taxation deferred because of timing differences between the treatment of certain items for taxation and accounting purposes. Provision is made for deferred tax only to the extent that it is probable that an actual liability will crystallise.

Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded using the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated using the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date and the gains or losses on translation are included in the profit and loss account.

Pension costs

The group operates a pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable pay. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the group in an independently administered fund. Contributions to the scheme are charged to the profit and loss account so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the group.

Turnover

Turnover represents the invoiced value of goods and services supplied, excluding value added tax, together with commission received from principals for whom the group acts as agents.

Development expenditure

Development expenditure relating to specific projects intended for commercial exploitation is carried forward when its recoverability can be foreseen with reasonable assurance. Such expenditure is amortised over the periods expected to benefit from it, commencing with the period in which related sales are first made. Expenditure on pure and applied research is written off as incurred.



Notes (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Leases

Where the company enters into a lease which entails taking substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset, the lease is treated as a 'finance lease'. The asset is recorded in the balance sheet as a tangible fixed asset and is depreciated over its estimated useful life or the term of the lease, whichever is shorter. Future instalments under such leases, net of finance charges, are included within creditors. Rentals payable are apportioned between the finance element, which is charged to the profit and loss account, and the capital element which reduces the outstanding obligation for future instalments.

All other leases are accounted for as 'operating leases' and the rental charges are charged to the profit and loss account on a straight line basis over the life of the lease.

2 Analysis of turnover

	By geographical market	1996 £	1995 £
	United Kingdom Rest of Europe United States of America Asia Africa Australia	4,445,313 2,870,248 2,009,068 742,411 592,773	4,199,675 1,561,133 1,844,583 484,877 534,271 10,871
		10,659,813	8,635,410
3	Profit on ordinary activities before taxation		
	Profit on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging (crediting):	1996 £	1995 £
	Depreciation of tangible fixed assets Operating lease rentals - plant and machinery - other assets Auditors' remuneration Research and development expenditure Gains on disposals of fixed assets	390,247 65,692 61,000 16,000 84,526 (1,726)	586,428 6,447 49,500 12,500 66,210 (23,961)



Notes (continued)

4 Remuneration of directors

	1996 £	1995 f
Directors' emoluments:	•	~
Remuneration as executives	267,921	246,049

The emoluments, excluding pension contributions, of the chairman were £nil (1995: £nil) and those of the highest paid director were £56,611 (1995: £52,928).

The emoluments, excluding pension contributions, of the directors were within the following ranges:

	Number of	Number of directors	
	1996	1995	
£0 - £ 5,000	3	3	
£35,001 - £40,000	-	1	
£40,001 - £45,000	2	$\bar{2}$	
£45,001 - £50,000	Ī		
£50,001 - £55,000		2	
£55,001 - £60,000	2	-	

5 Staff numbers and costs

The average number of persons employed by the group (including directors) during the year, analysed by category, was as follows:

	Number 1996	of employees 1995
Production Sales Research and development Administration	65 11 2 21	63 12 2 20
	99	97

Notes (continued)

5 Staff numbers and costs (continued)

The aggregate payroll costs of these persons were as follows:

		1996 £	1995 £
	Wages and salaries Social security costs Other pension costs (see note 25)	2,134,326 169,700 122,280	1,848,720 164,320 91,200
		2,426,306	2,104,240
6	Interest payable and similar charges	1996 £	1995 £
	Interest payable on bank loans and overdrafts:		
	Repayable within 5 years, by instalments Repayable within 5 years, not by instalments Interest on finance leases	30,967 8,215 5,894	34,939 8,706 9,052
		45,076	52,697
7	Taxation	1996 £	1995 £
	UK corporation tax at 33% (1995: 33%) Deferred taxation Adjustment relating to an earlier year	441,799 53,859 (15,500)	282,500 (25,000) 256
		480,158	257,756
			



Notes (continued)

8 Tangible fixed assets

Group

	Freehold land and buildings	Plant and machinery (Including rental equipment)	Motor vehicles	Fixtures and fittings	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost or valuation					
At beginning of year	851,174	4,174,996	255,110	373,168	5,654,448
Arising on acquisition Additions	29,918	425,161	9,672	17,093	451,926
Disposals	29,916	727,094 (433,477)	45,594 (75,843)	83,696 (7,989)	886,302 (517,309)
= 			(75,045)	(7,505)	(317,309)
At end of year	881,092	4,893,774	234,533	465,968	6,475,367
Depreciation					
At beginning of year	65,137	3,159,605	152,304	230,223	3,607,269
Arising on acquisition	· -	319,837	7,859	8,980	336,676
Charge for year	22,496	262,329	36,374	69,048	390,247
Disposals	-	(339,666)	(71,511)	(4,671)	(415,848)
At end of year	87,633	3,402,105	125,026	303,580	3,918,344
Net book value At 31 March 1996	793,459	1,491,669	109,507	162,388	2,557,023
At 31 March 1995	786,037	1,015,391	102,806	142,945	2,047,179
			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		



Notes (continued)

8 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Company	Freehold land and buildings	Plant and machinery (Including rental	Motor vehicles	Fixtures and fittings	Total
	£	equipment)	£	£	£
Cost or valuation At beginning of year Additions Disposals Inter-company transfers	851,174 29,918	4,174,996 727,094 (92,559) 97,516	255,110 45,594 (66,171)	373,168 83,696 - 4,793	5,654,448 886,302 (158,730) 102,309
At end of year	881,092	4,907,047	234,533	461,657	6,484,329
Depreciation At beginning of year Charge for year Disposals	65,137 22,496	3,159,605 255,638 (71,577)	152,304 36,173 (63,451)	230,223 69,048 -	3,607,269 383,355 (135,028)
At end of year	87,633	3,343,666	125,026	299,271	3,855,596
<i>Net book value</i> At 31 March 1996	793,459	1,563,381	109,507	162,386	2,628,733
At 31 March 1995	786,037	1,015,391	102,806	142,945	2,047,179

The group's freehold land and buildings were revalued at 31 March 1994 on an open market basis as follows:

	Revalued amount £	Historical cost £
Noble Road, Dundee Waldron Road, Montrose	325,000 375,000	271,980 316,447
	700,000	588,427



Notes (continued)

8 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Historical cost net book value

Particulars relating to revalued assets are given below: 1996 1995 Land and buildings At 31 March 1994 open market value 700,000 700,000 Aggregate depreciation thereon (29,140)(14,570)Net book value 670,860 685,430 Historical cost of revalued assets 588,427 588,427 Aggregate depreciation based on historical cost (99,171)(89,000)

If these properties were sold at revalued amounts, a taxation charge of approximately £10,300 would arise.

489,256

499,427

The cost or valuation of land and buildings includes £786,092 (1995: £756,174) of depreciable assets.

Included in the total net book value of fixtures and fittings is £51,649 (1995: £66,041) in respect of assets held under finance leases and similar hire purchase contracts. Depreciation for the year on these assets was £14,392 (1995: £22,013).

9 Fixed asset investments

Cont	Shares in group undertaking £
Cost At beginning of year Additions	11,768 32,895
At end of year	44,663
Provisions At beginning and end of year	(11,768)
At 31 March 1996	32,895
At 31 March 1995	

The company holds 100% of the ordinary share capital of the Brandt Company (UK) Limited, a dormant company, which is incorporated in Great Britain.

During the year the company acquired the entire share capital of Environmental Procedures (UK) Limited.



Notes (continued)

10	Stocks	(Group	Сог	npany
		1996	1995	1996	1995
		£	£	£	£
	Raw materials and consumables	49,122	106,272	49,122 1,102,018	106,272 458,755
	Work in progress Finished goods and goods	1,102,018	458,755	1,102,010	450,755
	for resale	1,731,231	956,380	1,731,231	956,380
		2,882,371	1,521,407	2,882,371	1,521,407
11	Debtors	•	Group	Cor	mpany
		1996	1995	1996	1995
		£	£	£	£
	Trade debtors Amounts owed by other	1,560,972	1,798,683	1,447,065	1,798,683
	group undertakings Prepayments and accrued	1,546,934	622,951	1,359,577	622,951
	income	53,051	39,505	53,051	39,505
	Other debtors	96,323	22,486	32,511	22,486
		3,257,280	2,483,625	2,892,204	2,483,625
12	Creditors: amounts falling	due within on	ie year		
			Group	Co	mpany
		1996	1995 £	1996 £	1995 £
		£	r	æ.	ı.
	Term loans (see note 13)	74,100	112,877	74,100	112,877
	Trade creditors	604,843	425,955	587,672	425,955
	Amounts owed to group undertakings Obligations under finance	1,441,639	455,499	1,152,243	455,499
	leases Taxation and social	31,294	27,761	30,910	27,761
	security	103,798	50,545	63,166	50,545
	Corporation tax	441,799	282,500	441,799	282,500
	Accruals and deferred income	1,083,969	614,522	996,217	614,522
	Pension scheme (Note 25)	82,777	107,104	82,777	107,104
		3,864,219	2,076,763	3,428,884	2,076,763
					

The group has provided to its bankers a standard security over its freehold property and a floating charge over all other assets in respect of all overdrafts and term loans.



Notes (continued)

13 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

1996 £	1995 £
8,154 273,406	38,878 332,966
281,560	371,844
	£ 8,154 273,406

There are two term loans repayable in monthly instalments over periods ranging from one year to nine years. The rate of interest applied is 1.5% and 1.75% over bank base rate. The term loans are repayable as follows:

	1996 £	1995 £
Within one year Between one and two years Between two and five years	74,100 74,100 199,306	112,877 74,100 258,866
	347,506	445,843

14 Provisions for liabilities and charges

Deferred taxation

Deterior taxation	Gi	coup	Cor	прапу
	1996 £	1995 £	1996 £	1995 £
At beginning of year Arising on acquisition Provided in year Utilised during the year	8,641 62,500 (8,641)	25,000 - (25,000)	62,500 -	25,000 - (25,000)
At end of year	62,500	-	62,500	-

The amounts provided for deferred taxation and amounts not provided are set out below:

Group and company	1996 Provided £	1995 Unprovided £
Difference between accumulated depreciation and capital allowances Other timing differences	138,500 (76,000)	71,700 (95,200)
	62,500	(23,500)



Notes (continued)

15	Called up share capital			1996 £	1995 £
	Authorised Ordinary shares of £1 each			2,000,000	2,000,000
	Issued, called up and fully poor Ordinary shares of £1 each	aid .		1,258,421	1,258,421
16	Reconciliation of movement	is in sharehold	lers' funds		
		1996 £	Group 1995 £	Coi 1996 £	npany 1995 £
	Profit for the financial year Goodwill arising on	1,109,138	402,588	1,060,523	402,588
	acquisition written off to reserves	(146,041)	-	-	-
	Opening shareholders' funds	3,724,769	3,322,181	3,724,769	3,322,181
	Closing shareholders' funds	4,687,866	3,724,769	4,785,292	3,724,769
17	Share premium and reserve	es			
	a.	Group an	nd company	Group	Company
	Sna	re premium account £	Revaluation reserve £	Profit and	d loss account £
·	At beginning of year Retained profit for year	202,167	206,516	2,057,665 1,109,138	2,057,665 1,060,523
	Release of revaluation reserve Goodwill arising on	-	(4,400)	4,400	4,400
	acquisition written off to	-	-	(146,041)	
	At end of year	202,167	202,116	3,025,162	3,122,588
					

The cumulative amount of goodwill resulting from acquisitions which has been written off is £221,935 (1995: £75,894).



Notes (continued)

18	Reconciliation of operating profit to net cash inflow from operating activities
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		1996 £	1995 £
	Operating profit	1 (22 (22	
	Depreciation charges	1,623,623	706,847
	Pension adjustment	390,247	586,428
	Gain on sale of tangible fixed secret	(24,327)	(38,940)
	Gain on sale of tangible fixed assets	(1,726)	(23,961)
	(Increase) in stocks	(1,109,874)	(89,489)
	(Increase) in debtors	(585,778)	(817,243)
	Increase in creditors	745,828	331,263
	Net cash inflow from operating activities	1,037,993	654,905
19	Analysis of changes in cash and cash equivalents	during the year	
	Cash at bank	1996	1995
		£	£
	Balance at beginning of year	121,165	(41,505)
	Net cash inflow	78,306	162,670
	Balance at end of year	199,471	121,165
20	Acquisition of subsidiary undertakings		
			1996 air value of ts acquired £
	Fixed assets		445.000
	Stocks		115,250
	Debtors		251,090
	Cash at bank and in hand		187,877
	Creditors		65,178
	Provision for liabilities and charges		(723,900)
	-101.dou 101 Machines and charges		(8,641)
			(113,146)
	Goodwill		146,041
			170,041
	Consideration given		32,895
	Satisfied by cash		32,895
			- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·



Notes (continued)

21	Analysis of the net outflow of cash and cash equivalents in respect of the purchase of
	subsidiary undertakings

	1996 £
Cash consideration Cash at bank and in hand acquired	(32,895) 65,178
	32,283

22 Analysis of changes in financing during the year

Loans and finance lease obligations £		£	1995 £ £	
Balance at beginning of year Loans advanced Loans repaid	(125,528)	512,482	310,000 (131,521)	334,003
Cash (outflow) inflow from financing	_	(125,528)	_	178,479
Balance at end of year	- -	386,954	-	512,482

23 Contingent liabilities

At 31 March 1996, the Group had contingent liabilities in respect of outstanding guarantees given for performance bonds and contracting agreements entered into in the normal course of business which amounted to £554,000 (1995: £567,000).

24 Commitments

- (i) There were no capital commitments at the end of the financial year (1995: £nil).
- (ii) Annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

Group and company

Land and buildings

1996
£
£

Operating leases which expire:
Within one year
In the second to fifth year inclusive
After five years

73,000

49,500



Notes (continued)

25 Pension scheme

The pension cost charge for the year was £122,280 (1995: £91,200) made up of a regular cost of £146,607 (1995: £130,140) less variations from regular cost of £24,327 (1995: £38,940).

The pension cost and related provision are assessed in accordance with the advice of a professionally qualified actuary. The latest actuarial valuation was at 6 April 1992 and used the attained age method. The main actuarial assumptions were that pensionable salaries would increase by 7% per annum, pensions in payment by 3% per annum, and return on scheme investments would be 9% per annum.

At the date of the latest actuarial valuation, the actuarial value of the assets of the scheme was £1,240,000 and this was sufficient to cover 117% of the benefits that had accrued to members after allowing for expected future increases in earnings. This surplus should be eliminated by 1996 as a result of the current employer's pension contribution holiday. As a result of this contribution holiday, an amount of £82,777 (1995: £107,104) is included in creditors (see Note 12) representing the excess of the cumulative pension cost over the contributions due to the scheme.

The actuarial surplus of £177,000 is being spread over 13 years, the estimated average remaining service lives of the relevant employees.

26 Ultimate parent company

The ultimate parent company is DOS Limited, a company incorporated in Bermuda whose principal place of business is at 23rd Floor, St Georges Building, Hong Kong.

