Kernick Scientific Limited

Report and Financial Statements

♦ Year ended 31 December 2000 ♦



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COMPANY INFORMATION

Directors D C Macey

W G Eaden (Resigned 24/11/2000

J A Forgham (Resigned 24/11/2000)

R Stoyel (Appointed 24/11/2000) S G Dighton (Appointed 27/11/2000)

Company Secretary S G Dighton (Appointed 10/11/2000)

Registered office Novara House
Excelsior Road

Excelsior Road Ashby Park

Ashby de la Zouch Leicestershire LE65 1NG

Registered number 37006

Auditors RSM Robson Rhodes

Chartered Accountants Centre City Tower

7 Hill Street Birmingham B5 4UU

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2000.

Principal activities

The company has not traded during the period.

Directors

The present directors of the company are set out on page 1.

The ultimate holding company is Novara plc.

The interests of those directors who are also directors of the ultimate holding company, are disclosed in the directors' report of Novara plc.

No director had a material interest in any contract or arrangement with the company during the year.

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 of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors have:

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

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS (Continued)

Auditors

The auditors, RSM Robson Rhodes are willing to continue in office and a resolution to reappoint them will be proposed at the forthcoming annual general meeting.

The report of the directors was approved by the Board on 27 March 2001 and signed on its behalf by:

S G Dighton Company Secretary

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF KERNICK SCIENTIFIC LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements on pages 5 and 6.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

The directors' responsibilities for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards are set out in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities.

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

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

We read the information contained in the Annual Report and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. We consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. Our responsibilities do not extend to any information outside the Annual Report.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with United Kingdom Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at 31 December 2000 and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

RSM Robson Rhodes

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor

Birmingham 27 March 2001

BALANCE SHEET at 31 December 2000

	Note	2000 £	1999 £
Current assets			
Debtors: amounts owed by parent undertaking		57,000	57,000
Total assets less current liabilities		57,000	57,000
			•
Capital and reserves			
Called up share capital	2	37,000	37,000
Capital redemption reserve		20,000	20,000

Equity shareholders' funds		57,000	57,000

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 27 March 2001 and signed on its behalf by:

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S G Dighton Director

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 31 December 2000

1. ACCOUNTING POLICY

Basis of accounting

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

2. SHARE CAPITAL

	2000	1999
	£	£
Authorised		
8,000 ordinary shares of £5 each	40,000	40,000
4,000 redeemable preference shares of £5 each	20,000	20,000
	60,000	60,000
Allotted and fully paid		======
7,400 ordinary shares of £5 each	37,000	37,000
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3. PARENT UNDERTAKING

The ultimate parent company is Novara plc, which is registered in England and Wales.

Its group accounts are available to the public on payment of the appropriate fee, from Companies House, Crown Way, Maindy, Cardiff, CF4 3UZ.