Astra Tech Limited

Directors' report and financial statements Registered number 1480123 31 December 2004

LD4 *L4E3792L* 288
COMPANIES HOUSE 31/10/2005

Contents

Directors' report	1
Statement of directors' responsibilities	4
Report of the independent auditors to the members of Astra Tech Limited	5
Profit and loss account	6
Balance sheet	7
Reconciliation of movements in shareholders' funds	8
Notes	9

Directors' report

The directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2004.

Principal activities

The principal activity of the company during the year was the sale and distribution of medical devices to hospitals, the community and the dental profession.

Business review

The profit for the year after taxation was £1,857,333 (2003: £1,577,873).

Proposed dividend

The directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend (2003: £nil).

Directors and directors' interests

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

RJ Seaden (resigned 30 April 2004)

P Selley

SJ Harwood (appointed 1 May 2004)

None of the directors has any beneficial interests in shares of the company. The directors' interests in the shares of the ultimate parent company, AstraZeneca PLC are as disclosed below:

	Astr	AstraZeneca PLC		
	of year or	Interest at start of year or appointment date		
RJ Seaden	524	407		
P Selley	377	288		
SJ Harwood	954	762		

Directors' report (continued)

According to the register of directors' interests, no rights to subscribe for shares in or debentures of the company or any other group company were granted to any of the directors or their immediate families, or exercised by them, during the financial year except as indicated below:

Number of options over AstraZeneca PLC shares

	At start of year	Granted	Exercised	At end of year	Exercise Price	Date from which exercisable	Expiry date
P Selley	4,659	3,793	-	4,659 3,793	2231p 2529p	25/03/06 26/03/07	25/03/13 25/03/14
	4,659	3,793	-	8,452			
	At start of year or date of appoint- ment	Granted	Exercised	At end of year	Exercise Price	Date from which exercisable	Expiry date
SJ Harwood	372 269	209	- - -	372 269 209	2264p 1756p 2262p	01/12/04 01/12/05 01/12/07	01/06/05 01/06/06 01/06/08
	641	209	-	850			

Directors' report (continued)

Employees

The company actively encourages the involvement of employees and a stated policy of the company is to provide all members of staff with an individual training programme. The methods of involvement include regular staff meetings and a company journal. The company participates in the AstraZeneca bonus scheme.

The employment policy does not discriminate between employees or potential employees on the grounds of sex, colour, race, ethnic or national origin, marital status or religious beliefs. In the case of the disabled, the company gives full consideration to applications for employment from disabled persons who can demonstrate that they have the necessary abilities. If an employee becomes disabled whilst in employment and, as a result, was unable to perform his/her normal duties, every effort would be made to offer suitable alternative employment and assist with retraining.

Political and charitable contributions

The company made no political contributions during the year. Donations to UK charities amounted to £11,600 (2003: £11,600).

Auditor

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

By order of the board

Patricia Trotman

Secretary

Brunel Way Stonehouse Gloucestershire GL10 3SX

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 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 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 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 company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.



KPMG Audit Plc

8 Salisbury Square London EC4Y 8BB United Kingdom

Report of the independent auditors to the members of Astra Tech Limited

We have audited the financial statements on pages 6 to 15.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

The directors are responsible for preparing the directors' report and, as described on page 4, the financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and accounting standards. Our responsibilities, as independent auditors, are established in the United Kingdom by statute, the Auditing Practices Board and by our profession's ethical guidance.

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.

Basis of audit opinion

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

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all 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 the company's affairs as at 31 December 2004 and of its profit for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

KPMG Audit Plc

Chartered Accountants Registered Auditor

Whit Autit he

3: Ocrose 205

Profit and loss account

for the year ended 31 December 2004

joi the year enaca 31 December 2004	Note	2004 £	2003 £
Turnover Cost of sales	2	23,419,149 (15,507,672)	20,652,181 (13,730,919)
Gross profit Other operating expenses	3	7,911,477 (5,597,821)	6,921,262 (4,939,028)
Operating profit Interest receivable and similar income	7	2,313,656 366,926	1,982,234 297,222
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation Tax on profit on ordinary activities	<i>4</i> 8	2,680,582 (823,249)	2,279,456 (701,583)
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation		1,857,333	1,577,873
Retained profit for the year		1,857,333	1,577,873
			

No separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has been presented as all such gains or losses have been dealt with in the profit and loss account.

The results of the company relate exclusively to continuing operations.

Balance sheet

at 31 December 2004					
	Note	200 £)4 £	2003 £	£
Fixed assets Tangible assets	9	~	332,862		400,752
Current assets Stocks Debtors Cash at bank and in hand	10 11	1,562,058 12,797,493 889,031		1,838,419 11,967,897 5,301	
		15,248,582		13,811,617	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(4,662,509)		(5,150,767)	
Net current assets			10,586,073		8,660,850
Total assets less current liabilities and net assets			10,918,935		9,061,602
Capital and reserves Called up share capital Profit and loss account	13 14		100,000 10,818,935		100,000 8,961,602
Equity shareholders' funds			10,918,935		9,061,602

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 28th October 5 and were signed on its behalf by:

S J Harwood

Director

Reconciliation of movements in shareholders' funds for the year ended 31 December 2004

for the year ended 31 December 2004	2004 £	2003 £
Profit for the financial year	1,857,333	1,577,873
Net addition to shareholders' funds Opening shareholders' funds	1,857,333 9,061,602	1,577,873 7,483,729
Closing shareholders' funds	10,918,935	9,061,602

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.

Under FRS 1 the company is exempt from the requirement to prepare a cash flow statement on the grounds that a parent undertaking includes the company in its own published consolidated financial statements.

As the company is a wholly owned subsidiary of AstraZeneca PLC, the company has taken advantage of the exemption contained in FRS 8 and has therefore not disclosed transactions or balances with entities which form part of the group (or investees of the group qualifying as related parties). The consolidated financial statements of AstraZeneca PLC, within which this company is included, can be obtained from the address given in note 17.

Fixed assets and depreciation

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

Short leasehold improvements - life of lease
Plant and machinery - 3 to 10 years
Computer equipment - 3 to 5 years
Office fixtures and fittings - 3 to 10 years

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.

Leases

Operating lease rentals are charged to the profit and loss account on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Post-retirement benefits

The company participates in a group wide pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable pay. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company. The company is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis and therefore, as required by FRS 17 'Retirement benefits', accounts for the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. As a result, the amount charged to the profit and loss account represents the contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Turnover

Turnover represents the amounts (excluding value added tax) derived from the provision of goods and services to customers.

Turnover

Notes (continued)

2 Analysis of turnover

Hire of other assets - operating leases

	2004 £	2003 £
By geographical market	-	_
United Kingdom	23,236,607	20,374,296
Rest of Europe	178,610	275,007
Other	3,932	2,878
	23,419,149	20,652,181
The company's turnover and profit before taxation were all derived from its pr	incipal activity.	
3 Other operating expenses		
	2004	2003
	£	£
Selling and promotion	3,710,796	3,246,587
Distribution costs	760,861	689,013
Administrative expenses	1,126,164	1,003,428
	5,597,821	4,939,028
		
4 Profit on ordinary activities before taxation		
	2004	2003
	£	£
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging:		
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible and intangible fixed assets:		
Owned	124,290	120,754
Hire of plant and machinery - rentals payable under operating leases	73	16,203
TT' Call and among large	227.250	226.250

Auditor's remuneration for the year was nil (2003: nil). Auditor's remuneration is borne by AstraZeneca UK Limited, a fellow group company.

236,250

236,250

5 Remuneration of directors

5 Remuneration of directors		
	2004	2003
	£	£
Directors' emoluments	119,521	179,989
Company contributions to defined benefit pension schemes	14,735	22,930
,		
	134,256	202,919
	=. == =	
	Number	of directors
	2004	2003
Retirement benefits are accruing to the following number of directors under:		
Defined benefit schemes	2	1
The number of directors who exercised share options was	0	1

Details of directors' share options are given in the directors' report.

6 Staff numbers and costs

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

	Number	of employees
	2004	2003
Sales and distribution	57	52
Administration	15	12
	72	64
The aggregate payroll costs of these persons were as follows:		
	2004	2003
	£	£
Wages and salaries	2,471,675	2,279,565
Social security costs	227,258	221,189
Other pension costs	348,941	289,162
	3,047,874	2,789,916
		

7 Interest receivable and similar income

	2004 £	2003 £
Bank and other interest receivable	366,926	297,222

8 Taxation

Factors affecting the tax charge for the current period

The current tax charge for the period is higher (2003: higher) than the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK (30%, 2003: 30%). The differences are explained below.

(30%, 2003. 30%). The differences are explained out.	2004 £	2003 £
Current tax reconciliation		
Profit on ordinary activities before tax	2,680,582	2,279,456
Current tax charge at 30% (2003: 30%)	804,175	683,837
Effects of: Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	27,593	14,821
Capital allowances for the period in excess of depreciation	,	-
Depreciation for the period in excess of capital allowances	7,287	4,618
Adjustments to tax charge in respect of previous periods	(15,806)	(1,693)
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	823,249	701,583
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	023,247	

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Short leasehold improvements £	Plant and machinery £	Computer equipment £	Office fixtures and fittings £	Total £
Cost	107.017	00.720	201 527	250 210	0.67,000
At beginning of year	127,016	90,338	291,527	358,218	867,099
Additions	-	2,845	37,334	17,652	57,831
Disposals			(9,731)	(5,377)	(15,108)
At end of year	127,016	93,183	319,130	370,493	909,822
	_ 	=	= =	=======================================	
Depreciation					
At beginning of year	32,491	55,329	197,222	181,305	466,347
Charge for year	8,288	10,026	65,262	40,713	124,289
Disposals	-	-	(8,299)	(5,377)	(13,676)
At end of year	40,779	65,355	254,185	216,641	576,960
Net book value	=				
At 31 December 2004	86,237	27,828	64,945	153,852	332,862
At 31 December 2003	94,525	35,009	94,305	176,913	400,752
10 Stocks Finished goods and goods for resale				2004 £ 1,562,058	2003 £ 1,838,419
11 Debtors Trade debtors				2004 £ 3,674,800	2003 £ 3,601,492
Amounts owed by group undertakings Prepayments and accrued income				8,993,715 128,978	8,244,564 121,841
			1	2,797,493	11,967,897

Included within debtors are deposits held in sub-accounts that are part of a group pooling system. In consequence, to the extent that other group companies have withdrawn amounts from the group pooling system, such amounts represent a receivable from the group.

12 Creditors: amounts faming due within one year	12	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year
--	----	--

and the state of t		
	2004 £	2003 £
Trade creditors	65,064	59,972
Amounts owed to group undertakings	1,440,886	1,727,621
Taxation and social security	2,965,726	3,145,548
Accruals and deferred income	190,833	217,626
	4,662,509	5,150,767
	See Assessment Vision Control	
13 Called up share capital		
	2004	2003
Authorised	£	£
Equity: Ordinary shares of £1 each	100,000	100,000
Allotted, called up and fully paid Equity: Ordinary shares of £1 each	100,000	100,000
		 -
14 Reserves		
		Profit
		and loss
		account £
At beginning of year		8,961,602
Retained profit for the year		1,857,333
At end of year		10,818,935

15 Commitments

Annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2004		2003	
	Land and buildings	Other	Land and buildings	Other
	£	£	£	£
Operating leases which expire:				
Within one year	-	_	-	-
In the second to fifth years inclusive	60,000	-	60,000	-
Over five years	241,250	-	241,250	-
	301,250	-	301,250	-
	======================================	-		

16 Pension scheme

Astra Tech Ltd participates in various AstraZeneca Group Pension Schemes. The actuarial valuations of these schemes are given in the consolidated AstraZeneca PLC group accounts.

The pension expense for the pension schemes amounted to £348,941 (2003: £289,162).

The company is a member of a pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable pay. Because the company is unable to identify its share of the scheme assets and liabilities on a consistent and reasonable basis, as permitted by FRS 17 'Retirement benefits' the scheme will be accounted for by the company when the accounting standard is fully adopted by the company as if the scheme was a defined contribution scheme.

17 Ultimate parent company and parent undertaking of larger group of which the company is a member

The company is a subsidiary undertaking of AstraZeneca PLC, incorporated in the UK.

The largest group in which the results of the company are consolidated is that headed by AstraZeneca PLC, incorporated in the UK. The consolidated accounts of this group are available to the public and may be obtained from AstraZeneca PLC, 15 Stanhope Gate, London, W1K 1LN. No other group accounts include the results of the company.