

HUTCHISON WHAMPOA LIMITED

Unaudited results for six months ended 30 June 2003

HIGHLIGHTS

	2003	2002	Changes
	HK\$'million	HK\$'million	
Profit attributable to shareholders	6,067	5,946	2%
Earnings per share	HK\$1.42	HK\$1.39	2%
Interim dividend per share	HK\$0.51	HK\$0.51	–

- Profit attributable to shareholders, excluding exceptional gains and 3G start-up losses, increased 47%
- Earnings before interest expense and taxation ("EBIT") of HK\$11,311 million was in line with last year
- All divisions reported EBIT growth except the telecommunications division
- Successfully started 3G businesses and currently 3G subscribers are approximately 520,000 worldwide
- Cash and liquid investments totalled HK\$165,110 million
- Net debt to net capital ratio of 18%

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

RESULTS

The Group's unaudited profit attributable to shareholders for the half year amounted to HK\$6,067 million, a 2% increase compared to the same period last year. Earnings per share amounted to HK\$1.42, an increase of 2%. These results include a net profit on disposal of investments and provisions of HK\$1,922 million representing a profit of HK\$1,683 million on the disposal of the Group's European water businesses and a profit of HK\$1,443 million from the disposal of holdings in Vodafone Group and Deutsche Telekom, a release of provisions made in previous years of HK\$1,907 million, and a full write-off of the Group's HK\$3,111 million investment in Global Crossing. Excluding exceptional items and the 3G start-up losses in both years, profit attributable to shareholders increased 47%, reflecting healthy continuous growth in the Group's recurring operations.

DIVIDEND

Your Directors have today declared an interim dividend of HK\$0.51 per share (2002 – HK\$0.51), payable on 10 October 2003 to those persons registered as shareholders on 9 October 2003. The share register of members will be closed from 2 October 2003 to 9 October 2003, both days inclusive.

OPERATIONS

The Group's turnover and EBIT, including the Group's share of associated companies' and jointly controlled entities' turnover and EBIT, are shown by business segment in Note 2 to the consolidated profit and loss account. Turnover for the period totalled HK\$65,879 million, an increase of 41% over last year, mainly due to additional turnover contributed by the Kruidvat Group (which was acquired in October 2002), higher production and commodity prices of Husky Energy, increased throughput in the ports and related services division and sales of development properties. Total EBIT for the period was in line with last year and all of the Group's divisions reported EBIT ahead of last year, except the telecommunications division, mainly due to the start-up 3G businesses and no dividends being received from Deutsche Telekom.

The Group's interest expense for the period, including its share of associated companies and jointly controlled entities' interest expense and net of the finance and investment division's contribution, amounted to HK\$1,210 million compared to a net interest expense of HK\$1,804 million in the same period last year. The Group's net debt to net capital ratio at 30 June was 18%.

The Group adopted retrospectively, the revised Statement of Standard Accounting Practice 12, "Income Taxes" issued by the Hong Kong Society of Accountants, which became effective on 1 January 2003. As a result, the Group's taxation charge decreased by 16% to HK\$808 million compared to the restated prior half year's taxation charge, due to the recognition of net deferred taxation assets of HK\$428 million mainly relating to the expected future tax benefits of the current period's 3G start-up losses.

Ports and related services

The ports and related services division reported strong growth in turnover to HK\$10,933 million, a 17% increase over the first six months of last year. The combined throughput of the division increased 19% to 19.5 million TEUs (twenty foot equivalent units) and EBIT increased a healthy 14% to HK\$3,519 million.

The first half results for the division's major operations were as follows:

- In Hong Kong, Hongkong International Terminals reported throughput in line with last year and EBIT declined 5%.
- The Yantian port operations reported throughput growth of 30% and EBIT growth of 38%.
- In Europe, the combined throughput of the UK ports and European Container Terminal in Rotterdam was in line with last year, although EBIT declined 16%, mainly due to upfront costs incurred in the UK, targeting to improve productivity in the near term.
- In Mexico, Internacional de Contenedores Asociados de Veracruz reported a growth of 16% in throughput and 42% in EBIT.
- In the Shanghai catchment area, combined throughput increased 68% and EBIT was ahead of last year by 39% due to throughput growth at Shanghai Container Terminals and the addition of Shanghai Pudong International Container Terminals at Waigaoqiao, which was acquired by the Group in March this year.
- In Indonesia, Jakarta International Container Terminal's and the adjacent Koja Terminal's combined throughput decreased by 5% and EBIT decreased 10% compared to last year, mainly due to the challenging political and economic environment.

The Group's other ports, when taken as a whole, performed satisfactorily. This division continues to expand the capacity of its existing operations to meet the growing demand for container port services and to maintain earnings growth. In July this year, the first berth at Container Terminal 9 in Kwai Chung started operation. The construction of Phase IIIA of Yantian port in the Mainland is on schedule to add two berths at the end of this year and two more in 2004. The construction of Phase II of Kwangyang port in South Korea is progressing well. Three berths of this seven-berth phase have been completed and the full facility is on schedule for completion in 2004. In addition, in July this year, the Group acquired a 51% interest in a joint venture company which holds a concession to operate an existing one-berth terminal and to develop an 85-hectare deepwater, green field site in the Port of Lazaro Cardenas on the Pacific Coast of Mexico.

Telecommunications

The Group's 2G and related operations reported turnover of HK\$7,055 million and EBIT of HK\$182 million. EBIT was lower than the HK\$794 million reported in the first half last year. Last year's result included a HK\$758 million dividend from Deutsche Telekom, which paid no dividends this year. Excluding this dividend, turnover in the Group's 2G and related operations increased 25% and EBIT increased 406%. The Group currently has over 7.1 million 2G subscribers, an increase of 16% from the beginning of the year.

In Hong Kong, the Group maintained its position as the largest mobile operator with approximately 1.7 million subscribers and an approximate 26% market share. This 2G operation has continued to reduce costs and increase efficiencies, which combined with average revenue per user in line with last year's, resulted in EBIT 154% ahead of last year's comparable results. Although affected by a one-time HK\$225 million write-off of international bandwidth capacity as a result of Asia Global Crossing's Chapter 11 bankruptcy process, Hutchison Global Communications, which operates a terrestrial fibre optic network in Hong Kong, reported continued customer growth for its broadband, data and voice services. Excluding this one-time charge, EBIT increased 236%. In India, the Group's 2G operations reported EBIT 7% below last year mainly due to start-up losses in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and the city of Chennai, each of which commenced GSM network services in June last year. Excluding these start-up losses, EBIT from India's established operations grew 33%. The Group continues to penetrate this rapidly growing mobile telecommunications market and currently has a combined subscriber base of approximately 2.9 million, a 30% increase from the beginning of the year. In Israel, listed Partner Communications announced a net profit attributable to shareholders of US\$44 million which represented a very significant improvement over last year's minimal profit. At 30 June, Partner Communications had over 1.9 million subscribers and an approximate 29% of the market share. In Australia, Orange Mobile subscribers increased 6% from the beginning of the year and at 30 June, subscribers exceeded 278,000. The Orange Mobile operations reported a second consecutive half year positive earnings before interest expense, taxation, depreciation and amortisation ("EBITDA") result of A\$12 million, a significant improvement over the comparable loss of A\$16 million incurred in the first half last year.

During the period, the 3G operations in the UK, Italy and Australia commenced commercial operations. The combined 3G start-up operations reported total turnover of HK\$245 million and a loss before interest expense and taxation ("LBIT") of HK\$3,895 million. The current summer promotional offerings in the UK, Italy, and Australia have been very well received, resulting in current subscribers of approximately 155,000 in the UK, 300,000 in Italy and 50,000 in Australia, which combined with subscribers in Sweden and Austria total approximately 520,000 worldwide. The Group is working with its handset suppliers to ensure an adequate supply of handsets to meet expected strong consumer demand in the fall and Christmas period. In the UK, the continuing roll-out of network coverage is progressing very well and the over 4,300 cell sites now in operation cover over 70% of the UK population and all major cities in the country. In Italy, network rollout progress is also satisfactory and the over 3,200 cell sites on air cover over 50% of the population and 70 of the top 100 cities in the country. In Australia, network coverage extends to the five largest cities with over 500 cell sites on air. The Group's 3G operations in Sweden and Austria have started business with a soft launch and are continuing to roll out their networks in readiness for a fall and Christmas promotion campaign. Currently, Sweden's network covers most major cities with over 950 cell sites on air. Full coverage is targeted when the joint venture network is completed. In Austria, the network covers approximately 30% of the population including major cities like Vienna, Graz and Linz. In Denmark, network rollout covering major centres is being completed and business is targeted to commence in the fourth quarter. In Hong Kong, the construction of the 3G network has been completed and 3G services are scheduled to be launched after the summer period with a network of over 1,000 cell sites providing full coverage.

Property and hotels

The property and hotels division turnover totalled HK\$3,303 million, a 39% increase over last year, mainly due to the completion and sale of more development projects during this period. EBIT of HK\$1,061 million was 8% above last year, mainly due to increased profit from the sale of development projects which offset the adverse effect of the SARS outbreak on the hotel businesses in Hong Kong and the Mainland. The Group's rental properties in Hong Kong continue to provide strong recurrent income to the Group. Gross rental income, including the Group's share of associated companies' income amounted to HK\$1,137 million, 5% below last year, mainly due to lower rental rates in office buildings as leases were renewed. The rental properties portfolio is 96% let. Development profit was primarily from the completion and sale of residential units in Phase II and III of Le Parc in Shenzhen, The Summit in Shanghai and the Victoria Towers in Hong Kong. The ongoing development projects in Hong Kong, the Mainland and overseas in London and Singapore are progressing satisfactorily. The hotel operations were significantly adversely affected by reduced travel activity as a result of the SARS outbreak. Recent trends indicate that the hotel business in Hong Kong is starting to recover.

Retail and manufacturing

Turnover for the retail and manufacturing division totalled HK\$29,352 million, a 79% increase, mainly due to the turnover contributed from the Kruidvat Group acquired in October last year, and from existing health and beauty operations in Asia and the UK. EBIT of HK\$599 million was 94% ahead of last year, mainly due to additional profits contributed by the Kruidvat Group and improved results from the Group's joint venture with Procter & Gamble in the Mainland.

The retail markets in Hong Kong, Taiwan, the Mainland and other Asian countries were adversely affected by the outbreak of SARS. Despite these conditions, PARKnSHOP's combined Hong Kong and China operations reported sales in line with last year and improved EBIT as a result of strict cost management and savings initiatives. The health and beauty businesses of this division, which comprise Watsons Your Personal Store in Hong Kong and other parts of Asia, Savers and Superdrug in the UK and the Kruidvat Group in Continental Europe, reported combined sales 259% and EBIT 210% above last year, mainly due to the accretive earnings from the Kruidvat businesses in the UK and Continental Europe, as well as improved results from Savers in the UK, Watsons China and Watsons Taiwan.

Hutchison Harbour Ring, a listed subsidiary, announced turnover, including its share of associated companies' turnover, of HK\$796 million and net profit attributable to shareholders of HK\$33 million for the first half of this year, an increase of 21% and 40% respectively.

Cheung Kong Infrastructure

Cheung Kong Infrastructure, a listed subsidiary, announced turnover of HK\$1,639 million and profit attributable to shareholders of HK\$1,403 million, 3% below last year's profit.

Husky Energy

Husky Energy, a listed associated company, announced turnover of C\$3,987 million and profit attributable to shareholders of C\$833 million, 114% above the comparable period last year. Considering this strong result and the outlook for healthy cash flow, Husky Energy declared a special C\$1 per share dividend. Together with the second quarter dividend of C\$0.10 per share, the Group will receive cash dividends totalling C\$161 million on 1 October.

OUTLOOK

The results of the first half of the year reflect challenging economic conditions with the outbreak of SARS in Hong Kong, the Mainland, and elsewhere in Asia, the Iraq war, poor consumer sentiment and a low interest rate environment. Despite these conditions, all of the Group's businesses performed soundly and benefited strongly from the investments in growth undertaken in prior years. The commencement of 3G services in the UK, Italy and Australia represents a significant milestone for the Group and I am pleased with the progress made to date. For the remainder of the year, the Group will continue to build up their businesses in these markets and will launch 3G services in its other markets. At the same time, the Group will continue to prudently develop and grow its existing core businesses while maintaining its healthy financial position.

The Group's cash and liquid investments amounted to HK\$165,110 million at 30 June 2003, of which 7% represented remaining holdings in Vodafone Group and Deutsche Telekom, and cashflow from the existing core businesses remained strong with EBITDA of HK\$18,122 million in the first half of this year. The Group's consolidated total debt at 30 June 2003 was HK\$226,593 million, and after deducting cash and liquid investments, the Group's net debt position was HK\$61,483 million, resulting in a conservative overall net debt to net capital ratio of approximately 18%. The Group will continue to benefit from the steady cashflow and low borrowing levels of its existing core businesses which provide a solid financial base and assure all funding requirements are met as the Group builds its 3G businesses.

Recently there have been preliminary signs of the beginning of an economic recovery and as the Mainland implements new policies that should bring immediate and long term benefits to Hong Kong, the economy should improve in the latter half of the year. However, there remains a risk of slow economic growth for the US and certain European countries and the remainder of the year may still be affected by attendant interest rate, currency and trade volatility. Despite these challenges, I am confident that all of our existing core businesses will continue to perform well and that overall the Group will continue to perform steadily. I am encouraged by the successful launch of our new 3G operations and am confident they will grow rapidly in the fall and Christmas period and create long term value for our shareholders. I would like to thank the Board of Directors and all the Group's employees around the world for their hard work, support and dedication.

Li Ka-shing
Chairman

Hong Kong, 21 August 2003

