

Interim report 2003

Financial highlights

	Unaudited	Unaudited		Audited
	6 months to 31st December 2002	6 months to 31st December 2001	% change	Year ended 30th June 2002
	£'000	£'000	%	£'000
Turnover	51,518	51,210	+1%	104,490
Operating profit	5,387	3,988	+35%	13,448
Profit before taxation	6,493	5,276	+23%	16,062
Profit after taxation	5,390	4,202	+28%	15,182
Earnings per share	7.4p	5.8p	+28%	20.9p
Dividends per share	5.34p	5.08p	+5%	15.90p

Registered office:

Renishaw plc New Mills Wotton-under-Edge Gloucestershire UK GL12 8JR Registered number: 1106260

Telephone. 01453 524524 Fax. 01453 524901 email. uk@renishaw.com Internet. www.renishaw.com



Chairman's statement

I am pleased to report the results for the first six months of the current financial year.

Operating profit for the six months to December 2002 was £5.4m (2001 £4.0m), an increase of 35% on 2001 and ahead by 2% if the £1.3m charge in 2001 in respect of the early retirement and voluntary redundancy programme is excluded. After interest receivable and the effect of FRS17 (the treatment of retirement benefits), profit before tax was £6.5m (2001 £5.3m), 23% ahead of the pre-tax profit a year ago. After a tax charge of £1.1m (2001 £1.1m), earnings per share were 7.4p (2001 5.8p).

Turnover for the period was £51.5m compared with £51.2m in 2001. At previous year's exchange rates, turnover would have been £1.8m higher, i.e. an underlying sales growth of 4%. Our sales performances in Japan and the Far East were particularly strong. Also, we achieved significant sales growth in Spain and in our recently established subsidiaries. In terms of product sectors, our Encoder, Spectroscopy and CMM Products Divisions all achieved sales growth. This growth was assisted by the introduction of new products resulting from our ongoing commitment to increased investment in research and development in recent years.

Research and development expenditure during the period, including associated engineering costs, amounted to £9.9m (2001 £9.3m). A number of new products have recently been successfully launched, including the NC3 Non-Contact Toolsetter, the InVia Spectroscopy System and the Ballbar 5 High-Performance software.

A new subsidiary has been formed in South Korea and new subsidiary companies are currently being established in Austria and Sweden. Our new companies in Poland and Russia have successfully commenced trading. The Group now has 22 overseas subsidiary companies and branch offices throughout the world selling and supporting our products.

As a result of our cost control measures, capital expenditure was held at £3.2m (2001 £4.8m); this included further refurbishment at Woodchester and the purchase of offices in Brazil. Also, a substantial investment is being made in micro-electronic design production and test equipment. Net cash balances at the end of December were £33.2m (2001 £30.2m).

Whilst demand for the Company's products is still below the level of two years ago, there has been a continuing improvement in trading conditions, particularly in the last three months. We are hopeful - despite world uncertainties - that this trend will continue.

An interim dividend of 5.34p per share (2001 5.08p) will be paid on 7th April 2003 to shareholders on the register on 7th March 2003.

Sir David R McMurtry CBE RDI CEng FIMechE FREng Chairman & Chief Executive

22nd January 2003

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Consolidated profit and loss account

	Notes	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
		6 months to 31st December 2002	6 months to 31st December 2001	Year ended 30th June 2002
		£'000	£'000	£'000
Turnover	2	51,518	51,210	104,490
Cost of sales		28,592	28,818	56,273
Gross profit		22,926	22,392	48,217
Distribution costs		11,044	10,873	21,524
Administrative expenses		6,495	7,531	13,245
		17,539	18,404	34,769
Operating profit		5,387	3,988	13,448
Interest receivable less payable		986	1,033	1,974
Other finance income		120	255	640
Profit on ordinary activities before tax		6,493	5,276	16,062
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	3	1,103	1,074	880
Profit on ordinary activities after tax		5,390	4,202	15,182
Dividends		3,887	3,698	11,573
Retained profit for the period		1,503	504	3,609
Earnings per share	4	7.4p	5.8p	20.9p
Dividends per share	5	5.34p	5.08p	15.90p



Consolidated balance sheet

	Notes	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
		At 31st December 2002	At 31st December 2001	At 30th June 2002
		£'000	£'000	£'000
Tangible fixed assets	6	48,935	47,801	49,088
Current assets Stock Debtors Cash at bank	7	21,214 25,989 33,202 80,405	23,741 25,676 30,189 79,606	22,076 27,206 35,656 84,938
Creditors Amounts due within one year	8	12,563	14,344	18,176
Net current assets		67,842	65,262	66,762
Total assets less current liabilities		116,777	113,063	115,850
Provisions for liabilities and charges	9	(2,861)	(3,119)	(3,035)
Net assets excluding pension liability		113,916	109,944	112,815
Pension liability		(4,660)	(155)	(5,130)
Net assets including pension liability		109,256	109,789	107,685
Capital and reserves				
Called up share capital Share premium account	10	14,558 42	14,558 42	14,558 42
Profit and loss account	11	94,656	95,189	93,085
Shareholders' funds - equity		109,256	109,789	107,685

Consolidated cash flow statement

Net cook inflow from an austing	Notes	Unaudited 6 months to 31st December 2002 £'000	Unaudited 6 months to 31st December 2001 £'000	Audited Year ended 30th June 2002 £'000
Net cash inflow from operating activities	12	7,567	5,190	18,291
Returns on investments and servicing of finance Interest received		947	1,153	2,244
Interest paid		(25)	(81)	(131)
		922	1,072	2,113
Tax paid		(1,073)	(3,545)	(5,195)
Capital expenditure Purchase of tangible fixed assets Sale of tangible fixed assets		(3,274) 48	(4,901) 127	(8,962) 427
		(3,226)	(4,774)	(8,535)
Equity dividends paid		(7,876)	(7,497)	(11,195)
Cash outflow before management of liquid resources		(3,686)	(9,554)	(4,521)
Management of liquid resources Decrease in bank deposits		2,064	3,622	2,828
Decrease in cash in the period		(1,622)	(5,932)	(1,693)

Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds

	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
	6 months to	6 months to	Year ended
	31st December	31st December	30th June
	2002	2001	2002
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Decrease in cash in the period	(1,622)	(5,932)	(1,693)
Movement in liquid resources	(2,064)	(3,622)	(2,828)
Currency differences	1,232	448	882
Movement in net funds in the period	(2,454)	(9,106)	(3,639)
Net funds at 1st July	35,656	39,295	39,295
Net funds at 31st December	33,202	30,189	35,656



Consolidated statement of total recognised gains and losses

	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
	6 months to 31st December 2002	6 months to 31st December 2001	Year ended 30th June 2002
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Profit for the financial period	5,390	4,202	15,182
Currency translation differences on foreign currency net investments	328	(17)	864
Actuarial loss recognised in the pension schemes	(410)	(20)	(8,590)
Deferred tax thereon	150	-	2,480
	(260)	(20)	(6,110)
Total recognised gains in the period	5,458	4,165	9,936

Reconciliation of movements in shareholders' funds

	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
	6 months to 31st December 2002	6 months to 31st December 2001	Year ended 30th June 2002
	£'000	£'000	£,000
Profit for the financial period	5,390	4,202	15,182
Dividends	(3,887)	(3,698)	(11,573)
Retained profit for the period	1,503	504	3,609
Other recognised gains and losses	68	(37)	(5,246)
Net addition to/(reduction in) shareholders' funds	1,571	467	(1,637)
Shareholders' funds at 1st July	107,685	109,322	109,322
Shareholders' funds at 31st December	109,256	109,789	107,685

Notes

1. Basis of preparation

This Interim report has been prepared on a basis consistent with the audited financial statements for the year ended 30th June 2002. The Interim report does not constitute statutory accounts within the meaning of section 240 of the Companies Act 1985. The comparative figures for the financial year ended 30th June 2002 are not the Company's statutory accounts for that financial year. Those accounts have been reported on by the Company's auditors and delivered to the registrar of companies. The report of the auditors was unqualified and did not contain a statement under section 237(2) or (3) of the Companies Act 1985.

The Interim report was approved by the Board of directors on 22nd January 2003. A copy has been sent to all shareholders and is available to the public from the registered office.

2. Turnover

An analysis of sales by geographical market is:-

6 months to 31st December 2002 £'000	6 months to 31st December 2001 £'000	Year ended 30th June 2002 £'000
14,026	14,898	31,041
8,272	8,213	16,642
6,599	5,848	11,956
5,303	5,051	10,207
3,972	3,896	8,310
2,300	2,408	4,719
6,170	5,653	11,894
46,642	45,967	94,769
4,876	5,243	9,721
51,518 	51,210 ————	104,490
	31st December 2002 £'000 14,026 8,272 6,599 5,303 3,972 2,300 6,170 46,642 4,876	31st December 31st December 2002 2001 £'000 £'000 14,026 14,898 8,272 8,213 6,599 5,848 5,303 5,051 3,972 3,896 2,300 2,408 6,170 5,653 46,642 45,967 4,876 5,243

3. Tax on profit on ordinary activities

	6 months to 31st December 2002	6 months to 31st December 2001	Year ended 30th June 2002
	£'000	£'000	£'000
UK corporation tax at 30%	-	(388)	(1,182)
Deferred tax	(143)	240	708
Foreign tax	1,246	1,222	1,354
	1,103	1,074	880

Taxation has been estimated at the rate expected to be incurred for the full year.



4. Earnings per share

Earnings per share are calculated on earnings of £5,390,000 (December 2001 £4,202,000) and on 72,788,543 shares, being the number of shares in issue during the period.

5. Dividends per share

The interim dividend of 5.34p per share will be paid on 7th April 2003 to shareholders on the register on 7th March 2003, with an ex-dividend date of 5th March 2003.

6. Fixed assets

	Freehold			
	land and	Plant and	Motor	
	buildings	machinery	vehicles	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost				
At 1st July 2002	36,748	39,746	3,729	80,223
Additions	1,132	1,845	213	3,190
Disposals	· •	(42)	(246)	(288)
Currency adjustment	(308)	(130)	(23)	(461)
At 31st December 2002	37,572	41,419	3,673	82,664
Depreciation				
At 1st July 2002	4,336	24,840	1,959	31,135
Charge for the period	346	2,278	336	2,960
Released on disposals	-	(21)	(221)	(242)
Currency adjustment	(21)	(94)	(9)	(124)
At 31st December 2002	4,661	27,003	2,065	33,729
Net book value				
At 31st December 2002	32,911	14,416	1,608	48,935
At 30th June 2002	32,412	14,906	1,770	49,088

7. Debtors

	At	At	At
	31st December	31st December	30th June
	2002	2001	2002
	£'000	£'000	£,000
Trade debtors	23,728	22,791	24,766
Prepayments	2,261	2,885	2,440
	25,989	25,676	27,206

8. Creditors Amounts due within one year

	At 31st December 2002 £'000	At 31st December 2001 £'000	At 30th June 2002 £'000
Trade creditors	3,633	3,721	3,960
Corporation tax	186	2,515	284
Proposed dividend payable	3,887	3,698	7,876
Other creditors	4,857	4,410	6,056
	12,563	14,344	18,176
	12,563 	14,344	18,1

9. Provisions for liabilities and charges

	At 31st December 2002 £'000	At 31st December 2001 £'000	At 30th June 2002 £'000
Deferred taxation Warranty provisions Other	2,405 456	2,551 502 66	2,548 487
	2,861	3,119	3,035

10. Share capital

	At	At
	31st December	30th June
Ordinary shares of 20p each	2002	2002
	£'000	£'000
Authorised	45.000	45.000
75,000,000 shares	15,000	15,000
Allotted, called up and fully paid		
72,788,543 shares	14,558	14,558



11. Profit and loss account

	6 months to 31st December 2002	6 months to 31st December 2001	Year ended 30th June 2002
	£'000	£'000	£'000
At 1st July	93,085	94,722	94,722
Retained profit for the period	1,503	504	3,609
Movement in currency reserve	328	(17)	864
Actuarial loss recognised Deferred tax thereon	(410) 150	(20)	(8,590) 2,480
	(260)	(20)	(6,110)
At 31st December	94,656	95,189	93,085

12. Consolidated cash flow statement

Reconciliation of operating profit to net cash inflow from operating activities:-

	6 months to 31st December 2002 £'000	6 months to 31st December 2001 £'000	Year ended 30th June 2002 £'000
Operating profit	5,387	3,988	13,448
Depreciation charges	2,960	2,791	5,826
Profit on sale of tangible fixed assets	(2)	(7)	(130)
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	862	(1,611)	54
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(242)	4,550	2,021
Decrease in creditors	(1,367)	(4,517)	(2,843)
Decrease in provisions	(31)	(4)	(85)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	7,567	5,190	18,291

Financial calendar

Record date for interim dividend 7th March 2003
Interim dividend payment 7th April 2003
Announcement of full year results 24th July 2003
Mailing of Annual report Mid August 2003
Annual general meeting 17th October 2003
Final dividend payment 20th October 2003

