



FINAL RESULTS

for the year ended 30 June 2005

H I G H L I G H T S

- Earnings for the year increased from R169,6 million to R509,4 million
- Dividends for the year increased from R0,65 to R2,00 per share
- Turnover increases by 38,9 percent
- Significant increases in US Dollar prices for manganese and iron ores
- Significant increases in manganese ore sales volumes

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

	Year ended 30 June 2005 Reviewed R'000	Year ended 30 June 2004 (restated) Audited R'000
Turnover	3 093 944	2 228 091
Net operating profit	809 922	329 501
Finance costs	(21 721)	(25 765)
Dividends received	5 407	5 057
Profit before taxation	793 608	308 793
Taxation	(252 546)	(99 583)
Net profit after taxation	541 062	209 210
Outside shareholders' share of net profit	(31 617)	(39 603)
Attributable earnings transferred to statement of changes in equity	509 445	169 607
Earnings per share (cents)	1 819,4	605,7
Headline earnings per share (cents) *	1 833,7	583,7
Dividends per share (cents)		
– Interim dividend paid in March 2005/2004	50	20
– Final dividend paid in September 2004/2003	45	25
*Determination of headline earnings		
Attributable earnings per income statement as above	509 445	169 607
Net loss/(profit) on disposal of assets	4 000	(6 163)
Headline earnings	513 445	163 444
Ordinary shares in issue (million)	28	28
Net asset value per share (Rand)	76,1	56,9
Capital expenditure (R million)	337,9	237,0
Capital commitments (R million)	218,2	204,3

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Year ended 30 June 2005 Reviewed R'000	Year ended 30 June 2004 (restated) Audited R'000
SHARE CAPITAL AND RESERVES		
Balance at beginning of year	39 012	29 459
Net increase in the market value of listed investments	66 500	18 064
Deferred taxation on changes in market value of listed investments	(9 410)	(2 730)
Foreign currency translation reserve	3 477	(5 781)
Balance at end of year	99 579	39 012
RETAINED INCOME		
Balance as previously reported	1 510 297	1 353 054
Prior year adjustment for conversion to IFRS	–	236
Restated retained income	1 510 297	1 353 290
Attributable earnings for the year	509 445	169 607
Ordinary dividends paid		
No's 95 and 96 aggregating 95 cents per share (2004: 45 cents per share)	(26 600)	(12 600)
Balance at end of year	1 993 142	1 510 297
PER BALANCE SHEET	2 092 721	1 549 309

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	Year ended 30 June 2005 Reviewed R'000	Year ended 30 June 2004 (restated) Audited R'000
Cash generated from operations	635 084	224 618
Cash utilised in investing activities	(336 535)	(230 931)
Cash (utilised in)/generated by financing activities	(189 246)	75 953
Increase in cash for the year	109 303	69 640
Cash resources at beginning of year	166 263	96 623
CASH RESOURCES PER BALANCE SHEET	275 566	166 263

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

	At 30 June 2005 Reviewed R'000	At 30 June 2004 (restated) Audited R'000
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant, equipment and intangible assets	1 391 931	1 206 428
Environmental rehabilitation trust funds	17 493	13 503
Investments	232 093	165 715
Total non-current assets	1 641 517	1 385 646
Current assets		
Inventories	695 600	520 892
Trade and other receivables	624 169	485 113
Cash resources	275 566	166 263
Total current assets	1 595 335	1 172 268
TOTAL ASSETS	3 236 852	2 557 914
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Share capital and reserves		
Ordinary shareholders' interest	2 092 721	1 549 309
Outside shareholders' interest	39 363	42 560
Share capital and reserves	2 132 084	1 591 869
Non-current liabilities		
Long-term liabilities	54 642	55 425
Deferred taxation	345 181	240 576
Total non-current liabilities	399 823	296 001
Current liabilities		
Interest bearing	226 740	379 166
Non-interest bearing	478 205	290 878
Total current liabilities	704 945	670 044
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	3 236 852	2 557 914

DECLARATION OF FINAL DIVIDEND

Final dividend No. 97 of R1,50 per share was declared on Tuesday, 30 August 2005. The dividend has been declared in the currency of the Republic of South Africa. In accordance with STRATE, the following dates apply to the final dividend:

The last date to trade to qualify for the dividend (and for changes of address or dividend instructions) will be Friday, 23 September 2005.

The company's ordinary shares will commence trading "ex" the dividend from the commencement of business on Monday, 26 September 2005.

The record date will be Friday, 30 September 2005.

Dividend cheques in payment of this dividend to holders of certificated shares will be posted on or about Monday, 3 October 2005. Electronic payment to holders of certificated shares will be undertaken simultaneously.

Holders of dematerialised shares will have their accounts at their Central Securities Depository Participant or broker credited on Monday, 3 October 2005.

Share certificates may not be dematerialised or rematerialised between Monday, 26 September 2005 and Friday, 30 September 2005, both days inclusive.

On behalf of the board

Desmond Sacco
Chairman

C J Cory
Chief Executive Officer

Johannesburg
31 August 2005

COMMENTARY

RESULTS

Assore is pleased to report record earnings for the year ended 30 June 2005 of R509,4 million, equivalent to R18,19 per share, an increase of 200,3% on the previous year of R169,6 million equivalent to R6,05 per share. The increase, which is in line with trading updates issued during the second half, is attributable to the significantly higher results reported by Assmang Limited (Assmang) which Assore controls jointly with African Rainbow Minerals Limited (ARM).

Assmang, which published its final results on 22 August 2005, benefited from substantially higher US Dollar prices for all its products, particularly for manganese alloys, the prices of which peaked during the year but ended the year at lower levels. Assmang's results also benefited from increased sales volumes for manganese and iron ores and the weaker US Dollar/SA Rand exchange rate towards the year-end.

SALES VOLUMES

Sales volumes for the year were as follows:

	Metric tons '000		Percentage increase/ (decrease)
	2005	2004	
Iron ore	5 776	5 460	5,8
Manganese ore	1 811	1 438	25,9
Manganese alloys	197	218	(9,6)
Charge chrome	262	295	(11,1)

Sales volumes for iron ore increased marginally during the year and will remain constrained by capacity on the Sishen/Saldanha railway line and the port facilities. However US Dollar prices for the period April 2005 to March 2006 have been increased by approximately 70% due to continued strong international demand, particularly from China.

Volumes of manganese ore increased by 25,9% in response to increased global demand and were facilitated by additional rail capacity made available on the line to Port Elizabeth harbour. Although prices have recently increased by some 63% it is anticipated that the market could come under pressure due to potential oversupply.

Manganese alloy volumes reduced marginally due to lower off take by major customers in the USA and although prices peaked during the year at unprecedented levels, they were lower at year-end. It is anticipated that pressure on pricing will continue until the risks of oversupply in the market have been addressed.

Sales volumes of charge chrome decreased mainly as a result of furnace availability and although prices were firmer during the year due to strong demand from stainless steel producers in the second half, particularly in China, price trends for the third quarter of calendar 2005 were lower as a result of weakening in demand.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Assmang continued its capital expenditure programme spending R699,1 million (2004: R493,7 million) during the year, R202,7 million of which was spent on completing the new shaft complex at Nchwaning and R82,0 million on construction of the underground mine at Dwarsrivier Chrome mine. The Nchwaning manganese mine is complete and fully operational and the Dwarsrivier mine is expected to be completed by the end of 2005 at a total capital cost of R222,0 million.

BORROWINGS

Interest bearing borrowings were significantly lower attributable mainly to the strong cash flows from Assmang.

OUTLOOK

It is expected that world steel production will exceed the record level of 1,06 billion tons achieved in calendar 2004, mainly driven by China. Iron ore prices should therefore remain strong, but any increase in export volumes will be determined by the logistical capacity through the South African rail and port systems. Demand and price for other products could come under pressure due to the potential for oversupply in international markets as a result of recent price increases. Earnings growth nevertheless remains significantly exposed to movements in the SA Rand against the US Dollar and Euro.

DIVIDENDS

An increased interim dividend of 50 cents per share was declared and paid during the year following the increased interim result. As reported in this announcement an increased final dividend of R1,50 per share has been declared following the significant increase in earnings for the year. The increased final dividend which is payable on Monday, 3 October 2005 is not included in these results in accordance with the group's accounting policies for dividends.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial information included in this announcement has been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"). The accounting policies used are consistent with the previous financial year except that the group has adopted the requirements of IFRS with retrospective effect to 1 July 2003. The effect of this change is an increase in profit of R236 000, as goodwill is no longer amortised in accordance with IFRS. For the same reason equity brought forward has increased by R236 000 and comparative figures have been restated accordingly.

AUDIT REVIEW

The year-end results have been reviewed in terms of Rule 3.22 of the Listing Requirements of the JSE Limited by the group's auditors Ernst & Young and their unqualified review opinion is available for inspection at the registered office of the company.

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Company secretaries:
African Mining and
Trust Company Limited

Directors:
Executive
Desmond Sacco (Chairman)
R J Carpenter (Deputy Chairman)
C J Cory (Chief Executive Officer)
P C Crous (Technical and Operations)

Non-executive
P N Boynton
B M Hawksworth
Dr J C van der Horst

Alternate
J W Lewis (British)

Assore Limited
Company registration number: 1950/037394/06
Share code: ASR ISIN: ZAE000017117