

Tuesday, 17th February 2004

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT
Financial Results for the Year ended 31 December 2003

The year to 31 December 2003 was a year of increased business momentum for McInerney Holdings plc with the Group achieving record sales and profitability.

Financial Highlights

The Directors are pleased to report an increase in basic earnings per share of 45%, to 72.83 cent as compared to 50.32 cent in 2002. Pre-tax profits increased by 38% to €28.46m compared to the 2002 result of €20.62m.

Profit after tax for the year was €23.81m compared with €16.40m in 2002.

Market conditions for all operations were strong. The UK division, in particular, achieved substantial growth of over 50%, continuing to increase its penetration and expansion in the market. The Irish house building division continues to be the core driver of the Group's profitability and it also recorded a considerable increase in 2003. This resulted in an excellent operational performance for the Group overall.

Total private house completions for the Group increased by 28% to 1,481 in 2003 up from 1,161 in 2002. Deposits on hand at year-end for Ireland, the UK and Spain rose by 35% to 978 compared to 726 for the previous year. This level of deposits on hand provides high earnings visibility for 2004.

Dividend

Based on these results, the Board is proposing to pay a final dividend of 6 cent gross per share. Combined with the interim dividend payment of 5 cent, this results in a total dividend for the year of 11 cent per share representing an increase of 76% on 2002 (6.25 cent gross per share in 2002). The final dividend will be paid to shareholders in May 2004, following the Annual General Meeting.

Dividend cover has moved from 8 times to 6.6 times, reflecting the continuation of our more progressive dividend policy.

Operational Highlights

The Group's operations are divided into three geographic divisions namely, Ireland –house building, contracting and commercial property development; UK – house building and contracting and Spain - leisure developments.

Ireland

The Irish house building operation recorded an excellent performance in 2003. The number of private house completions in 2003 was 969 compared to 879 for 2002. Deposits on hand at year-end were exceptional, following a series of sales launches in late 2003, with some 779 deposits held compared to 462 at the same time in 2002.

Market conditions were favourable and strong demand from the first time buyer demographic segment continues to benefit the Group's strategy of providing quality homes to this core target market.

An active land management policy focusing on strategic land acquisitions and disposals underpinned this strong performance from the Irish home building subsidiary.

Land sales of €17.2m were completed in 2003. The Group's residential land bank at the end of December, at over 4,200 plots was similar to the level of plots at the beginning of 2003. Of these some 60% have full planning permission and the balance are residentially zoned. The Group is satisfied that this mix of land in strategic locations around the country will cater for the division's ongoing and future land requirements.

The contracting division performed well, delivering a very good result. Contracting activities ranged from building houses on behalf of the State, to developing hotels, leisure, commercial and retail properties. Turnover was up 7% to €31.1m in 2003.

The Group's commercial division Hillview Securities made substantial progress in 2003 and a good result was achieved. It completed sales of 132,500 sq ft of industrial units as compared to 19,800 sq ft in 2002. A new development opportunity has also been secured west of London.

UK

The UK business grew strongly in 2003 and contributed significantly to the Group's overall financial performance. The Group's growth plans to position the UK operations as a key profit centre are ahead of expectations and provide particular satisfaction. In 2003, some 447 private house completions were achieved compared to 257 in 2002, representing an increase of 74%. Deposits on hand at year-end were 132.

The progressive performance by our UK brands Hargreaves Homes, Charlton Homes and SPACE are now maximising the benefits of their synergies to ultimately gain further market share in the North West region. Operations now span Greater Manchester, Lancashire, West Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Cheshire and Liverpool/Merseyside. The core product range of starter, middle market homes and city centre apartment developments in well located urban centres are experiencing strong demand.

The UK land bank will benefit in 2004 from the Group's strategy of reallocating capital to position the division for accelerated growth.

Spain

The Group continued to increase its output of freehold units with 65 completions in 2003, compared to 25 in 2002. There were 67 deposits on hand at year-end for the next two phases of the Los Flamings development.

Our Spanish business plan is to expand by diversification in the Costa del Sol region. To augment our freehold activities and provide future expansion opportunities, the Group recently entered into arrangements to purchase two new sites in Spain, one located near Mijas and one in Sotogrande, which will feed into the Group results in future years.

Board

In keeping with the Group's policy to strengthen its Board, it is a pleasure to welcome the recent appointments of Tommy Drumm and Mark Shakespeare as Executive Directors. Tommy, who is Managing Director, McInerney Homes in Ireland, has held a number of senior management positions within the Group over the past 20 years, while Mark, Group Treasurer, has been with the Group for 14 years. They bring to the Board a broad range of commercial and financial experience across a range of sectors and will enhance our collective expertise. They will, as is normal, submit to election by shareholders at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Outlook

2003 has seen an excellent performance from our Irish and UK operations.

The growth progress across all subsidiaries provides a strong platform for the Group to leverage new opportunities both organically and by acquisition. The expansion and cohesion of the Board and management team, combined with a range of good quality products designed to target specific market segments is underpinning this success.

The Group's strategic objective is to allocate increased capital to our business in the UK to secure the growth and diversification opportunities there, and in tandem to steadily enhance our presence in Spain. Demand for housing in all markets continues to be strong and the high level of deposits secured going into 2004 augers well for continued progressive growth and further enhanced returns to shareholders.

Our growth strategy, which is ahead of target, provides confidence for sustained expansion prospects.

Roy B. Ferris
Chairman

MC INERNEY HOLDINGS PLC
CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT
For the year ended 31 December 2003

	2003 €'000	2002 €'000
TURNOVER INCLUDING GROUP SHARE OF JOINT VENTURES		
Continuing Operations	352,502	231,148
Acquisitions	-	30,453
	<u>352,502</u>	<u>261,601</u>
Less: Share of Joint Ventures Turnover	(9,173)	(3,547)
	<u>343,329</u>	<u>258,054</u>
GROUP TURNOVER	343,329	258,054
COST OF SALES	(284,408)	(213,876)
	<u>58,921</u>	<u>44,178</u>
GROSS PROFIT	58,921	44,178
Administrative Expenses	(26,341)	(19,885)
	<u>32,580</u>	<u>22,199</u>
GROUP OPERATING PROFIT	32,580	22,199
Continuing Operations	32,580	22,199
Acquisitions	-	2,094
	<u>32,580</u>	<u>24,293</u>
Share of Operating Profits in Joint Ventures		
Continuing Operations	2,935	986
Acquisitions	-	945
	<u>2,935</u>	<u>945</u>
TOTAL OPERATING PROFITS INCLUDING JOINT VENTURES	35,515	26,224
Interest Payable and Similar Charges	(7,058)	(5,600)
	<u>28,457</u>	<u>20,624</u>
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION	28,457	20,624
Taxation Charge arising on Ordinary Activities	(4,643)	(4,220)
	<u>23,814</u>	<u>16,404</u>
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES AFTER TAXATION	23,814	16,404
Dividends	(3,610)	(2,039)
	<u>20,204</u>	<u>14,365</u>
PROFIT RETAINED FOR THE YEAR	20,204	14,365
BASIC EARNINGS PER SHARE	72.83 c	50.32 c
FULLY DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE	70.40 c	48.49 c

The Auditors have confirmed that they will be issuing an unqualified opinion on the accounts from which the financial information set out on pages 4 to 9 for the year ended 31 December 2003 has been extracted. The financial information for the year ended 31 December 2002 has been extracted from the audited accounts on which the Auditors issued an unqualified opinion and which have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies.

MC INERNEY HOLDINGS PLC
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 December 2003

	2003 €'000	2002 €'000
FIXED ASSETS		
Intangible Assets	13,237	15,084
Tangible Assets	14,050	13,786
Financial Assets		
Joint Ventures:		
Share of Gross Assets	11,540	9,057
Share of Gross Liabilities	(8,612)	(8,263)
	2,928	794
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	<u>30,215</u>	<u>29,664</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stocks	211,706	178,994
Debtors	47,861	33,938
Cash at Bank and in Hand	26,435	20,994
	<u>286,002</u>	<u>233,926</u>
CREDITORS (Amounts falling due within one year)		
Bank Loans and Overdrafts	38,837	23,642
Trade and Other Creditors	123,756	106,992
	<u>162,593</u>	<u>130,634</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>123,409</u>	<u>103,292</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>153,624</u>	<u>132,956</u>
CREDITORS (Amounts falling due after more than one year)		
Bank Loans	60,238	55,615
Other Creditors	253	3,710
	<u>60,491</u>	<u>59,325</u>
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES		
Deferred Taxation	1,341	1,173
	<u>91,792</u>	<u>72,458</u>
FINANCED BY :		
CAPITAL AND RESERVES		
Called up Share Capital	4,101	4,078
Capital Conversion Reserve Fund	62	62
Share Premium Account	16,648	16,358
Revaluation Reserve	2,159	2,159
Profit and Loss Account	68,822	49,801
TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS - ALL EQUITY	<u>91,792</u>	<u>72,458</u>

MC INERNEY HOLDINGS PLC
CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT
For the year ended 31 December 2003

	2003 €'000	2002 €'000
Net Cash Inflow from operating activities	<u>2,709</u>	<u>11,321</u>
DIVIDENDS RECEIVED FROM JOINT VENTURES	<u>130</u>	<u>576</u>
RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS AND SERVICING OF FINANCE		
Interest Received	53	145
Interest Paid	(6,284)	(5,827)
Interest element of Finance Lease payments	<u>(34)</u>	<u>(38)</u>
	<u>(6,265)</u>	<u>(5,720)</u>
TAXATION	<u>(5,020)</u>	<u>(4,942)</u>
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL INVESTMENT		
Purchase of Tangible assets	(2,523)	(3,456)
Sale of Tangible Assets	<u>244</u>	<u>208</u>
	<u>(2,279)</u>	<u>(3,248)</u>
ACQUISITION OF SUBSIDIARY UNDERTAKING	<u>-</u>	<u>(10,309)</u>
EQUITY DIVIDENDS PAID	<u>(3,678)</u>	<u>(1,465)</u>
Net Cash Outflow before Financing	<u>(14,403)</u>	<u>(13,787)</u>
FINANCING		
Share Capital Subscribed	313	66
Repayment of Loans	(58,049)	(59,456)
Proceeds from Borrowings	76,488	74,550
Capital Element of Finance Lease Rentals	<u>(287)</u>	<u>(242)</u>
	<u>18,465</u>	<u>14,918</u>
Increase in cash in year	<u><u>4,062</u></u>	<u><u>1,131</u></u>

MC INERNEY HOLDINGS PLC
RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH FLOW TO MOVEMENT IN NET DEBT
For the year ended 31 December 2003

	2003 €'000	2002 €'000
Increase in cash in year	4,062	1,131
Cash inflow from increase in debt and lease financing	(18,152)	(14,852)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Changes in net debt resulting from cashflows	(14,090)	(13,721)
Loans acquired with subsidiary undertaking	-	(5,424)
New finance leases	(298)	(14)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Movement in net debt for the year	(14,388)	(19,159)
Net debt as at 1 January 2003	(58,669)	(39,510)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net debt as at 31 December 2003	<u>(73,057)</u>	<u>(58,669)</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 December 2003

SEGMENTAL INFORMATION

Segmental Analysis of Turnover and Profit		2003	2002
		€'000	€'000
Group Turnover			
Ireland:	Private Housing	183,164	138,501
	Developed Sites & Land	17,230	10,624
	Contracts	31,068	29,151
	Commercial	14,217	2,435
	Commercial Land	-	6,429
Spain:	Leisure	31,684	13,219
	Land	-	6,297
United Kingdom:	Private Housing	59,328	38,446
	Developed Sites & Land	-	2,476
	Contracts	15,811	14,023
Total Group Turnover including Group Share of Joint Ventures		<u>352,502</u>	<u>261,601</u>
Profit before Interest & Taxation			
Ireland:	Private Housing	22,275	18,643
	Developed Sites & Land	3,552	2,977
	Contracts	2,154	(747)
	Commercial	1,816	386
	Commercial Land	-	1,022
Spain:	Leisure	2,342	1,996
	Land	-	931
United Kingdom:	Private Housing	7,671	3,164
	Developed Sites & Land	-	729
	Contracts	26	1,021
Segment Profits		39,836	30,122
Common Costs		(3,396)	(2,929)
Costs incurred in on-going Development / Acquisition			
	Activities	(145)	(175)
Goodwill		(780)	(794)
Net Interest Payable		<u>(7,058)</u>	<u>(5,600)</u>
Profit Before Taxation		<u>28,457</u>	<u>20,624</u>

Segmental Analysis of Net Assets

	2003 €'000	2002 €'000
Business Sectors		
Irish Housing	71,942	62,505
Leisure	24,854	21,963
Commercial	33,250	18,319
UK Construction	<u>37,373</u>	<u>31,009</u>
Net Operating Assets	167,419	133,796
Unallocated Liabilities	<u>(2,987)</u>	<u>(3,075)</u>
	164,432	130,721
Net Borrowings	<u>(72,640)</u>	<u>(58,263)</u>
Total Net Assets	<u><u>91,792</u></u>	<u><u>72,458</u></u>

Comparative Figures

Comparative figures have been reclassified, where necessary, on a basis consistent with the current year.