Press release HAL

Report on the first half year 2008

Net income of HAL Holding N.V. for the first six months of 2008 amounted to € 238.4 million (€ 3.75 per share) compared to € 275.3 million (€ 4.34 per share) for the same period last year. This represents a decrease of € 37 million (€ 0.59 per share). This decrease is primarily due to lower earnings from marketable securities and deposits (€ 5 million) and capital gains realized in 2007 (€ 66 million), partially off set by higher earnings from associates (€ 34 million).

During the first six months of 2008 the Company's net asset value, based on the market value of the publicly traded investments and the liquid portfolio and on the book value of the unquoted investments, increased by € 87 million. The main reasons for this change are the earnings from the consolidated subsidiaries. The change in share price of the quoted associates and the decrease in value of the marketable securities, and taking into account dividends received, had a negative effect of € 40 million on the net asset value. After deducting the dividend over 2007 (€ 206.4 million) and taking into account the sale of treasury shares (€ 1.8 million), the net asset value decreased from € 4,354 million on December 31, 2007 (€ 68.56 per share) to € 4,236 million on June 30, 2008 (€ 66.68 per share). As of August 22, 2008 the value of the quoted investments and the liquid portfolio had increased by € 80 million since June 30, 2008 (€ 1.26 per share).
This net asset value does not include the difference between estimated value and book value of the unquoted companies. This difference is calculated annually and,

based on the principles and assumptions set out in the 2007 annual report, amounted to € 1,287 million (€ 20.26 per share) on December 31, 2007.
The interim financial information for the period ended June 30, 2008, is unaudited.

New investments

The optical retail activities were further expanded during the first half year.
Pearle Europe (98% HAL) entered into an agreement with Reliance Retail, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited, to establish a joint venture for the Indian optical market. The transaction was completed in July. Pearle also acquired optical retail chains in Bulgaria (12 stores) and Luxembourg (4 stores).
In May, GrandVision S.A. (100% HAL) acquired the activities of the G C Bateman Group, an optical retail company in England. Bateman operates 75 stores and reported 2007 sales of approximately € 32 million. In June, GrandVision acquired the MasVision Group, an optical retail company in Spain. MasVision operates 15 owned stores and a network of 320 franchise stores. GrandOptical and MasVision together operate 350 stores in Spain. The 2007 system-wide sales of these stores amounted to approximately € 100 million.
Also in May, an agreement was signed to acquire the Chilean optical retail chain Rotter y Krauss. The company is located in Santiago and has 44 owned stores and 82 points of sale within department stores throughout the country. Rotter y Krauss reported 2007 net sales of approximately € 32 million. The transaction was completed in August.
By the end of May HAL increased its interest in the Moscow based optical retail company Lensmaster from 32% to 57%.

The hearing aid retail activities were also expanded during the first half year through the acquisition of 40 stores in Europe. The aggregate annual sales of these stores amount to approximately € 16 million.

In February, an agreement was reached to acquire a 100% interest in Applicazione Rivestimenti Plastici Affini A.R.P.A. S.p.A. ("Arpa"). Arpa is an Italian manufacturer of High-Pressure-Laminate (HPL) products and reported 2007 sales of approximately € 80 million. The transaction was completed in July.

In April, HAL increased its interest in AMB i.t. Holding B.V. from 30% to 100%. AMB is located in Haarlem (the Netherlands) and is the world's market leader for sport identification and timing systems. AMB reported 2007 sales of € 14 million.

In May, HAL acquired land for development in the Seattle area for USD 5 million (€ 3 million).

Results

During the first half year net sales increased by € 151 million to € 1,723 million. This increase is primarily due to a € 53 million increase in sales from the optical retail companies as well as the inclusion of 2007 acquisitions- Delta Wines, Orthopedie Investments Europe and Abrium- in the consolidation. The combined sales of these companies for the first six months of 2008 amounted to € 87 million.
Sales by the optical retail companies for the first half of 2008 amounted to € 970 million compared to € 917 million for the same period last year. The effect of acquisitions on optical retail sales amounted to € 29 million. Same store optical retail sales for the first six months increased by 0.8% compared to the same period last year. Sales also increased due to the opening of new stores. The operating result of the optical retail companies (earnings before interest, exceptional and non-recurring items, taxes and amortization of intangible assets) for the first half of 2008 amounted to € 139 million compared to € 140 million in the same period last year.

Earnings from marketable securities and deposits decreased from € 12 million to € 7 million. This decrease is the net result of higher interest income and capital losses on the equity portfolio.

The 2007 capital gains on sale of assets of € 15 million included capital gains on the sale of two vessels by Anthony Veder as well as capital gains on the sale of real estate by PontMeyer and Mercurius.

Earnings from associates increased from € 88 million to € 122 million. This increase is primarily the net result of higher earnings from Koninklijke Boskalis Westminster N.V. and Koninklijke Vopak N.V. and the sale of the interest in Univar N.V. in 2007. The first six months of 2007 included a net income contribution from Univar of € 14 million.

The 2007 earnings from other financial assets of € 48 million primarily relates to the capital gain on the sale of the 19% interest in Kempen & Co.

Earnings from real estate activities decreased from € 7 million to € 4 million. This decrease is due to lower capital gains.

Liquid portfolio

The total return for the first half of 2008 on the corporate liquid portfolio was (0.7%) compared to 3.9% in the same period last year. During the first half year this portfolio decreased by € 208 million to € 471 million. As of June 30, 2008, 76% of the liquid portfolio was invested in fixed income instruments amounting to € 360 million (December 31, 2007: € 594 million) and 24% in equities for an amount of € 111 million (December 31, 2007: € 85 million).

Prospects

In view of the fact that a major part of the net income is determined by the results of the quoted associates and the timing of potential investments and divestitures, we do not express an expectation as to net income for the remainder of 2008.

The Executive Board of HAL Holding N.V.

August 29, 2008

HAL Trust
Consolidated Interim Financial Statements
June 30, 2008

Contents

Consolidated Interim Balance Sheet

In millions of euro	*Notes*	**June 30, 2008**	December 31, 2007
Assets			
Non-current assets:			
Property, plant and equipment	1	**584.0**	501.4
Investment properties	2	**64.5**	65.8
Intangible assets	3	**1,440.4**	1,344.2
Investments in associates	4	**783.6**	737.3
Other financial assets		**0.3**	0.3
Deferred tax assets		**47.1**	32.2
Other non-current assets		**75.2**	81.9
Total non-current assets		**2,995.1**	2,763.1
Current assets:			
Marketable securities and deposits	5	**473.6**	698.0
Receivables		**331.1**	305.0
Inventories		**366.2**	322.0
Other current assets		**159.0**	131.5
Cash and cash equivalents		**198.4**	183.8
Total current assets		**1,528.3**	1,640.3
Total assets		**4,523.4**	4,403.4
Equity and Liabilities			
Share capital		**1.3**	1.3
Other reserves		**51.5**	63.5
Retained earnings		**2,660.1**	2,626.7
Capital and reserves attributable to equity holders		**2,712.9**	2,691.5
Minority interests		**93.4**	86.4
Total equity		**2,806.3**	2,777.9
Non-current liabilities:			
Provisions	6	**83.5**	88.3
Long-term debt	7	**477.0**	453.4
Deferred tax liabilities		**107.9**	78.8
Total non-current liabilities		**668.4**	620.5
Current liabilities:			
Short-term debt	7	**355.6**	358.7
Income tax payable		**40.2**	23.1
Accounts payable		**271.1**	265.2
Accrued expenses		**381.8**	358.0
Total current liabilities		**1,048.7**	1,005.0
Total equity and liabilities		**4,523.4**	4,403.4

Consolidated Interim Statement of Income

(For the six months ended June 30)

In millions of euro	*Notes*	**2008**	2007
Net sales		**1,723.0**	1,572.2
Earnings from marketable securities and deposits	8	**6.6**	11.6
Capital gains on sale of assets		**-**	14.6
Earnings from associates	9	**122.0**	88.3
Earnings from other financial assets		**-**	47.7
Earnings from real estate activities		**3.5**	7.3
Total income		**1,855.1**	1,741.7
Raw materials, consumables used and changes in inventories		**656.1**	581.3
Employee expenses		**463.2**	426.2
Depreciation property, plant, equipment and investment properties	1/2	**53.1**	51.3
Amortization intangibles	3	**9.6**	8.4
Other operating expenses		**377.4**	330.7
Total expenses		**1,559.4**	1,397.9
Operating result		**295.7**	343.8
Interest expense		**(16.9)**	(17.8)
Profit before taxes		**278.8**	326.0
Income taxes		**(31.8)**	(38.3)
Profit for the half year		**247.0**	287.7
Attributable to:			
Equity holders		**238.4**	275.3
Minority interest		**8.6**	12.4
		247.0	287.7
Average number of outstanding shares (in thousands)		**63,511**	63,491
Earnings per share for profit attributable to the equity holders during the six months (in euro per share)			
- basic and diluted		**3.75**	4.34

Consolidated Interim Statement of Changes in Equity

In millions of euro	Attributable to equity holders of the Company				
	Share capital	**Retained earnings**	**Other reserves**	**Minority interest**	**Total equity**
Balance on January 1, 2007	1.3	2,089.8	110.6	51.5	**2,253.2**
Movement cum. valuation reserve:					
- marketable securities	-	-	4.8	-	**4.8**
- other financial assets and associates	-	-	(27.0)	-	**(27.0)**
- interest rate derivatives	-	-	7.0	-	**7.0**
Translation of foreign subsidiaries and financial fixed assets	-	-	3.8	(0.6)	**3.2**
Effect of hedging instruments	-	-	7.8	-	**7.8**
Profit for the half year	-	275.3	-	12.4	**287.7**
Total recognized income for the half year	-	275.3	(3.6)	11.8	**283.5**
Acquisitions and disposals	-	-	-	(1.2)	**(1.2)**
Treasury shares	-	1.6	-	-	**1.6**
Dividend paid	-	(200.0)	-	-	**(200.0)**
Other		(0.4)			**(0.4)**
Balance on June 30, 2007	1.3	2,166.3	107.0	62.1	**2,336.7**
Balance on January 1, 2008	1.3	2,626.7	63.5	86.4	**2,777.9**
Movement cum. valuation reserve:					
- marketable securities			(9.5)		**(9.5)**
- other financial assets and associates			(0.4)		**(0.4)**
- interest rate derivatives			1.9		**1.9**
Translation of foreign subsidiaries and financial fixed assets			(26.2)	(3.5)	**(29.7)**
Effect of hedging instruments			22.2		**22.2**
Profit for the half year		238.4		8.6	**247.0**
Total recognized income for the half year		238.4	(12.0)	5.1	**231.5**
Acquisitions and disposals				1.9	**1.9**
Treasury shares		1.8			**1.8**
Dividend paid		(206.4)			**(206.4)**
Other		(0.4)			**(0.4)**
Balance on June 30, 2008	1.3	2,660.1	51.5	93.4	**2,806.3**

A 2007 related dividend of € 206.4 million (excluding dividend on treasury shares) or € 3.25 per share was paid on June 2, 2008 (six months ended 2007: € 200 million of € 3.15 per share).

Consolidated Interim Statement of Cash Flows

(For the six months ended June 30)

In millions of euro	**2008**	2007
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Profit before taxes	**278.8**	326.0
Depreciation	**53.1**	51.3
Amortization	**9.6**	8.4
Profit on sale of property, plant and equipment and investment properties	**-**	(14.6)
Profit on sale of financial assets	**-**	(47.7)
Profit on sale of marketable securities	**11.0**	(2.6)
Share in result associates	**(121.8)**	(88.0)
Interest expense	**16.9**	17.8
	247.6	250.6
Dividend from associates	**63.4**	53.6
Changes in working capital	**(53.3)**	(87.0)
Other movements in provisions and deferred taxes	**(4.0)**	9.7
Cash generated from operations	**253.7**	226.9
Interest paid	**(20.5)**	(17.5)
Income tax paid	**(18.4)**	(45.3)
Net cash from operating activities	**214.8**	164.1
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Acquisitions of associates and subsidiaries, net of cash acquired	**(95.4)**	(78.3)
Acquisition of other non-current assets	**(6.6)**	(11.5)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment and investment properties	**(127.5)**	(87.2)
Divestment of associates	**7.6**	-
Divestment of other financial assets	**-**	66.9
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment and investment properties	**3.4**	4.8
Proceeds from sale of assets held for sale	**-**	39.0
Change in marketable securities and deposits, net	**198.0**	120.4
Change in other non-current assets	**6.5**	(2.4)
Change in minority interests	**(2.1)**	(1.2)
Effect of hedging instruments	**14.9**	4.3
Net cash from investing activities	**(1.2)**	54.8
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Change in short-term debt	**(5.7)**	9.8
Change in long-term debt	**11.8**	(34.6)
Sale of shares HAL Trust	**1.8**	1.6
Dividends paid	**(206.4)**	(200.0)
Net cash used in financing activities	**(198.5)**	(223.2)
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	**15.1**	(4.3)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	**183.8**	132.9
Effects of exchange rate changes on opening balance	**(0.5)**	(0.3)
Cash and cash equivalents retranslated at beg. of period	**183.3**	132.6
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	**15.1**	(4.3)
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	**198.4**	128.3

Notes to Consolidated Interim Financial Statements

General

The consolidated interim financial statements presented are those of HAL Trust ('the Trust'), a Bermuda trust formed in 1977. The Trust is listed at the Euronext Amsterdam Stock Exchange. The Trust's only asset is all outstanding shares of HAL Holding N.V. ('the Company'), a Netherlands Antilles corporation.

The Company's strategy is focused on acquiring significant shareholdings in companies, with the long-term objective of increasing shareholders' value. When selecting investment candidates the Company emphasizes, in addition to investment and return criteria, the potential of playing an active role as a shareholder and/or board member. The Company does not confine itself to particular industries. Given the emphasis on the longer term, the Company does not have a pre-determined investment horizon. HAL also invests in real estate. The real estate investment activities are concentrated in the greater Seattle metropolitan area with an emphasis on the development and rental of multi-family properties and office buildings.

This condensed interim financial information for the six months ended June 30, 2008 has been prepared in accordance with IAS34, "Interim financial reporting". This interim condensed financial report should be read in conjunction with the annual financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2007. In the schedules below, the columns June 30, 2008 and June 30, 2007 represent the six months periods ended June 30, 2008 and June 30, 2007. The column December 31, 2007 represents the twelve-months period ended December 31, 2007.

The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the annual financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2007.
Due to the nature of the Company, investments and divestitures can have a significant impact on net income. Accordingly, the results for the first six months might not be representative of the results for 2008 as a whole.

1. Property, plant and equipment

Movements for property, plant and equipment are as follows:

	June 30, 2008	Dec 31, 2007
Balance on January 1	**501.4**	456.4
Investments	**122.5**	168.4
Consolidations	**25.8**	18.7
Disposals	**(3.4)**	(32.8)
Depreciation	**(51.2)**	(98.8)
Exchange adjustments	**(11.1)**	(10.5)
	584.0	501.4

2. Investment properties

Movements for investment properties are as follows:

	June 30, 2008	Dec 31, 2007
Balance on January 1	**65.8**	70.8
Investments	**5.0**	6.2
Depreciation	**(1.9)**	(4.4)
Exchange adjustments	**(4.4)**	(6.8)
	64.5	65.8

3. Intangible assets

Intangible assets consist of:

	June 30, 2008	Dec 31, 2007
Goodwill	**1,061.3**	990.3
Other intangibles	**379.1**	353.9
	1,440.4	1,344.2

Movements for goodwill are as follow:

	June 30, 2008	Dec 31, 2007
Balance on January 1	**990.3**	848.2
Acquisitions	**93.5**	152.0
Reclassification	**(16.9)**	-
Exchange adjustments	**(5.6)**	(9.9)
	1,061.3	990.3

At the end of each reporting period the Company assesses whether there is objective evidence that a (group of) intangible asset(s) is impaired. The Company has no reason to believe that a potential significant impairment arising from a triggering event exists as of June 30, 2008. Impairment tests are performed on an annual basis as of September 30.

Movements for other intangibles are as follows:

	June 30, 2008	Dec 31, 2007
Book value on January 1	**353.9**	344.0
Investments	**6.6**	28.3
Consolidations	**5.2**	2.2
Amortizations	**(9.6)**	(18.7)
Reclassification	**27.2**	-
Exchange adjustments	**(4.2)**	(1.9)
	379.1	353.9

4. Investments in associates

Movements are as follows:

	June 30, 2008	Dec 31, 2007
Book value on January 1	**737.3**	743.6
Investments	**2.8**	67.7
Disposals	**(7.6)**	(217.7)
Share in results	**121.8**	179.5
Dividends	**(63.4)**	(51.0)
Revaluation of assets		6.1
Movement valuation difference	**(0.4)**	(7.9)
Reclassification	**(9.6)**	-
Exchange adjustments and effect of financial instruments	**2.7**	17.0
	783.6	737.3

The purchase of the controlling interests in Lensmaster and AMB is included in the line “Reclassification” as these entities are now fully consolidated.
Quoted associates are valued, as of June 30, 2008, based on unaudited publicly available information.

5. Marketable securities and deposits

The specification is as follows:

	June 30, 2008	Dec 31, 2007
Time deposits and other receivables	**361.7**	612.7
Other fixed income securities	**0.5**	0.7
Equity securities	**111.4**	84.6
	473.6	698.0

6. Provisions

Movements for the first half of 2008 are as follows:

	Pensions and early retirement	Other	**Total**
Balance on January 1	44.8	43.5	**88.3**
Provisions made in the year	8.8	3.3	**12.1**
Amounts used	(9.9)	(5.8)	**(15.7)**
Exchange adjustments		(1.2)	**(1.2)**
Balance on June 30	43.7	39.8	**83.5**

7. Debt

Movements are as follows:

	June 30, 2008	Dec 31, 2007
Book value on January 1	**812.1**	809.8
Additions	**61.9**	170.4
Repayments	**(35.4)**	(149.1)
Exchange adjustments	**(6.0)**	(19.0)
	832.6	812.1

Classification is as follows:

	June 30, 2008	Dec 31, 2007
Current	**355.6**	358.7
Non-current	**477.0**	453.4
	832.6	812.1

8. Earnings from marketable securities and deposits

	June 30, 2008	June 30, 2007
Capital gains (losses)	**(11.0)**	2.6
Interest income	**16.4**	9.7
Dividends	**1.8**	0.3
Management fees	**(0.6)**	(1.0)
	6.6	11.6

Capital gains (losses) include an unrealized loss on the equity portfolio to an amount of € 13 million.

9. Earnings from associates

	June 30, 2008	June 30, 2007
Share in results	**121.8**	88.0
Interest from loans	**0.2**	0.3
	122.0	88.3

Segmentation

The composition of the revenues by segment is as follows:

	June 30, 2008	June 30, 2007
Investments	**1,849.0**	1,725.5
Real estate	**3.5**	7.3
Liquid portfolio	**2.6**	8.9
	1,855.1	1,741.7

The composition of net income by segment is as follows:

	June 30, 2008	June 30, 2007
Investments	**236.3**	264.0
Real estate	**(0.1)**	2.4
Liquid portfolio	**2.2**	8.9
	238.4	275.3

Financial commitments

The Company and its subsidiaries entered into various commitments to acquire minority and majority interests. On June 30, 2008, the total estimated amount of these commitments was€ 235 million.

Subsequent events

On July 1, HAL completed the acquisition of a 100% interest in Applicazioni Rivestimenti Plastici Affini A.R.P.A. S.p.A. (“Arpa”). Arpa is a manufacturer of High-Pressure-Laminate (HPL) products, primarily for interior applications. Arpa reported 2007 sales of approximately € 80 million.

On August 4, HAL completed the acquisition of 100% of the shares of the optical retail chain Rotter y Krauss in Chile. The 2007 net sales of Rotter y Krauss amounted to approximately € 32 million.

List of Principal Investments

As of June 30, 2008

(Interest = 100 %, unless otherwise stated)

Consolidated:

HAL Holding N.V., Curaçao
HAL International N.V., Curaçao
HAL International Investments N.V., Curaçao
HAL Investments N.V., Curaçao
HAL Real Estate Investments Inc., Seattle
HAL Investments B.V., Rotterdam
HAL Optik A.S., Istanbul
AMB i.t. Holding B.V., Haarlem
GrandVision S.A., Paris
Mercurius Groep B.V., Westzaan
Pearle Europe B.V., Schiphol (97.7%)
Superlente Comércio de Lentes e Óculos Ltda. (Fábrica de Oculos), Salvador (97.0%)
Fotoptica Ltda., São Paulo (97.0%)
Broadview Holding B.V.,‘s-Hertogenbosch (97.0%)
Intersafe Trust B.V., Dordrecht (95.5%)
Audionova International B.V., Rotterdam (95.0%)
Orthopedie Investments Europe B.V., Haarlem (89.0%)
Koninklijke Ahrend N.V., Amsterdam (80.0%)
Shanghai Red Star Optical Co. Ltd., Shanghai (78.0%)
Flight Simulation Company B.V., Schiphol (70.0%)
Delta Wines B.V., Waddinxveen (69.0%)
Anthony Veder Group N.V., Curaçao (64.2 %)
PontMeyer N.V., Zaandam (57.9%)
Lensmaster, Moscow (57.3%)

Associates:

	Interest	**Exchange**
Publicly traded		
Koninklijke Vopak N.V. (ordinary shares)	47.74%	Amsterdam
Koninklijke Boskalis Westminster N.V.	31.75%	Amsterdam
Other		
FD Mediagroep B.V.	46.80%	
N.V. Nationale Borg-Maatschappij	42.50%	
Sover Optica Shops S.r.l.	33.33%	
Visilab S.A.	30.00%	
Navis Capital Partners Ltd.	25.00%	
InVesting B.V.	9.70%	