



Press release

HAL

NET INCOME FOR 2007 OF € 735.7 MILLION NET ASSET VALUE INCREASES BY € 962 MILLION

Net income of HAL Holding N.V. for 2007 amounted to € 735.7 million (€ 11.59 per share) compared with € 496.8 million (€ 7.80 per share) for 2006.

In 2007 the Company's net asset value increased by € 962 million. After deducting the dividend over 2006 (€ 200.4 million) and taking the sale of treasury shares (€ 1.6 million) into account, the net asset value increased from € 3,591 million (€ 56.56 per share) on December 31, 2006, to € 4,354 million (€ 68.56 per share) on December 31, 2007. The main reason for the increase was the higher value of the quoted associates. The net asset value is based on the market value of the quoted associates and the liquid portfolio and on the book value of the unquoted investments.

At the end of December 2007 estimated value of the unquoted investments exceeded book value by € 1,287 million (€ 20.26 per share) compared to € 888 million (€ 13.99 per share) on December 31, 2006. Estimated value was determined consistent with the principles and assumptions set out in the 2006 annual report. In addition, at the end of 2007, the estimated market value of the real estate portfolio exceeded book value by € 85 million (€ 1.34 per share) compared to € 56 million (€ 0.88 per share) at the end of 2006 (adjusted for the 2007 divestitures).



Dividend

It will be proposed to distribute a cash dividend of € 3.25 per share for 2007 (2006: € 3.15). This distribution is in accordance with the dividend policy and represents 4% of the average share price of HAL Trust during December 2007. If this proposal will be accepted, the dividend will be paid on June 2, 2008. The ex-dividend date is May 26, 2008 and the record date is May 28, 2008.

Prospects

During the period from December 31, 2007 to March 21, 2008 the value of the quoted associates and the liquid portfolio decreased by € 270 million (€ 4.25 per share).

In view of the fact that a significant part of the Company's net income is determined by the results of the quoted associates, developments in the financial markets, and the timing of potential investments and divestitures, we do not express an expectation as to net income for 2008.

New investments

During the past year the optical retail activities were further expanded through acquisitions of two optical retail chains in Brazil with combined annual sales of approximately € 35 million and an optical retail chain in Turkey with annual sales of approximately € 6 million. In addition, in April 2007, GrandVision acquired a 30% stake in the Swiss optical retailer Visilab by contributing its six Swiss GrandOptical stores and making a cash payment. The combined annual sales of Visilab and GrandOptical Switzerland amount to approximately € 90 million.

In November a 30% interest in the Rumanian optical retail chain Sover was acquired. The company operates sixteen stores and has annual sales of approximately € 2 million.

In March 2008, Pearle Europe (97% 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 agreement is subject to the required approvals of the Foreign Investments Promotion Board in India. In the next phase parties will work out the operational aspects of the cooperation. The transaction is expected to be completed in a few months.

HAL currently has approximately 3,200 optical retail stores (including franchise stores) in 31 countries with total pro forma system wide annual sales (defined as sales including sales of franchise stores) of approximately € 2.4 billion. The 2007 optical retail sales, as included in the 2007 financial statements, amounted to € 1,842 million (2006: € 1,676 million) and the operating income (for the purpose of this report defined as earnings before interest, exceptional and non recurring items, taxes and amortization of intangible assets) amounted to € 269 million (2006: € 219 million). The same store sales of the owned stores increased by 4.4% in 2007 (2006: 3.8%).

The hearing aid retail activities were expanded last year through the acquisition of 71 stores in Germany, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Italy and Belgium. The aggregate annual sales of these stores is approximately € 22 million.

In June, HAL and Egeria B.V. each acquired a 50% interest in the insurance company Nationale Borg. The company specializes in providing guarantee insurance and has a leading position in the transport, construction and logistic industries in the Netherlands and Flanders. The company reported 2007 gross written premiums of € 63 million. HAL's current interest in this company is 42.5% as HAL and Egeria B.V. each sold a 7.5% interest to management in July 2007.

In July, HAL acquired a 69% interest in Delta Wines B.V. The company imports and distributes wine in the Netherlands. It reported 2007 sales of approximately € 86 million.



In December, a 100% interest in Livit B.V was acquired. The company assembles and sells orthopaedic devices and has 40 specialized care centres and over 200 fitting locations in hospitals and rehabilitation centres located throughout the Netherlands. The company reported 2007 sales of approximately € 43 million.

In December, Intersafe, a 91% subsidiary, acquired Abrium S.A., a French distributor of personal protective equipment. Abrium reported 2007 sales of approximately € 60 million.

In February 2008 an agreement was reached to acquire 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. The company is based in Bra (Italy) and has approximately 430 employees. Arpa reported 2007 sales of approximately € 80 million. HAL subsidiary Trespa International B.V. (“Trespa”) also manufactures High-Pressure-Laminate (HPL) products, primarily for exterior applications. It is not the intention to merge Arpa and Trespa. The interest in Arpa will therefore be held by Broadview Holding B.V., the newly incorporated operational holding company (97% HAL) which already owns 100% of the share capital of Trespa. The acquisition is subject to further due diligence and regulatory approvals. It is expected that the transaction will be completed during the second quarter of 2008.

Divestitures

In January 2007 the 19% interest in Kempen & Co. N.V. was sold. The transaction resulted in a capital gain of € 47 million net of tax.

In August, Navis Capital Partners, a private equity partnership in which HAL has invested, sold one of its portfolio investments. This transaction resulted in a capital gain for HAL of € 25 million net of tax.



In October the Company sold its remaining 26.6% interest in Univar N.V. The sale resulted in a capital gain of € 221 million (net of tax and taking into account currency translation results).

Results

Net income for 2007 was € 735.7 million (€ 11.59 per share) compared with € 496.8 million (€ 7.80 per share) for 2006.

The increase in net sales by € 408 million to € 3,187 million was primarily due to the increase in optical retail sales by € 166 million to € 1,842 million. Net sales also increased due to higher sales of AudioNova International (€ 56 million), Koninklijke Ahrend (€ 45 million), PontMeyer (€ 42 million) and Trespa International (€ 22 million). The acquisition of Delta Wines had a positive effect on sales of € 39 million.

Earnings from marketable securities and deposits decreased by € 38 million to € 30 million. This decrease is primarily the result of lower realized capital gains on equities.

Capital gains on the sale of assets amounted to € 20 million (2006: € 3 million). This item includes the capital gain on the sale of two vessels by Anthony Veder as well as capital gains on the sale of real estate by operating companies.

Earnings from associates increased by € 177 million to € 427 million. This increase is primarily the result of an increase in capital gains of € 139 million and higher earnings from Boskalis and Vopak.

Earnings from real estate activities decreased by € 14 million to € 10 million primarily as a result of lower capital gains on the sale of real estate (€ 12 million).



Interest expense decreased by € 15 million to € 36 million as a result of lower average outstanding bank debt and lower interest rates.

Financial Calendar

The shareholders meeting HAL Trust will be held in Rotterdam on May 22, 2008. The report on the first half year 2008 will be published on August 29, 2008.

This press release is based on the prepared financial statements for 2007 to be approved by the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders, which have not yet been published. The external auditor has issued an unqualified auditors' report on the prepared financial statements for 2007.

HAL Holding N.V.

March 26, 2008



Consolidated Balance Sheet

as of December 31

In millions of euros, before proposed distribution of income

	2007	2006
Assets		
Non-current assets:		
Property, plant and equipment	501.4	456.4
Investment properties	65.8	70.8
Intangible assets	1,344.2	1,192.2
Investments in associates	737.3	743.6
Other financial assets	0.3	0.8
Deferred tax assets	32.2	46.3
Other non-current assets	<u>81.9</u>	<u>68.7</u>
<i>Total non-current assets</i>	2,763.1	2,578.8
Current assets:		
Marketable securities and deposits	698.0	356.1
Receivables	305.0	241.5
Inventories	322.0	285.3
Assets held for sale	-	24.3
Other financial assets	-	66.1
Other current assets	131.5	110.5
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>183.8</u>	<u>132.9</u>
<i>Total current assets</i>	1,640.3	1,216.7
Total assets	<u>4,403.4</u>	<u>3,795.5</u>
Equity		
Share capital	1.3	1.3
Other reserves	63.5	110.6
Retained earnings	<u>2,626.7</u>	<u>2,089.8</u>
Capital and reserves attributable to equity holders	2,691.5	2,201.7
Minority interests	<u>86.4</u>	<u>51.5</u>
Total equity	2,777.9	2,253.2
Non-current liabilities:		
Provisions	88.3	72.9
Long-term debt	453.4	424.9
Deferred tax liabilities	<u>78.8</u>	<u>98.6</u>
<i>Total non-current liabilities</i>	620.5	596.4
Current liabilities:		
Short-term debt	358.7	384.9
Income tax payable	23.1	36.2
Accounts payable	265.2	236.3
Accrued expenses	<u>358.0</u>	<u>288.5</u>
<i>Total current liabilities</i>	1,005.0	945.9
Total equity and liabilities	<u>4,403.4</u>	<u>3,795.5</u>



Consolidated Statement of Income

For the year ended December 31

<i>In millions of euros</i>	2007	2006
Net sales	3,186.9	2,778.6
Earnings from marketable securities and deposits	29.7	67.8
Capital gains on sale of assets	19.8	3.2
Earnings from associates	426.5	250.3
Earnings from other financial assets	47.8	2.2
Earnings from real estate activities	9.7	23.5
Total income	3,720.4	3,125.6
Raw materials, consumables used and changes in inventories	1,180.6	1,050.7
Employee expenses	866.3	761.4
Depreciation property, plant, equipment and investment properties	103.2	104.2
Amortization intangibles	22.4	20.1
Other operating expenses	699.3	596.1
Total expenses	2,871.8	2,532.5
Operating result	848.6	593.1
Interest expense	(35.8)	(50.4)
Profit before taxes	812.8	542.7
Income taxes	(57.2)	(32.6)
Profit for the year	755.6	510.1
Attributable to:		
Equity holders	735.7	496.8
Minority interest	19.9	13.3
	755.6	510.1
Average number of outstanding Shares <i>(in thousands)</i>	63,499	63,658
Earnings per share for profit attributable to the equity holders during the year <i>(expressed in euros per share)</i>		
- basic and diluted	11.59	7.80
Dividends per Share (in euro)	3.25*	3.15

* Proposed