



26 June 2003

Inchcape pre-close trading statement

Inchcape plc, the international automotive services group, enters a close period on 1 July 2003 ahead of its interim results, for the six months to 30 June 2003.

As indicated in the trading statement issued on 6 June 2003, trading levels in a number of our markets continue to be slightly more favourable than anticipated.

The UK is trading broadly in line with our expectations but is facing margin pressure in certain franchises.

In both Greece and Belgium the launch of the new Toyota Avensis has been well received. Trading remains strong and profits are expected to improve this year in both countries.

The Australian market is up compared to 2002 and our performance continues to exceed last year.

In Hong Kong, whilst Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and car tax increases have impacted trading profits to date, consumer confidence is expected to recover to a degree in the second half of the year. Overall we still expect profits to be lower than last year.

In Singapore, the Group has experienced a strong trading performance in the first half of 2003. Whilst competitor product launches are likely to put pressure on margins in the second half, we now expect the full year out-turn to be ahead of our previous expectations.

These strong performances are expected to more than offset the market pressures in Hong Kong and we are confident that 2003 will show further progress. This again demonstrates the benefit of our broad geographic spread and the strength of our key businesses.

Inchcape's interim results will be announced on 4 August 2003.

Notes to editors

Inchcape, as an international automotive services group, provides quality representation for its manufacturer partners, a choice of channels to market and products for its retail customers and a range of business services for its corporate customers. Operations are focused on the UK, Greece, Belgium, Australia, Hong Kong and Singapore. Our key manufacturer partners are Toyota/Lexus, Subaru, Ferrari/Maserati, BMW and the Premier Automotive Group of Ford. Inchcape's activities include exclusive Import, Distribution and Retail, Business Services, automotive E-commerce and Financial Services.

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