

28 June 2004

Inchcape pre-close trading statement

Inchcape plc, the international automotive services group, enters a close period on 1 July 2004 ahead of its interim results announcement, for the six months ended 30 June 2004, on 2 August 2004.

Trading levels in a number of our markets are slightly more favourable than anticipated in the statement issued on 13 May 2004 at our Annual General Meeting.

In the UK we remain confident that profits will rise in the year, continuing the trend started in 2001, driven primarily by UK Retail.

In Greece and Belgium first half sales volumes are encouraging, and would have been stronger if it was not for supply constraints.

Australia continues to benefit from a stronger than expected market and the success of the new Liberty and Outback models, which have helped increase Subaru's first half market share.

In Hong Kong the market, whilst still recovering, is strengthening at a slightly faster rate than previously anticipated.

In Singapore the market to date has grown significantly but we expect the second half to be at a similar level to last year. Profits in local currency are expected to be ahead of last year.

This year has started much better than expected and our financial performance is well ahead of 2003. Whilst growth will not continue at this level in the second half we are confident of a strong performance in 2004.

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. Inchcape's activities include exclusive Import, Distribution and Retail, Business Services, automotive E-commerce and Financial Services. Operating in a number of our markets, our key manufacturer partners are Toyota/Lexus, Subaru, Ferrari/Maserati, BMW, the Premier Automotive Group of Ford, Mazda and Volkswagen.

Inchcape plc has today also announced the acquisition of five Mercedes-Benz dealerships in the UK. To view the release, and for further information on the Group, please visit us at www.inchcape.com

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