



29 June 2005

Inchcape pre-close trading statement

Inchcape plc, the international automotive services group, enters a close period on 1 July 2005 ahead of its Interim results announcement, for the six months ended 30 June 2005, on 1 August 2005.

Inchcape's trading performance continues in line with expectations, as set out in its AGM trading statement issued on 12 May 2005.

We are continuing the earnings enhancing £65.0m share buy back programme, previously announced in our Preliminary results statement on 28 February 2005. As at close of business on 28 June 2005, c. £31.0m has been returned to shareholders through the purchase of c. 1.7m shares at an average price of £18.46p per share.

Inchcape continues to benefit from its broad geographic spread and strong operational performance. The overall trading conditions seen to date leave us confident that 2005 will show further progress for Inchcape, and we are well placed to continue with our record of profit growth and strong cash generation.

Notes to editors

Inchcape, 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. Our key manufacturer partners are Toyota/Lexus, Subaru, BMW, the Premier Automotive Group of Ford, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz and Volkswagen.

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