

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The year was characterised by uncertain global and local economic conditions, and only moderate growth in the industry segment in which the Group competes. During the year a number of the strategies and structures implemented in 2010 and 2011 bore fruit, and the outcome was a remarkable result during an unremarkable economic period.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Improved gross margins and a tight control over selling and administration expenses resulted in the 8,2% increase in revenue converting into a 35,3% improvement in operating profit. The operating profit margin, before impairment of goodwill, has improved from 2,6% to a pleasing 3,4%, well ahead of the industry average. Net finance charges increased by 26% off a low base, and the tax rate reduced from 27% to 24%, principally because of the abolishment of secondary tax on companies and a higher content of tax-exempt dividend income. The net result, after accounting for minority interests, was a 51,5% increase in headline earnings per share. This represents a 25,4% return on shareholders' funds, compared with a 20,8% return last year. Included in these figures is a once-off receipt of dividend income in the sum of R21,2 million. This amount accrued as a result of the change in the taxation of dividends and will not be repeated in future years.

The Group has been questioned in the past for having what is described as a "lazy" balance sheet, with a too high level of cash resources. During the year under review the Group has used a portion of its cash resources to reduce the level of interest-bearing trade liabilities in the retail motor (R60 million) and car hire (R20 million) segments. It must be borne in mind that the Group has a substantial level of interest-bearing trade debt and, with increasing pressure from motor manufacturers to raise inventory levels, a conservative approach to cash management provides a shield against potential interest-rate hikes.

The Group's statement of financial position remains sound and liquid. Working capital levels have increased, as expected, in line with increased activity levels. The current ratio and asset-test ratio remain comfortable.

OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

Retail motor

The 9% increase in national new vehicle sales belies the true state of the industry from a retailer's perspective. A high proportion of the unit sales increase stems from the highly competitive entry level segment where trading margins are low. The increase has come at the expense of the used car market.

The Group's new vehicle unit sales level matched the national increase of 9%, and used vehicle volumes rose 4%. The latter was disappointing, but compares with an estimated decline of 2% in national volumes of one- to five-year-old vehicles, the segment in which the Group competes. Overall, selling margins improved and, with a pleasing increase in the marketing of after-sale products, both departments made significantly higher profit contributions.

The Group's parts and service departments continued to provide a solid and dependable base, and recorded a pleasing increase in revenue and profit.

Internet-based and social network marketing has become increasingly popular. Public awareness of the Group's brand, "Carshop, powered by the CMH Group" has grown and now generates more than 50% of sales leads.

I expect that national new vehicle sales will grow 3 – 5% next year. Much will depend on the economic climate, the degree to which anticipated further hikes in rates and utility costs reduce disposable spending, and the appetite of the banks to continue growing their lending books. One ongoing positive is that, because the country has no effective public transport system, the purchase of a vehicle is, for many, a necessity rather than a luxury. Although the average finance and replacement cycle has increased from 28 to 44 months in recent years, the longer period does provide workshop and replacement parts opportunities.

Car hire

First Car Rental achieved excellent results in a very competitive market. Rental days increased by 11%, against an industry average of 6%. Vehicle write-off and damage costs were reduced following a focus on quality business rather than chasing volume, and the fleet utilisation rate improved. A key component of the profit model is the price at which retired fleet vehicles can be sold. The policy of deploying vehicles which are different to those used by competitors means that the division is able to sell the vehicles into niche markets rather than competing in a market oversupplied by retired fleets. First Car Rental's focus on customer service was recognised when, in the face of stiff competition from well-established industry players, it was awarded Gold – 1st Place in the South African Service Awards. The division's web-based booking system is world class and its popular "Show and Go" loyalty card has proved to be a valuable time-saver for customers.

Financial services

This division comprises three insurance cells, providing both long and short-term customer cover, and two joint venture vehicle financing operations in partnership with major finance houses. Profit from the insurance cells declined by 22% as the result of a higher than usual claims ratio. Being a relatively small portfolio, it is sensitive to movements in claims. On the positive side, the 50% increase in premium collections reflects the growth in policies written and augurs well for the income stream over the next three to five years. Prior year losses in the joint venture finance operations have been eliminated and these operations will show significant profit in the year ahead.

Marine and leisure

Disappointing results from this division reflect the extent to which the leisure market is still suffering from the depressed economic conditions which have prevailed for the past three years. The Group has taken a decision to focus on the wholesale side of the business and to offload its two retail outlets. To this end the Cape Town branch was sold during December 2012, and negotiations are in progress to sell the Randburg outlet. This move will reduce the division's cost base and working capital investment.

PROSPECTS

Forecasts of expectations for the year ahead produce mixed signals. Consumers are experiencing a good deal more stress exacerbated by lower-than-inflation salary increase expectations and exorbitant increases in the cost of basic utilities, food and petrol. Recent instances of illegal and violent strikes have reduced business confidence for both local and offshore investors. The motor industry wage negotiations begin in June and, if not quickly resolved, may result in supply disruptions. In Gauteng, the ill-conceived toll road system will be both a financial burden for motorists and an administrative challenge for the car hire division and local dealerships. The car hire division will need to recoup toll fees from hirers but will not have timeous access to information from SANRAL.

On the positive side, the consensus opinion is that national new vehicle sales will increase 3 – 5% off a relatively high base. Whilst the weakening of the rand will feed through to vehicle price inflation, it is expected that an increased gap between new and used car prices will give a much needed boost to the used car market.

I believe that the year ahead will be one of slow economic recovery. However, the Group is in a strong position to continue its recent earnings trend and achieve its growth budgets.

Dividend

A dividend of 50 cents per share will be paid on Tuesday, 18 June 2013 to members reflected in the share register of the Company at the close of business on the record date, Friday, 14 June 2013. Last day to trade cum-dividend is Friday, 7 June 2013. First day to trade ex-dividend is Monday, 10 June 2013. Share certificates may not be dematerialised or rematerialised from Monday, 10 June 2013 to Friday, 14 June 2013, both days inclusive.

The number of ordinary shares in issue at the date of the declaration is 108 825 000. Consequently, the gross dividend payable is R54 413 000 and will be distributed from income reserves. There are no STC credits available for utilisation. The dividend will be subject to dividend withholding tax at a rate of 15%, which will result in a net dividend of 42,5 cents to those shareholders who are not exempt in terms of section 64F of the Income Tax Act.

Basis of preparation

The results of the Group for the year ended 28 February 2013 have been prepared in accordance with IAS 34 Interim Financial Reporting, International Financial Reporting Standards, the SAICA Financial Reporting Guides, as issued by the Accounting Practices Committee, Financial Pronouncements, as issued by the Financial Reporting Standards Council, the JSE Limited Listings Requirements and the Companies Act, 2008. The accounting policies of the Group have been consistently applied to these results and are the same as those applied to the results at 29 February 2012.

Corporate governance

The Group is committed to maintaining the high standards of governance as embodied in the King Report on Corporate Governance and complies with the principles of both the Report and the JSE Limited Listings Requirements.

Annual general meeting

The annual general meeting will be held at 1 Wilton Crescent, Umhlanga Ridge at 15h00 on Thursday, 30 May 2013. The record date in terms of section 59(1)(a) of the Act for shareholders to be recorded on the securities register of the Company in order to receive notice of the annual general meeting is 19 April 2013. The record date in terms of section 59(1)(b) of the Act for shareholders to participate in and vote at the annual general meeting is 24 May 2013. Accordingly, the last date to trade in the Company's shares on the JSE Limited in order to be eligible to participate in and vote at this annual general meeting is Friday, 17 May 2013.

These financial results were prepared under the supervision of the financial director, SK Jackson, CA (SA). The information has been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc., the Group's external auditor. A copy of their unqualified audit report is available for inspection at the Company's registered office.

By order of the board of directors.

K Fonseca CA (SA)

Company Secretary

19 April 2013

COMBINED MOTOR HOLDINGS LIMITED

("the Company" or "the Group")

Registration number: 1965/000270/06

Income tax reference number: 9471/712/71/2

Share code: CMH

ISIN: ZAE000088050

REGISTERED OFFICE

1 Wilton Crescent, Umhlanga Ridge, 4319

TRANSFER SECRETARIES

Computershare Investor Services (Pty) Limited

PO Box 61051, Marshalltown, 2107

SPONSOR

PricewaterhouseCoopers Corporate Finance (Pty) Limited

Private Bag X36, Sunninghill, 2157

DIRECTORS

M Zimmerman (Chairman), JD McIntosh (CEO), LCZ Cele, MPD Conway, JS Dixon, JTM Edwards, SK Jackson, VP Khanyile, D Molefe, J Alderslade (alternate)