



RWS GROUP

INTERIM REPORT 2011

RWS Holdings plc

UK | USA | FRANCE | GERMANY | SWITZERLAND | JAPAN | CHINA



THE QUEEN'S AWARDS
FOR ENTERPRISE:
INTERNATIONAL TRADE
2009

RWS GROUP
www.rws.com

Contents

2	Executive Chairman's Statement
7	Condensed Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income
8	Condensed Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
9	Condensed Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity
10	Condensed Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows
11	Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
16	Contact information

The Group has again achieved a robust performance across most of its operating divisions and geographies. The core patent translations business built upon its market leading position by growing the level of activity for both existing clients and those won in 2010, whilst the technical translations business benefitted from the sharp upturn in the German economy. In addition, our successful currency hedging strategy removed much of the volatility experienced in previous years.

Business Overview

RWS is Europe's leading provider of intellectual property support services and high level technical, legal and financial translation services. Its main business – patent translations – is the largest operation of its kind in Europe, translating over 50,000 patents and intellectual property related documents each year. It addresses a blue-chip multinational client base from Europe, North America and Japan, active in patent filing in the medical, pharmaceutical, chemical, aerospace, defence, automotive, electronics and telecoms industries, as well as patent agents acting on behalf of such clients. The Group has two principal business activities, Translations, which accounts for over 90% of sales and incorporates patent, commercial and technical translation services, and Information, which includes a comprehensive range of patent search, retrieval and monitoring services as well as PatBase, the largest searchable commercial patent database, available as a subscription service.

Strategy

Our strategy is focused upon organic growth complemented by deploying our substantial cash holdings for selective acquisitions, providing they can be demonstrated to enhance shareholder value. Organic growth has, in the past, been driven by the increasing numbers of patent applications worldwide, the growing demand for language services and our ability to increase our market share by exploiting our leading position and reputation in an otherwise fragmented sector. Whilst the global number of applications fell during the recession, we have successfully grown market share amongst our target blue-chip customers who have historically remained committed to protecting their intellectual property through the cycle. In 2010 the number of patents granted grew for the first time in three years, which should underpin the potential for a further uplift in work in future periods.

In terms of acquisitive growth, having been pleased with the return on acquisitions made to date, we continue to search for suitable potential targets in the high level technical translation and intellectual property support services spaces. We seek niche businesses capable of delivering well above industry average levels of profitability. We continue to review a healthy pipeline of potential acquisitions but remain resolute that we will not overpay.

Results and Financial Review

Sales for the six months ended 31 March 2011 exceeded management's expectations and were up 10.5% at £32.4M (2010: £29.4M). All of the sales growth was organic and without any support from price increases. In constant currency terms sales grew by 11.6%.

Profit before tax and amortization of intangibles rose by 21.6% to £8.2M (2010: £6.8M). With continuing record low levels of interest rates, interest income declined from £189,000 to £117,000.

Adjusted diluted earnings per share were up 21.7% to 14.0p (2010: 11.5p).

At 31 March 2011, shareholder funds had reached £54.2M (2010: £49.0M), of which net cash represented £20.0M (2010: £23.8M). Having spent £12.8M on the purchase and fit out of the Group's new freehold premises, principally in the second half of 2010, these figures demonstrate that the underlying levels of cash generated by the business remained excellent.

Other significant cash outlays included corporation tax and the final dividend for 2010, paid in February 2011 of £4.3M. Free cash flow rose to £6.3M (2010: £3.1M), driven by the increase in profits and lower corporation tax payments.

Following the decision to adopt rolling twelve-month currency hedging, volatility was much reduced as compared to the prior year. The average rate used for conversion of the euro was 85.7 pence against 89.5 pence in 2010. Looking forward, the Group has hedged its net trading exposure at 1 Euro = 85.6 pence until 30 September 2011 and at 1 Euro = 86.5 pence until 30 September 2012. Currently, US\$ exposure is hedged at \$1.54 = £1 until 30 September 2011 and at \$1.57 = £1 until 31 May 2012.

Interest income on the Group's substantial cash balances reduced further following the purchase of the new premises and with the Bank of England maintaining a base rate of 0.5%.

Dividend

The Directors have approved an interim dividend of 3.65 pence per share, an increase of 15.9% over the 2010 interim dividend. This dividend will be paid on 15 July 2011 to those shareholders on the register on 17 June 2011. The Group remains committed to a progressive dividend policy and expects the total dividend for the year to continue to advance.

Operating Review

Translations

The patent translations business continued to demonstrate its strength and resilient qualities despite the anaemic economic recovery. Accounting for almost 70% of Group revenues, RWS's patent translation business is the market leader and enjoys an enviable array of blue-chip European and North American multinational clients. It provides a high quality and competitive "translate and file" service which has also been successfully extended to Japan and China. The US market offers particular potential given the large number of corporates with substantial research and development budgets, and RWS is now benefitting from its increased direct sales effort in the US; in the first half of 2011, the business saw a significant flow of work from the excellent level of client wins achieved in 2010.

We were also pleased to note that our Beijing patent translation service, which moved into profit in 2010, made further significant progress. It grew revenues by 50% and profit before tax by c200%, as it benefitted from the investment made in staffing. Its activities focus upon servicing European and North American corporates' patent applications for filing in China, with the work emanating from the Group's other offices.

Technical translation services account for 23% of Group revenues. These are non-patent related services requiring a high degree of accuracy and quality. In 2009 and 2010, this part of our business experienced a harsh economic environment, reducing work and intensifying competition in all of our key markets. In 2011 the business climate has improved somewhat, particularly so in Germany.

Information

The information services business accounts for 7% of sales but a markedly higher percentage of operating profit. The patent search and watch services had experienced decline during the recession but are showing signs of stabilisation albeit at levels which remain below pre-recession experience.

The PatBase database subscription service has, however, enjoyed further worldwide subscriber interest. Our continued investment in both content and searchability has further enhanced PatBase's comprehensive data and functionality. We are confident that these competitive advantages will ensure the continued reliance on our service by existing subscribers and underpin PatBase's ability to grow its market share. Subscription revenues grew by 12.5% in the six month period. PatBase has now grown to represent in excess of 10% of overall Group profits.

Market and Regulatory Update

Statistics recently issued by the European Patent Office and the World Intellectual Property Organisation point to an upturn in the number of patent applications in 2010 following two years of recession induced decline; an encouraging sign that research and development and the protection of intellectual property rights has remained a priority during and after the global downturn.

In April 2011, the European Patent Office published figures showing 235,000 European patent applications were filed in 2010, a record in its 34 year history and an 11% increase over 2009.

In May 2011, the World Intellectual Property Organisation reported that 164,300 international patent applications were filed under its Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) in 2010, an increase of 5.7% over 2009.

There has been a significant recent development in relation to a proposed single EU-wide patent regime, namely the European Union Patent. On 8 March 2011, the European Court of Justice ruled that the proposed plans for a European and Community Patent Court were illegal under EU law, thereby halting a unified litigation system for patent disputes. Whilst efforts are now in hand to push ahead with a single EU Patent regardless of this decision, it is our belief that major corporates are unlikely to risk a new rights protection regime until a legal structure for litigation and appeal has been established and shown to be operating satisfactorily over a period of several years.

People

As a typical business support services group, RWS is highly dependent upon the quality and commitment of its staff to maintain the levels of service expected by our clients. Headcount has now reached 470 full time equivalents (2010: 459) and productivity continues to improve.

Premises

There has been extensive reorganisation of our UK operations' premises since the beginning of the financial year. We acquired a new freehold headquarters building in Chalfont St Peter, South Buckinghamshire in July 2010; following extensive fit-out, we moved four separate offices into the new building in January 2011. Not only has the Group benefited

from a reduction in its rental costs since that time, but we are also already identifying operational efficiencies as well as enjoying a more suitable, modern environment. The purchase price equated to a yield of 7.5% at the expense of limited interest income.

Current Trading and Outlook

Trading in the opening weeks of the second half year has continued to be strong and in line with our expectations. Given the excellent performance in the first half of the year, an improvement in the Group's key Eurozone markets, Germany and France, and the conservative hedging policies in place, the Board is confident of continued strong progress in the second half of the financial year and now anticipates that the outturn for the year as a whole will be at least at the top end of current market expectations.

Andrew Brode

Executive Chairman

3 June 2011

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income

	Unaudited 6 months ended 31 March 2011	Audited Year ended 30 Sept. 2010	Unaudited 6 months ended 31 March 2010
Note	£'000	£'000	£'000
Revenue	32,447	60,625	29,360
Cost of sales	(18,228)	(33,434)	(16,422)
Gross profit	14,219	27,191	12,938
Other operating income	–	253	–
Administrative expenses	(6,371)	(14,118)	(6,618)
Profit from operations	7,848	13,326	6,320
Analysed as:			
Operating profit before charging:	8,130	14,270	6,608
Amortization of customer relationships and trademarks	(282)	(566)	(288)
Relocation costs and related other operating income	–	(378)	–
Profit from operations	7,848	13,326	6,320
Finance income	117	346	189
Finance expense	–	(15)	(15)
Profit before tax	7,965	13,657	6,494
Taxation expense	3 (2,258)	(3,908)	(1,858)
Profit for the period	5,707	9,749	4,636
Other comprehensive income			
Exchange gain/(loss) on retranslation of foreign operations	187	(318)	(232)
Total other comprehensive income/(expense)	187	(318)	(232)
Total comprehensive income	5,894	9,431	4,404
Total comprehensive income attributable to:			
Owners of the parent	5,894	9,431	4,404
Basic earnings per Ordinary share (pence per share)	5 13.5	23.2	11.1
Diluted earnings per Ordinary share (pence per share)	5 13.5	23.0	11.0

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

	Unaudited at 31 March 2011	Audited at 30 Sept. 2010	Unaudited at 31 March 2010
Note	£'000	£'000	£'000
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Goodwill	13,159	13,070	13,173
Intangible assets	3,902	4,182	4,502
Property, plant and equipment	13,697	12,426	1,953
Investment in joint venture	–	–	170
Deferred tax assets	249	205	362
Other receivables	1,500	1,500	2,585
	32,507	31,383	22,745
Current assets			
Trade and other receivables	13,655	14,056	12,327
Foreign exchange derivatives	79	105	–
Cash and cash equivalents	6 19,943	17,908	23,778
	33,677	32,069	36,105
Total assets	66,184	63,452	58,850
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	7,753	7,086	7,116
Income tax payable	2,051	1,378	958
Provisions	540	642	–
	10,344	9,106	8,074
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	567	567	586
Deferred tax liabilities	1,071	1,134	1,229
	1,638	1,701	1,815
Total liabilities	11,982	10,807	9,889
Total net assets	54,202	52,645	48,961
Equity			
Capital and reserves attributable to owners of the parent			
Share capital	2,116	2,116	2,116
Share premium	3,583	3,583	3,583
Reverse acquisition reserve	(8,483)	(8,483)	(8,483)
Foreign currency reserve	2,296	2,109	2,195
Retained earnings	54,690	53,320	49,540
	54,202	52,645	48,951
Minority interest	–	–	10
Total equity	54,202	52,645	48,961

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity

	Share capital	Share premium	Other reserves (see below)	Retained earnings	Attributable to owners of the parent	Minority interest	Total equity
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
At 30 September 2009 (audited)	2,065	3,401	(6,056)	48,649	48,059	10	48,069
Total comprehensive income for the period	–	–	(232)	4,636	4,404	–	4,404
Dividend paid	–	–	–	(3,745)	(3,745)	–	(3,745)
Issue of shares	51	182	–	–	233	–	233
At 31 March 2010 (unaudited)	2,116	3,583	(6,288)	49,540	48,951	10	48,961
Total comprehensive income for the period	–	–	(86)	5,113	5,027	–	5,027
Dividend paid	–	–	–	(1,333)	(1,333)	–	(1,333)
Preference share redemption	–	–	–	–	–	(10)	(10)
At 30 September 2010 (audited)	2,116	3,583	(6,374)	53,320	52,645	–	52,645
Total comprehensive income for the period	–	–	187	5,707	5,894	–	5,894
Dividend paid	–	–	–	(4,337)	(4,337)	–	(4,337)
At 31 March 2011 (unaudited)	2,116	3,583	(6,187)	54,690	54,202	–	54,202

Other reserves	Reverse acquisition reserve	Foreign currency reserve	Total other reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000
At 30 September 2009 (audited)	(8,483)	2,427	(6,056)
Total comprehensive income for the period	–	(232)	(232)
At 31 March 2010 (unaudited)	(8,483)	2,195	(6,288)
Total comprehensive income for the period	–	(86)	(86)
At 30 September 2010 (audited)	(8,483)	2,109	(6,374)
Total comprehensive income for the period	–	187	187
At 31 March 2011 (unaudited)	(8,483)	2,296	(6,187)

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

	Unaudited 6 months ended 31 March 2011	Audited Year ended 30 Sept. 2010	Unaudited 6 months ended 31 March 2010
Note	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Profit before tax	7,965	13,657	6,494
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	198	260	130
Amortization of intangible assets	326	661	338
Finance income	(117)	(346)	(189)
Finance expense	–	15	15
Operating cash flow before movements in working capital and provisions			
	8,372	14,247	6,788
Decrease/(increase) in trade and other receivables	386	(2,302)	(781)
Increase in trade and other payables	503	1,018	523
Cash generated from operations	9,261	12,963	6,530
Interest paid	–	(15)	(15)
Income tax paid	(1,584)	(3,885)	(2,254)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	7,677	9,063	4,261
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received	117	346	162
Development loan repaid	–	1,072	–
Purchases of property, plant and equipment	(1,458)	(11,929)	(1,323)
Purchases of intangibles (computer software)	(2)	(84)	(19)
Net cash outflow from investing activities	(1,343)	(10,595)	(1,180)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Dividends paid	(4,337)	(5,078)	(3,745)
Proceeds from the issue of share capital	–	233	233
Preference shares redeemed	–	(10)	–
Net cash outflow from financing activities	(4,337)	(4,855)	(3,512)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	1,997	(6,387)	(431)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	17,908	24,269	24,269
Exchange gains on cash and cash equivalents	38	26	(60)
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	19,943	17,908	23,778
	6		
Free cash flow			
Analysis of free cash flow			
Net cash generated from operating activities	9,261	12,963	6,530
Net interest received	117	331	147
Income tax paid	(1,584)	(3,885)	(2,254)
Purchases of property, plant and equipment	(1,458)	(11,929)	(1,323)
Purchases of intangibles (computer software)	(2)	(84)	(19)
Free cash flow	6,334	(2,604)	3,081

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The interim financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 2 June 2011 and the interim results for the half years ended 31 March 2011 and 31 March 2010 are neither audited nor reviewed by our auditors. The accounts in this interim report do not constitute statutory accounts in accordance with Section 434 of the Companies Act 2006. They do not include all of the information required for full annual financial statements, and should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements of the Group for the year ended 30 September 2010. The Group's statutory accounts for the year ended 30 September 2010 have been filed with the Registrar of Companies. The auditors have reported on the accounts for the year ended 30 September 2010; their report was unqualified, did not contain any statements under s498 (2) or (3) of the Companies Act 2006 and did not contain any matters to which the auditors drew attention without qualifying their report.

The financial information presented in this document has been prepared on the basis of the IFRS in issue that are either endorsed by the EU and effective at 30 September 2011 or are expected to be endorsed before the financial statements are approved and authorised for issue. Based on these adopted and unadopted IFRS, the Directors have made assumptions about the accounting policies expected to be applied when the annual IFRS statements are prepared for the year ended 30 September 2011. In addition, the adopted IFRS that will be effective in the annual financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2011 are still subject to change and to additional interpretations and therefore can not be determined with certainty. Accordingly, the accounting policies for that annual period will be determined finally only when the annual financial statements for the Group are prepared for the year ended 30 September 2011.

2 Segmental reporting

The Group comprises two divisions, the Translation division (for management reporting analysed between UK and Overseas operations) providing patent and technical document translation, filing and localisation services in the UK, USA, Europe, Japan and China, and the Information division, which offers a full range of patent search, retrieval and monitoring services as well as an extremely comprehensive patent database service accessible by subscribers, known as PatBase.

The unallocated segment relates to corporate overheads, assets and liabilities.

Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

The segment results for the six months ended 31 March 2011 are as follows:

	Translations UK £'000	Translations Overseas £'000	Information £'000	Unallocated £'000	Group £'000
Revenue	25,170	5,038	2,239	–	32,447
Operating profit/(loss) before charging:	6,581	923	974	(348)	8,130
Amortization of customer relationships and trademarks	(282)	–	–	–	(282)
Relocation costs and related operating income	–	–	–	–	–
Operating profit/(loss)	6,299	923	974	(348)	7,848
Finance income					117
Finance expense					–
Profit before tax					7,965
Taxation					(2,258)
Profit for the period					5,707

Overseas intercompany translation sales to the UK amounting to £1,108,000 are eliminated on consolidation.

Total assets	46,723	4,764	5,581	9,116	66,184
Total liabilities	(6,290)	(1,495)	(2,228)	(1,969)	(11,982)
Net assets	40,433	3,269	3,353	7,147	54,202

The segment results for the year ended 30 September 2010 are as follows:

	Translations UK £'000	Translations Overseas £'000	Information £'000	Unallocated £'000	Group £'000
Revenue	46,619	9,712	4,294	–	60,625
Operating profit/(loss) before charging:	11,488	1,484	2,209	(911)	14,270
Amortization of customer relationships and trademarks	(566)	–	–	–	(566)
Relocation costs and related operating income	(378)	–	–	–	(378)
Operating profit/(loss)	10,544	1,484	2,209	(911)	13,326
Finance income					346
Finance expense					(15)
Profit before tax					13,657
Taxation					(3,908)
Profit for the year					9,749

Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Overseas intercompany translation sales to the UK amounting to £1,882,000 are eliminated on consolidation.

	Translations UK £'000	Translations Overseas £'000	Information £'000	Unallocated £'000	Group £'000
Total assets	43,592	5,791	3,890	10,179	63,452
Total liabilities	(5,351)	(1,606)	(1,711)	(2,139)	(10,807)
Net assets	38,241	4,185	2,179	8,040	52,645

The segment results for the six months ended 31 March 2010 are as follows:

	Translations UK £'000	Translations Overseas £'000	Information £'000	Unallocated £'000	Group £'000
Revenue	22,718	4,540	2,102	–	29,360
Operating profit/(loss) before charging:	5,770	749	880	(791)	6,608
Amortization of customer relationships and trademarks	(288)	–	–	–	(288)
Relocation costs and related operating income	–	–	–	–	–
Operating profit/(loss)	5,482	749	880	(791)	6,320
Finance income					189
Finance expense					(15)
Profit before tax					6,494
Taxation					(1,858)
Profit for the period					4,636

Overseas intercompany translation sales to the UK amounting to £768,000 are eliminated on consolidation.

Total assets	39,215	6,045	3,726	9,864	58,850
Total liabilities	(4,270)	(1,423)	(2,051)	(2,145)	(9,889)
Net assets	34,945	4,622	1,675	7,719	48,961

3 Taxation

The charge for the 6 months ended 31 March 2011 is at the likely effective tax rate that will be applicable for the whole year.

Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

4 Dividends

	6 months ended 31 March 2011		Year ended 30 Sept. 2010		6 months ended 31 March 2010	
	Pence per share	£'000	Pence per share	£'000	Pence per share	£'000
Interim for 2010: paid July 2010 (2009: 2.80 pence)	—	—	3.15	1,333	—	—
Final for 2010: paid February 2011 (2009: 8.85 pence)	10.25	4,337	8.85	3,745	8.85	3,745
Dividends paid to shareholders	10.25	4,337	12.00	5,078	8.85	3,745

An interim dividend of 3.65 pence per Ordinary share will be paid on 15 July 2011 to Shareholders on the register at 17 June 2011. This dividend, declared by the Directors after the balance sheet date, has not been recognised in these financial statements as a liability at 31 March 2011.

5 Earnings per Ordinary share

The Group shows both a basic and an adjusted earnings per share figure as the Directors believe that this information will be of interest to the users of the accounts in measuring the Group's performance and underlying trends.

	6 months ended 31 March 2011		Year ended 30 Sept. 2010		6 months ended 31 March 2010	
	Earnings	EPS	Earnings	EPS	Earnings	EPS
	£'000	Pence	£'000	Pence	£'000	Pence
Profit for the period	5,707	13.5	9,749	23.2	4,636	11.1
Amortization of customer relationships and trademarks (after taxation)	203	0.5	408	1.0	207	0.5
Net cost of relocation	—	—	378	0.9	—	—
Adjusted earnings	5,910	14.0	10,535	25.1	4,843	11.6
Basic diluted earnings	5,707	13.5	9,749	23.0	4,636	11.0
Adjusted diluted earnings	5,910	14.0	10,535	24.9	4,843	11.5

Basic and diluted earnings are based on the post-tax profit for the period and a weighted average number of Ordinary shares in issue during the period calculated as follows:

Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

5 Earnings per Ordinary share (continued)

	Number of shares 6 months ended 31 March 2011	Number of shares Year ended 30 Sept. 2010	Number of shares 6 months ended 31 March 2010
Weighted average number of Ordinary shares in issue for basic earnings	42,315,968	42,096,937	41,876,702
Dilutive impact of share options	–	200,403	401,907
Weighted average number of Ordinary shares for diluted earnings	42,315,968	42,297,340	42,278,609
Ordinary shares issued under options exercised during the period	–	–	1,011,980

6 Cash and cash equivalents

	at 31 March 2011	at 30 Sept. 2010	at 31 March 2010
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash at bank and in hand	3,526	4,576	13,078
Short-term deposits	16,417	13,332	10,700
Cash and cash equivalents in the cash flow statement	19,943	17,908	23,778

Short-term deposits have maturity of three months or less. The fair value of these assets supports their carrying value.

Corporate headquarters

Europa House
Chiltern Park
Chiltern Hill
Chalfont St Peter
Buckinghamshire
SL9 9FG
United Kingdom
Tel.: +44 (0)1753 480200
Fax: +44 (0)1753 480280

Registered office and registration number

55 Baker Street, London W1U 7EU
No. 3002645

Auditors

BDO LLP
55 Baker Street
London W1U 7EU

Solicitors

Olswang
90 High Holborn
London WC1V 6XX

Principal bankers

Barclays Bank plc
Level 28
1 Churchill Place
Canary Wharf
London E14 5HP

Registrars

Capita Registrars Limited
The Registry,
34 Beckenham Road,
Beckenham,
Kent, BR3 4TU
Tel.: 087 1664 0300 (calls cost 10p
per minute plus network extras)
From outside the UK:
+44 (0)20 8639 3399
Email: ssd@capitaregistrars.com

Nominated adviser and broker

Numis Securities Ltd
London Stock Exchange Building
10 Paternoster Square
London EC4M 7LT
Tel.: +44 (0)20 7260 1000

Public relations advisers

MHP Communications
60 Great Portland Street
London W1W 7RT
Tel.: +44 (0)20 3128 8100



INTERIM REPORT 2011

RWS Holdings plc