



12 November 2001

DCC Group Earnings up 19.3%

Interim Results for the Six Months ended 30 September 2001

	€	
Turnover	925.6 m	Up 12.5%
Operating profit	39.2 m	Up 14.4%
Profit before net exceptional gains, goodwill amortisation and taxation	37.2 m	Up 15.9%
Profit after taxation and minorities	29.0 m	Up 19.3%
Adjusted earnings per share*	36.83 cent	Up 20.1%
Dividend per share	9.288 cent	Up 20.0%
Net cash at 30 September 2001	36.9 m	

** adjusted to exclude net exceptional gains and goodwill amortisation*

DCC, the leading value added marketing and distribution group, today announced its results for the six months ended 30 September 2001. Commenting on the results, DCC's Chief Executive & Deputy Chairman, Jim Flavin, said:

“This result reflects well on the resilience of DCC’s balanced business model which is focused on value added marketing and distribution across a number of market sectors.

This was an excellent result driven principally by organic growth and, in the context of an increasingly difficult economic climate, we expect to achieve very good growth for the full year.”

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Results

The strong results in the six months ended 30 September 2001 reflect well on the resilience of DCC's balanced business model which is focused on value added marketing and distribution across a number of market sectors.

- Turnover was up 12.5% to €925.6 million.
- Operating profit was up 14.4% to €39.2 million.
- The net interest charge for the period was €2.0 million (€2.1 million).
- Profit before net exceptional gains, goodwill amortisation and taxation increased by 15.9% to €37.2 million.
- The taxation rate was 14.0% (15% in prior year).
- Profit after taxation and minorities grew by 19.3% to €29.0 million.
- Adjusted earnings per share (i.e. excluding net exceptional gains and goodwill amortisation) increased by 20.1% to 36.83 cent.
- Interim dividend is up 20.0% to 9.288 cent.

Business Highlights

DCC is a value added marketing and distribution group, operating principally in the IT, energy and healthcare markets. DCC holds strong market positions in Britain and Ireland and is expanding in Continental Europe.

- **IT - operating profit €13.2m** **Up 13.1%**
SerCom Distribution achieved an excellent result in very difficult market conditions for the IT industry. There was particularly good growth in software and in computer storage products.
- **Energy - operating profit €8.2m** **Up 44.3%**
Energy achieved excellent profit growth driven by increased volumes and more stable oil prices.
- **Healthcare - operating profit €10.6m** **Up 8.4%**
Healthcare achieved good organic profit growth reflecting increased profits in Hospital Supply and Mobility & Rehab.
- **Other activities - operating profit €7.2m** **Up 1.0%**
Strong profit growth in Food was offset by the impact on SerCom Solutions of the slowdown in the IT market.
- **Group operating profit €39.2m** **Up 14.4%**

Development Activity

DCC has an excellent record of business building through a particular focus on achieving strong organic growth, supplemented by complementary acquisitions. In total, €92.9 million was committed to organic growth and acquisitions in the first half.

A number of strategically important bolt-on acquisitions were completed during the period:

- The acquisition of BP's oil marketing and distribution business in Scotland and northern England (now called Scottish Fuels) was completed during the period and on 1 October, Noble Fuels, a geographically complementary distributor based in Teeside, was acquired. As a result of these acquisitions, DCC Energy is now the market leader in oil distribution in Scotland as well as Northern Ireland and has an excellent platform for further growth in Britain.
- The acquisition of Envirotech broadens DCC's growing environmental services business into the water treatment sector. Environmental services is a high growth market and DCC plans continued development in this area.
- In IT Distribution, the acquisition of AGP, a south of England based distributor of computer storage products, has accelerated DCC's growth in computer storage products in Britain, building on DCC's Continental European strength in this product category.

Acquisition commitments totalled €30.3 million in the period. The cash impact of acquisitions amounted to €16.9 million (including the payment of €3.0 million of deferred consideration, which had been provided for at 31 March 2001).

Investment in working capital and fixed assets amounted to €62.6 million. There was an increase in working capital of €48.4 million, reflecting normal seasonality and sales growth in the period - working capital days at 21.9 days were consistent with last year. Capital expenditure was €14.2 million.

Financial Strength and Share Buy Back

As announced on 28 September 2001, the Board took advantage of the Group's attractive share price and strong balance sheet to buy back 2,275,000 shares, representing 2.7% of the listed share capital, at €9.25 per share, for a total consideration of €21.04 million. Settlement of this transaction took place after 30 September 2001 and therefore did not reduce the net cash figure at that date. Combining this buy back and the 2,563,045 shares purchased on 28 July 2000, the total number of shares that have been bought back amounts to 4,838,045, representing 5.5% of DCC's issued share capital.

At 30 September 2001, the Group had net cash of €36.9 million and shareholders' funds of €355.4 million. DCC's strong financial position leaves the Group well placed to pursue its growth objectives and, if deemed appropriate, to buy back more shares.

Dividend

The Board has decided to pay an interim dividend of 9.288 cent per share – up 20.0% on the interim dividend paid in the previous financial year. The interim dividend will be paid on 30 November 2001 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 23 November 2001.

FTSE Reclassification to Business Support Services

As announced on 2 November, the FTSE Global Classification Committee has reclassified DCC to the Business Support Services sector with effect from the close of business on 31 December 2001. DCC welcomes this reclassification to a bigger, more highly rated and more liquid sector which has a broader analyst following.

Outlook

DCC's balanced business model leaves it well positioned to continue to achieve excellent long-term shareholder returns and, in the context of an increasingly difficult economic climate, to achieve very good growth for the full year.

Operating Review

IT (SerCom Distribution)

	2001	2000	
Turnover	€363.7m	€327.9m	+10.9%
Operating profit	€13.2m	€11.6m	+13.1%
Operating margin	3.62%	3.55%	

SerCom Distribution achieved an excellent result in very difficult market conditions for the IT industry. There was particularly good growth in software and in computer storage products.

Micro P, the British hardware distributor, grew its profits and further strengthened its position in the marketplace. The acquisition of AGP, a south of England based computer storage products distributor, has created a strong platform from which to develop a much larger business in the growing computer storage products sector.

Gem, the British software distributor, had an excellent first half. The company continues to benefit from its focus on the consumer software market, as the value of Gem's expertise is recognised by an increasing number of software publishers. In October, Microsoft announced the appointment of Gem as sole distributor of the Xbox console, software and peripherals for the UK and Irish markets. The Xbox is due for launch in these markets in the first quarter of 2002 and represents a significant opportunity for Gem.

In Continental Europe, Distriologie had a strong first half based on continued growth in demand for computer storage products. Distriologie's performance has been formally recognised by a number of its vendors including IBM, which has named the company as its largest storage distributor in Europe.

The Irish business, Sharptext, had a difficult first half due to their product range being particularly impacted by the significant slowdown in the IT market.

Energy

	2001	2000	
Turnover	€295.6m	€254.3m	+16.2%
Operating profit	€8.2m	€5.7m	+44.3%
Operating margin	2.8%	2.2%	

Energy achieved excellent profit growth driven by increased volumes and more stable oil prices.

Oil volumes benefited from a full six months' contribution from Fuel Services, the Northern Ireland based company acquired in July 2000.

LPG volumes were satisfactory with particularly strong growth achieved in the autogas sector in Britain. The use of LPG autogas as a transport fuel continues to grow in Britain and DCC has a significant share of this fast growing segment of the market.

A number of strategically important bolt-on acquisitions have been completed in the period which have opened up interesting complementary growth opportunities for DCC's energy activities:

- The acquisition of BP's oil marketing and distribution business in Scotland and northern England (now called Scottish Fuels), together with the subsequent acquisition of Noble Fuels, has extended DCC's fast growing oil marketing and distribution activities into Britain and provides an excellent platform for further growth in this market.
- DCC has had a strong presence in the oil treatment sector of the environmental services market in Ireland for a number of years. The acquisition of Envirotech broadens DCC's growing environmental services business into the water treatment sector. Environmental services is a high growth market and DCC plans continued development in this area.

Healthcare

	2001	2000	
Turnover	€100.8m	€97.8m	+3.1%
Operating profit	€10.6m	€9.8m	+8.4%
Operating margin	10.6%	10.0%	

Healthcare achieved good organic profit growth reflecting increased profits in Hospital Supply and Mobility & Rehab.

The Irish Hospital Supply business achieved good growth and has recently secured significant new distribution agreements. Fannin Healthcare has enhanced its customer service to Irish hospitals through the launch of a customised e-commerce system in August, initially to a number of major Irish hospitals.

There was continued good profit growth in the Mobility & Rehabilitation businesses. Strong sales growth in the domestic British market was somewhat offset by more competitive export markets.

Operating profits in the Nutraceuticals business, while in line with the prior year, were impacted by the loss of a major customer towards the end of the period (as referred to in the operating review for the year ended 31 March 2001). This will have a greater impact on Nutraceuticals in the second half.

Other Activities

	2001	2000	
Turnover	€165.5m	€142.6m	+16.1%
Operating profit	€7.2m	€7.1m	+1.0%
Operating margin	4.4%	5.0%	

Strong profit growth in Food was offset by the impact on SerCom Solutions of the slowdown in the IT market.

Food – Operating profits were €5.1 million, an increase of 17.9% over the prior year. Sales for the period of €90.1 million benefited from the increased investment in the prior year in sales and distribution resources, including an expanded van sales force. Sales growth was 8.7%, after adjusting for the cessation of Kylemore's fresh bakery activities.

Supply Chain Management Services – The completion of the developmental investment in SerCom Solutions towards the end of the last financial year coincided with the severe slowdown in the IT and telecommunications markets. While sales in the first half grew by 32.3% to €53.5 million, driven principally by increased lower margin procurement activity on behalf of customers, an operating loss of €0.2 million was incurred (profit of €0.7 million in the prior year).

While market conditions in the IT sector are not expected to improve in the second half, SerCom Solutions is well placed to take advantage of opportunities which should arise when more normal market conditions prevail.

Other – Operating profit from other interests increased by 5.6% to €2.3 million. The principal other interest is DCC's 49% shareholding in Manor Park Homebuilders, which has commenced sales at its principal housing development at Ongar, west Dublin. Manor Park has other ongoing developments in Dublin, Cork and Drogheda and has a substantial land bank for future development.

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CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

	Notes	Unaudited 6 months ended 30 Sept. 2001 €'000	Unaudited 6 months ended 30 Sept. 2000 €'000	Audited year ended 31 March 2001 €'000
Turnover	2	<u>925,604</u>	<u>822,571</u>	<u>1,870,141</u>
Operating profit	3	39,187	34,251	91,737
Net interest payable		<u>(1,972)</u>	<u>(2,129)</u>	<u>(4,402)</u>
Profit on ordinary activities before net exceptional gains, goodwill amortisation and taxation		37,215	32,122	87,335
Net exceptional gains	4	18	-	-
Goodwill amortisation		<u>(2,533)</u>	<u>(2,352)</u>	<u>(4,923)</u>
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	3	34,700	29,770	82,412
Taxation		<u>(5,210)</u>	<u>(4,818)</u>	<u>(13,100)</u>
Profit after taxation		29,490	24,952	69,312
Minority interests		<u>(497)</u>	<u>(659)</u>	<u>(1,230)</u>
Profit attributable to Group shareholders		28,993	24,293	68,082
Dividends	5	<u>(7,750)</u>	<u>(6,691)</u>	<u>(18,140)</u>
Profit retained for the period		<u>21,243</u>	<u>17,602</u>	<u>49,942</u>
Earnings per ordinary share				
- basic (cent)	6	<u>33.89c</u>	<u>27.96c</u>	<u>78.98c</u>
- fully diluted (cent)	6	<u>33.66c</u>	<u>27.33c</u>	<u>78.28c</u>
Adjusted earnings per ordinary share				
- basic (cent)	6	<u>36.83c</u>	<u>30.67c</u>	<u>84.69c</u>
- fully diluted (cent)	6	<u>36.57c</u>	<u>29.97c</u>	<u>83.94c</u>
Dividend per ordinary share (cent)	5	<u>9.288c</u>	<u>7.740c</u>	<u>21.120c</u>

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CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

	Note	Unaudited 30 Sept. 2001 €'000	Unaudited 30 Sept. 2000 €'000	Audited 31 March 2001 €'000
Fixed Assets				
Intangible assets – goodwill		96,978	83,957	84,447
Tangible fixed assets		144,059	129,353	135,241
Financial assets - associated undertakings		<u>33,340</u>	<u>36,103</u>	<u>38,458</u>
		<u>274,377</u>	<u>249,413</u>	<u>258,146</u>
Current Assets				
Stocks		117,987	96,770	93,063
Debtors		304,568	274,289	296,804
Cash and term deposits		<u>392,382</u>	<u>367,223</u>	<u>454,582</u>
		<u>814,937</u>	<u>738,282</u>	<u>844,449</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year				
Bank and other debt		218,416	155,341	200,621
Amount due in respect of buy back of shares		21,044	-	-
Trade and other creditors		318,722	265,045	328,328
Corporation tax		14,361	15,637	18,959
Proposed dividend		<u>7,750</u>	<u>6,619</u>	<u>11,449</u>
		<u>580,293</u>	<u>442,642</u>	<u>559,357</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>234,644</u>	<u>295,640</u>	<u>285,092</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>509,021</u>	<u>545,053</u>	<u>543,238</u>
FINANCED BY:				
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year				
Bank and other debt		32,519	89,482	65,753
Unsecured Notes due 2008/11		104,502	108,933	104,977
Deferred acquisition consideration		<u>10,144</u>	<u>15,814</u>	<u>11,464</u>
		147,165	214,229	182,194
Provisions for Liabilities and Charges		<u>1,799</u>	<u>2,060</u>	<u>1,801</u>
		<u>148,964</u>	<u>216,289</u>	<u>183,995</u>
Capital and Reserves				
Equity share capital and share premium		146,481	145,759	146,484
Reserves		<u>208,938</u>	<u>178,634</u>	<u>208,202</u>
Equity Shareholders' Funds		<u>355,419</u>	<u>324,393</u>	<u>354,686</u>
Minority interests		3,662	3,541	3,493
Capital grants		<u>976</u>	<u>830</u>	<u>1,064</u>
		<u>360,057</u>	<u>328,764</u>	<u>359,243</u>
		<u>509,021</u>	<u>545,053</u>	<u>543,238</u>
Net cash	7	<u>36,945</u>	<u>13,467</u>	<u>83,231</u>

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RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS

	Unaudited 6 months ended 30 Sept. 2001 €'000	Unaudited 6 months ended 30 Sept. 2000 €'000	Audited year ended 31 March 2001 €'000
Profit attributable to Group shareholders	28,993	24,293	68,082
Dividends	<u>(7,750)</u>	<u>(6,691)</u>	<u>(18,140)</u>
Profit retained for the period	21,243	17,602	49,942
Acquisition of own shares (inclusive of costs)	(21,307)	(24,668)	(24,668)
Issues of equity share capital net of capital duty	1,246	1,945	2,670
Movement on other reserves of associated undertakings	(30)	38	(25)
Exchange adjustments	<u>(419)</u>	<u>353</u>	<u>(2,356)</u>
Net movement in shareholders' funds	733	(4,730)	25,563
Opening shareholders' funds	<u>354,686</u>	<u>329,123</u>	<u>329,123</u>
Closing shareholders' funds	<u>355,419</u>	<u>324,393</u>	<u>354,686</u>

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CASH FLOW

	Unaudited 6 months ended 30 Sept. 2001 €'000	Unaudited 6 months ended 30 Sept. 2000 €'000	Audited year ended 31 March 2001 €'000
Note			
Inflows			
Operating cash flow (see below)	(2,683)	(13,898)	83,369
Disposal proceeds	8,259	16,026	16,026
Share issues (net)	<u>-</u>	<u>1,945</u>	<u>1,930</u>
	<u>5,576</u>	<u>4,073</u>	<u>101,325</u>
Outflows			
Capital expenditure (net)	14,687	13,116	29,506
Acquisitions	16,895	23,299	25,969
Acquisition of own shares	-	24,668	24,668
Interest paid	582	2,826	2,587
Taxation paid	8,294	5,765	9,073
Dividends paid	<u>11,449</u>	<u>9,807</u>	<u>16,426</u>
	<u>51,907</u>	<u>79,481</u>	<u>108,229</u>
Net cash outflow	(46,331)	(75,408)	(6,904)
Translation adjustment	<u>45</u>	<u>(284)</u>	<u>976</u>
Movement in net cash for the period	(46,286)	(75,692)	(5,928)
Opening net cash	<u>83,231</u>	<u>89,159</u>	<u>89,159</u>
Closing net cash	7 <u>36,945</u>	<u>13,467</u>	<u>83,231</u>

OPERATING CASH FLOW

	Unaudited 6 months ended 30 Sept. 2001 €'000	Unaudited 6 months ended 30 Sept. 2000 €'000	Audited year ended 31 March 2001 €'000
Group operating profit	39,187	34,251	91,737
Operating profit of associated undertakings	(4,383)	(3,672)	(8,950)
Dividends received from associated undertakings	796	917	1,896
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	11,012	9,808	20,766
Increase in working capital	(48,388)	(54,593)	(19,929)
Other	<u>(907)</u>	<u>(609)</u>	<u>(2,151)</u>
Operating cash flow	<u>(2,683)</u>	<u>(13,898)</u>	<u>83,369</u>

DCC plc

Notes to the Interim Results for the Six Months ended 30 September 2001

1. Basis of Preparation

The interim financial statements for the six months ended 30 September 2001 have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2001.

The interim financial statements for the six months ended 30 September 2001 and the comparative figures for the six months ended 30 September 2000 are unaudited. The summary financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2001 represent an abbreviated version of the Group's full accounts for that year, on which the Auditors issued an unqualified audit report and which have been filed with the Registrar of Companies.

The Group's financial statements are prepared in euro denoted by the symbol €. The exchange rates used in translating sterling balance sheet and profit and loss amounts were as follows:

	6 months ended 30 Sept. 2001 €1=Stg£	6 months ended 30 Sept. 2000 €1=Stg£	Year ended 31 March 2001 €1=Stg£
Balance sheet (closing rate)	0.622	0.597	0.619
Profit and loss (average rate)	<u>0.614</u>	<u>0.610</u>	<u>0.613</u>

2. Turnover

	Unaudited 6 months ended 30 Sept. 2001 €'000	Unaudited 6 months ended 30 Sept. 2000 €'000	Audited year ended 31 March 2001 €'000
IT	363,714	327,855	753,887
Energy	295,628	254,327	610,257
Healthcare	100,808	97,819	182,657
Other Activities	<u>165,454</u>	<u>142,570</u>	<u>323,340</u>
	<u>925,604</u>	<u>822,571</u>	<u>1,870,141</u>
Analysis of turnover by subsidiary undertakings and associated undertakings:			
Subsidiary undertakings	842,405	750,006	1,712,402
Associated undertakings	<u>83,199</u>	<u>72,565</u>	<u>157,739</u>
	<u>925,604</u>	<u>822,571</u>	<u>1,870,141</u>
Of which acquisitions contributed	<u>35,709</u>	<u>13,113</u>	<u>69,208</u>

3. Profit before Taxation

	Unaudited 6 months ended 30 Sept. 2001 €'000	Unaudited 6 months ended 30 Sept. 2000 €'000	Audited year ended 31 March 2001 €'000
IT	13,176	11,645	31,203
Energy	8,169	5,660	23,617
Healthcare	10,643	9,818	20,313
Other Activities	<u>7,199</u>	<u>7,128</u>	<u>16,604</u>
Group operating profit *	39,187	34,251	91,737
Net interest payable	<u>(1,972)</u>	<u>(2,129)</u>	<u>(4,402)</u>
Profit on ordinary activities before net exceptional gains, goodwill amortisation and taxation	37,215	32,122	87,335
Net exceptional gains	18	-	-
Goodwill amortisation	<u>(2,533)</u>	<u>(2,352)</u>	<u>(4,923)</u>
Profit before taxation	<u>34,700</u>	<u>29,770</u>	<u>82,412</u>
Analysis of operating profit by subsidiary undertakings and associated undertakings:			
Subsidiary undertakings	34,804	30,579	82,787
Associated undertakings	<u>4,383</u>	<u>3,672</u>	<u>8,950</u>
Operating profit	<u>39,187</u>	<u>34,251</u>	<u>91,737</u>
*Of which acquisitions contributed	<u>395</u>	<u>(179)</u>	<u>1,078</u>

4. Net Exceptional Gains

Net exceptional gains comprise mainly the profit on disposal of an associated undertaking less the Group's share of the reorganisation costs of an associated undertaking.

5. Dividends

	Unaudited 6 months ended 30 Sept. 2001 €'000	Unaudited 6 months ended 30 Sept. 2000 €'000	Audited year ended 31 March 2001 €'000
Interim dividend of 9.288 cent per share (2000: 7.740 cent per share)	7,750	6,619	6,619
Proposed final dividend of 13.380 cent per share	-	-	11,449
Additional final dividend	<u>-</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>72</u>
	<u>7,750</u>	<u>6,691</u>	<u>18,140</u>

The additional final dividend of €72,000 for the six months ended 30 September 2000 and the year ended 31 March 2001 is in respect of shares issued after the date of approval of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2000 but qualifying for receipt of the final dividend declared in respect of that year.

6. Earnings per Ordinary Share and Adjusted Earnings per Ordinary Share

	Unaudited 6 months ended 30 Sept. 2001 €'000	Unaudited 6 months ended 30 Sept. 2000 €'000	Audited year ended 31 March 2001 €'000
Profit after taxation and minority interests	28,993	24,293	68,082
Net exceptional gains	(18)	-	-
Goodwill amortisation	<u>2,533</u>	<u>2,352</u>	<u>4,923</u>
Adjusted profit after taxation and minority interests	<u>31,508</u>	<u>26,645</u>	<u>73,005</u>
Basic earnings per ordinary share	cent	cent	cent
Basic earnings per ordinary share	<u>33.89</u>	<u>27.96</u>	<u>78.98</u>
Adjusted basic earnings per ordinary share*	<u>36.83</u>	<u>30.67</u>	<u>84.69</u>
Weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue during the period ('000)	<u>85,549</u>	<u>86,890</u>	<u>86,202</u>
Fully diluted earnings per ordinary share			
Fully diluted earnings per ordinary share	<u>33.66</u>	<u>27.33</u>	<u>78.28</u>
Adjusted fully diluted earnings per ordinary share*	<u>36.57</u>	<u>29.97</u>	<u>83.94</u>
Fully diluted weighted average number of ordinary shares ('000)	<u>86,147</u>	<u>89,276</u>	<u>87,030</u>

*adjusted to exclude goodwill amortisation and net exceptional gains.

7. Analysis of Net Cash

	Unaudited 30 Sept. 2001 €'000	Unaudited 30 Sept. 2000 €'000	Audited 31 March 2001 €'000
Cash and term deposits	392,382	367,223	454,582
Bank and other debt repayable within one year	(218,416)	(155,341)	(200,621)
Bank and other debt repayable after more than one year	(32,519)	(89,482)	(65,753)
Unsecured Notes due 2008/11	<u>(104,502)</u>	<u>(108,933)</u>	<u>(104,977)</u>
Net cash	<u>36,945</u>	<u>13,467</u>	<u>83,231</u>

8. Distribution of Interim Report

This announcement and further information on DCC is available at the Company's website at www.dcc.ie. A printed copy of this report is being posted to shareholders and will be available to the public at the Company's registered office at DCC House, Stillorgan, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.