19 May 2003

Results for the Year ended 31 March 2003

		€	
Turnover – continuing activities		**2,242.9 m**	**Up 11.0%**
Operating profit* – continuing activities		**111.1 m**	**Up 13.2%**
Profit before net exceptional items, goodwill amortisation and tax		**109.4 m**	**Up 11.9%**
Adjusted earnings per share*		**111.0 cent**	**Up 12.9%**
Dividend per share		**28.175 cent**	**Up 15.0%**
Net cash at 31 March 2003		**20.1 m**	
Return on capital employed	**- excl. goodwill:**	**42.2%**	**(2002: 46.3%)**
	- incl. goodwill:	**22.0%**	**(2002: 23.1%)**

***   *excluding net exceptional items and goodwill amortisation***

DCC, the business support services group, today announced its results for the year ended 31 March 2003.

Commenting on the results, DCC's Chief Executive/Deputy Chairman, Jim Flavin, said:

"DCC achieved accelerated operating profit growth from continuing activities of 18.5% in the more significant second half of its financial year, compared to growth of 4.7% in the first half. This resulted in an excellent 13.2% increase in operating profits from continuing activities for the year.

DCC has achieved compound annual growth in adjusted earnings per share of 19.6% over the last five years and 18.8% over the last ten years.

DCC is commercially and financially well placed to generate continuing good growth both organically and by acquisition."

For reference, please contact:

Jim Flavin, Chief Executive/Deputy Chairman — Tel: +353 1 2799 400

Fergal O'Dwyer, Chief Financial Officer — Email: investorrelations@dcc.ie

Conor Costigan, Investor Relations Manager — www.dcc.ie

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Excellent operating profit and earnings growth

DCC achieved accelerated operating profit growth from continuing activities of 18.5% in the more significant second half of its financial year, compared to growth of 4.7% in the first half. This resulted in an excellent 13.2% increase in operating profits from continuing activities to €111.1 million for the year. UK based activities contributed 53% of Group operating profits, Irish activities 46% and other areas 1%.

Turnover from continuing activities was up 11.0% to €2,242.9 million, of which sales of DCC's own brands accounted for approximately 42%.

Divisional operating profits were as follows:

	€'m	***Growth***	***Group %***
▪ Energy	45.5	+ 30.0%	41%
▪ IT (SerCom Distribution and SerCom Solutions)	32.9	+ 7.7%	30%
▪ Food & Healthcare	23.2	- 14.7%	21%
▪ Other (principally Manor Park)	9.5	+ 74.6%	8%
▪ Total – continuing activities	111.1	+ 13.2%	100%

Both the interest charge at €5.0 million and tax rate at 14% were unchanged from last year.

Adjusted earnings per share (*i.e.* excluding net exceptional items and goodwill amortisation) grew by 12.9% to 111.0 cent. DCC has achieved compound annual growth in adjusted earnings per share of 19.6% over the last five years and 18.8% over the last ten years.

Development

A total of €121.0 million was committed to acquisitions and capital expenditure. Acquisition expenditure totalled €80.3 million, principally relating to the acquisition of British Gas LPG in November 2002 and Shannon Environmental Services in January 2003. The cash impact of acquisitions amounted to €88.2 million, taking into account the payment of €7.9 million of deferred consideration previously provided for.

Capital expenditure was €40.7 million (2002: €37.3 million). The depreciation charge for the year was €29.5 million (2002: €25.3 million).

Excellent ROCE – strong balance sheet

Excellent returns on capital employed were again achieved - 42.2% excluding goodwill and 22.0% including goodwill (2002: 46.3% and 23.1% respectively).

DCC's balance sheet remains strong with net cash of €20.1 million at 31 March 2003 (2002: €63.1m) and shareholders' funds of €429.3 million (2002: €391.4 million).

Net exceptional items

Net operating and non-operating exceptional items totalled €4.7 million. These comprised restructuring and redundancy costs of €9.0 million, the majority of which arose in DCC's mobility and rehabilitation healthcare business, offset by net disposal gains of €4.3 million, principally in respect of the disposal of the Group's 45% interest in Merits Health Products Company Limited, a Taiwanese supplier of mobility products.

Pension costs

Pension costs, computed in accordance with Statement of Standard Accounting Practice 24, totalled €6.2 million (2002: €5.1 million), of which €3.4 million (2002: €3.2 million) was in respect of defined benefit schemes. Full implementation of Financial Reporting Standard 17 –

Retirement Benefits (FRS 17), which prescribes new accounting rules for defined benefit schemes, has been deferred by the Accounting Standards Board, except for the detailed disclosure required in the notes to the financial statements. As at 31 March 2003, the net FRS 17 pension funding liability of the Group amounted to €15.8 million (2002: €2.7 million), which represents 1.7% of DCC's market capitalisation (at a share price of €11.30).

OUTLOOK

DCC is commercially and financially well placed to generate continuing good growth both organically and by acquisition.

MARKET SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

DCC sells, markets and distributes leading own and third party brands in the energy, IT, food and healthcare markets, principally in Britain and Ireland.

Energy (41% of operating profits)

DCC's strong growth in the energy distribution sector in recent years continued during the current year. Operating profits were up an excellent 30.0% to €45.5 million on turnover of €864.2 million (2002: €717.6m). This profit growth was achieved despite a background of increasing product costs. DCC has built a very substantial energy business servicing a broad base of approximately 220,000 customers from 92 locations in Britain and Ireland.

LPG volumes increased by 56%, benefiting from a full year contribution from Alta Gas, acquired in December 2001, and from the acquisition of British Gas LPG in November 2002. DCC is now the second largest marketer of LPG in both Britain and Ireland. Profit growth in LPG was excellent, although held back somewhat as sales price increases achieved during the year did not fully offset the impact of rising product costs.

The British Gas LPG business has performed well since acquisition. After the busy winter months, its integration into DCC's existing Flogas business is well underway and progressing very satisfactorily. The significant synergies anticipated at the time of acquisition are being achieved on, or ahead of, schedule.

DCC's volumes in the oil distribution sector increased by 7%, benefiting from a full year contribution from Scottish Fuels, acquired in September 2001. DCC has market leading positions in Northern Ireland and Scotland, a significant position in the Republic of Ireland market and continues to seek suitable opportunities to expand its operations, particularly in Britain.

DCC Environmental grew strongly across all activities and benefited from a full year contribution from Envirotech, acquired in September 2001. Shannon Environmental Services (SES), acquired in January 2003, operates a licensed waste management site which will enable DCC to broaden the range of services it offers to existing customers, as well as to broaden its customer base.

IT (SerCom Distribution & SerCom Solutions) (30% of operating profits)

DCC's IT businesses grew revenues by 7.4% to €984.8 million and achieved profit growth of 7.7% to €32.9 million - an excellent result relative to the general IT market.

SerCom Distribution accounted for 98% of total IT profits and generated record operating profits for the year of €32.3 million (2002: €30.6 million) on sales of €894.9 million (2002: €813.8 million). Profit growth accelerated to 7.1% in the second half, compared with 3.2% growth in the first half.

DCC's British hardware distribution business grew its revenues and profits in a market that remained depressed throughout the year. Its product focused telesales teams have grown DCC's market share and delivered value to suppliers. The business's efficient cost model, detailed management processes and bottom line focused ethos enabled it to maintain strong operating margins.

DCC's British software distribution business had an excellent year with significant revenue and profit growth across both its business and leisure product ranges. During the year the business strengthened its position as the leading distributor of software and related 'add-on' hardware products. This position has been further enhanced by the addition of a number of new suppliers including Adobe, Creative Labs and Nokia (who appointed DCC as sole distributor of its new N-gage game deck).

The Irish IT distribution business performed very well after a challenging prior year. The business increased its sales - strengthening its supplier relationships - and leveraged profitability from a reduced cost base. DCC has consolidated its position as the leading IT distributor in the Irish market.

The Continental European specialist storage distribution business, unlike DCC's other IT distribution businesses, is weighted towards large ticket sales where typically the ultimate customers are large corporates. This sector remained difficult through the year. Despite this the business grew its sales, broadened its product range and maintained its market leading position in storage distribution in France, Spain and Portugal.

SerCom Solutions, the supply chain management business, recorded an improved result with operating profits of €0.6 million (2002: loss of €0.1 million) on sales of €89.9 million (2002: €103.3 million).

Food & Healthcare (21% of operating profits)

Food - DCC's Irish food business recorded like for like sales growth of 9.5% to €185.2 million. The general trading environment in the second half of the year was more challenging than last year, however operating profits for the year grew by 6.8% to €11.8 million.

Sales of healthy foods, including DCC's Kelkin brand, showed continued strong growth. In a much more competitive snack foods market, DCC recorded a solid performance and at least maintained its share of the market. Increased marketing activity in the wine sector drove further market penetration and significant sales growth, particularly in the retail sector. Soft drinks sales grew well, benefiting from the success of Robinson's 'Fruit Shoots' product, while improved packaging helped to boost sales of catering beverages.

Healthcare - The profitability of DCC's healthcare operations was severely impacted by the loss of its supply of Shoprider powered mobility products. Sales from continuing activities at €161.6 million were 1.5% behind last year and operating profits from continuing activities were down 29.3% to €11.4 million.

In hospital and community care supplies in Ireland, DCC recorded very good profit growth. Against a background of tighter spending by Irish hospitals, the business achieved satisfactory organic growth, benefiting from the strength and scale of its technical salesforce and the breadth and nature of its product range. The business is primarily focused on single use medical devices and surgical instruments, laboratory consumables and specialist pharmaceuticals, with a low dependency on larger capital items. Organic growth was augmented by a strong full year contribution from TechnoPharm, the rapidly growing distributor of specialist pharmaceutical products to acute care hospitals in Ireland, which was acquired in February 2002.

DCC's nutraceuticals business returned to strong profit growth in the second half of the year. The business completed an expansion of its soft gel encapsulation facility in Wales and is currently upgrading the packing capability at its tabletting facility in Cheshire. In addition to these developments, the business achieved further progress in broadening its customer base, particularly in Europe.

DCC is restructuring its mobility and rehabilitation business. Significant procurement initiatives and cost saving measures have been implemented and further initiatives are underway to improve the overall competitive position of the business. DCC launched a range of powered mobility products under its own DMA brand to replace the Shoprider range. The legal action against Pihsiang for its breach of contract to supply Shoprider powered mobility products is being pursued aggressively.

OTHER (8% of operating profits)

DCC's other activities, principally Manor Park Homebuilders (an associate company) which is a leading Irish housebuilder, contributed operating profits of €9.5 million (2002: €5.5 million). Manor Park achieved excellent profit growth, driven by an increase in house sale closures to 500 this year, up from 370 last year, principally at its larger sites at Ongar in west Dublin and Drogheda. Manor Park has a substantial land bank and is well placed to achieve continued profit growth in the coming years.

DIVIDEND

The Directors are recommending a final dividend of 17.958 cent per share which, when added to the interim dividend of 10.217 cent per share, gives a total dividend of 28.175 cent per share for the year, a 15.0% increase over the prior year dividend of 24.5 cent. The dividend is covered 3.9 times by adjusted earnings per share (2002: 4.0 times). The final dividend will be paid on 14 July 2003 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 30 May 2003.

AGM

The Company's Annual General Meeting will be held at 11.00 a.m. on Tuesday 8 July 2003 in The Berkeley Court Hotel, Lansdowne Road, Dublin 4, Ireland.

MARKET SECTOR ANALYSIS
for the year ended 31 March 2003

	2003	2002	Growth
Energy			
Turnover	€864.2m	€717.6m	+ 20.4%
Operating profit	€45.5m	€35.0m	+ 30.0%
ROCE - excluding goodwill	41.0%	49.1%	
- including goodwill	22.1%	23.8%	
IT (SerCom Distribution & SerCom Solutions)			
Turnover	€984.8m	€917.1m	+ 7.4%
Operating profit	€32.9m	€30.5m	+ 7.7%
Operating margin	3.3%	3.3%	
ROCE - excluding goodwill	41.8%	43.8%	
- including goodwill	24.4%	24.4%	
Note - SerCom Distribution			
Turnover	*€894.9m*	*€813.8m*	*+ 10.0%*
Operating profit	*€32.3m*	*€30.6m*	*+ 5.4%*
Operating margin	*3.6%*	*3.8%*	
Food & Healthcare			
Turnover – continuing activities	€346.8m	€348.4m	- 0.4%
Operating profit – continuing activities	€23.2m	€27.1m	- 14.7%
Operating margin	6.7%	7.8%	
ROCE - excluding goodwill	38.2%	44.3%	
- including goodwill	14.6%	17.9%	
Sales split - by market			
▪ Food	53%	53%	
▪ Healthcare	47%	47%	
	100%	100%	
Operating profit split - by market			
▪ Food	51%	41%	
▪ Healthcare	49%	59%	
	100%	100%	

ANALYSIS OF OPERATING PROFIT FROM CONTINUING ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 March 2003

	2003			2002			Growth		
	H1	H2	FY	H1	H2	FY	H1	H2	FY
	€'m	€'m	€'m	€'m	€'m	€'m	%	%	%
Energy	10.1	35.4	45.5	8.2	26.8	35.0	+ 23.6%	+ 31.9%	+ 30.0%
IT	14.5	18.4	32.9	13.0	17.5	30.5	+ 11.6%	+ 4.9%	+ 7.7%
Food & Healthcare	10.8	12.4	23.2	14.5	12.6	27.1	- 25.8%	- 1.8%	- 14.7%
Other	4.4	5.1	9.5	2.3	3.2	5.5	+ 94.1%	+ 61.0%	+ 74.6%
Total - continuing	39.8	71.3	111.1	38.0	60.1	98.1	+ 4.7%	+ 18.5%	+ 13.2%

SUMMARISED CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT
for the year ended 31 March 2003

	Notes	2003 €'000	2002 €'000
Turnover			
– Continuing activities	**2**	**2,242,884**	**2,020,566**
– Discontinued activities		29,490	28,323
		2,272,374	**2,048,889**
Operating profit before operating exceptional items			
– Continuing activities	**3**	**111,093**	**98,148**
– Discontinued activities		3,239	4,564
		114,332	**102,712**
Operating exceptional items	4	(2,898)	-
Operating profit		111,434	102,712
Net interest payable		(4,970)	(5,003)
Profit on ordinary activities before goodwill amortisation and non-operating net exceptional items		**106,464**	**97,709**
Goodwill amortisation		(7,340)	(5,671)
Non-operating net exceptional items	5	(1,756)	(1,126)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation		**97,368**	**90,912**
Taxation		(15,311)	(13,679)
Profit after taxation		**82,057**	**77,233**
Minority interests		(1,248)	(940)
Profit attributable to Group shareholders		**80,809**	**76,293**
Dividends	6	(23,559)	(20,466)
Profit retained for the year		**57,250**	**55,827**
Earnings per ordinary share			
– basic (cent)	7	96.66c	90.26c
– diluted (cent)	7	95.50c	89.38c
Adjusted earnings per ordinary share			
– basic (cent)	**7**	**111.00c**	**98.30c**
– diluted (cent)	**7**	**109.67c**	**97.35c**
Dividend per ordinary share (cent)	**6**	**28.175c**	**24.500c**

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
as at 31 March 2003

	Note	2003 €'000	2002 €'000
Fixed Assets			
Goodwill arising on the acquisition of subsidiaries		132,044	118,332
Tangible fixed assets		209,432	159,156
Associated undertakings		40,330	38,976
		381,806	316,464
Current Assets			
Stocks		103,030	112,795
Debtors		321,650	334,341
Cash and term deposits		353,986	304,661
		778,666	751,797
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year			
Bank and other debt		218,419	108,795
Trade and other creditors		334,997	377,151
Corporation tax		29,291	18,473
Proposed dividend		15,017	12,716
		597,724	517,135
Net Current Assets		180,942	234,662
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		**562,748**	**551,126**
FINANCED BY:			
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year			
Bank and other debt		21,250	26,757
Unsecured notes due 2008/11		94,258	106,036
Deferred acquisition consideration		11,887	18,954
		127,395	151,747
Provisions for Liabilities and Charges		1,157	2,816
		128,552	154,563
Capital and Reserves			
Equity share capital and share premium		146,479	146,465
Reserves		282,800	244,965
Equity Shareholders' Funds		**429,279**	**391,430**
Minority interests		3,632	4,010
Capital grants		1,285	1,123
		434,196	396,563
		562,748	**551,126**
Net cash	**8**	**20,059**	**63,073**

RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS
for the year ended 31 March 2003

	2003 €'000	2002 €'000
Profit attributable to Group shareholders	80,809	76,293
Dividends	(23,559)	(20,466)
	57,250	55,827
Equity share capital issued (net of expenses)	231	2,464
Share buyback (inclusive of costs)	-	(21,307)
Exchange adjustments and other	(19,632)	723
Net movement in shareholders' funds	37,849	37,707
Opening shareholders' funds	391,430	353,723
Closing shareholders' funds	429,279	391,430

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 March 2003

	Note	2003 €'000	2002 €'000
Inflows			
Operating cash flow (see below)		**92,467**	**117,470**
Disposal proceeds		14,732	11,358
Shares issues (net)		231	792
		107,430	129,620
Outflows			
Capital expenditure (net)		34,832	33,006
Acquisitions		88,215	59,637
Share buyback		-	21,307
Interest paid		4,864	3,789
Taxation paid		2,923	12,461
Dividends paid		21,258	19,199
		152,092	149,399
Net cash outflow		**(44,662)**	**(19,779)**
Translation adjustment		1,648	(379)
Movement in net cash		**(43,014)**	**(20,158)**
Opening net cash		**63,073**	**83,231**
Closing net cash	**8**	**20,059**	**63,073**

OPERATING CASH FLOW
for the year ended 31 March 2003

	2003 €'000	2002 €'000
Group operating profit	114,332	102,712
Operating profit of associated undertakings	(17,709)	(13,602)
Dividends received from associated undertakings	1,317	1,264
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	29,495	25,268
(Increase)/decrease in working capital	(25,740)	6,904
Other	(3,212)	(2,198)
Operating cash flow before exceptional costs	**98,483**	**120,348**
Exceptional redundancy and restructuring costs	(6,016)	(2,878)
Operating cash flow after exceptional costs	**92,467**	**117,470**

NOTES TO THE PRELIMINARY RESULTS
for the year ended 31 March 2003

1. Basis of Preparation

The financial information set out herein does not represent full accounts and has been abridged from the financial statements of DCC plc for the year ended 31 March 2003 which carry an unqualified auditors' report and which have not yet been filed with the Registrar of Companies. Full accounts for the year ended 31 March 2002, containing an unqualified auditors' report, have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies.

The financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2003 have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2002.

Comparative amounts have been regrouped and restated, where necessary, on the same basis as the amounts for the current year.

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 account amounts were as follows:-

	2003	**2002**
	€1=Stg£	**€1=Stg£**
Balance sheet (closing rate)	0.690	0.613
Profit and loss (average rate)	0.640	0.615

2. Turnover – Continuing Activities

	2003	**2002**
	€'000	**€'000**
Energy	864,247	717,623
IT	984,815	917,068
Food and Healthcare	346,806	348,370
Other Activities	47,016	37,505
Turnover - continuing activities	**2,242,884**	**2,020,566**
Analysis of turnover – continuing activities by subsidiary undertakings and associated undertakings:		
Subsidiary undertakings	2,111,066	1,888,678
Associated undertakings	131,818	131,888
Turnover – continuing activities	**2,242,884**	**2,020,566**
Of which acquisitions in the year contributed	47,283	187,251

NOTES TO THE PRELIMINARY RESULTS
for the year ended 31 March 2003 *continued*

3. Operating Profit – Continuing Activities

	2003 €'000	2002 €'000
Energy	45,458	34,979
IT	32,876	30,517
Food and Healthcare	23,171	27,160
Other Activities	9,588	5,492
Operating profit – continuing activities	**111,093**	**98,148**

Analysis of operating profit – continuing activities by subsidiary undertakings and associated undertakings:

	2003 €'000	2002 €'000
Subsidiary undertakings	96,623	89,110
Associated undertakings	14,470	9,038
Operating profit – continuing activities	**111,093**	**98,148**
Of which acquisitions in the year contributed	5,165	7,112

4. Operating Exceptional Items

Operating exceptional charges of €2.898 million were incurred during the year primarily in respect of redundancy costs arising from a review of the operations of certain of the Group's existing and acquired businesses.

5. Non-operating Net Exceptional Items

Non-operating exceptional charges of €6.079 million were incurred in the restructuring of DCC Healthcare's rehabilitation and mobility activities as a result of the loss of the supply of Shoprider powered mobility products. The restructuring costs comprise redundancy costs, stock write-offs, write downs of plant and legal costs.

Net exceptional gains of €4.323 million arose on disposals, primarily the sale of the Group's 45.0% interest in DCC Healthcare's associate, Merits Health Products Company Limited.

6. Dividends

	2003 €'000	2002 €'000
Interim dividend of 10.217 cent per share (2002: 9.288 cent)	8,542	7,750
Proposed final dividend of 17.958 cent per share (2002: 15.212 cent)	15,017	12,716
	23,559	20,466

NOTES TO THE PRELIMINARY RESULTS
for the year ended 31 March 2003 *continued*

7. Earnings per Ordinary Share

	2003 €'000	2002 €'000
Profit after tax and minority interests	80,809	76,293
Net exceptional items	4,654	1,126
Goodwill amortisation	7,340	5,671
Adjusted profit after tax and minority interests	92,803	83,090
	cent	**cent**
Basic earnings per ordinary share		
Basic earnings per ordinary share	96.66	90.26
Adjusted basic earnings per ordinary share*	111.00	98.30
Weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue during the year ('000)	83,603	84,527
Diluted earnings per ordinary share		
Diluted earnings per ordinary share	95.50	89.38
Adjusted diluted earnings per ordinary share*	109.67	97.35
Diluted weighted average number of ordinary shares for the year ('000)	84,617	85,354

* adjusted to exclude net exceptional items and goodwill amortisation.

The diluted earnings used in the calculation of diluted earnings per ordinary share were €80.809 million (2002: €76.293 million) and in the calculation of adjusted diluted earnings per ordinary share were €92.803 million (2002: €83.090 million).

8. Analysis of Net Cash

	2003 €'000	2002 €'000
Cash and term deposits	353,986	304,661
Bank and other debt repayable within one year	(218,419)	(108,795)
Bank and other debt repayable after more than one year	(21,250)	(26,757)
Unsecured notes due 2008/11	(94,258)	(106,036)
Net cash	20,059	63,073