(FORMERLY STATS MANAGEMENT SERVICES LIMITED)

ABBREVIATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

30TH NOVEMBER 1996

Registered number: 2833839



MORTON THORNTON

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

St. Albans

ABBREVIATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30th November 1996

CONTENTS

	Page
Auditors' report	1
Abbreviated balance sheet	2
Notes on abbreviated financial statements	3

AUDITORS' REPORT ON ABBREVIATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Auditors' report to
Stats Limited
pursuant to paragraph 24 of Schedule 8
to the Companies Act 1985

We have examined the abbreviated financial statements on pages 2 to 5 together with the financial statements of the company prepared under section 226 of the Companies Act 1985 for the year ended 30th November 1996.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

The directors are responsible for preparing the abbreviated financial statements in accordance with Schedule 8 to the Companies Act 1985. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion as to the company's entitlement to the exemptions claimed in the directors' statement on page 2 and whether the abbreviated financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with that Schedule.

Basis of opinion

We have carried out the procedures we considered necessary to confirm, by reference to the audited financial statements, that the company is entitled to the exemptions and that the abbreviated financial statements have been properly prepared from those financial statements. The scope of our work for the purpose of this report does not include examining or dealing with events after the date of our report on the full financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the company is entitled under sections 246 and 247 of the Companies Act 1985 to the exemptions conferred by Section A of Part III of Schedule 8 to that Act, in respect of the year ended 31st October 1996, and the abbreviated financial statements on pages 2 to 5 have been properly prepared in accordance with that Schedule.

Other information

We reported, as auditors of the company, to the members on the financial statements prepared under section 226 of the Companies Act 1985 for the year ended 30th November 1996, and our audit report was as follows:

'We have audited the financial statements on pages 5 to 14 which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 7.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described on page 3, the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

continued

AUDITORS' REPORT ON ABBREVIATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

Auditors' report to
Stats Limited
pursuant to paragraph 24 of Schedule 8
to the Companies Act 1985

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error or other irregularity. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 30th November 1996 and of its profit for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.'

8th September 1997

MORTON THORNTON
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
& REGISTERED AUDITORS
TORRINGTON HOUSE
47 HOLYWELL HILL
ST ALBANS
HERTS. AL1 1HD

ABBREVIATED BALANCE SHEET

at 30th November 1996

		1996		1995	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets			,		
Tangible assets Investments	2 2		311909 2		154019 2
			311911		154021
Current assets					
Stocks Debtors Cash at bank and in hand		42091 938452 834 		383360 11483 	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	3	(1185554)		(494790)	
Net current liabilities			(204177)		(99947)
Total assets less current liabil	lities		107734		54074
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year			100903		54074 ———
Capital and reserves					
Called up share capital Other reserves	4		146 30		176 -
Profit and loss account			100727		53898
Total shareholders' funds			100903		54074

The directors have taken advantage of the exemptions conferred by Section A of Part III of Schedule 8 to the Companies Act 1985 on the basis that the company qualifies as a small company.

The abbreviated financial statements on pages 2 to 5 were approved by the board of directors on Sch September (997.

Director

NOTES ON ABBREVIATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

30th November 1996

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and under the historical cost accounting rules.

Turnover

Turnover represents the amount derived from the provision of goods and services falling within the company's activities after deduction of trade discounts and value added tax.

Depreciation

Depreciation of fixed assets is calculated to write off their cost or valuation less any residual value over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Leasehold land and buildings	over 25 years
Laboratory equipment	15% reducing balance
Computers	25% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance
Office Equipment	25% reducing balance

Leases and hire purchase contracts

Tangible fixed assets acquired under finance leases and hire purchase contracts are capitalised at the estimated fair value at the date of inception of each lease or contract. The total finance charges are allocated over the period of the lease in such a way as to give a reasonably constant charge on the outstanding liability.

Stocks and work in progress

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is computed on a first in first out basis. The cost of work in progress and finished goods includes all production overheads and depreciation and the attributable proportion of indirect overheads based on the normal level of activity. Net realisable value is based on estimated selling price less the estimated cost of disposal.

Deferred taxation

Deferred taxation is provided on the liability method in respect of the taxation effect of all timing differences to the extent that tax liabilities are likely to crystallise in the foreseeable future.

Pensions

Defined contribution scheme

Contributions are charged to the profit and loss account as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

NOTES ON ABBREVIATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

30th November 1996

2 Fixed assets

	Tangible fixed assets	Fixed asset investments	Total
Cost	£	£	£
1st December 1995	169764	2	169766
Additions	209574	-	209574
Disposals	(13339)	_	(13339)
30th November 1996	365999	2	366001
Depreciation	•		
1st December 1995	15745	_	15745
Charge for year	38345		38345
30th November 1996	54090	_	54090
Net book amount			
30th November 1996	311909	2	311911
1st December 1995	154019	2	154021

³ Creditors amount falling due within one year includes a bank overdraft of £89032 secured by a guarantee and debenture over the assets of Stats Limited, Stats Geotechnical Limited, Stats Q.A. Limited and Stats Consultancy Limited.

4 Called up share capital

Called up share capital		1996		1995
	Number of shares	£	Number of shares	£
Authorised				
Ordinary £1 shares	100000	100000	100000	100000
Allotted called up and fully paid				
Ordinary £1 shares	146	146	176	176

On the 10th April 1996 the company purchased 30 ordinary share of its issued share capital for £30.

NOTES ON ABBREVIATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

30th November 1996

5 Transactions with directors

The directors have an interest in the following companies which supplied/received services from the company at open market value.

	Services supplied £	Services received £
Stats Q.A. Limited	39200	18237
Stats Geotechnical Limited	23290	39306
Stats Consultancy Limited	9529	1298
Glanville and Associates Limited	196976	59196