**Annual Report and Accounts** 

For the year ended

**31 December 2007** 

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Registered No: 4577601

# ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2007

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# DIRECTORS' REPORT For the year ended 31 December 2007

The Directors present their report and the audited financial statements of Centrica Alpha Finance Limited ("the Company") for the year ended 31 December 2007

#### Principal activities and future developments

The principal activity of the Company is to act as a financing company for Centrica Group companies

The Directors intend that the Company will continue to act as a financing company for the foreseeable future

#### Financial results, business review and dividends

The Directors believe that the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Company operates and generates net cash flows is US dollars and accordingly the financial statements have been prepared in US dollars

The results of the Company are set out on page 6

The Company recorded a profit on ordinary activities after taxation of US\$21,374,000 (2006 US\$16,673,000) US\$21,374,000 has been transferred to reserves (2006 US\$16,673,000)

On 7 April 2006 all loans to Centrica Beta Holdings Limited were repaid in full including all outstanding interest On 7 April 2006 US\$240,666,016 was advanced to Centrica Finance (US) Limited. The loan is repayable on demand and in any event on 31 March 2009. Interest accrues at the US Prime rate on the last day of the previous quarter and is paid quarterly in arrears on the first day of each quarter.

#### Dividends

No dividends were paid for the year ended 31 December 2007 (year ended 31 December 2006 US\$nil)

# Key performance indicators

Given the nature of the business, the Company's Directors are of the opinion that analysis using KPIs is not necessary for an understanding of the development, performance or position of the business

#### Principal risk and uncertainties

From the perspective of the Company, the principal risks and uncertainties are integrated with the principal risks of the Centrica plc Group ("the Group") and are not managed separately. Accordingly, the principal risks and uncertainties for the Group, which include those of the Company, are discussed on pages 25 to 27 of the Group's 2007 Annual Report and Accounts which does not form part of this report.

Group Treasury also seeks to limit counter-party risk by conducting most of its banking and dealing activities with a limited number of major international banks, where status is kept under review Details of the Group financial risk management policy is set out on page 69 of the Group's 2007 Annual Report and Accounts

# Directors

The following served as Directors during the year, and up to the date of signing this report

C Redcliffe

J A K Clark

# Charitable and political donations

The Company made no political or charitable donations during the year (2006 US\$nil)

#### Directors' and officers' liability

Directors' and officers' liability insurance has been purchased by the ultimate parent company, Centrica plc, and was in place throughout the period under review

# DIRECTORS' REPORT continued For the year ended 31 December 2007

#### **Auditors**

In accordance with Section 386 of the Companies Act 1985, the Company has elected to dispense with the obligation to reappoint auditors annually and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP will therefore continue in office

#### Disclosure of information to Auditors

Each of the persons who is a Director at the date of approval of this report confirms that

- (1) so far as the Directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditors are unaware, and
- (2) each Director has taken all steps that he/she ought to have taken as a Director in order to make himself / herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditors are aware of the information

# Statement of Directors' responsibilities

The Directors are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations

Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The Financial Statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the end of the financial year and of the profit or loss of the Company for the financial year.

In preparing those financial statements the Directors are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently, except for changes arising on the adoption of new accounting standards,
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business

The Directors confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements

The Directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Board on 30 October 2008

for and on behalf of

Centrica Secretaries Limited

Company Secretary
30 October 2008

Registered office

Millstream

Maidenhead Road

Windsor

Berkshire SL4 5GD

# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CENTRICA ALPHA FINANCE LIMITED

We have audited the Financial Statements of Centrica Alpha Finance Limited for the year ended 31 December 2007 which comprise the Profit and Loss Account, the Balance Sheet and the related notes These Financial Statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein

#### Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

The Directors' responsibilities for preparing the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) are set out in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

Our responsibility is to audit the Financial Statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) This report, including the opinion, has been prepared for and only for the Company's members as a body in accordance with Section 235 of the Companies Act 1985 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving this opinion, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing

We report to you our opinion as to whether the Financial Statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you if whether in our opinion the information given in the Directors. Report is consistent with the Financial Statements.

In addition we report to you if, in our opinion, the company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding Directors' remuneration and other transactions is not disclosed

We read the Directors' Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it

#### BASIS OF AUDIT OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) 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 judgments 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 other irregularity or error. 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, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, of the state of the Company's affairs as at 31 December 2007 and of its profit for the year then ended
- the Financial Statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985 and

the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the Financial Statements

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

1 Embankment Place

London

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# PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31 December 2007

	Notes	2007 US\$000	2006 US\$000
Interest receivable and similar income	3	21,374	19,069
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation		21,374	19,069
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	5	-	(2,396)
Profit for the financial year	9	21,374	16,673

All amounts relate to continuing operations

There is no difference between the profit on ordinary activities before taxation and the retained profit for the year stated above and its historic cost equivalents

There are no recognised gains or losses other than those included in the results above, and accordingly no separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has been presented

A reconciliation of movements in equity shareholders funds is shown in note 10

The notes on pages 8 to 11 form part of these financial statements

# BALANCE SHEET As at 31 December 2007

	Notes	2007 US\$000	2006 US\$000
CURRENT ASSETS Debtors	6	276,896	255,522
CURRENT LIABILITIES Creditors (amounts falling due within one year)	7	(2,396)	(2,396)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	-	274,500	253,126
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIBILITIES	_	274,500	253,126
NET ASSETS	-	274,500	253,126
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Called up share capital	8	226,377	226,377
Profit and loss account	9	48,123	26,749
TOTAL EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	10	274,500	253,126

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 30 October 2008 and were signed on its behalf by

Mobile Director

The notes on pages 8 to 11 form part of these financial statements

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# For the year ended 31 December 2007

# 1. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### Accounting principles

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable UK accounting standards, consistently applied throughout the year, under the historical cost convention and the Companies Act 1985

#### Exemptions

The Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Centrica plc and is included in the consolidated financial statements of Centrica plc which are publicly available. The Company has also taken advantage of exemptions within Financial Reporting Standard No 1 (Revised) "Cash Flow Statements" from presenting a cash flow statement, and Financial Reporting Standard No 8 "Related party Disclosure" from disclosure of transactions with other group companies.

#### Basis of preparation

The Financial Statements have been prepared on a going concern basis

# Reporting currency

The Directors consider that the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Company operates and generates net cash flows is US dollars. Accordingly the financial statements have been prepared in US dollars. The 31 December 2007 US dollar to Sterling exchange rate used in the preparation of these Financial Statements was 1 98270 (2006 1 95890).

#### Foreign currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into US dollars (or alternatives) at rates of exchange ruling at the end of the year. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into US dollars at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of transaction. All foreign exchange differences have been taken to the profit and loss account in the year.

#### Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised in the Balance Sheet when the Company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets are de-recognised when the Company no longer has the rights to cash flows, the risks and rewards of ownership or control, of the asset. Financial liabilities are de-recognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged, cancelled or expires

Share capital, Ordinary shares are classified as equity. Incremental costs directly attributable to the issue of new shares are shown in equity as a deduction from the proceeds received.

Interest-bearing debt and loans, All interest bearing debt and loans are initially stated at the amount of they net proceeds for debt and costs for loans. After initial recognition, the carrying amount of interest-bearing debt and loans should be increased by the finance cost and by the finance income in respect of the debt and loans in that period.

The Company is exempted by FRS 25 from providing detailed disclosures in respect of its financial instruments because the Company is included within the Group's consolidated accounts and its financial instruments are incorporated into the disclosures in note 21 to the Centrica plc group Annual Report and Accounts

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# For the year ended 31 December 2007

#### 1 PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES – continued

#### Taxation

Current tax, including UK corporation tax, is provided at amounts expected to be paid (or recovered) using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantially enacted by the balance sheet date

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date where transactions or events that result in the obligation to pay more tax in the future or a right to pay less tax in the future have occurred at the balance sheet date. Timing differences are differences between the Company's taxable profits and its results as stated in the Financial Statements that arise from the inclusion of gains and losses in tax assessments in periods different from those in which they are recognised in the Financial Statements

A net deferred tax asset is regarded as recoverable and therefore recognised only when, on the basis of all available evidence, it can be regarded as more likely than not that there will be suitable taxable profits in the foreseeable future from which the reversal of the underlying timing differences can be deducted

Deferred tax is measured at the average tax rates that are expected to apply in the periods in which the timing differences are expected to reverse, based on the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date

Deferred tax is measured on a non-discounted basis

#### Interest

Interest is accounted for on an accruals basis. Interest receivable from other group companies registered overseas is presented inclusive of any overseas tax.

# 2. DIRECTORS AND EMPLOYEES

The Directors received no emoluments during the period ended 31 December 2007 (2006 £nil) in respect of their services to the company. There were no employees of the company during the year ended 31 December 2007 (2006 none).

# 3. INTEREST RECEIVABLE AND SIMILAR INCOME

	2007 US\$000	2006 US\$000
Interest receivable from Group companies	21,374	19,069

#### 4 OPERATING PROFIT

The audit fee of \$5,972 (2006 \$5,543) was borne by Centrica plc in this period and the last Auditors' remuneration relates to fees for the audit of the UK GAAP statutory accounts of Centrica Alpha Finance Limited in line with Tech 6/06, "Disclosure of auditor remuneration" issued by the ICAEW, it excludes fees in relation to the audit of the IFRS group consolidation schedules for the purpose of the Centrica Group audit, which are borne by Centrica plc

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2007

# 5 TAX ON PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

	The tax charge comprises	2007 US\$000	2006 US\$000
	Corporation tax at 30%	-	2,396
	Deferred tax - current period	-	-
	Total tax on profit on ordinary activities	-	2,396
	The tax assessed for the year is lower (2006 lower) than the standard rate (30%) The differences are explained below	of corporation	tax in the UK
		2007	2006
		US\$000	US\$000
	Profit on ordinary activities before tax	21,374	19,069
	Tax on profit on ordinary activities at standard UK corporation tax rate of		
	30% (2006 30%) Effects of	6,412	5,721
	Prior year adjustment	-	2,396
	Group relief not paid for	(6,410)	(5,721)
	UK UK transfer pricing adjustment	(2)	
	Current tax charge for the year	-	2,396
	eferred taxation arises in the year (2006 nil)  1 April 2008 the standard rate of UK corporation tax reduces to 28%		
6.	DEBTORS		
	Amounts falling due within one year	2007 US\$000	2006 US\$000
	Amounts owed by group undertakings	276,896	255,522
		<del></del>	

Amounts owed by group companies totalling \$271,287,162 are unsecured accrue interest at the US Prime rate on the last day of the preceding quarter with interest payable quarterly in arrears, and are repayable on demand. The remaining balance relates to accrued interest.

# 7. CREDITORS

Amounts falling due within one year	2007 US\$000	2006 US\$000
Corporation Tax	2,396	2,396

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# For the year ended 31 December 2007

# 8. SHARE CAPITAL

2007	2006
US\$000	US\$000
273,700	273,700
226,300	226,300
500,000	500,000
	•
	7
226,300	226,300
226,377	226,377
	US\$000  273,700  226,300  500,000

On 6 December 2002, Centrica US Holdings Inc. subscribed in cash for US\$77,370 of ordinary share capital at par and for 2,263,000 of deferred shares of the Company, paid up US\$0.01 Subsequently, on 20 December 2002, Centrica US Holdings Inc. transferred its entire holding of ordinary shares and the beneficial interest in its entire holding of deferred shares of the Company to Centrica Finance (US) Limited. On 22 December 2003, the Company called US\$39.33 per deferred share or US\$89,003,790. On 22 December 2004, the Company called US\$2.57 per deferred share or US\$5,815,910.

On 20 December 2005 the company called a further US\$23,557,830 being the December 2005 subscription. The net present value of the remaining 2006 and 2007 subscriptions amounting to \$98,349,980 were also called and paid on 20 December 2005. The legal ownership of these shares was then transferred to Centrica Finance (US) Limited which on 20 December 2005 made the final subscription of \$4.22 per share amounting to US\$9,549,860.

# 9. RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT IN RESERVES

	2007	2006
	US\$000	US\$000
As at the beginning of the year	26,749	10,076
Retained profit for the year	21,374	16,673
Shareholders funds as at the end of the year	48,123	26,749

# 10. RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY SHAREHOLDER FUNDS

	2007 US\$000	2006 US\$000
Opening Shareholder funds	253,126	236,453
Retained profit for the year	21,374	16,673
Closing Shareholder funds	274,500	253,126

#### 11. IMMEDIATE AND ULTIMATE PARENT COMPANY

Centrica Finance (US) Limited is the immediate parent company. Centrica plc is the ultimate parent undertaking and the only group to consolidate the Financial Statements of the Company. Copies of the Annual Report of Centrica plc may be obtained from <a href="https://www.centrica.com">www.centrica.com</a>