

HARTEST HOLDINGS PLC
("Hartest", or "the Company", or "the Group")

DIRECTORATE CHANGES & TRADING UPDATE

March 2009

Hartest Holdings PLC, the supplier of specialist instrumentation and medical equipment, today issues a summary of changes in the directorate together with a further trading update.

The Board is announcing a restructuring, intended to accommodate the changing focus of our operations and reduce central costs by a significant sum. Peter Ward (Chairman), Robert Porter (Group Finance Director), and Max Dyer Bartlett (Non-Executive Director and Company Secretary) are stepping down from their directorships and positions with the Company today in order to pursue their other interests. The Board would like to thank them for their valuable contributions to the Group.

To facilitate the changes, Geoff Spink will take on the role of Executive Chairman, in addition to his existing role as Chief Executive; David Kempton will become Deputy Chairman and senior non-executive director; Jan Holmstrom will be appointed Company Secretary in addition to his role as non-executive director.

In our statement last month, we indicated that the Group typically experiences a strong bias in trading in the final quarter of the year. As we approach the year end, it is becoming clear that both sales and margins are likely to be slightly lower than our original expectation. In addition, we have taken the prudent decision to include a higher proportion of total subsidiary relocation cost in the current year. Although it is still too soon to form a final view of the outcome for the year, it is clear from the changes referred to above that pre-tax losses in the current year will exceed previous estimates. Despite this, we do still anticipate a positive operating profit prior to non-recurring charges.

The Group and its underlying portfolio of niche businesses remain robust and well financed. We firmly believe that the measures we are undertaking, reflected in part by the non-recurring expenditure in the current year, will lead to significantly reduced cost and increased efficiencies, to enable the Company to operate more profitably in the future.

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