NORSKE SKOG 2006

Q4 report

Full speed ahead for improved profitability

Newspapers are the ultimate browser

Norske Skog

The ultimate browser

Timothy Balding (left), CEO of the World Association of Newspapers (WAN), and Gavin O'Reilly, head of Independent News & Media and WAN chairman, expressed optimism about the future of the paper media at a meeting with Norske Skog's management.

Newspapers are the ultimate browser, Gavin O'Reilly, president of the World Association of Newspapers (WAN), declared when he gave a presentation in Oslo during January on the future of the print media.

Mr O'Reilly, who is also chief executive of the Independent News & Media publishing group, observed that the newspaper sector is experiencing a destructive loss of self-confidence after the emergence of electronic media. He has accordingly accepted the job of convincing everyone who works in the business that they should share his great confidence in the future.

"We can declare with pride and self-confidence that the outlook is very positive," he told 20 Norske Skog employees, including chief executive Christian Rynning-Tønnesen.

He was visiting the company together with WAN CEO Timothy Balding in connection with the collaboration between this organisation and Norske Skog over the Young Reader project, which includes the Newspapers in Education scheme.

"We believe that people will continue to read newspapers on newsprint, and have the figures to prove it," said Mr O'Reilly. The WAN has assembled data on key trends in the newspaper industry in 218 countries and territories.

This sector has a global value of USD 178.8 billion, and accounts for 22% of the advertising market worldwide. That puts newspapers second only to TV as an advertising medium. Daily circulation for the world's newspapers has risen every year for the past decade, and 1.4 billion people read a paper every day. New titles are being launched successfully worldwide, including in mature markets.

Mr O'Reilly noted that 4% of Independent News & Media's circulation derives from the Newspapers in Education project.

"This is a very important dimension for all newspaper publishers," he said, and thanked Norske Skog for sponsoring the Young Reader programme.

"You're supporting every newspaper publisher, and the results will ultimately feed back to you."

His group uses more than 100 000 tonnes of Norske Skog newsprint every year for its publications in Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and the UK. That accounts for roughly 35% of its annual newsprint consumption.

Mr O'Reilly named some important investments made on the basis of a strong faith in the future for newspapers, such as Rupert Murdoch's USD 1.1 billion investment in new newspaper technology and presses in the UK.

"Mr Murdoch undoubtedly knows what he's doing," said Mr O'Reilly.

"The newspaper sector can report far more successes in recent years than some would have us believe. We should instead remind people about the strengths, ability to survive and vitality of such publications. The big challenge is how we succeed or fail in achieving contact with our readers."

Mr Rynning-Tønnesen emphasised the good collaboration between Norske Skog and the WAN in connection with the Young Reader programme. "We jointly help children and young people to learn to read and, not least, to understand society better through newspapers. Young Reader activities have become an important aspect of our corporate social responsibility."

Report for the fourth quarter of 2006

- Gross operating earnings before special items: NOK 1 267 million (Q3 06: NOK 1 322 million); net operating earnings before special items: NOK 538 million (Q3 06: NOK 495 million).
- Good progress in the improvement programme, with improvements of about NOK 400 million captured at the end of the fourth quarter.
- Good market prospects for newsprint in Europe during 2007, but the market remains difficult for magazine paper in Europe and newsprint in China.
- The board proposes an unchanged dividend of NOK 5.50 per share for 2006

KEY FIGURES, GROUP – IFRS:

		Q4/06	Q3/06*	Q4/05	2006	2005
Operating revenues	NOK mill	7 719	7 192	7 107	28 827	25 726
Gross op earnings	NOK mill	1 296	840	813	4 007	3 950
Gross operating margin	%	16.8	11.7	11.4	13.9	15.4
Net op earnings/(loss)	NOK mill	567	(3 252)	(194)	(2 527)	630
Net operating margin	%	7.3	(45.2)	(2.7)	(8.8)	2.4
Pre-tax earnings/(loss)	NOK mill	318	(3 779)	(1 127)	(3 480)	(1 004)
Net earnings/(loss)	NOK mill	245	(3 087)	(997)	(2 809)	(854)
Earnings per share	NOK	1.30	(16.31)	(5.75)	(14.84)	(5.98)
Cash flow	NOK mill	673	1 265	1 027	2 763	3 061
Cash flow per share	NOK	3.56	6.68	5.92	14.60	21.42
Return on capital employed	%	5.9	(8.2)	2.4	(6.2)	2.8
Deliveries	1 000 t	1 589	1 516	1 473	6 106	5 437
Production	1 000 t	1 520	1 542	1 428	6 078	5 503

* A provision of NOK 600 million was made in the third quarter of 2006 in connection with demanning. New calculations indicate that this figure was too high, partly because demanning can be achieved at a lower cost than expected. In addition, some NOK 60 million of the provision has been reversed because the expected expense does not qualify as a provision under IFRS, and will be incurred instead during 2007. The third-quarter result has accordingly been corrected through a reduction of NOK 224 million in the provision to NOK 376 million. This correction has no significance for the results of the individual segments or for Norske Skog's cash flow.

OPERATING EARNINGS BEFORE IFRS-RELATED VALUE CHANGES, PROVISIONS (INCLUDING GRID COST PROVISION IN BRAZIL) AND IMPAIRMENT CHARGES:

	Q4/06	Q3/06	Q4/05	2006	2005
Gross operating earnings before special items	1 267	1 322	925	4 704	4 006
Net operating earnings before special items	538	495	97	1 478	934

Profit and loss account group

FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE THE COMPARISON WITH RESULTS FOR PREVIOUS QUARTERS

Norske Skog Pan Asia has been treated as a wholly-owned region from 18 November 2005, while it was previously recognised in the accounts through 50% consolidation. The Asian business was also affected by the start-up of the newsprint mill in Hebei during the third quarter of 2005, with regular depreciation commencing in September 2005.

Norske Skog Union was closed down in the first quarter of 2006. The mill produced 30 000 tonnes during this period, compared with 254 000 tonnes in the whole of 2005. PM1 at Norske Skog Tasman was closed down on 1 August. This machine had a nominal annual capacity of 130 000 tonnes, but overall capacity in the region has by and large been maintained by upgrading other paper machines in both New Zealand and Australia. PM 1 and PM 4 at Norske Skog Jeonju, with a combined capacity of 180 000 tonnes, were closed down in September 2006.

In accordance with IFRS, a new estimate has been made of the remaining economic life for all Norske Skog's mills. This has resulted in some extension to depreciation periods, such that annual depreciation has been reduced by roughly NOK 330 million. The change has been implemented with effect from the fourth quarter. Furthermore, depreciation in the fourth quarter for the Asia segment was slightly lower than in earlier quarters because of the impairment taken in the third quarter. Total depreciation for the fourth quarter of 2006 was NOK 99 million lower than in the previous quarter.

Gross and net operating earnings under IFRS in the fourth quarter of 2006 included the following special items:

- a gain of NOK 14 million relating to value changes for energy hedges, which has not been included in the segment results
- a cost item of NOK 45 million relating to pay and severance packages for Norske Skog Union employees
- a gain of NOK 60 million from reversing an earlier provision relating to a dispute over grid cost in Brazil, which has been incorporated like the earlier provision in earnings for the South America segment.

A specification of all non-operational items in earlier quarters is included elsewhere in the interim report.

COMPARISON BETWEEN Q4 06 AND Q3 06

Gross operating earnings before IFRS-related value adjustments, provisions and other special items in the fourth quarter were NOK 55 million lower than in the third quarter. This weakening in earnings derives primarily from the European magazine paper segment, and reflects lower prices for coated magazine paper and slightly higher maintenance costs. However, reduced depreciation means that net operating earnings in the fourth quarter were NOK 43 million higher than in the third quarter.

When comparing the two quarters, overall currency effects were small. The Norwegian krone was weaker on average in the fourth quarter than in the third, which had a positive impact. However, the Norwegian krone was considerably stronger at 31 December 2006 compared with 30 September 2006, which resulted in negative conversion differences on accounts receivable.

COMPARISON BETWEEN Q4 06 AND Q4 05

Gross operating earnings before all special items increased by NOK 381 million from the same period of last year. Excluding PanAsia and divested operations, the increase was NOK 248 million. Every segment showed higher operating earnings in the fourth quarter compared with the same period of 2005, with the biggest increase being in Europe newsprint.

COMPARISON BETWEEN 2006 AND 2005

Gross operating earnings before all special items in 2006 were almost NOK 700 million higher than in the year before. Excluding PanAsia and divested operations, the increase was NOK 203 million. Europe newsprint and South America showed substantial improvements in earnings, while results for Europe magazine paper and Australasia were weaker.

FINANCIAL ITEMS (NOK MILL)

	Q4/06	Q3/06	Q4/05	2006	2005
Net interest exp	(254)	(261)	(187)	(982)	(733)
Interest hedging	14	(17)	24	7	23
Gain/(loss) currency	98	(243)	15	(17)	(76)
Other financial items	(107)	(15)	(49)	(163)	(97)
Total financial items	**(249)**	**(536)**	**(197)**	**(1 155)**	**(883)**

Currency gains in the fourth quarter totalled NOK 98 million. The stronger Norwegian krone at 31 December resulted in a gain on currency hedging, and part of the positive conversion difference on foreign currency debt has also been taken to the profit and loss account.

An expense of NOK 84 million has been included under other financial items in connection with the exercise of an option by Norske Skog to buy back the property at Oxenøveien 80 outside Oslo, where its head office is located. This property was previously owned by an investment company, with an associated lease.

Cash flow

Cash flow from operations, less financial expenses and taxes paid, totalled NOK 673 million in the fourth quarter, compared with NOK 1 265 million for the previous three-month period. The reduction in cash flow is a result of several factors. Operating capital increased by NOK 56 million despite a seasonal decrease in stock owing, and is due to a reduction in accounts payable and the reversal of the provision for grid cost in Brazil, which in total represented NOK 270 million. Negative cash flow effect from currency hedging represented a further NOK 180 million, while the profit and loos account showed a profit of NOK 98 million. Moreover, interest paid is approximately NOK 50 million higher than interest taken to costs.

Cash flow from operations for 2006 as a whole was NOK 2 763 million, compared with NOK 3 061 million in 2005. The reduction primarily reflects the effects in the fourth quarter mentioned above.

Balance sheet

Assets totalled NOK 45.2 billion at 31 December, a reduction of NOK 6.8 billion from the end of 2005. This reduction primarily reflects the sale of the shares in Catalyst Paper, ordinary depreciation which was higher than investment taken to the balance sheet, and impairment of fixed assets and goodwill. Currency changes through the year reduced assets by NOK 865 million, debt by NOK 694 million and equity by NOK 171 million during 2006.

Investment taken to the balance sheet totalled NOK 589 million in the fourth quarter and NOK 1 722 million for the full year. The most important items in 2006 were completion of the restructuring project in Australia and New Zealand, the transfer of the thermo-mechanical pulp (TMP) plant from Union to Norske Skog Follum, and an extensive conversion project at Norske Skog Saugbrugs.

In accordance with a decision by the board of Norske Skog, a provision of about NOK 1 billion has been made for estimated dismantling costs. Estimated residual values in the order of NOK 1 billion have also been calculated. These items balance each other out, and have insignificant effects on ordinary depreciation.

Net interest-bearing debt came to NOK 17.3 billion at 31 December, a reduction of roughly NOK 500 million from 30 September and NOK 1.7 billion from 31 December 2005.

The average maturity of long-term debt at 31 December was 5.4 years, and disposable liquidity – including undrawn lines of credit facilities – amounted to NOK 6.0 billion.

A new multicurrency credit facility totalling EUR 400 million, with a term of five years and three months, was established by Norske Skog in November. Its purpose was to refinance an undrawn credit facility of EUR 400 million from 21 October 2002, which was due to mature in 2007 and 2009. Like its predecessor, the new credit facility forms part of the group's liquidity reserve. A total of 19 banks participated in the new facility, which was oversubscribed by 40%.

Equity (excluding minority interests) at 31 December was NOK 18.1 billion, up by NOK 600 million from the previous quarter. It represented a reduction of NOK 3.8 billion from 31 December 2005, primarily reflecting impairment charges taken to the accounts in the third quarter. Gearing – net interest-bearing debt divided by equity – was 0.96 at 31 December.

DOWNGRADING BY STANDARD & POOR'S

The Standard & Poor's rating agency in November downgraded Norske Skog's debt to BB+ "Stable Outlook" from BBB- "Negative Outlook". At the same time, Norske Skog's rating was removed from the "CreditWatch", where it had been placed on 20 October 2006. According to a press release from the agency, this change was made because Norske Skog had failed to meet the financial performance specified for the previous rating.

The change has no consequences for interest charges on Norske Skog's existing long-term debt or credit facilities.

Investment in Brazil

The board of Norske Skog resolved in December to transfer a paper machine from Union in Skien to Norske Skog Pisa in Brazil. This will boost the company's annual Brazilian production capacity from 185 000 tonnes to 385 000.

Costed at USD 210 million (about NOK 1.3 billion), the project will be financed by cash flow from operations. It will fall within the normal annual investment frame of NOK 1.5-2 billion. In addition to its transfer, the machine is to be upgraded and have its capacity increased. The project also covers necessary buildings and a new TMP line to boost output of wood pulp for paper-making. The supply of fibre has been secured through long-term agreements at advantageous prices. Once the new paper machine has been installed, the number of employees at the mill will be increased by roughly 100 people. Subject to the necessary approvals being secured from the Brazilian authorities in the first half of 2007, the Union machine could be operational at Norske Skog Pisa by early 2009.

Brazilian newsprint consumption has risen by 5% per annum since 2003 and will top 500 000 tonnes this year. About two-thirds of this is imported. Norske Skog's profitability in the South America region is good, with a gross operating margin of 29% for 2006.

Investigation concluded

Investigations were launched in May 2004 against Norske Skog and other paper manufacturers for alleged breaches of EU competition rules. The European Commission's competition authority announced in November that this inquiry had been completed and the case dismissed.

Plan to improve earnings

The plan aims to achieve an increase of NOK 3 billion in gross operating earnings for the Norske Skog group by the end of 2008, compared with the 2005 level and 2005 market and cost conditions. Roughly speaking, the plan comprises the following elements:

- Cost reductions based on restructuring the mill portfolio, with effects from the closure of Norske Skog Union largely realised in 2006. The remainder will primarily come in 2007.
- Demanning by 1 000 jobs in addition to more than 600 employees who have left as a result of implemented closures. Reductions at head office and regional offices have largely been completed, while the process is under way in the various business units. It is due for completion during 2008.
- Measures to improve productivity and cost reductions in procurement, energy optimisation, sales and logistics. Measures were originally identified in more than 40 areas, but a number of other improvement proposals have been made in the subsequent process which involves the business units. To the extent that improvement measures require investment, this will fall within the framework of normal capital spending by the group.

A team of productivity experts has carried out a design study at Norske Skog Jeonju. A pilot has since been carried out at Norske Skog Golbey, with good results. The programme (Norske Skog Production Systems) will later be rolled out at the other mills.

The profit improvement programme is progressing as planned. Gross operating earnings for 2006 were positively affected by NOK 400 million compared with 2005 as a result of initiatives already implemented. Detailed plans exist at each business unit for implementing the programme, and these plans are incorporated in the group's system for performance measurement.

Performance-based remuneration is practised to a considerable extent in Norske Skog, and takes the form of bonus payments if specified targets are met. In connection with the plan to improve earnings, a special bonus programme will be established for all group employees. This programme will be based on the overall improvement in the group's earnings.

Proposals for an amended, long-term incentive programme for corporate management will be put to the annual general meeting.

Share developments

The Norske Skog share has become increasingly liquid in recent years, and a total of 262 million were traded during 2006. That represented a turnover rate of 1.36, which was slightly higher than in 2005. The foreign shareholding at 31 December was 67%, compared with 57% at 31 December 2005. It was in excess of 70% at 31 January.

At 31 December, the Norsk Skog share price was marginally higher than a year earlier. Roughly speaking, the price fell in the first half and rose in the second. Including dividend, the share gave 6.6% return for 2006.

Health and safety

The lost-time injury (LTI) frequency per million working hours was 1.3 for the 12 months from 31 December 2005 to 31 December 2006. Seven of Norske Skog's 18 mills had zero injuries during the period. The LTI frequency for the calendar year 2005 was also 1.3.

Operations and market

Total deliveries from Norske Skog's mills in the fourth quarter were 4% up from the previous three months, reflecting a seasonal increase in European demand. Production and deliveries for the full year totalled just over six million tonnes, up by 10% and 12% respectively from the same period of last year. To achieve comparability, corrections must be made for factors relating to Asia, Norske Skog Union and Norske Skog Tasman. Taking these into account, overall volumes were roughly on a par with 2005.

EUROPE – NEWSPRINT

KEY FIGURES:

		Q4/06	Q3/06	Q4/05	2006	2005
Op revenues	NOK mill	2 446	2 159	2 186	9 072	8 594
Gross op earn	NOK mill	466	465	309	1 742	1 321
Net op earn	NOK mill	244	223	37	768	274
Gross op margin %		19.1	21.5	14.1	19.2	15.4
Deliveries	1 000 t	567	508	568	2 176	2 235
Production	1 000 t	537	538	529	2 151	2 228
Production/capacity %		99	99	87	97	92

Gross operating earnings were on a par with the previous quarter, while net operating earnings rose as a result of lower depreciation owing to new estimates for remaining economic life. This reflects a sharp improvement in earnings compared with 2005 owing to higher prices and lower fixed costs following the closure of Norske Skog Union. These positive effects were countered to some extent by cost increases, primarily for energy.

Demand for standard and improved newsprint in Europe during 2006 rose by 1.9% from the preceding year. While demand remained virtually unchanged in the two biggest markets, Germany and the UK, it increased in most other countries and – as in earlier periods – particularly sharply in the former Eastern Bloc nations.

EUROPE – MAGAZINE PAPER

KEY FIGURES:

		Q4/06	Q3/06	Q4/05	2006	2005
Op revenues	NOK mill	1 855	1 748	1 776	6 748	6 884
Gross op earn	NOK mill	226	277	220	933	1 089
Net op earn	NOK mill	80	106	93	282	446
Gross op margin %		12.2	15.8	12.4	13.8	15.8
Deliveries	1 000 t	338	318	334	1 247	1 300
Production	1 000 t	328	320	325	1 279	1 330
Production/capacity %		96	93	93	93	95

Earnings were weak in the fourth quarter, reflecting lower prices for coated magazine paper as well as higher maintenance costs. As with Europe newsprint, depreciation was reduced.

Total demand for magazine paper in Europe increased by 2.5% in 2006 compared with the year before. Demand grew more strongly for uncoated (SC) than for coated (CMR) magazine paper through most of the year. It increased by 20% in Eastern Europe, but this region accounts for only 10% of the total European market for magazine paper.

PAN ASIA PAPER

KEY FIGURES:

		Q4/06	Q3/06	Q4/05	2006	2005
Op revenues	NOK mill	1 577	1 572	1 107	6 096	2 962
Gross op earn	NOK mill	290	272	170	1 072	522
Net op earn	NOK mill	110	84	23	327	149
Gross op margin %		18.4	17.3	15.4	17.6	17.6
Deliveries	1 000 t	397	406	281	1 562	763
Production	1 000 t	376	405	274	1 553	779
Production/capacity %		84	91	82	87	84

Earnings in Asia remained weak, despite a small improvement from the third quarter. The closure of PM 1 and PM 4 at Norske Skog Jeonju in Korea had a marginally positive effect in the fourth quarter. As in previous quarters, account must be taken when comparing with 2005 of the fact that PanAsia was consolidated 50% up to mid-November 2005 and that the new mill in China's Hebei province began production in July 2005 and was depreciated from that September.

In volume terms, 2006 was a good year in Asia. Preliminary figures show an increase of 3.5% in newsprint demand from 2005. The estimated increase in China was 7%, and the total annual market for newsprint passed three million tonnes.

AUSTRALASIA

KEY FIGURES:

		Q4/06	Q3/06	Q4/05	2006	2005
Op revenues	NOK mill	1 048	989	1 019	3 897	4 022
Gross op earn	NOK mill	246	240	164	719	804
Net op earn	NOK mill	88	73	(39)	68	70
Gross op margin %		23.5	24.3	16.1	18.5	20.0
Deliveries	1 000 t	211	209	214	827	853
Production	1 000 t	203	204	226	798	876
Production/capacity %		90	91	100	89	97

Earnings for the segment were on a par with the previous three-month period, but represent a marked improvement on the fourth quarter of 2005 when energy prices in New Zealand were extremely high.

Demand for newsprint in Australasia declined by 3% from 2005 to 2006. A price increase of 6.5% for newsprint was implemented in New Zealand from 1 January 2007, based on the current price formula.

SOUTH AMERICA

KEY FIGURES:

		Q4/06	Q3/06	Q4/05	2006	2005
Op revenues	NOK mill	375	364	339	1 399	1 230
Gross op earn	NOK mill	180	108	43	469	269
Net op earn	NOK mill	131	68	(5)	289	79
Gross op margin %		48.0	29.7	12.7	33.5	21.9
Deliveries	1 000 t*	76	75	76	294	286
Production	1 000 t	76	75	74	297	290
Production/capacity %		98	97	95	96	94

* Only from mills in the region.

This segment comprises only deliveries from the mills in the region. Gross and net operating earnings in the table above include NOK 60 million taken to income from a provision made in 2005 for a dispute over grid cost. This should be excluded when making comparisons, but earnings are satisfactory even after it has been taken into account and reflect lower costs as well as persistently good market conditions.

Demand developed well in South America throughout 2006, rising by 10% from 2005. The increase was 8% in Brazil, which is the largest single market.

Proposal for dividend in 2006

The board proposes a dividend of NOK 5.50 per share for 2006, unchanged from the year before. The total dividend amounts to NOK 1 040 million and will be paid to shareholders registered at the time of the annual general meeting on 12 April 2007.

Lysaker, 6 February 2007
The board of directors of Norske Skogindustrier ASA

Profit and loss account

NOK million	Oct - Dec 06	Oct - Dec 05	2006	2005
Operating revenue	7 719	7 107	28 827	25 726
Distribution costs	(630)	(616)	(2 521)	(2 349)
Other operating expenses	(5 762)	(5 627)	(21 542)	(19 432)
Other gains and losses	14	219	(273)	275
Provision for restructuring costs	(45)	(270)	(484)	(270)
Gross operating earnings	1 296	813	4 007	3 950
Depreciation and amortisation	(729)	(828)	(3 226)	(3 072)
Impairments	-	(179)	(3 308)	(248)
Operating earnings	567	(194)	(2 527)	630
Earnings/(loss) from affiliated companies [1]	-	(736)	202	(751)
Financial items	(249)	(197)	(1 155)	(883)
Earnings/(loss) before taxation	318	(1 127)	(3 480)	(1 004)
Taxation	(109)	127	463	156
Net earnings/(loss)	209	(1 000)	(3 017)	(848)
The minority's share of net earnings/(loss)	(36)	(3)	(208)	6
The majority's share of net earnings/(loss)	245	(997)	(2 809)	(854)
Earnings per share	1.30	(5.75)	(14.84)	(5.98)

[1] Earnings/(loss) from affiliated companies are included after taxation.

Cash flow statement

NOK million	Oct - Dec 06	Oct - Dec 05	2006	2005
Cash flow from operating activities				
Cash generated from operations	7 652	7 317	28 905	25 877
Cash used in operations	(6 330)	(5 954)	(24 608)	(21 906)
Cash from net financial items	(593)	(249)	(1 365)	(845)
Taxes paid	(56)	(87)	(169)	(65)
Net cash flow from operating activities	673	1 027	2 763	3 061
Cash flow from investing activities				
Investments in operational fixed assets	(589)	(807)	(1 722)	(2 230)
Sales of operational fixed assets	2	12	11	21
Net cash from sold shares in other companies	-	96	1 213	100
Net cash used on acquisitions of shares in other companies	-	(3 905)	-	(3 905)
Net cash flow from investing activities	(587)	(4 604)	(498)	(6 014)
Cash flow from financing activities				
Net change in long-term liabilities	(2 765)	40	(3 977)	(348)
Net change in current liabilities	2 450	(143)	2 343	257
Dividend paid [1]	-	-	(1 046)	(807)
New equity [2]	-	3 840	-	3 840
Net cash flow from financing activities	(315)	3 737	(2 680)	2 942
Translation difference	(6)	7	(1)	24
Total change in liquid assets	(235)	167	(416)	13

[1] The amounts include dividend paid to minority shareholders in PanAsia.
[2] The amount in 2005 is related to the acquisition of the remaining 50% of the shares in PanAsia Paper Company.

Balance sheet

NOK million	31.12.06	31.12.05	31.12.04
ASSETS			
Intangible fixed assets	3 056	4 837	4 745
Biological assets	230	191	252
Operational fixed assets	33 317	35 799	29 753
Investments in affiliated companies	333	1 415	1 858
Deferred tax asset	216	324	58
Other long-term receivables	426	670	391
Derivatives [1)]	75	504	-
Total non-current assets	37 653	43 740	37 057
Inventory	2 688	2 860	2 299
Receivables	4 054	4 253	4 050
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	128	450	470
Cash and cash equivalents	357	452	419
Derivatives [1)]	350	278	-
Total current assets	7 577	8 293	7 238
Total assets	45 230	52 033	44 295
EQUITY			
Equity	18 100	21 966	19 009
Minority interests	450	713	186
Total equity	18 550	22 679	19 195
LIABILITIES			
Deferred tax	1 804	2 776	2 419
Interest-bearing long-term debt	14 712	17 525	17 042
Non interest-bearing long-term liabilities	2 286	1 247	1 032
Derivatives	319	152	-
Total non-current liabilities	19 121	21 700	20 493
Interest-bearing current debt	3 113	2 587	718
Tax liabilities	123	140	31
Trade and other payables	4 029	4 668	3 858
Derivatives	294	259	-
Total current liabilities	7 559	7 654	4 607
Total liabilities	26 680	29 354	25 100
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	45 230	52 033	44 295

[1)]The gain on interest rate swaps fair value hedge is NOK 20 million.

Financial key figures

	Definitions	2006	2005	2004
Net operating margin	1	(8.8)	2.4	4.1
Gross operating margin	2	13.9	15.4	16.8
Return on capital employed		3.7	2.8	3.2
Equity ratio %	3	41.0	43.6	43.3
Equity ratio excl minority interests %	4	40.0	42.2	42.9
Net interest-bearing debt	5,8	17 320	19 063	16 871
Net interest-bearing debt/equity	5,8	0.93	0.84	0.88
Net interest-bearing debt/equity excl minority interests	5,8	0.96	0.87	0.89
Earnings per share after taxes	6	(14.84)	(5.98)	4.69
Cash flow per share after taxes	7	14.60	21.42	22.04

Definitions:
1 : Net operating margin = operating earnings / operating revenue
2 : Gross operating margin = gross operating earnings / operating revenue
3 : Equity ratio = shareholders' equity / total assets
4 : Equity ratio excl. minority interests = (shareholders' equity - minority interests) / total assets
5 : Net interest bearing debt = Interest bearing debt - cash and cash equivalents - current investments - interest rate swaps fair value hedge
6 : Earnings per share after taxes = net earnings / average number of shares
7 : Cash flow per share after taxes = net cash flow from operating activities / average number of shares
8 : Fair value hedge = a hedge of the exposure to changes in fair value of a recognised asset or liability that is attributable to a particular risk and could affect profit or loss.

Revenue and profit by area

OPERATING REVENUE

NOK million	Oct - Dec 06	Oct - Dec 05	2006	2005
Europe				
Newsprint	2 446	2 186	9 072	8 594
Magazine paper	1 855	1 776	6 748	6 884
Total Europe	4 301	3 962	15 820	15 478
Asia				
Newsprint	1 577	1 107	6 096	2 962
Australasia				
Newsprint	1 048	1 019	3 897	4 022
South America				
Newsprint	375	339	1 399	1 230
Other activities				
Other industry in Norway	2	157	110	586
Other revenues	502	623	1 943	1 840
Total other activities	504	780	2 053	2 426
Staff/eliminations	(86)	(100)	(438)	(392)
Total group	7 719	7 107	28 827	25 726

GROSS OPERATING EARNINGS

NOK million	Oct - Dec 06	Oct - Dec 05	2006	2005
Europe				
Newsprint	466	309	1 742	1 321
Magazine paper	226	220	933	1 089
Total Europe	692	529	2 675	2 410
Asia				
Newsprint	290	170	1 072	522
Australasia				
Newsprint	246	164	719	804
South America				
Newsprint	180	43	469	269
Other activities				
Other industry in Norway	-	25	11	65
Staff/eliminations	(81)	(56)	(182)	(114)
Gain on power trading and energy hedging	14	208	(273)	264
Restructuring costs	(45)	(270)	(484)	(270)
Total group	1 296	813	4 007	3 950

OPERATING EARNINGS

NOK million	Oct - Dec 06	Oct - Dec 05	2006	2005
Europe				
Newsprint	244	37	768	274
Magazine paper	80	93	282	446
Total Europe	324	130	1 050	720
Asia				
Newsprint	110	23	327	149
Australasia				
Newsprint	88	(39)	68	70
South America				
Newsprint	131	(5)	289	79
Other activities				
Other industry in Norway	-	17	6	33
Staff/eliminations	(55)	(79)	(202)	(167)
Gain on power trading and energy hedging	14	208	(273)	264
Impairments	-	(179)	(3 308)	(248)
Restructuring costs	(45)	(270)	(484)	(270)
Total group	567	(194)	(2 527)	630

PRODUCTION BY PRODUCT/AREA

1 000 tonnes	Oct - Dec 06	Oct - Dec 05	2006	2005
Europe				
Newsprint	537	529	2 151	2 228
Magazine paper	328	325	1 279	1 330
Asia				
Newsprint	376	274	1 553	779
Australasia				
Newsprint	203	226	798	876
South America				
Newsprint	76	74	297	290
Total newsprint	1 192	1 103	4 799	4 173
Total magazine paper	328	325	1 279	1 330
Total publication paper	1 520	1 428	6 078	5 503

DELIVERIES BY PRODUCT/AREA

1 000 tonnes	Oct - Dec 06	Oct - Dec 05	2006	2005
Europe				
Newsprint	567	568	2 176	2 235
Magazine paper	338	334	1 247	1 300
Asia				
Newsprint	397	281	1 562	763
Australasia				
Newsprint	211	214	827	853
South America				
Newsprint	76	76	294	286
Total newsprint	1 251	1 139	4 859	4 137
Total magazine paper	338	334	1 247	1 300
Total publication paper	1 589	1 473	6 106	5 437

EBITDA / EBIT

These tables show gross and net operating earnings under IFRS, adjusted for impairments, changes in the value of power contracts, and restructuring costs (- equals gain, + equals loss).

NOK million	4/06	3/06	4/05	2006	2005
Gross op earnings, IFRS	**1 296**	**840**	**813**	**4 007**	**3 950**
Reversals:					
Prov. for energy cost S.America	-60	-	+50	-60	+50
Value changes power contracts	-14	+106	-208	+273	-264
Restructuring costs	+45	+376	+270	+484	+270
Gross op earnings, adjusted	**1 267**	**1 322**	**925**	**4 704**	**4 006**
Gross op margin, adjusted %	16.4	18.4	13.0	16.3	15.6

NOK million	4/06	3/06	4/05	2006	2005
Net op earnings, IFRS	**567**	**-3 252**	**-194**	**-2 527**	**630**
Reversals:					
Prov. for energy cost S.America	-60	-	+50	-60	+50
Value changes power contracts	-14	+106	-208	+273	-264
Restructuring costs	+45	+376	+270	+484	+270
Impairments	-	+3 265	+179	+3 308	+248
Net op earnings, adjusted	**538**	**495**	**97**	**1 478**	**934**
Net op margins, adjusted %	7.0	6.9	1.4	5.1	3.6

Quarterly comparisons

NOK million	4Q06	3Q06	2Q06	1Q06	4Q05	3Q05	2Q05	1Q05	4Q04
Operating revenue	7 719	7 192	6 772	7 144	7 107	6 425	6 433	5 761	6 608
Restructuring costs	(45)	(376)	(63)	-	(270)	-	-	-	-
Gross operating earnings	1 296	840	832	1 039	813	1 059	1 062	1 016	1 041
Depreciation and amortisation	(729)	(827)	(803)	(867)	(828)	(740)	(748)	(756)	(726)
Impairments	-	(3 265)	(43)	-	(179)	-	(58)	(11)	57
Operating earnings	567	(3 252)	(14)	172	(194)	319	256	249	372
Earnings/(loss) before taxation	318	(3 779)	(213)	194	(1 127)	177	31	(85)	320
Majority's share of net earn/(loss)	245	(3 087)	(180)	213	(997)	193	(8)	(42)	545

QUARTERLY COMPARISONS

NOK million	4Q06	3Q06	2Q06	1Q06	4Q05	3Q05	2Q05	1Q05	4Q04
Operating revenue									
Europe	4 301	3 907	3 666	3 946	3 962	3 990	3 924	3 602	4 107
Asia	1 577	1 572	1 409	1 538	1 107	658	636	561	650
Australasia	1 048	989	973	887	1 019	1 028	1 056	919	1 015
South America	375	364	321	339	339	320	300	271	315
Other activities	504	475	535	539	780	505	597	544	634
Staff/eliminations	(86)	(115)	(132)	(105)	(100)	(76)	(80)	(136)	(113)
Total operating revenue	7 719	7 192	6 772	7 144	7 107	6 425	6 433	5 761	6 608
Gross operating earnings									
Europe	692	742	566	675	529	663	579	639	582
Asia	290	272	268	242	170	119	132	101	109
Australasia	246	240	167	66	164	215	196	229	269
South America	180	108	92	89	43	77	74	75	114
Other activities	-	-	-	11	25	12	12	16	29
Staff/eliminations	(81)	(40)	(12)	(49)	(56)	(15)	(23)	(20)	(62)
Gain on power trading and energy hedging	14	(106)	(186)	5	208	(12)	92	(24)	-
Restructuring costs	(45)	(376)	(63)	-	(270)	-	-	-	-
Total gross operating earn	1 296	840	832	1 039	813	1 059	1 062	1 016	1 041
Operating earnings									
Europe	324	329	163	234	130	241	148	201	160
Asia	110	84	83	50	23	43	56	27	45
Australasia	88	73	12	(105)	(39)	39	22	48	99
South America	131	68	48	42	(5)	29	26	29	63
Other activities	-	-	-	6	17	4	4	8	21
Staff/eliminations	(55)	(59)	(28)	(60)	(79)	(25)	(34)	(29)	(73)
Impairments	-	(3 265)	(43)	-	(179)	-	(58)	(11)	57
Gain on power trading and energy hedging	14	(106)	(186)	5	208	(12)	92	(24)	-
Restructuring costs	(45)	(376)	(63)	-	(270)	-	-	-	-
Total operating earnings	567	(3 252)	(14)	172	(194)	319	256	249	372

Change in equity

NOK million	Share capital	Other paid-in equity	Retained earnings	Total
Total equity excluding minority interests 1 January 2006	1 899	10 410	9 657	21 966
Currency translation adjustments and other	-	-	(39)	(39)
Share issues	-	-	-	-
Change in holding of own shares	2	-	21	23
Dividend paid	-	-	(1 041)	(1 041)
Net profit for the period	-	-	(2 809)	(2 809)
Total equity excluding minority interests at 31 December 2006	**1 901**	**10 410**	**5 789**	**18 100**

ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

The interim financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2006 are presented in accordance with IAS 34. The interim financial statements, including comparative figures, are based on today's IFRS standards and interpretations.

The accounting principles applied in these interim financial statements are the same as those applied in the financial statements at 31 December 2005 and for the year ending at that date.

ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES, JUDGEMENTS AND ASSUMPTIONS

The group prepares estimates and makes judgements and assumptions about the future. Accounting estimates derived from these will by definition seldom accord fully with the final outcome.

Estimates and the underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. The effects of changes in accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimates are revised. If the change in estimates also has an effect on future periods, these effects are recognised in the period in which the estimates are revised and in the future periods in which the changes in estimates have an effect.

The same judgements and assumptions have been made when applying accounting policies and preparing estimates in preparing these interim financial statements as when preparing the financial statements at 31 December 2005 and for the year ending at that date.

CHANGE OF RESTRUCTURING COST IN THIRD QUARTER ACCOUNTS

In the third quarter accounts NOK 600 million were expensed as part of the ongoing restructuring activities in the group. This estimate has subsequent to the presentation of the third quarter results been changed. Following this change the total restructuring costs for 2006 amounts to NOK 484 million, of which NOK 63 million accrued in second quarter, NOK 376 million in third quarter and NOK 45 million in fourth quarter

DIVESTMENTS

Norske Skog's investment in Catalyst Paper was sold in mid-February 2006. This investment has been classified as an investment in affiliates. The book value of the investment was written down to the estimated sales price in the annual accounts for 2005. This implies that no gain or loss from the sale is recognised in the profit and loss account in 2006. The line item "Earnings from affiliates" includes a recognition of cumulative exchange rate differences related to the investment in Catalyst Paper which have been recognised directly in equity during the ownership of this investment. According to IAS 21, these cumulative exchange rate differences should be presented in the profit and loss account at the time of the disposal of the investment. These cumulative exchange rate differences amount to NOK 148 million.

Forestia AS was sold in March 2006. A letter of intent was signed with the buyer of Forestia at the time when the annual accounts for 2005 were being prepared. The value of the assets in Forestia was written down to the agreed sales price in the annual accounts for 2005. A loss of NOK 9 million on the sale of Forestia is recognised in the Q1 interim financial statements. The total loss related to the sale of Forestia, including the write-down in the annual accounts for 2005, amounts to NOK 33 million.

Norske Skog's investment in Nordic Paper AS was sold in February 2006. This was classified as an investment in affiliates. Norske Skog has recognised a gain of NOK 30 million in the profit and loss account for the first quarter of 2006 related to this divestment.

Pro forma figures

The acquisition of the remaining 50 % of PanAsia was closed in November 2005. PanAsia is consolidated 100 % into the Norske Skog Group accounts from the acquisition date. The below numbers show the consolidated profit and loss accounts for Norske Skog as if PanAsia had been consolidated 100% into the Norske Skog Group accounts from 1 January 2005.

NOK million	Oct - Dec 05	2005
Operating revenue	8 022	28 871
Distribution costs	(668)	(2 536)
Other operating expenses	(6 176)	(21 655)
Provision for restructuring costs	(270)	(270)
Gross operating earnings	908	4 410
Depreciation and amortisation	(669)	(3 181)
Impairments	(179)	(248)
Operating earnings	60	981
Earnings/(loss) from affiliated companies	(736)	(751)
Financial items	(217)	(963)
Earnings/(loss) before taxation	(893)	(733)
Taxation	64	64
Net earnings/(loss)	(829)	(669)
The minority's share of net earnings/(loss)	(6)	12
The majority's share of net earnings/(loss)	(823)	(681)

Special items

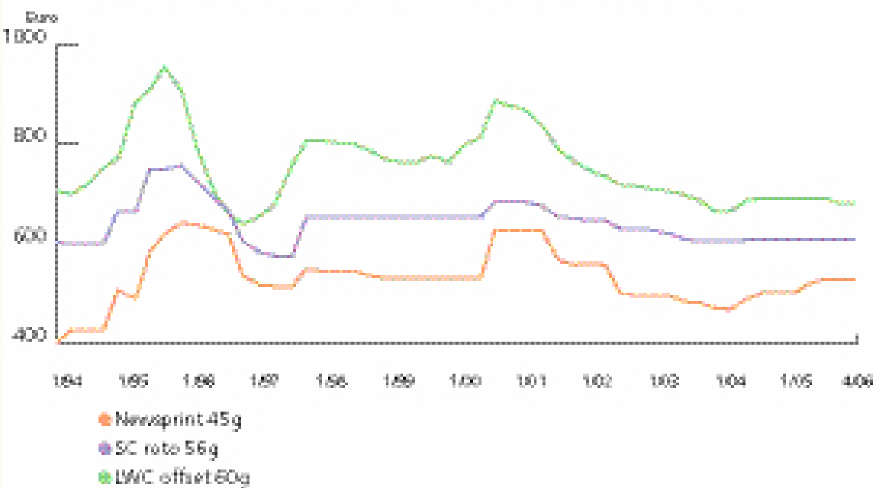
The table below shows special items which have influenced net earnings over the past five quarters.

NOK million	4/06	3/06	2/06	1/06	4/05
Restructuring provision (op earnings)	(45)	(376)	(63)	-	(270)
Impairments (op earnings)	-	(3 265)	(43)	-	-
Translation effects on accounts receivable and payable (op earnings)	(36)	30	(33)	(21)	23
Change in market value of interest rate derivatives (financial items)	14	(17)	11	30	24
Currency hedging gain/(loss) (financial items)	30	(232)	47	44	(15)

The Norske Skog share

Key figures	January-June 2006						At 06.02.2007	
	02.01.06	31.12.06	High	Low	Earnings per share	Booked equity per share	Share price	Market value NOK mill
NOK	**106,00**	**107,50**	**114,00**	**83,00**	**1,30**	**95,60**	**116,00**	**22 034**

Price development newsprint, SC, LWC - Germany



Share price development 2000-2006

Return:

Norske Skogindustrier ASA

Oksenøyveien 80
P O Box 329, NO-1326 Lysaker, Norway
Phone: +47 67 59 90 00
Fax: +47 67 59 91 81

www.norskeskog.com

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Design & print:
Vestfjorden Grafisk AS

Photo:
Håvard Solerød, Kaia Means

Front page:
Norske Skog collaborates with newspaper publishers in Brazil on the use of their products in education. Over a three-year period, 18 million schoolchildren are to be provided with newspapers and teaching materials. This classroom is in a school at Jaguariavia, home of the Norske Skog Pisa mill.