

# **OUR BUSINESS**

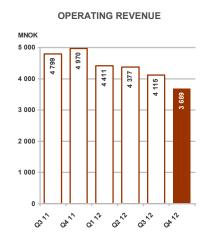
Norske Skog is a world leading producer of newsprint and magazine paper. The group has 11 fully or partly owned mills in 9 countries and an annual production capacity of approximately 3.7 million tonnes. Through sales offices and agents, newsprint and magazine paper is sold to over 80 countries. The group has 4 000 employees.

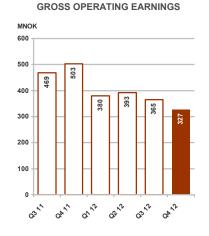
The parent company, Norske Skogindustrier ASA, is incorporated in Norway and has its head office at Lysaker outside of Oslo. The company is listed on the Oslo Stock Exchange.

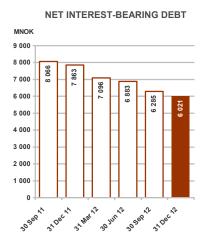
# **KEY FIGURES (UNAUDITED)**

All amounts are presented in NOK million unless otherwise stated

| All amounts are presented in NOK million unless otherwi | se stated.   |              |              |             |             |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
|   | OCT-DEC 2012 | JUL-SEP 2012 | OCT-DEC 2011 | YTD 2012    | YTD 2011    |
| INCOME STATEMENT  |              |              |              |             |             |
| Operating revenue                                       | 3 689        | 4 115        | 4 970        | 16 592      | 18 904      |
| Gross operating earnings                                | 327          | 365          | 503          | 1 464       | 1 515       |
| Operating earnings                                      | -1 758       | -455         | -841         | -2 684      | -2 701      |
| Profit/loss for the period                              | -1 914       | -433         | -592         | -2 781      | -2 545      |
| Earnings per share (NOK)                                | -10.07       | -2.28        | -3.12        | -14.63      | -13.36      |
| CASH FLOW   |              |              |              |             |             |
| Net cash flow from operating activities                 | 247          | 463          | 409          | 982         | 455         |
| Net cash flow from investing activities                 | -73          | -86          | -104         | 300         | 470         |
| Cash flow per share (NOK)                               | 1.30         | 2.44         | 2.15         | 5.18        | 2.4         |
| OPERATING MARGIN AND PROFITABILITY (%)                  |              |              |              |             |             |
| Gross operating margin                                  | 8.9          | 8.9          | 10.1         | 8.8         | 8.0         |
| Return on capital employed                              | 0.9          | 1.0          | 0.9          | 4.2         | -0.9        |
| Return on equity  | -35.5        | -6.4         | -7.7         | -47.3       | -28.9       |
| Return on assets  | -10.0        | -3.2         | -1.8         | -14.6       | -8.7        |
| PRODUCTION / DELIVERIES / CAPACITY UTILISATION          |              |              |              |             |             |
| Production (1 000 tonnes)                               | 814          | 904          | 961          | 3 555       | 3 832       |
| Deliveries (1 000 tonnes)                               | 848          | 901          | 1 020        | 3 588       | 3 857       |
| Production / capacity (%)                               | 87           | 90           | 87           | 88          | 87          |
|   | 31 DEC 2012  | 30 SEP 2012  | 30 JUN 2012  | 31 MAR 2012 | 31 DEC 2011 |
| BALANCE SHEET   |              |              |              |             |             |
| Non-current assets                                      | 11 411       | 13 746       | 14 267       | 14 342      | 15 803      |
| Current assets  | 4 650        | 4 834        | 5 467        | 5 883       | 6 171       |
| Total assets  | 16 061       | 18 580       | 19 734       | 20 224      | 21 974      |
| Equity  | 4 314        | 6 459        | 7 044        | 7 031       | 7 433       |
| Net interest-bearing debt                               | 6 021        | 6 285        | 6 883        | 7 096       | 7 863       |







# REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2012

- Fourth quarter of 2012: Gross operating earnings NOK 327 million (NOK 365 million in the third quarter of 2012). Decline due to muted seasonal effect, NOK appreciation and active capacity management
- Cash flow from operating activities NOK 382 million before net financial payments in the quarter
- Net interest-bearing debt reduced by NOK 264 million to NOK 6 021 million in the quarter. Total debt reduction in 2012 of NOK 1 842 million
- Impairment charge of NOK 1 649 million

### INCOME STATEMENT

|                                 | OCT-DEC 2012 | JUL-SEP 2012 | OCT-DEC 2011 | YTD 2012 | YTD 2011 |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| Operating revenue               | 3 689        | 4 115        | 4 970        | 16 592   | 18 904   |
| Gross operating earnings *)     | 327          | 365          | 503          | 1 464    | 1 515    |
| Depreciation                    | -223         | -231         | -365         | -935     | -1 658   |
| Operating earnings              | -1 758       | -455         | -841         | -2 684   | -2 701   |
| Profit/loss before income taxes | -1 801       | -453         | -996         | -2 849   | -3 132   |
| Profit/loss for the period      | -1 914       | -433         | -592         | -2 781   | -2 545   |

<sup>\*)</sup> Operating earnings before depreciation, restructuring expenses, other gains and losses and impairments.

Group operating revenue was lower, both compared to the previous quarter and to the same period in 2011. The decline mainly reflected lower production capacity in the group, resulting in reduced deliveries. During 2012, the group closed Norske Skog Follum and sold Norske Skog Bio Bio and Norske Skog Parenco.

The variable cost level was somewhat below the previous quarter, and lower compared to the same period in 2011. Variable costs consist mainly of energy and fibre (wood, recovered paper and pulp). Fixed costs showed a clear decrease, due to reduced group capacity and cost reduction efforts. The annualised level of fixed costs was NOK 3.4 billion in the fourth quarter, down from NOK 4.1 billion in the last quarter of 2011.

Gross operating earnings decreased somewhat from the third quarter and showed a marked decline compared with the same period in 2011. Magazine paper had the weakest development, followed by newsprint Europe. Newsprint outside Europe improved slightly.

Depreciation was NOK 223 million in the quarter, a small reduction from the previous quarter due to impairment of one machine at Norske Skog Tasman. The depreciation level was significantly lower when compared to the same quarter in 2011.

Other gains and losses and impairment charges contributed to an overall negative result for the period.

Year-to-date global demand for newsprint had decreased by 3% at the end of November compared to the same period in 2011. For magazine paper, there was a decline of 5%.

Capacity utilisation for the group was 87% (90% in the third quarter) with active capacity management.

### SPECIAL ITEMS IN OPERATING EARNINGS

|                        | OCT-DEC 2012 | JUL-SEP 2012 | OCT-DEC 2011 | YTD 2012 | YTD 2011 |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| Restructuring expenses | 14           | -122         | -361         | -118     | -387     |
| Other gains and losses | -228         | -65          | -532         | -1 009   | -201     |
| Impairments            | -1 649       | -403         | -86          | -2 086   | -1 969   |

Other gains and losses in the quarter were essentially related to a reduction in the value of energy contracts recognised in the balance sheet.

Total impairment losses of NOK 1 649 million have been recognised in the interim financial statements for the fourth quarter. The impairment losses consist of NOK 1 071 million related to the segment newsprint outside Europe and NOK 578 million related to the magazine paper segment. The impairments have mainly arisen as a result of lower sales price expectations and reduced cash flow horizon.

Norske Skog has made some changes with respect to how value in use is calculated in the impairment testing performed at 31 December

2012. The adjusted present value model (APV) for calculating the present value of future cash flows has been replaced by a weighted average cost of capital model (WACC). When calculating value in use at the end of 2012, the discount rate after tax was in the interval from 6.3% to 14.6%. The cash flow horizon in the impairment model is consistent with the useful life of each paper machine in the group. The board-approved operating plan for 2013 forms the basis for calculating expected future cash flows. In the impairment testing, sales prices are assumed to exhibit a decline in real terms and variable costs are assumed to decline in real terms, with lower demand for input factors due to a shrinking industry.

Further information regarding impairments is given in Note 3.

## FINANCIAL ITEMS

|   | OCT-DEC 2012 | JUL-SEP 2012 | OCT-DEC 2011 | YTD 2012 | YTD 2011 |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| Net interest expenses incl. realised gain/loss on interest rate derivatives | -138         | -155         | -147         | -581     | -674     |
| Unrealised gain/loss on interest rate derivatives                           | -2           | -1           | -3           | -4       | -22      |
| Net interest expenses   | -141         | -156         | -150         | -585     | -696     |
| Currency gains/losses *)  | 97           | 225          | -146         | 359      | -43      |
| Other financial items   | -6           | 16           | -62          | 130      | 110      |
| Total financial items   | -49          | 86           | -358         | -96      | -629     |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1)</sup> Currency gains and losses on accounts receivable and accounts payable are reported as Operating revenue and Cost of materials respectively.

Net interest expenses were NOK 141 million in the quarter, a slight reduction from the previous quarter. Currency gains of NOK 97 million

related to cash flow hedging and currency gains on interest-bearing debt that does not qualify for hedge accounting.

### **CASH FLOW**

|  | OCT-DEC 2012 | JUL-SEP 2012 | OCT-DEC 2011 | YTD 2012 | YTD 2011 |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| Gross operating earnings   | 327          | 365          | 503          | 1 464    | 1 515    |
| Change in working capital and adjustments *)                                       | 83           | 187          | 125          | 312      | - 382    |
| Cash from net financial items  | -135         | -87          | -182         | -729     | -557     |
| Taxes paid   | -28          | -2           | -38          | -64      | -121     |
| Net cash flow from operating activities  | 247          | 463          | 409          | 982      | 455      |
| Purchases of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets                   | -201         | -106         | -165         | -492     | -490     |
| Sales of property, plant and equipment, shares in companies, financial assets etc. | 128          | 11           | 94           | 782      | 246      |

<sup>1</sup> Includes items with no cash effect included in Gross operating earnings, items with cash effect included in Other gains and losses and payments made relating to restructuring activities.

Net cash flow from operating activities was NOK 247 million in the quarter, derived from gross operating earnings, release of working capital and payable interest and tax in the period. Cash flow from operating activities before net financial payments was NOK 382 million in the quarter.

Purchases of property, plant and equipment related to a machine conversion project, energy efficiency investments and ordinary maintenance investments. Sales of property, plant and equipment reflected sales proceeds from the divestment of Norske Skog Parenco and disposal of water rights in Norway.

### **BALANCE SHEET**

|  | 31 DEC 2012 | 30 SEP 2012 | 31 DEC 2011 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Non-current assets                         | 11 411      | 13 746      | 15 803      |
| Cash and cash equivalents                  | 1 194       | 1 028       | 1 200       |
| Other current assets                       | 3 456       | 3 806       | 4 971       |
| Total assets                               | 16 061      | 18 580      | 21 974      |
| Equity including non-controlling interests | 4 314       | 6 459       | 7 433       |
| Non-current liabilities                    | 8 963       | 9 190       | 10 184      |
| Current liabilities                        | 2 784       | 2 931       | 4 356       |
| Net interest-bearing debt                  | 6 021       | 6 285       | 7 863       |

Equity including non-controlling interests was NOK 4 314 million at 31 December 2012, a reduction of NOK 2 145 million from the previous quarter. The decrease reflected the negative result for the period and currency translation differences. Equity per share was NOK 23. For more information, see the detailed statement of changes in equity later in this report.

Net interest-bearing debt was NOK 6 021 million at 31 December 2012, a reduction of NOK 264 million in the quarter. The reduction came from cash flow from operating activities and a positive currency impact.

Cash and cash equivalents amounted to NOK 1 194 million at year end.

### SEGMENT INFORMATION

#### **NEWSPRINT EUROPE**

|                            | OCT-DEC 2012 | JUL-SEP 2012 | OCT-DEC 2011 | YTD 2012 | YTD 2011 |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| Operating revenue          | 1 136        | 1 072        | 1 368        | 4 528    | 6 034    |
| Gross operating earnings   | 64           | 86           | 141          | 363      | 387      |
| Depreciation               | -55          | -52          | -111         | -211     | -548     |
| Operating earnings         | 17           | 22           | -178         | 162      | -392     |
| Gross operating margin (%) | 5.7          | 8.1          | 10.3         | 8.0      | 6.4      |
| Production (1 000 tonnes)  | 297          | 294          | 315          | 1 181    | 1 488    |
| Deliveries (1 000 tonnes)  | 310          | 290          | 333          | 1 187    | 1 488    |
| Production / capacity (%)  | 91           | 90           | 87           | 88       | 90       |

The region includes Norske Skog's European operations in the newsprint market, with mills in Norway, France and Austria. Annual production capacity is 1 305 000 tonnes.

Operating revenue increased from the third quarter, with somewhat seasonally higher volumes. Gross operating margin was relatively stable in Europe, but negatively impacted by exports and an appreciating NOK. Operating revenue declined compared to the same period last year, following the closure of Norske Skog Follum.

The fixed cost level was noticeably lower year over year, due to reduced capacity, and relatively stable compared to the previous

quarter. Variable costs declined from the same period last year and were somewhat higher quarter over quarter.

Depreciation was broadly unchanged from the third quarter, but significantly lower compared to 2011.

Year-to-date demand for newsprint in Europe had declined by 9% at the end of November, compared to the same period in 2011. However, an increase in exports of 24% mitigated the impact on industry shipments, which were 3% lower.

Capacity utilisation in the quarter was 91% (90% in the third quarter).

#### **NEWSPRINT OUTSIDE EUROPE**

|                            | OCT-DEC 2012 | JUL-SEP 2012 | OCT-DEC 2011 | YTD 2012 | YTD 2011 |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| Operating revenue          | 1 187        | 1 317        | 1 423        | 5 263    | 5 679    |
| Gross operating earnings   | 242          | 223          | 236          | 880      | 915      |
| Depreciation               | -110         | -124         | -139         | -492     | -596     |
| Operating earnings         | -975         | -267         | -18          | -1 151   | -213     |
| Gross operating margin (%) | 20.4         | 16.9         | 16.6         | 16.7     | 16.1     |
| Production (1 000 tonnes)  | 248          | 270          | 280          | 1 077    | 1 185    |
| Deliveries (1 000 tonnes)  | 255          | 272          | 294          | 1 093    | 1 190    |
| Production / capacity (%)  | 84           | 92           | 86           | 88       | 91       |

The region consists of Norske Skog's operations in Australia, New Zealand, Brazil and Thailand. Annual production capacity was 1 180 000 tonnes in the fourth quarter of 2012. Following the closure of one machine at Norske Skog Tasman in early January 2013, the annual production capacity is 1 020 000 tonnes.

Operating revenue declined compared to the previous quarter, with reduced deliveries and an appreciating NOK. The sale of Norske Skog Bio Bio in May 2012 influences the comparison with the same period last year.

The improved gross operating margin compared to the previous

quarter and the same period in 2011 reflected lower costs. Reduced variable costs had the largest impact.

Depreciation was lower, after impairment of one machine at Norske Skog Tasman in the third quarter and the sale of Norske Skog Bio Bio in the second quarter.

Demand for newsprint in Oceania was weak, with a year-to-date decline of 13% at the end of November, compared to the same period in 2011. Latin America saw a more modest decrease of 3%.

Capacity utilisation was 84% (92% in the third quarter).

#### **MAGAZINE PAPER**

|                            | OCT-DEC 2012 | JUL-SEP 2012 | OCT-DEC 2011 | YTD 2012 | YTD 2011 |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| Operating revenue          | 1 311        | 1 580        | 1 966        | 6 254    | 6 291    |
| Gross operating earnings   | 52           | 84           | 139          | 330      | 291      |
| Depreciation               | -53          | -50          | -110         | -212     | -488     |
| Operating earnings         | -505         | -74          | -193         | -471     | -1 644   |
| Gross operating margin (%) | 4.0          | 5.3          | 7.1          | 5.3      | 4.6      |
| Production (1 000 tonnes)  | 269          | 339          | 366          | 1 297    | 1 159    |
| Deliveries (1 000 tonnes)  | 283          | 338          | 392          | 1 308    | 1 178    |
| Production / capacity (%)  | 86           | 89           | 88           | 87       | 79       |

The segment includes Norske Skog's operations in the magazine paper market, with mills in Norway, Germany and Austria. Annual production capacity is 1 260 000 tonnes.

Operating revenue decreased following the sale of Norske Skog Parenco in the third quarter and the closure of Norske Skog Follum in the first quarter. An appreciating NOK adversely affected the export business.

The fixed cost level was markedly reduced, with lower capacity in the segment. Variable costs were lower year over year and stable compared to the previous quarter.

Depreciation was in line with the previous quarter, but significantly lower compared to the same period in 2011.

Year-to-date demand for magazine paper in Europe had declined by 6% at the end of November, compared to the same period in 2011. A somewhat better development for the smaller SC (uncoated) segment (minus 3%) compared to the larger LWC (coated) segment (minus 8%) was largely due to customer substitution.

Capacity utilisation was 86% (89% in the third quarter).

#### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

|                          | OCT-DEC 2012 | JUL-SEP 2012 | OCT-DEC 2011 | YTD 2012 | YTD 2011 |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| Operating revenue        | 385          | 551          | 802          | 2 315    | 3 688    |
| Gross operating earnings | -21          | -34          | -15          | -118     | -95      |
| Depreciation             | -4           | -5           | -5           | -18      | -25      |
| Operating earnings       | -313         | -140         | -556         | -1 259   | -468     |

Other activities include the purchase and internal resale of energy to the mills, trading activities related to recovered paper, unallocated group costs and the purchase and resale of wood.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

The H-value (the number of lost-time injuries per million working hours) was 2.37 in the 12 month period from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012.

# EVENTS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2012

The divestment of Norske Skog Parenco was completed on 2 October 2012.

#### RISK MANAGEMENT

Norske Skog conducts continuous evaluations of its operational and financial risk factors. The main operational risks are related to prices and sales volumes for newsprint and magazine paper, as well as the prices of key input factors such as wood, recovered paper and energy.

Financial risk management mainly includes currency, interest rate and liquidity risk. A description of risk factors and risk management is given in the annual financial statements for 2011.

The company's RCF loan covenants will be back to the original trajectory after a reset has been in place for 2012. Please refer to Note 7 for further information.

### RELATED PARTIES

Some of the company's shareholders are forest owners who supply wood to the group's mills in Norway. All transactions with related parties are conducted on normal commercial terms. No directors receive remuneration for their work for the company from any source other than the company itself.

#### SHARES

The foreign ownership share was 19% at 31 December 2012, two percentage points lower than one year ago. An overview of the main shareholders as at 31 December 2012 is included on page 18, based on information supplied by RD:IR.

## **OUTLOOK**

Norske Skog expects that the operating environment will remain challenging, with weak demand in both Europe and Australasia. Relatively stable costs and already announced industry-wide capacity closures will be supportive. Active capacity management will lead to low utilisation rates in the short term. Further NOK appreciation remains an additional risk.

Eilif Due

Board member

LYSAKER, 6 FEBRUARY 2013 - THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF NORSKE SKOGINDUSTRIER ASA

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Siri Beate Hatlen Board member

Ase Aulie Michelet

Board member

Paul Kristiansen

Finn Johnsson Board member

Jon-Aksel Torgersen
Board member

Svein Erik Veie Board member Karen Kialwag

Karen Kvalevåg Board member

Kjetil Bakkan Board member

Sven Ombudstvedt President and CEO

# INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, FOURTH QUARTER OF 2012

# CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

| NOK MILLION                                 | NOTE | OCT-DEC 2012 | JUL-SEP 2012 | OCT-DEC 2011 | YTD 2012 | YTD 2011 |
|---|------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| Operating revenue                           | 6    | 3 689        | 4 115        | 4 970        | 16 592   | 18 904   |
| Distribution costs                          |      | -375         | -424         | -464         | -1 645   | -1 786   |
| Cost of materials                           |      | -1 998       | -2 381       | -2 688       | -9 564   | -11 243  |
| Change in inventories                       |      | -134         | -36          | -281         | -156     | -118     |
| Employee benefit expenses                   |      | -556         | -606         | -690         | -2 512   | -2 793   |
| Other operating expenses                    |      | -299         | -302         | -344         | -1 252   | -1 450   |
| Gross operating earnings                    |      | 327          | 365          | 503          | 1 464    | 1 515    |
| Depreciation                                | 4    | -223         | -231         | -365         | -935     | -1 658   |
| Restructuring expenses                      | 9    | 14           | -122         | -361         | -118     | -387     |
| Other gains and losses                      | 5, 8 | -228         | -65          | -532         | -1 009   | -201     |
| Impairments                                 | 3, 4 | -1 649       | -403         | -86          | -2 086   | -1 969   |
| Operating earnings                          |      | -1 758       | -455         | -841         | -2 684   | -2 701   |
| Share of profit in associated companies     | 3    | 6            | -83          | 203          | -70      | 198      |
| Financial items                             |      | -49          | 86           | -358         | -96      | -629     |
| Profit/loss before income taxes             |      | -1 801       | -453         | -996         | -2 849   | -3 132   |
| Income taxes                                |      | -113         | 20           | 404          | 69       | 588      |
| Profit/loss for the period                  |      | -1 914       | -433         | -592         | -2 781   | -2 545   |
| Profit/loss for the period attributable to: |      |              |              |              |          |          |
| Owners of the parent                        |      | -1 911       | -432         | -592         | -2 778   | -2 536   |
| Non-controlling interests                   |      | -3           | -1           | 0            | -3       | -8       |
| Basic/diluted earnings per share (NOK)      |      | -10.07       | -2.28        | -3.12        | -14.63   | -13.36   |

# CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

| NOK MILLION  | OCT-DEC 2012 | JUL-SEP 2012 | OCT-DEC 2011 | YTD 2012 | YTD 2011 |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| Profit/loss for the period   | -1 914       | -433         | -592         | -2 781   | -2 545   |
| Other comprehensive income   |              |              |              |          |          |
| Currency translation differences   | -192         | -235         | 426          | -511     | 69       |
| Tax expense on translation differences   | -36          | 0            | -112         | -36      | -68      |
| Hedge of net investment in foreign operations  | 26           | 85           | -7           | 224      | 19       |
| Tax expense on net investment hedge  | -1           | -2           | -242         | 13       | -268     |
| Reclassification to income statement, divestment of operations 1)                    | -69          | 0            | -7           | -92      | 42       |
| Tax expense on reclassifications   | 39           | 0            | 0            | 62       | 0        |
| Other items  | 2            | 0            | 1            | 2        | 2        |
| Tax expense on other items   | 0            | 0            | 0            | 0        | 0        |
| Other comprehensive income for the period  | -231         | -152         | 59           | -338     | -205     |
| Comprehensive income for the period  | -2 145       | -585         | -533         | -3 119   | -2 749   |
| Comprehensive income for the period attributable to:                                 |              |              |              |          |          |
| Owners of the parent   | -2 142       | -584         | -533         | -3 115   | -2 740   |
| Non-controlling interests  | -3           | -1           | 0            | -3       | -9       |
| 1) Reconciliation of reclassification to income statement, divestment of operations: |              |              |              |          |          |
| Currency translation differences   | 72           | 0            | -7           | 130      | 51       |
| Hedge of net investment in foreign operations  | -141         | 0            | 0            | -222     | -9       |
| Total  | -69          | 0            | -7           | -92      | 42       |

# CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

| NOK MILLION                              | NOTE     | 31 DEC 2012 | 30 SEP 2012 | 31 DEC 2011 |
|--|----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Deferred tax asset                       |          | 321         | 456         | 352         |
| Intangible assets                        | 4        | 232         | 343         | 148         |
| Property, plant and equipment            | 3, 4     | 9 533       | 11 336      | 12 622      |
| Investments in associated companies      | 3        | 339         | 341         | 422         |
| Other non-current assets                 | 8        | 986         | 1 271       | 2 258       |
| Total non-current assets                 |          | 11 411      | 13 746      | 15 803      |
| Inventories                              |          | 1 370       | 1 657       | 1 867       |
| Trade and other receivables              |          | 1 816       | 1 969       | 2 732       |
| Cash and cash equivalents                | 7        | 1 194       | 1 028       | 1 200       |
| Other current assets                     | 5, 8     | 271         | 180         | 372         |
| Total current assets                     |          | 4 650       | 4 834       | 6 171       |
| Total assets                             |          | 16 061      | 18 580      | 21 974      |
| Paid-in equity                           |          | 12 302      | 12 302      | 12 303      |
| Retained earnings and other reserves     |          | -7 998      | -5 855      | -4 883      |
| Non-controlling interests                |          | 9           | 12          | 13          |
| Total equity                             |          | 4 314       | 6 459       | 7 433       |
| Pension obligations                      |          | 495         | 510         | 541         |
| Deferred tax liability                   |          | 498         | 511         | 500         |
| Interest-bearing non-current liabilities | 7        | 7 208       | 7 322       | 8 407       |
| Other non-current liabilities            | 8        | 762         | 847         | 736         |
| Total non-current liabilities            |          | 8 963       | 9 190       | 10 184      |
| Interest-bearing current liabilities     | 7        | 203         | 209         | 931         |
| Trade and other payables                 | 10       | 2 097       | 2 190       | 2 474       |
| Tax payable                              |          | 43          | 61          | 31          |
| Other current liabilities                | 5, 8, 10 | 441         | 472         | 920         |
| Total current liabilities                |          | 2 784       | 2 931       | 4 356       |
| Total liabilities                        |          | 11 747      | 12 121      | 14 540      |
| Total equity and liabilities             |          | 16 061      | 18 580      | 21 974      |

LYSAKER, 6 FEBRUARY 2013 - THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF NORSKE SKOGINDUSTRIER ASA

Eivind Reiten Chair

Siri Beate Hatlen Board member

Åse Aulie Michelet Board member

Paul Kristiansen Board member

Finn Johnsson Board member

Jon-Aksel Torgersen Board member

> Svein Erik Veie Board member

Eilif Due Board member

> Karen Kialwag Karen Kvalevåg Board member

> > Kjetil Bakkan

Board member

Sven Ombudstvedt President and CEO

# CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

| NOK MILLION  | OCT-DEC 2012 | JUL-SEP 2012 | OCT-DEC 2011 | YTD 2012 | YTD 2011 |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| Cash generated from operations                                   | 3 668        | 4 301        | 4 925        | 17 037   | 18 726   |
| Cash used in operations  | -3 258       | -3 750       | -4 297       | -15 261  | -17 594  |
| Cash from net financial items                                    | -135         | -87          | -182         | -729     | -557     |
| Taxes paid   | -28          | -2           | -38          | -64      | -121     |
| Net cash flow from operating activities 1)                       | 247          | 463          | 409          | 982      | 455      |
| Purchases of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets | -201         | -106         | -165         | -492     | -490     |
| Sales of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets     | 45           | 2            | 94           | 101      | 246      |
| Dividend received  | 0            | 8            | 0            | 10       | 0        |
| Purchase of shares in companies and other financial payments     | 0            | 0            | -34          | 0        | -63      |
| Sales of shares in companies and other financial payments        | 83           | 9            | 2            | 682      | 777      |
| Net cash flow from investing activities                          | -73          | -86          | -104         | 300      | 470      |
| New loans raised   | 115          | 113          | 5            | 1 183    | 1 141    |
| Repayments of loans  | -106         | -703         | -1 486       | -2 440   | -5 311   |
| Purchase/sale of treasury shares                                 | 0            | -703         | 0            | -2 ++0   | -5511    |
| Net cash flow from financing activities                          | 10           | -591         | -1 481       | -1 258   | -4 170   |
| Tot out in the manning detricted                                 |              |              | 1 401        | . 200    | 4.110    |
| Foreign currency effects on cash and cash equivalents            | -18          | -8           | -51          | -36      | 5        |
| Total change in cash and cash equivalents                        | 165          | -223         | -1 227       | -6       | -3 240   |
| Cash and cash equivalents at start of period                     | 1 028        | 1 251        | 2 427        | 1 200    | 4 440    |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period                       | 1 194        | 1 028        | 1 200        | 1 194    | 1 200    |
| 1) Reconciliation of net cash flow from operating activities     |              |              |              |          |          |
| Gross operating earnings   | 327          | 365          | 503          | 1 464    | 1 515    |
| Payments made relating to restructuring activities               | -17          | -13          | -29          | -182     | -78      |
| Change in working capital  | 63           | 226          | 146          | 465      | -365     |
| Adjustment for items with no cash impact                         | 37           | -27          | 9            | 29       | 60       |
| Cash flow from net financial items                               | -135         | -87          | -182         | -729     | -557     |
| Taxes paid   | -28          | -2           | -38          | -64      | -121     |
| Net cash flow from operating activities                          | 247          | 463          | 409          | 982      | 455      |

# CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN GROUP EQUITY

| NOK MILLION                               | Paid-in equity | Retained earnings | Hedge<br>accounting | Other equity reserves | Total before<br>non-<br>controlling<br>interests | Non-<br>controlling<br>interests | Total equity |
|---|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Equity 1 January 2011                     | 12 303         | -3 048            | 489                 | 416                   | 10 161   | 22                               | 10 183       |
| Profit/loss for the period                | 0              | -1 944            | 0                   | 0                     | -1 944   | -8                               | -1 952       |
| Other comprehensive income for the period | 0              | 0                 | 0                   | -263                  | -263   | -1                               | -265         |
| Equity 30 September 2011                  | 12 303         | -4 992            | 489                 | 153                   | 7 954  | 13                               | 7 967        |
| Profit/loss for the period                | 0              | -592              | 0                   | 0                     | -592   | 0                                | -592         |
| Other comprehensive income for the period | 0              | 0                 | -249                | 308                   | 59   | 0                                | 59           |
| Equity 31 December 2011                   | 12 303         | -5 584            | 240                 | 461                   | 7 420  | 13                               | 7 433        |
| Profit/loss for the period                | 0              | -866              | 0                   | 0                     | -866   | -1                               | -867         |
| Other comprehensive income for the period | 0              | 0                 | 154                 | -261                  | -107   | 0                                | -107         |
| Change in holding of treasury shares      | -1             | 0                 | 0                   | 0                     | -1   | 0                                | -1           |
| Equity 30 September 2012                  | 12 302         | -6 450            | 394                 | 201                   | 6 446  | 12                               | 6 459        |
| Profit/loss for the period                | 0              | -1 911            | 0                   | 0                     | -1 911   | -3                               | -1 914       |
| Other comprehensive income for the period | 0              | 0                 | -77                 | -154                  | -231   | 0                                | -231         |
| Equity 31 December 2012                   | 12 302         | -8 361            | 317                 | 47                    | 4 305  | 9                                | 4 314        |

# NOTES TO THE CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM FINANCIAL **STATEMENTS**

### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Norske Skogindustrier ASA ("the company") and its subsidiaries ("the group") manufacture, distribute and sell publication paper. This includes newsprint and magazine paper.

Norske Skog changed its internal organisational structure in 2011. As a result of this, the group's segment structure was changed with effect from 1 January 2012. See Note 6 Operating segments for more information.

All amounts in the interim financial statements are presented in NOK million unless otherwise stated. Due to rounding, there may be differences in the summation of columns.

With effect from the fourth quarter of 2012, the interim financial statements will only be presented in English. The annual report will also be presented in English from 2012.

The interim financial statements were authorised for issue by the board of directors in Norske Skogindustrier ASA on 6 February 2013.

#### 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The interim financial statements of Norske Skog have been prepared in accordance with IAS 34 Interim Financial Reporting. The interim financial statements do not include all information required for full annual financial statements, and should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements for 2011. The interim financial statements are unaudited.

The accounting policies applied in the preparation of the interim financial statements are consistent with those applied in the preparation of the annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2011, except for the adaptation of amended standards and new interpretations which are mandatory from 1 January 2012. These changes are described in the annual financial statements for 2011. None of these have had a material impact on the financial position or performance of the group.

The group has not early adopted any standard, interpretation or amendment that has been issued but is not yet mandatory.

# 3. ESTIMATES, JUDGEMENTS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Preparation of interim financial statements in accordance with IFRS implies use of estimates, which are based on judgements and assumptions that affect the application of accounting principles and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses. Actual amounts might differ from such estimates.

Estimated decline in value of intangible assets and property, plant and equipment

Intangible assets which have an indefinite useful life and goodwill are not subject to amortisation, but are tested annually for impairment. Property, plant and equipment, and intangible assets that are subject to amortisation are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from a cash-generating unit. Norske Skog has made some changes with respect to how value in use is calculated in the impairment testing performed at 31 December 2012. The adjusted present value model (APV) for calculating the present value of future cash flows has been replaced by a weighted average cost of capital model (WACC). When calculating value in use at the end of 2012, the discount rate after tax was in the interval from 6.3% to 14.6%. The cash flow horizon in the impairment model is consistent with the useful life of each paper machine in the group. The board-approved operating plan for 2013 forms the basis for calculating expected future cash flows. In the impairment testing, sales prices are assumed to exhibit a decline in real terms and variable costs are assumed to decline in real terms, with lower demand for input factors due to a shrinking industry. The group's cash-generating units are Europe newsprint, Australasia newsprint, Norske Skog Pisa newsprint, Norske Skog Singburi newsprint, Europe magazine paper (light weight coated (LWC)) and Norske Skog Saugbrugs magazine paper (super calendared (SC)).

Calculation of value in use requires use of estimates. When estimating the value in use at 31 December 2012, impairment losses were identified. Total impairment losses of NOK 1 649 million have been recognised in the interim financial statements for the fourth quarter. The impairment losses consist of NOK 1 071 million related to the segment newsprint outside Europe and NOK 578 million related to the magazine paper segment. The impairments have mainly arisen as a result of lower sales price expectations and reduced cash flow horizon.

Impairment losses were recognised in the third quarter, as a result of the agreement to sell the paper mill Norske Skog Parenco and the global recovered paper business, Reparco. An impairment loss of NOK 116 million was expensed in the magazine paper segment and NOK 54 million was expensed in other activities. The divestment was completed on 2 October 2012.

Norske Skog also decided to permanently close 160 000 tonnes of newsprint capacity at Norske Skog Tasman in New Zealand in the third quarter. An impairment loss of NOK 236 million was recognised in relation to the closure, and was expensed in the segment newsprint outside Europe in the third quarter of 2012.

In the first quarter, impairment losses were recognised as a result of the agreement to sell the paper mill Norske Skog Bio Bio. An impairment loss of NOK 36 million was expensed in the segment newsprint outside Europe. The divestment was completed during the second quarter of 2012.

The possibility of reversing impairment losses in prior periods on property, plant and equipment and intangible assets (except goodwill) has also been evaluated at 31 December 2012. No reversals of previous impairments have been recognised in the fourth quarter of 2012.

The estimation of recoverable amount is based on assumptions regarding the future development of several factors. These include price development for finished goods, sales volumes, currency rates and interest rates. This means that there will be uncertainty when it comes to the outcome of the calculations. Norske Skog has performed sensitivity analyses using the variables mentioned above to predict how fluctuations will impact recoverable amount. In relation to the assumptions made in the calculation of the present value of future cash flows, recoverable amount is most sensitive to changes in prices of finished goods, sales volumes and the discount rate used. A reduction in sales price and sales volume for the whole group in the 

cash flow period of 5% will cause a reduction in recoverable amount in the order of NOK 4 800 million and NOK 1 700 million respectively. Correspondingly, a 1% increase in the discount rate will cause a reduction in the recoverable amount of NOK 800 million. An appreciation of NOK of 1% against all other functional currencies in the Norske Skog group will cause a reduction in the recoverable amount of NOK 300 million.

#### Investments in associated companies

Norske Skog owns a 33.65% stake in Malaysian Newsprint Industries Sdn. Bhd. (MNI) in Malaysia. MNI derecognised some assets in their financial statements for the third quarter of 2012, relating to property, plant and equipment that was no longer in use. Norske Skog's share of this derecognition was recognised in the consolidated financial statements for the third quarter of 2012, and amounted to NOK 183 million.

Following this, Norske Skog was also able to reverse impairments previously recognised of NOK 94 million in the third quarter of 2012. The effect of the derecognition and reversal of previous impairments was presented net in the income statement, and included in the line Share of profit in associated companies.

# Commodity contracts and embedded derivatives in commodity contracts measured at fair value

Commodity contracts that fail to meet the own-use exemption criteria in IAS 39 Financial instruments – recognition and measurement are recognised in the balance sheet and valued at fair value. Fair value of commodity contracts and embedded derivatives in commodity contracts which are not traded in an active marked, are assessed through valuation techniques. Some of these contracts are long-term energy contracts. The electricity price for long-term electricity contracts in Norway and New Zealand is not directly observable in the

market for the whole contract length. Price forecasts from acknowledged external sources are used in the estimation of fair value. The group uses its judgement to select a variety of methods and make assumptions that are mainly based on marked conditions existing at each balance sheet date.

See Note 9 in the annual financial statements for 2011 for more information regarding the calculation of fair value of derivatives.

#### **Provisions**

Provisions for environmental restoration, dismantling costs, restructuring activities and legal claims are recognised when the group has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events; an outflow of resources is more likely than not to be required to settle the obligation and the amount can be reliably estimated.

Provisions for future environmental- and dismantling liabilities are based on a number of assumptions made using management's best judgment. Changes in any of these assumptions could have an impact on the group's provisions and costs.

See Note 2 in the annual financial statements for 2011 for a more thorough description of important accounting estimates and assumptions impacting the preparation of financial statements.

#### Contingent liabilities

Norske Skog is an international company that, through its ongoing business operations, will be exposed to litigation and claims from public authorities and contracting parties. At the end of 2012, the group is in dialogues with tax authorities in Norway and Australia regarding previously completed transactions. Norske Skog has an ongoing process related to simplification of the group's corporate structure. This, in combination with changes in individual countries' tax laws, could increase the group's tax exposure.

## 4. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT AND INTANGIBLE ASSETS

| JAN-DEC 2012                      | PROPERTY,<br>PLANT AND<br>EQUIPMENT | INTANGIBLE<br>ASSETS | TOTAL  |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------|
| Carrying value at start of period | 12 622                              | 148                  | 12 770 |
| Depreciation                      | -912                                | -23                  | -935   |
| Impairments                       | -2 084                              | -2                   | -2 086 |
| Additions *)                      | 489                                 | 252                  | 741    |
| Value change, biological assets   | 7                                   | 0                    | 7      |
| Disposals                         | -368                                | -142                 | -510   |
| Currency translation differences  | -221                                | -1                   | -222   |
| Carrying value at end of period   | 9 533                               | 232                  | 9 765  |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>\*)</sup> The difference between additions and the line Purchases of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets in the consolidated statement of cash flows is due to finance leases, allocated emission allowances and accruals for payments.

## 5. DIVESTMENT OF OPERATIONS

On 1 August 2012, an agreement was signed for the sale of the shares in Norske Skog Parenco B.V. in the Netherlands, and the global recovered paper business, Reparco. The sale was completed with effect from 2 October 2012. A gain of NOK 16 million has been recognised in the income statement line Other gains and losses in the fourth quarter relating to the final divestment. Impairment losses expensed in the third quarter of 2012 in relation to the sale of Norske Skog Parenco and Norske Skog Reparco were NOK 116 million and NOK 54 million, respectively.

On 24 March 2012, an agreement was signed for the sale of the shares in Papeles Norske Skog Bio Bio S.A. in Chile. The transaction was completed with effect from 3 May 2012. The sale resulted in a

loss of NOK 10 million, which was expensed in the second quarter in the income statement line Other gains and losses.

On 23 March 2012, an agreement was signed for the sale of the shares in Norske Skog Follum AS, Follum Industripark AS and related properties. The transaction was completed with effect from 29 June 2012. A gain of NOK 26 million was recognised in Other gains and losses in the second quarter, and a gain of NOK 3 million was recognised in the third quarter upon final settlement of the transaction.

Impairment losses expensed in connection with the aforementioned divestments are described in Note 3.

## 6. OPERATING SEGMENTS

The composition of Norske Skog's operating segments was changed with effect from 1 January 2012. The segment structure is in line with the new operating model implemented during 2011. Norske Skog's chief operating decision maker is corporate management, who distribute resources and assess performance of the group's mills. The mills have a direct reporting line to corporate management.

In the segment reporting, the mills are grouped based on the product produced, within the segments newsprint and magazine paper. The operating segment newsprint is further divided into the geographic regions newsprint Europe and newsprint outside Europe.

Activities that are not part of the operating segments are included in other activities. From 1 January 2012, activities relating to energy are included within other activities. This is because there is no longer a central unit for monitoring and controlling activities related to energy. There will still be operating revenue and operating expenses related to energy, but the bulk of revenue will be from units within the group. Going forward, the activities related to energy will therefore have little or no importance for Norske Skog's ongoing operations.

The comparative figures for 2011 have been restated in accordance with the new segment structure.

| OCT-DEC 2012              | NEWSPRINT | MAGAZINE PAPER | OTHER ACTIVITIES | ELIMINATIONS | NORSKE SKOG<br>GROUP |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Operating revenue         | 2 379     | 1 311          | 385              | -386         | 3 689                |
| Distribution costs        | -249      | -126           | 0                | 0            | -375                 |
| Cost of materials         | -1 221    | -768           | -337             | 327          | -1 998               |
| Change in inventories     | -81       | -53            | 0                | 0            | -134                 |
| Employee benefit expenses | -333      | -189           | -35              | 0            | -556                 |
| Other operating expenses  | -199      | -124           | -34              | 59           | -299                 |
| Gross operating earnings  | 296       | 52             | -21              | 0            | 327                  |
| Depreciation              | -166      | -53            | -4               | 0            | -223                 |
| Restructuring expenses    | -4        | 23             | -6               | 0            | 14                   |
| Other gains and losses    | 5         | 50             | -283             | 0            | -228                 |
| Impairments               | -1 071    | -578           | 0                | 0            | -1 649               |
| Operating earnings        | -940      | -505           | -313             | 0            | -1 758               |

| VTD 2040                  | NEWODDINE | MACAZINE DADED | OTHER ACTIVITIES | FLIMINATIONS | NORSKE SKOG |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------------|------------------|--------------|-------------|
| YTD 2012                  | NEWSPRINT | MAGAZINE PAPER | OTHER ACTIVITIES | ELIMINATIONS | GROUP       |
| Operating revenue         | 10 145    | 6 254          | 2 315            | -2 122       | 16 592      |
| Distribution costs        | -1 021    | -558           | -67              | 1            | -1 645      |
| Cost of materials         | -5 627    | -3 802         | -1 988           | 1 852        | -9 564      |
| Change in inventories     | -101      | -51            | -4               | 0            | -156        |
| Employee benefit expenses | -1 350    | -975           | -187             | 0            | -2 512      |
| Other operating expenses  | -795      | -539           | -187             | 269          | -1 252      |
| Gross operating earnings  | 1 252     | 330            | -118             | 0            | 1 464       |
| Depreciation              | -705      | -212           | -18              | 0            | -935        |
| Restructuring expenses    | -121      | 20             | -17              | 0            | -118        |
| Other gains and losses    | -41       | 84             | -1 052           | 0            | -1 009      |
| Impairments               | -1 338    | -694           | -54              | 0            | -2 086      |
| Operating earnings        | -953      | -471           | -1 259           | 0            | -2 684      |

| YTD 2011                  | NEWSPRINT | MAGAZINE PAPER | OTHER ACTIVITIES | ELIMINATIONS | NORSKE SKOG<br>GROUP |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Operating revenue         | 11 967    | 6 291          | 3 688            | -3 042       | 18 904               |
| Distribution costs        | -1 129    | -577           | -80              | 0            | -1 786               |
| Cost of materials         | -6 904    | -3 775         | -3 237           | 2 674        | -11 243              |
| Change in inventories     | -13       | -104           | -1               | 0            | -118                 |
| Employee benefit expenses | -1 597    | -976           | -220             | 0            | -2 793               |
| Other operating expenses  | -1 006    | -568           | -245             | 369          | -1 450               |
| Gross operating earnings  | 1 318     | 291            | -95              | 0            | 1 515                |
| Depreciation              | -1 145    | -488           | -25              | 0            | -1 658               |
| Restructuring expenses    | -160      | -217           | -11              | 0            | -387                 |
| Other gains and losses    | 20        | 115            | -337             | 0            | -201                 |
| Impairments               | -624      | -1 345         | 0                | 0            | -1 969               |
| Operating earnings        | -589      | -1 644         | -468             | 0            | -2 701               |

#### **OPERATING SEGMENT NEWSPRINT**

The newsprint segment encompasses production and sale of standard newsprint and other paper qualities used in newspapers, inserts, catalogues etc.

| INCOME STATEMENT                                     | OCT-DEC 2012 | JUL-SEP 2012 | OCT-DEC 2011 | YTD 2012 | YTD 2011 |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| Operating revenue                                    | 2 379        | 2 472        | 2 883        | 10 145   | 11 967   |
| Distribution costs                                   | -249         | -260         | -269         | -1 021   | -1 129   |
| Cost of materials                                    | -1 221       | -1 377       | -1 516       | -5 627   | -6 904   |
| Change in inventories                                | -81          | -8           | -133         | -101     | -13      |
| Employee benefit expenses                            | -333         | -323         | -378         | -1 350   | -1 597   |
| Other operating expenses                             | -199         | -191         | -209         | -795     | -1 006   |
| Gross operating earnings                             | 296          | 315          | 378          | 1 252    | 1 318    |
| Depreciation   | -166         | -176         | -250         | -705     | -1 145   |
| Restructuring expenses                               | -4           | -112         | -158         | -121     | -160     |
| Other gains and losses                               | 5            | -36          | -12          | -41      | 20       |
| Impairments  | -1 071       | -232         | -51          | -1 338   | -624     |
| Operating earnings                                   | -940         | -241         | -92          | -953     | -589     |
| Share of operating revenue from external parties (%) | 99           | 99           | 98           | 99       | 99       |
| OPERATING REVENUE PER REGION                         |              |              |              |          |          |
| Newsprint Europe                                     | 1 136        | 1 072        | 1 368        | 4 528    | 6 034    |
| Newsprint outside Europe                             | 1 187        | 1 317        | 1 423        | 5 263    | 5 679    |
| Sales offices and other activities                   | 989          | 1 145        | 1 135        | 4 416    | 4 533    |
| Eliminations   | -933         | -1 062       | -1 043       | -4 060   | -4 279   |
| Total  | 2 379        | 2 472        | 2 883        | 10 145   | 11 967   |
| GROSS OPERATING EARNINGS PER REGION                  |              |              |              |          |          |
| Newsprint Europe                                     | 64           | 86           | 141          | 363      | 387      |
| Newsprint outside Europe                             | 242          | 223          | 236          | 880      | 915      |
| Sales offices and other activities                   | -11          | 6            | 1            | 9        | 16       |
| Eliminations   | 0            | 0            | 0            | 0        | 0        |
| Total  | 296          | 315          | 378          | 1 252    | 1 318    |

#### **OPERATING SEGMENT MAGAZINE PAPER**

The magazine paper segment encompasses production and sale of the paper qualities super calendered (SC), machine finished coated (MFC) and light weight coated (LWC). Magazine paper is

used in magazines, catalogues and advertising materials. Norske Skog Parenco was reported in the operating segment for magazine paper from the fourth quarter of 2011, up to and including its divestment at the end of the third quarter of 2012.

| INCOME STATEMENT                                     | OCT-DEC 2012 | JUL-SEP 2012 | OCT-DEC 2011 | YTD 2012 | YTD 2011 |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| Operating revenue                                    | 1 311        | 1 580        | 1 966        | 6 254    | 6 291    |
| Distribution costs                                   | -126         | -142         | -175         | -558     | -577     |
| Cost of materials                                    | -768         | -965         | -1 072       | -3 802   | -3 775   |
| Change in inventories                                | -53          | -23          | -147         | -51      | -104     |
| Employee benefit expenses                            | -189         | -237         | -267         | -975     | -976     |
| Other operating expenses                             | -124         | -128         | -165         | -539     | -568     |
| Gross operating earnings                             | 52           | 84           | 139          | 330      | 291      |
| Depreciation   | -53          | -50          | -110         | -212     | -488     |
| Restructuring expenses                               | 23           | 0            | -214         | 20       | -217     |
| Other gains and losses                               | 50           | 8            | 27           | 84       | 115      |
| Impairments  | -578         | -116         | -35          | -694     | -1 345   |
| Operating earnings                                   | -505         | -74          | -193         | -471     | -1 644   |
|  |              |              |              |          |          |
| Share of operating revenue from external parties (%) | 98           | 97           | 97           | 96       | 95       |

#### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Activities in the group that do not fall into the operating segments newsprint or magazine paper are presented under other activities. This includes purchase and resale of energy to the group's mills,

corporate functions, real estate activities, trading and sorting of recovered paper and purchase and resale of wood.

| INCOME STATEMENT  | OCT-DEC 2012 | JUL-SEP 2012 | OCT-DEC 2011 | YTD 2012 | YTD 2011 |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| Operating revenue   | 385          | 551          | 802          | 2 315    | 3 688    |
| Distribution costs  | 0            | -22          | -20          | -67      | -80      |
| Cost of materials   | -337         | -461         | -698         | -1 988   | -3 237   |
| Change in inventories   | 0            | -6           | -1           | -4       | -1       |
| Employee benefit expenses   | -35          | -46          | -44          | -187     | -220     |
| Other operating expenses  | -34          | -49          | -54          | -187     | -245     |
| Gross operating earnings  | -21          | -34          | -15          | -118     | -95      |
| Depreciation  | -4           | -5           | -5           | -18      | -25      |
| Restructuring expenses  | -6           | -9           | 12           | -17      | -11      |
| Other gains and losses  | -283         | -38          | -548         | -1 052   | -337     |
| Impairments   | 0            | -54          | 0            | -54      | 0        |
| Operating earnings  | -313         | -140         | -556         | -1 259   | -468     |
| Share of operating revenue from external parties (%)  OPERATING REVENUE | 11           | 24           | 28           | 24       | 30       |
| Energy  | 139          | 139          | 301          | 726      | 1 497    |
| Recovered paper   | 0            | 173          | 196          | 572      | 906      |
| Real estate activities  | 0            | 0            | 0            | 1        | 5        |
| Corporate functions   | 42           | 44           | 47           | 181      | 226      |
| Miscellaneous   | 214          | 204          | 266          | 872      | 1 108    |
| Eliminations  | -9           | -9           | -8           | -36      | -53      |
| Total   | 385          | 551          | 802          | 2 315    | 3 688    |
| GROSS OPERATING EARNINGS  |              |              |              |          |          |
| Energy  | 0            | 0            | 0            | 0        | 3        |
| Recovered paper   | 0            | 0            | 3            | 3        | 18       |
| Real estate activities  | 0            | 3            | -2           | 1        | -15      |
| Corporate functions   | -20          | -37          | -6           | -106     | -80      |
| Miscellaneous   | -2           | -1           | -10          | -16      | -21      |
| Eliminations  | 0            | 0            | 0            | 0        | 0        |
| Total   | -21          | -34          | -15          | -118     | -95      |

## 7. INTEREST-BEARING DEBT

#### **NET INTEREST-BEARING DEBT**

Norske Skog has recognised an amount in the balance sheet as a result of the termination of a large part of the fair value hedge portfolio in the first half of 2009. A hedge reserve (deferred income) amounting to NOK 196 million is included in interest-bearing debt at 31 December 2012. The corresponding figure as at 31 December 2011 was NOK 270 million.

The hedge reserve does not constitute any payment obligation for the group, but will be amortised in the income statement over the lifetime of the debt that has been hedged.

| 31 DEC 2012                              | REPORTED<br>KEY FIGURES | KEY FIGURES<br>ACCORDING TO LOAN<br>AGREEMENT <sup>1)</sup> |
|--|-------------------------|---|
| Interest-bearing non-current liabilities | 7 208                   | 7 385   |
| Interest-bearing current liabilities     | 203                     | 207   |
| - Hedge reserve                          | 196                     | 205   |
| - Cash and cash equivalents              | 1 194                   | 1 221   |
| = Net interest-bearing debt              | 6 021                   | 6 166   |
| Adjusted net interest-bearing debt ")    |                         | 6 248   |

#### **LOAN COVENANTS**

The loan covenants in the group's credit facility of EUR 140 million are partly linked to the debt ratio (Adjusted net interest-bearing debt / Adjusted EBITDA) and the interest coverage ratio (Adjusted EBITDA / Net interest expense).

In accordance with the agreement, all key figures are calculated at the average exchange rate per month for the last 12-month period.

The group's bond loans do not include financial covenants.

| 31 DEC 2012  | REPORTED FIGURES | LOAN COVENANTS **) |
|--|------------------|--------------------|
| EBITDA (last 12 months)                              | 1 464            |                    |
| Adjusted EBITDA *) (last 12 months)                  | 1 395            |                    |
| Net interest expense (last 12 months)                | 586              |                    |
| Adjusted net interest-bearing debt / Adjusted EBITDA | 4.48             | < 4.75             |
| Adjusted EBITDA / Net interest expense               | 2.38             | > 2.25             |

<sup>\*)</sup> Adjusted EBITDA consists of gross operating earnings for the group, excluding units that have been sold during the last 12 months.

\*\*) The loan covenants presented in the table are as at 31 December 2012.

| LOAN COVENANTS 2013                                  | 31 MAR 2013 | 30 JUN 2013 | 30 SEP 2013 | 31 DEC 2013 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Adjusted net interest-bearing debt / Adjusted EBITDA | < 4.25      | < 4.00      | < 3.75      | < 3.50      |
| Adjusted EBITDA / Net interest expense               | > 2.50      | > 2.50      | > 2.75      | > 2.75      |

Ocalculated using the average exchange rate per month for the last 12-month period.
Adjusted net interest-bearing debt according to definition in loan agreement.

#### **DEBT REPAYMENT SCHEDULE**

| CONTRACTUAL INSTALMENT PAYMENTS ON CURRENT AND NON-CURRENT INTEREST-BEARING DEBT | 31 DEC 2012 |
|--|-------------|
| 2013 – first quarter   | 30          |
| 2013 – second quarter  | 24          |
| 2013 – third quarter   | 126         |
| 2013 – fourth quarter  | 24          |
| 2014   | 952         |
| 2015   | 949         |
| 2016   | 1 018       |
| 2017   | 2 893       |
| 2018   | 35          |
| 2019   | 35          |
| 2020   | 36          |
| 2021   | 25          |
| 2022 to 2033   | 1 160       |
| Total  | 7 307       |

Total debt listed in the repayment schedule may differ from the carrying value in the balance sheet. This is due to premiums and discounts on issued bonds and hedge reserve.

#### **BONDS**

Bond financing constitutes the majority of Norske Skog's total debt financing. All bonds are issued by Norske Skogindustrier ASA and are

unsecured. The table below shows Norske Skog's issued bonds at 31 December 2012.

| MATURITY     | CURRENCY     | COUPON      | ORIGINAL AMOUNT | OUTSTANDING AMOUNT<br>31 DEC 2012 |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| October 2015 | USD          | 6.125%      | USD 200 mill    | USD 158 mill                      |
| October 2033 | USD          | 7.125%      | USD 200 mill    | USD 200 mill                      |
|              |              |             |                 |                                   |
| June 2016    | EUR          | 11.75%      | EUR 150 mill    | EUR 130 mill                      |
| June 2017    | EUR          | 7.00%       | EUR 500 mill    | EUR 388 mill                      |
| June 2014    | NOK (NSG 17) | 15.5%       | NOK 530 mill    | NOK 508 mill                      |
| June 2014    | NOK (NSG 18) | N3m + 11.5% | NOK 220 mill    | NOK 195 mill                      |
| October 2014 | NOK (NSG 15) | 5.4%        | NOK 300 mill    | NOK 185 mill                      |

# 8. ENERGY CONTRACTS, DERIVATIVES AND FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS CARRIED AT FAIR VALUE

|   | ASS     | ASSETS      |         | LIABILITIES |  |
|---|---------|-------------|---------|-------------|--|
| 31 DEC 2012   | CURRENT | NON-CURRENT | CURRENT | NON-CURRENT |  |
| Energy contracts and embedded derivatives in energy contracts     | 124     | 831         | -36     | -90         |  |
| Other raw material contracts                                      | 0       | 0           | -2      | -22         |  |
| Other derivatives and financial instruments carried at fair value | 93      | 0           | -29     | -53         |  |
| Total   | 217     | 831         | -67     | -165        |  |

Norske Skog's portfolio of commodity contracts consists primarily of physical energy contracts. The fair value of commodity contracts is therefore particularly sensitive to future fluctuations in energy prices. The fair value of embedded derivatives in physical contracts depends on currency and price index fluctuations.

Lower energy prices have a negative impact on fair value. Energy prices in both the Nordic region and New Zealand have declined in both the short and long end of the price curve compared with the previous quarter.

A decrease in estimates of consumer price indices has a positive impact on fair value. Consumer price indices, which affect the fair value, shows only small changes compared with the previous quarter.

Changes in the value of energy-/commodity contracts and embedded derivatives in contracts are presented in the income statement line Other gains and losses. Realised effects from sales of energy contracts are also included in this accounting line. NOK 233 million was expensed in the fourth quarter of 2012, relating to negative changes in the value of energy contracts.

### 9. RESTRUCTURING EXPENSES

Total income recognised in relation to restructuring activities in the fourth quarter is NOK 14 million. Provisions expensed in 2011 at Norske Skog Walsum (NOK 21 million) and Norske Skog Bruck (NOK 3 million) have been released, as a result of more employees working during the notice period than anticipated. Additional restructuring expenses of NOK 10 million have been recognised in the fourth quarter. These consist primarily of NOK 5 million relating to severance payments as a result of the on-going restructuring at head office, and NOK 4 million at Norske Skog Skogn relating to a planned downsizing in 2013.

Restructuring expenses of NOK 122 million in the third quarter consisted mainly of provisions for severance payments of NOK 105 million as a result of the decision to permanently close 160 000 tonnes of newsprint capacity at Norske Skog Tasman in

New Zealand. A provision of NOK 9 million was recognised at head office in relation to severance payments and other costs as a result of changes in corporate management. A provision of NOK 7 million was also recognised in relation to redundancies at Norske Skog Golbey in France.

Restructuring expenses in the second quarter of 2012 consisted of income of NOK 2 million following a review of the previous provision for severance payments at Norske Skog Parenco in the Netherlands, and a provision for severance payments of NOK 1 million at head office.

Restructuring expenses of NOK 11 million in the first quarter of 2012 were mainly related to provisions for severance payment and other costs as a result of the decision to close Norske Skog's shared service centre located in Antwerp in Belgium.

### 10. RECLASSIFICATION IN THE BALANCE SHEET

In the first quarter of 2012, a review of the classification of balance sheet items was performed. This resulted in the reclassification of restructuring liabilities in the balance sheet from Trade and other payables to Other current liabilities. The modified classification is

applied retrospectively, and comparative figures in the balance sheet have been restated. The change has had an impact of NOK 140 million at 31 December 2012 (NOK 172 million at 30 September 2012 and NOK 363 million at 31 December 2011).

### 11. THE NORSKE SKOG SHARE

|                                      | 31 DEC 2012 | 30 SEP 2012 | 30 JUN 2012 | 31 MAR 2012 | 31 DEC 2011 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Share price (NOK)                    | 3.96        | 5.19        | 4.09        | 5.70        | 4.52        |
| Book value of equity per share (NOK) | 22.68       | 33.97       | 37.08       | 36.96       | 39.08       |

## 12. PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS

| PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS AT 31 DECEMBER 2012 | NUMBER OF SHARES | OWNERSHIP % |
|--|------------------|-------------|
| Nobelsystem Scandinavia AS                 | 7 500 000        | 3.95        |
| AT Skog                                    | 6 671 000        | 3.51        |
| SKAGEN Fondene                             | 6 275 100        | 3.30        |
| Dimensional Fund Advisors                  | 5 587 204        | 2.94        |
| Allskog BA                                 | 5 261 414        | 2.77        |
| Astrup Fearnley AS                         | 5 189 688        | 2.73        |
| Acadian Asset Management                   | 4 915 349        | 2.59        |
| Nordnet Bank AB                            | 4 540 608        | 2.39        |
| Saba Capital Management                    | 4 529 774        | 2.38        |
| Folketrygdfondet                           | 3 938 041        | 2.07        |
| Uthalden AS                                | 3 820 000        | 2.01        |
| Swedbank Norge Market Making               | 3 000 000        | 1.58        |
| Fiducia AS                                 | 2 986 644        | 1.57        |
| Nordea Bank PLC Finland                    | 2 702 700        | 1.42        |
| Havlide AS                                 | 2 296 466        | 1.21        |
| AS Herdebred                               | 2 112 005        | 1.11        |
| Torstein I. Tvenge                         | 2 000 000        | 1.05        |
| Mjøsen Skog BA                             | 1 970 560        | 1.04        |
| Danske Bank                                | 1 893 775        | 1.00        |
| Shareholders with < 1% ownership           | 112 755 298      | 59.36       |
| Total                                      | 189 945 626      | 100.00      |

The data is provided by RD:IR and VPS, through the Nominee ID service. The data is obtained through the analysis of beneficial ownership and fund manager information provided in replies to disclosure of ownership notices issued to all custodians on the

Norske Skogindustrier ASA share register. Whilst every reasonable effort is made to verify all data, neither RD:IR nor VPS can guarantee the accuracy of the analysis.

## 13. EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

In January 2013, Norske Skog signed a lease contract for its new head office. The head office will be located centrally at Skøyen in Fram Eiendom's new building in 49 Karenslyst Allé in Oslo. The move will take place in early June 2013. Norske Skog has had its head office at Oxenøen in the municipality of Bærum since 1998. Norske

Skog and the landlord of the head office at Oxenøen have agreed to terminate the current lease contract during June 2013.

There have been no other events after the balance sheet date with significant impact on the interim financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2012.

