

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the six months ended 30 June 2014

Revenue: R2.9 billion
EBITDA: R442 million (-2%)
Headline earnings per share: 49.5 cents (-10.2%)

AFROX
A Member of The Linde Group



Performance highlights

Results for the first half of 2014 were influenced by a challenging trading environment which reflects the continued decline in the manufacturing, mining, and steel sectors in South Africa exacerbated by the five-month strike in the platinum sector and spill-over effects of Afrox's own strike in the first quarter.

Despite achieving price increases broadly in line with increased input costs, revenue for the six months to 30 June 2014 was flat at R2.87 billion (2013: R2.86 billion). Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) was down 2% at R442 million (2013: R449 million).

The EBITDA margin achieved was 15.4% (2013: 15.7%), reflecting the consequence of adverse sales conditions and inflationary pressure on costs: profit for the half-year was down 4.5% at R169 million (2013: R176 million) with headline earnings of 49.5 cents (2013: 55.1 cents).

The Group's capital revitalisation and growth plan continued to be implemented with capital expenditure of R209 million incurred during the first six months of 2014 (2013: R261 million).

Business review

Uncertainty in the economy and low GDP growth in South Africa, continue to impact negatively on demand for our products in key sectors. At 30 June 2014, year-on-year mining production had fallen approximately 5.7%, with manufacturing output down 1.6% in the first quarter and 0.4% in the second. However, our long-term success, and the realisation of our strategic goals, depends on our ability to adjust and respond to current and future market dynamics. We believe the next few months will see our key South African markets continuing to move at the current low levels of activity and accordingly we are pursuing an active cost management programme to mitigate against these difficult economic conditions.

In the first half of 2014, volume erosion continued in almost every market served in South Africa. Local shortages of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) – due to unexpected shutdowns at refineries – coupled with a planned maintenance shutdown of our import storage facility constrained our ability to meet demand for LPG in the first quarter. There was only a modest recovery in quarter two hampered by industrial action and a relatively mild start to winter in South Africa. Afrox continues to import LPG to supplement the market shortfall, in the process effectively subsidising an element of these additional costs as price recovery and distribution costs of imported product remain a challenge. We plan to increase the LPG cylinder pool by a further 5% in 2014, and therefore introduced a non-refundable rental charge to justify this additional capital investment in LPG cylinders. We continue to actively manage the illegal filling threat, not only to ensure that our assets are not abused, but more importantly, to protect the public from significant safety risks.

Hard Goods sales were down 14.4%, reflecting lower levels of activity in all key markets, especially the platinum mining sector. To improve performance, the Group is rationalising the current product range and focusing on driving sales of its high-yield products.

Output reduction at key large customers led to a reduction in demand for Atmospheric Gases in this reporting period. As a result, gaseous pipeline sales reduced and sales for bulk and compressed gases remained flat reflecting the continued reduction in activity in the manufacturing sector and the effects of strike actions in the first and second quarters.

The R350 million Air Separation Unit in the Eastern Cape is expected to commence production by the second quarter of 2015, which will mark a significant improvement in security of supply to customers in this important region. Afrox also commissioned a new R14 million hydrogen facility in Pelindaba which will reduce Afrox's dependence on imported hydrogen and enhance customer service levels.

Plant reliability of 99.1% (2013: 98.7%) has been achieved in this reporting period. Independently monitored customer satisfaction levels, with Afrox and our National Customer Service Centre (NCSC), stand at 95.1% (2013: 95.0%). The NCSC has also launched an eShop channel to take advantage of the growing trend across Africa for online ordering and account solutions.

Operations in the rest of Africa contributed 20% (2013: 19%) to the Group's half-year gross profit after distribution expenses (GPAD). Afrox businesses outside South Africa are receiving increased investment in plant and management resources as we commence with the roll-out of our African expansion strategy. The outlook for sub-Saharan Africa remains positive and the region continues to be central to future growth.

A management focus on workplace and distribution safety within the company continues to deliver results. Major incidents are down 67% compared to the same period last year (2013: down 73%). Afrox achieved multisite regional ISO 9001:2008 quality management certification, effectively streamlining certification in line with the Afrox business structure and thereby cutting costs.

Our Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) status remains a Level 3 value adding rating.

Although overall trading conditions have been challenging in South Africa, the Group's underlying business remains strong.

Board of directors

Nomfundo Vuyiswa Lila Qangule CA(SA) has been appointed as an independent non-executive director of the company with effect from 22 July 2014. She will serve as a member of the Afrox Board's Audit Committee.

Dividend

It is the Group's policy to consider dividends twice annually. The Board of directors have declared a gross interim cash dividend of 24.0 cents per share for the six months ended 30 June 2014 (2013: 27.0 cents). The dividend is covered two times by headline earnings per share.

Outlook

Economic conditions are likely to remain challenging for the foreseeable future, particularly in the key manufacturing, mining and steel production sectors of the South African economy. This will require increased focus on cost containment by our company due to lack of volume growth expected in the second half of 2014.

Mike Huggon
Chairman

Brett Kimber
Managing Director

21 August 2014
Johannesburg

NOTICE OF INTERIM DIVIDEND DECLARATION NUMBER 176 AND SALIENT FEATURES

Notice is hereby given that a gross interim cash dividend of 24.0 cents per ordinary share, being the interim dividend for the six-month period ended 30 June 2014, has been declared payable to all shareholders of African Oxygen Limited recorded in the register on Friday, 10 October 2014.

The salient dates for the declaration and payment of the interim dividend are as follows:

Last day to trade ordinary shares "cum" dividend: Friday, 3 October 2014
Ordinary shares trade "ex" the dividend: Monday, 6 October 2014
Record date: Friday, 10 October 2014
Payment date: Monday, 13 October 2014

Share certificates may not be dematerialised or rematerialised between Monday, 6 October 2014 and Friday, 10 October 2014, both days inclusive.

The local net dividend amount is 20.4 cents per share for shareholders liable to pay the new Dividends Tax and 24.0 cents per share for shareholders exempt from the new Dividends Tax (2013: 27.0 cents).

In terms of the new Dividends Tax, the following additional information is disclosed:

- the dividend has been declared out of income reserves;
- the local Dividends Tax rate is 15%, subject to double tax agreement;
- no Secondary Tax on Companies (STC) credits were utilised;
- Afrox currently has 308 567 602 ordinary shares in issue; and
- Afrox's income tax reference number is 9350042710.

Results presentation

Afrox will host a presentation on the financial results in Johannesburg on Friday, 22 August 2014. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Lebohang Meka at 011 490 0948. The slides, which will form part of the presentation will be available on the company's website from Monday, 25 August 2014.

By order of the Board

Cheryl Singh
Company Secretary

21 August 2014
Johannesburg

Forward-looking statements disclaimer: This interim review contains statements related to our future business and financial performance and future events or developments involving Afrox that may constitute forward-looking statements. Such statements are based on current expectations and certain assumptions of Afrox's management and are therefore subject to certain risks and uncertainties. A variety of factors, many of which are beyond Afrox's control, affect our operations, performance, business strategy and results and could cause the actual results, performance or achievements of Afrox to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements that may be expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements or anticipated on the basis of historical trends.

Condensed consolidated interim income statement

R'million	30 June 2014 6 months Reviewed	30 June 2013 6 months Reviewed	31 December 2013 12 months Audited
Revenue	2 866	2 859	5 825
Operating expenses	(2 424)	(2 410)	(4 945)
Earnings before interest, taxation, depreciation, amortisation and impairments (EBITDA)	442	449	880
Depreciation and amortisation	(195)	(178)	(366)
Earnings before interest and taxation (EBIT)	247	271	514
Net finance expense	(5)	(20)	(47)
Income from associate	1	-	1
Profit before taxation	243	251	468
Taxation	(74)	(75)	(144)
Profit for the period	169	176	324
Attributable to:			
Equity holders of the parent company	163	169	309
Non-controlling interests	6	7	15
Profit for the period	169	176	324
Earnings per share – cents			
Basic and diluted earnings per ordinary share – cents	52.8	54.8	100.1
Headline earnings per ordinary share – cents	49.5	55.1	95.3

Condensed consolidated interim statement of comprehensive income

R'million	30 June 2014 6 months Reviewed	30 June 2013 6 months Reviewed	31 December 2013 12 months Audited
Profit for the period	169	176	324
Other comprehensive income after taxation	(88)	61	228
Items that can subsequently be reclassified to the income statement	(26)	28	35
Translation differences on foreign operations	(20)	24	29
Translation differences relating to non-controlling interests	(4)	4	5
Changes in fair value of cash flow hedges (net of taxation)	(2)	-	1
Items that cannot subsequently be reclassified to the income statement	(62)	33	193
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined-benefit funds	(86)	46	276
Deferred taxation relating to actuarial losses/gains	24	(13)	(83)
Total comprehensive income for the period	81	237	552
Total comprehensive income attributable to:			
Equity holders of the parent company	79	226	532
Non-controlling interests	2	11	20
	81	237	552

Condensed consolidated statement of financial position

R'million	Note	30 June 2014 Reviewed	30 June 2013 Reviewed	31 December 2013 Audited
ASSETS				
Property, plant and equipment	4	3 058	2 963	3 034
Retirement benefits assets		483	390	552
Deferred taxation assets		18	12	9
Lease receivables		110	103	100
Other non-current assets		83	115	99
Non-current assets		3 752	3 583	3 794
Inventories		834	873	850
Trade and other receivables		983	1 061	906
Lease receivables		17	7	6
Derivative financial instruments		-	-	31
Other current assets		14	25	3
Taxation receivable		41	38	33
Cash and cash equivalents		331	430	380
Current assets		2 220	2 442	2 213
Total assets		5 972	6 025	6 007
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity holders of the parent company		3 231	2 981	3 202
Non-controlling interests		38	37	37
Total equity		3 269	3 018	3 239
Long-term borrowings		1 000	1 000	1 000
Deferred taxation liability		546	548	570
Non-current liabilities		1 546	1 548	1 570
Trade, other payables and financial liabilities		1 123	1 143	1 141
Taxation payable		26	38	27
Short-term portion of long-term borrowings		-	269	3
Bank overdrafts		8	9	26
Current liabilities		1 157	1 459	1 198
Total equity and liabilities		5 972	6 025	6 007

Condensed consolidated interim statement of changes in equity

R'million	Share capital and share premium	Incentive scheme share-based payment reserves	FCTR and hedging reserves	Actuarial gains/(losses)	Retained earnings	Non-controlling interests	Total equity
Balance at 1 January 2013	552	8	(67)	174	2 137	27	2 831
Profit for the period	-	-	-	-	169	7	176
Other comprehensive income	-	-	24	33	-	4	61
Share-based payments	7	-	-	-	-	-	7
Dividends paid	-	-	-	-	(56)	(1)	(57)
Balance at 30 June 2013	552	15	(43)	207	2 250	37	3 018
Balance at 1 January 2014	552	8	(67)	174	2 137	27	2 831
Profit for the period	-	-	-	-	309	15	324
Other comprehensive income	-	-	30	193	-	5	228
Shares purchased on behalf of employees	-	(16)	-	-	-	-	(16)
Share-based payments	21	-	-	-	-	-	21
Dividends paid	-	-	-	-	(139)	(10)	(149)
Balance at 31 December 2013	552	13	(37)	367	2 307	37	3 239
Balance at 1 January 2014	552	13	(37)	367	2 307	37	3 239
Profit for the period	-	-	-	-	163	6	169
Other comprehensive income	-	-	(22)	(62)	-	(4)	(88)
Net share scheme transactions	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Share-based payments	11	-	-	-	-	-	11
Dividends paid	-	-	-	-	(62)	(1)	(63)
Balance at 30 June 2014	552	25	(59)	305	2 408	38	3 269

Condensed consolidated interim statement of cash flows

R'million	30 June 2014 6 months Reviewed	30 June 2013 6 months Reviewed	31 December 2013 12 months Audited
Earnings before interest and taxation (EBIT)	247	271	514
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation, amortisation and impairments	195	178	366
Other	18	31	153
Operating cash flows before working capital adjustments	460	480	1 033
Working capital adjustments	(84)	(302)	(200)
Cash generated from operations	376	178	833
Vested shares purchased on behalf of employees	(2)	(3)	(3)
Net finance expenses	(49)	(43)	(76)
Taxation paid	(90)	(81)	(202)
Cash available from operating activities	235	(56)	552
Dividends paid to owners of the parent	(62)	(1)	(139)
Dividends to non-controlling interests	(1)	(1)	(10)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	172	(6)	403
Additions to property, plant and equipment and intangibles	(209)	(261)	(605)
Proceeds from disposal of the RECO business	-	21	36
Other investing activities	8	14	48
Net cash outflow from investing activities	(201)	(226)	(421)
Borrowings raised	-	1 000	1 216
Borrowings repaid	(3)	(602)	(1 083)
Forfeited shares sold	1	-	-
Incentive share scheme shares purchased on behalf of employees	-	-	(16)
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from financing activities	(2)	398	117
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents	(31)	166	99
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	354	255	255
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	323	421	354

Operating segments

R'million	30 June 2014 6 months Reviewed	30 June 2013 6 months Reviewed	31 December 2013 12 months Audited
Revenue	2 866	2 859	5 825
Atmospheric Gases	899	861	1 745
LPG	1 045	1 025	2 132
Hard Goods	457	523	993
Rest of Africa	465	450	955
Gross profit after distribution expenses (GPAD)	777	818	1 580
Atmospheric Gases	327	303	610
LPG	153	159	311
Hard Goods	140	201	337
Rest of Africa	157	155	322
Reconciliation of GPAD to EBIT			
GPAD for business segments	777	818	1 580
Other operating expenses	(530)	(547)	(1 066)
Earnings before interest and taxation (EBIT)	247	271	514

Statistics and ratios

	30 June 2014 6 months Reviewed	30 June 2013 6 months Reviewed	31 December 2013 12 months Audited
Average number of shares in issue during the period (000)	308 568	308 568	308 568
Shares in issue (000)	308 568	308 568	308 568
Dividends per share (cents)	24.0	27.0	47.0
Final Interim	24.0	27.0	27.0
Ratios			
EBITDA margin (%)	15.4	15.7	15.1
Interest cover on EBITDA (times)	80.7	22.5	10.9
Effective taxation rate (%)	30.3	30.1	30.8
Gearing (%)	15.0	19.2	14.6
Dividend cover on headline earnings (times)	2	2	2

Notes to the interim condensed consolidated financial statements

African Oxygen Limited ("Afox" or the "company") is a South African registered company. The interim condensed consolidated financial statements of the company comprise the company and its subsidiaries (together referred to as the "Group") and the Group's interest in an associate.

1. Statement of compliance

The condensed consolidated interim financial statements are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), (IAS) 34 Interim Financial Reporting, the SAICA Financial Reporting Guides as issued by the Accounting Practices Committee and Financial Pronouncements as issued by Financial Reporting Standards Council and the requirements of the Companies Act of South Africa. The accounting policies applied in the preparation of these interim financial statements are in terms of IFRS and are consistent with those applied in the previous annual financial statements.

Corporate information

African Oxygen Limited
(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)
Registration number: 1927/00089/06
ISIN: ZAE000067120 JSE code: AFAX
NSX code: AOX

Registered office:
Afrox House, 23 Webber Street, Selby
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Transfer secretaries: Computershare Investor Services (Pty) Ltd
Sponsor in South Africa: One Capital
Sponsor in Namibia: Namibia Equity Brokers (Pty) Ltd
Directors: B Kimber (Managing Director), NA Thomson** (Financial Director), MS Huggon** (Chairman), M von Plotto*, DM Lawrence,
Dr KDK Mokhele, SN Masako, CF Wells**, R