

James Hardie Industries N.V. And Subsidiaries

Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
For the Period Ended 30 September 2005

James Hardie Industries N.V. and Subsidiaries

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of
James Hardie Industries N.V. and Subsidiaries:

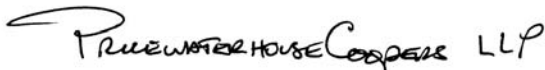
We have reviewed the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheet of James Hardie Industries N.V. and Subsidiaries as of 30 September 2005, and the related condensed consolidated statements of income for each of the three-month and six-month periods ended 30 September 2005 and 2004 and the condensed consolidated statements of cash flows for the six-month periods ended 30 September 2005 and 2004 and the condensed consolidated statement of changes in shareholders' equity for the six-month period ended 30 September 2005, as stated in U.S. dollars. We have not reviewed any amounts stated in Australian dollars included in the accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements. These interim financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management.

We conducted our review in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). A review of interim financial information consists principally of applying analytical procedures and making inquiries of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters. It is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying condensed consolidated interim financial statements for them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We previously audited in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheet as of 31 March 2005, and the related consolidated statements of income, cash flows and changes in shareholders' equity for the year then ended (not presented herein), and in our report dated 13 May 2005 we expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements. In our opinion, the information set forth in the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheet information as of 31 March 2005, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the consolidated balance sheet from which it has been derived.

As discussed in Note 8 to the condensed consolidated financial statements, the Company is subject to certain significant contingencies, including asbestos-related claims against former subsidiaries; a Special Commission of Inquiry established by the government of New South Wales, Australia; a Heads of Agreement; an investigation by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission; and an offer of an indemnity to ABN 60 together with a related commitment to provide funding to the Medical Research and Compensation Foundation.



Los Angeles, California
7 November 2005

James Hardie Industries N.V. and Subsidiaries

Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets

(Unaudited)

	Millions of US Dollars		Millions of Australian Dollars	
	30 September 2005	31 March 2005	30 September 2005	31 March 2005
Assets				
Current assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 170.9	\$ 113.5	A\$ 224.4	A\$ 146.9
Accounts and notes receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$1.7 million (A\$2.2 million) and \$1.5 million (A\$1.8 million) as of 30 September 2005 and 31 March 2005, respectively	131.9	122.8	173.2	159.0
Inventories	109.7	98.6	144.1	127.6
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	18.2	12.0	23.9	15.5
Deferred tax assets	22.4	25.8	29.4	33.4
Assets of business held for sale	-	17.9	-	23.2
Total current assets	<u>453.1</u>	390.6	<u>595.0</u>	505.6
Property, plant and equipment, net	727.9	677.6	956.0	877.2
Deferred tax assets	9.9	10.6	13.0	13.7
Other assets	9.6	10.1	12.6	13.1
Total assets	<u>\$ 1,200.5</u>	<u>\$ 1,088.9</u>	<u>A\$ 1,576.6</u>	<u>A\$ 1,409.6</u>
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity				
Current liabilities:				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 120.3	\$ 92.1	A\$ 158.0	A\$ 119.2
Current portion of long-term debt	25.7	25.7	33.8	33.3
Accrued payroll and employee benefits	31.6	35.4	41.5	45.8
Accrued product warranties	8.8	8.0	11.6	10.4
Income taxes payable	30.9	21.4	40.6	27.7
Other liabilities	1.2	1.5	1.6	1.9
Liabilities of business held for sale	-	14.3	-	18.5
Total current liabilities	<u>218.5</u>	198.4	<u>287.1</u>	256.8
Long-term debt	121.7	121.7	159.8	157.6
Deferred income taxes	79.5	77.5	104.4	100.3
Accrued product warranties	4.6	4.9	6.0	6.3
Other liabilities	63.5	61.7	83.4	79.9
Total liabilities	<u>487.8</u>	464.2	<u>640.7</u>	600.9
Commitments and contingencies (Note 8)				
Shareholders' equity:				
Common stock, Euro 0.59 par value, 2.0 billion shares authorised; 462,101,613 shares issued and outstanding at 30 September 2005 and 459,373,176 shares issued and outstanding at 31 March 2005	247.9	245.8		
Additional paid-in capital	149.9	139.4		
Retained earnings	340.3	264.3		
Employee loans	(0.5)	(0.7)		
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(24.9)	(24.1)		
Total shareholders' equity	<u>712.7</u>	624.7		
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	<u>\$ 1,200.5</u>	<u>\$ 1,088.9</u>		

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these interim condensed consolidated financial statements.

James Hardie Industries N.V. and Subsidiaries
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income
(Unaudited)

(Millions of US dollars, except per share data)	Three Months		Six Months	
	Ended 30 September 2005	2004	Ended 30 September 2005	2004
Net sales	\$ 376.6	\$ 300.9	\$ 736.0	\$ 607.0
Cost of goods sold	<u>(239.3)</u>	<u>(203.8)</u>	<u>(453.4)</u>	<u>(398.6)</u>
Gross profit	137.3	97.1	282.6	208.4
Selling, general and administrative expenses	(49.7)	(45.5)	(95.2)	(90.6)
Research and development expenses	(7.1)	(5.3)	(13.4)	(10.3)
SCI and other related expenses	(4.7)	(5.6)	(9.9)	(8.5)
Other operating income (expense)	<u>0.6</u>	<u>(0.7)</u>	<u>(0.8)</u>	<u>(0.7)</u>
Operating income	76.4	40.0	163.3	98.3
Interest expense	(2.3)	(1.9)	(4.0)	(4.7)
Interest income	1.3	0.6	2.3	0.9
Other expense	<u>-</u>	<u>(1.9)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1.9)</u>
Income from continuing operations before income taxes	75.4	36.8	161.6	92.6
Income tax expense	<u>(27.8)</u>	<u>(12.1)</u>	<u>(58.1)</u>	<u>(30.8)</u>
Income from continuing operations	47.6	24.7	103.5	61.8
Gain (loss) on disposal of discontinued operations net of income tax of nil	<u>-</u>	<u>0.1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(0.7)</u>
Net income	<u>\$ 47.6</u>	<u>\$ 24.8</u>	<u>\$ 103.5</u>	<u>\$ 61.1</u>
Income per share - basic:				
Income from continuing operations	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.13
Loss from discontinued operations	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net income per share - basic	<u>\$ 0.10</u>	<u>\$ 0.05</u>	<u>\$ 0.22</u>	<u>\$ 0.13</u>
Income per share - diluted:				
Income from continuing operations	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.13
Loss from discontinued operations	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net income per share - diluted	<u>\$ 0.10</u>	<u>\$ 0.05</u>	<u>\$ 0.22</u>	<u>\$ 0.13</u>
Weighted average common shares outstanding (Millions):				
Basic	461.4	458.7	461.0	458.7
Diluted	466.8	460.4	465.0	460.6

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these interim condensed consolidated financial statements.

James Hardie Industries N.V. and Subsidiaries
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income
(Unaudited)

(Millions of Australian dollars, except per share data)	Three Months Ended 30 September		Six Months Ended 30 September	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
Net sales	A\$ 492.9	A\$ 420.3	A\$ 963.3	A\$ 847.9
Cost of goods sold	(313.2)	(284.7)	(593.4)	(556.8)
Gross profit	179.7	135.6	369.9	291.1
Selling, general and administrative expenses	(65.0)	(63.6)	(124.6)	(126.6)
Research and development expenses	(9.3)	(7.4)	(17.5)	(14.4)
SCI and other related expenses	(6.2)	(7.8)	(13.0)	(11.9)
Other operating income (expense)	0.8	(1.0)	(1.0)	(0.9)
Operating income	100.0	55.8	213.8	137.3
Interest expense	(3.0)	(2.7)	(5.2)	(6.6)
Interest income	1.7	0.8	3.0	1.3
Other expense	-	(2.7)	-	(2.7)
Income from continuing operations before income taxes	98.7	51.2	211.6	129.3
Income tax expense	(36.4)	(16.9)	(76.0)	(43.0)
Income from continuing operations	62.3	34.3	135.6	86.3
Gain (loss) on disposal of discontinued operations net of income tax of nil	-	0.1	-	(1.0)
Net income	A\$ 62.3	A\$ 34.4	A\$ 135.6	A\$ 85.3
Income per share - basic:				
Income from continuing operations	A\$ 0.14	A\$ 0.07	A\$ 0.29	A\$ 0.19
Loss from discontinued operations	-	-	-	-
Net income per share - basic	A\$ 0.14	A\$ 0.07	A\$ 0.29	A\$ 0.19
Income per share - diluted:				
Income from continuing operations	A\$ 0.13	A\$ 0.07	A\$ 0.29	A\$ 0.19
Loss from discontinued operations	-	-	-	-
Net income per share - diluted	A\$ 0.13	A\$ 0.07	A\$ 0.29	A\$ 0.19
Weighted average common shares outstanding (Millions):				
Basic	461.4	458.7	461.0	458.7
Diluted	466.8	460.4	465.0	460.6

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these interim condensed consolidated financial statements.

James Hardie Industries N.V. and Subsidiaries
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows
(Unaudited)

(Millions of US dollars)	Six Months Ended 30 September	
	2005	2004
Cash Flows From Operating Activities		
Net income	\$ 103.5	\$ 61.1
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Loss on disposal of subsidiaries and businesses	0.8	-
Depreciation and amortisation	22.5	17.9
Deferred income taxes	5.8	3.5
Prepaid pension cost	1.3	1.4
Tax benefit from stock options exercised	1.3	0.1
Stock compensation	1.9	1.2
Other	0.6	2.7
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	(8.5)	4.8
Inventories	(12.2)	12.7
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	(7.2)	20.4
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	28.3	22.3
Other accrued liabilities and other liabilities	9.7	(11.2)
Net cash provided by operating activities	147.8	136.9
Cash Flows From Investing Activities		
Purchases of property, plant and equipment	(75.0)	(81.1)
Proceeds from disposal of subsidiaries and businesses, net of cash divested	2.9	-
Net cash used in investing activities	(72.1)	(81.1)
Cash Flows From Financing Activities		
Proceeds from issuance of shares	9.4	0.7
Dividends paid	(27.5)	(13.7)
Collections on loans receivable	0.2	0.1
Net cash used in financing activities	(17.9)	(12.9)
Effects of exchange rate changes on cash	(0.4)	(0.4)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	57.4	42.5
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	113.5	72.3
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	170.9	114.8
Components of Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash at bank and on hand	33.0	19.0
Short-term deposits	137.9	95.8
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 170.9	\$ 114.8

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these interim condensed consolidated financial statements.

James Hardie Industries N.V. and Subsidiaries
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows
(Unaudited)

(Millions of Australian dollars)	Six Months Ended 30 September	
	2005	2004
Cash Flows From Operating Activities		
Net income	A\$ 135.6	A\$ 85.3
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Loss on disposal of subsidiaries and businesses	1.0	-
Depreciation and amortisation	29.4	25.0
Deferred income taxes	7.6	4.9
Prepaid pension cost	1.7	2.0
Tax benefit from stock options exercised	1.7	0.1
Stock compensation	2.5	1.7
Other	0.8	3.8
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	(11.1)	6.7
Inventories	(16.0)	17.7
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	(9.4)	28.4
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	37.0	31.2
Other accrued liabilities and other liabilities	12.7	(15.6)
Net cash provided by operating activities	193.5	191.2
Cash Flows From Investing Activities		
Purchases of property, plant and equipment	(98.2)	(113.3)
Proceeds from disposal of subsidiaries and businesses, net of cash divested	3.8	-
Net cash used in investing activities	(94.4)	(113.3)
Cash Flows From Financing Activities		
Proceeds from issuance of shares	12.3	1.0
Dividends paid	(36.0)	(19.1)
Collections on loans receivable	0.3	0.1
Net cash used in financing activities	(23.4)	(18.0)
Effects of exchange rate changes on cash	1.8	5.4
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	77.5	65.3
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	146.9	95.1
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	224.4	160.4
Components of Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash at bank and on hand	43.3	26.5
Short-term deposits	181.1	133.9
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	A\$ 224.4	A\$ 160.4

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these interim condensed consolidated financial statements.

James Hardie Industries N.V. and Subsidiaries
Condensed Consolidated Statement of Changes in Shareholders' Equity
(Unaudited)

(Millions of US dollars)	Common Stock	Additional Paid-in Capital	Retained Earnings	Employee Loans	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss	Total
Balances as of 31 March 2005	\$ 245.8	\$ 139.4	\$ 264.3	\$ (0.7)	\$ (24.1)	\$624.7
Comprehensive income (loss):						
Net income	-	-	103.5	-	-	103.5
Other comprehensive income (loss):						
Amortisation of unrealised transition loss on derivative instruments	-	-	-	-	0.5	0.5
Foreign currency translation loss	-	-	-	-	(1.3)	(1.3)
Other comprehensive loss	-	-	-	-	(0.8)	(0.8)
Total comprehensive income						102.7
Dividends paid	-	-	(27.5)	-	-	(27.5)
Stock compensation	-	1.9	-	-	-	1.9
Tax benefit from stock options exercised	-	1.3	-	-	-	1.3
Employee loans movement	-	-	-	0.2	-	0.2
Stock options exercised	2.1	7.3	-	-	-	9.4
Balances as of 30 September 2005	<u>\$ 247.9</u>	<u>\$ 149.9</u>	<u>\$ 340.3</u>	<u>\$ (0.5)</u>	<u>\$ (24.9)</u>	<u>\$712.7</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these interim condensed consolidated financial statements.

James Hardie Industries N.V. and Subsidiaries

Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

(Unaudited)

1. Basis of Presentation

The condensed consolidated financial statements represent the financial position, results of operations and cash flows of James Hardie Industries N.V. (JHI NV) and its wholly owned subsidiaries, collectively referred to as either the "Company" or "James Hardie" and JHI NV together with its subsidiaries as of the time relevant to the applicable reference, the James Hardie Group, unless the context indicates otherwise.

In the opinion of management, the accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements reflect all adjustments, which are of a normal recurring nature, necessary for a fair statement of financial position as of 30 September and 31 March 2005 and the results of operations for the three and six months ended 30 September 2005 and 2004 and cash flows for the six months ended 30 September 2005 and 2004. These condensed consolidated financial statements and notes are to be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements of James Hardie Industries N.V. and Subsidiaries for the three years ended 31 March 2005. The results of operations for the six months ended 30 September 2005 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the full fiscal year ending 31 March 2006.

Convenience Translation

As the majority of the Company's shareholder base is Australian, the assets, liabilities, income statement and cash flows of the Company have been presented with accompanying Australian dollar (A\$) convenience translations. These A\$ convenience translations are not prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The exchange rates used to calculate the convenience translations are as follows:

(US\$1 = A\$)	31 March 2005	30 September 2005	2004
Assets and liabilities	1.2946	1.3133	1.3974
Income statement	n/a	1.3088	1.3969
Cash flows - beginning cash	n/a	1.2946	1.3156
Cash flows - ending cash	n/a	1.3133	1.3974
Cash flows - current period movements	n/a	1.3088	1.3969

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Reclassifications

Certain prior year balances have been reclassified to conform with the current year presentation.

James Hardie Industries N.V. and Subsidiaries

Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(Unaudited)

Earnings Per Share

The Company is required to disclose basic and diluted earnings per share ("EPS"). Basic EPS is calculated using income divided by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted EPS is similar to basic EPS except that the weighted average number of common shares outstanding is increased to include the number of additional common shares calculated using the treasury method that would have been outstanding if dilutive potential common shares, such as options, had been issued. Accordingly, basic and dilutive common shares outstanding used in determining net income per share are as follows:

(Millions of shares)	Three Months Ended 30 September		Six Months Ended 30 September	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
Basic common shares outstanding	461.4	458.7	461.0	458.7
Dilutive effect of stock options	5.4	1.7	4.0	1.9
Diluted common shares outstanding	<u>466.8</u>	<u>460.4</u>	<u>465.0</u>	<u>460.6</u>
(Continuing operations - US dollar)	2005	2004	2005	2004
Net income per share - basic	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.13
Net income per share - diluted	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.13

Potential common shares of 10.4 million and 8.9 million for the three and six months ended 30 September 2004, respectively, have been excluded from the calculation of diluted common shares outstanding because the effect of their inclusion would be anti-dilutive.

Advertising

The Company expenses the production costs of advertising the first time the advertising takes place. Advertising expense was US\$4.9 million and US\$4.0 million for the three months ended 30 September 2005 and 2004, respectively, and US\$9.3 million and US\$9.1 million for the six months ended 30 September 2005 and 2004, respectively.

Stock-Based Compensation

The Company estimates the fair value of its stock option grants on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model and recognises this value as compensation expense over the periods in which the options vest. Accordingly, the Company recognised stock-based compensation expense (included in selling, general and administrative expenses) of US\$0.9 million and US\$0.5 million for the three months ended 30 September 2005 and 2004, respectively, and US\$1.9 million and US\$1.2 million for the six months ended 30 September 2005 and 2004, respectively.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

Inventory Costs

In November 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ("SFAS") No. 151, "Inventory Costs - an amendment of Accounting Research Bulletin ("ARB") No. 43, Chapter 4." SFAS No. 151 requires abnormal amounts of inventory costs related to idle facility, freight handling and wasted material expenses to be recognised as current period charges. Additionally, SFAS No. 151 requires that allocation of fixed production overhead to the costs of conversion be based on the normal capacity of the production

James Hardie Industries N.V. and Subsidiaries

Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(Unaudited)

facilities. SFAS No. 151 is effective for fiscal years beginning after 15 June 2005. The Company does not expect the adoption of this standard to have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

American Jobs Creation Act

In October 2004, the President of the United States signed into law the American Jobs Creation Act (the "Act"). The Act allows for a US federal income tax deduction for a percentage of income earned from certain US production activities. Based on the effective date of the Act, the Company will be eligible for this deduction in the first quarter of fiscal year 2006. Additionally, in December 2004, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position ("FSP") No. 109-1, "Application of FASB Statement No. 109, "Accounting for Income Taxes" ("SFAS No. 109"), to the Tax Deduction on Qualified Production Activities Provided by the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004." FSP No. 109-1, which was effective upon issuance, states the deduction under this provision of the Act should be accounted for as a special deduction in accordance with SFAS No. 109. The Company applied the guidance in FSP No. 109-1 upon recognition of this tax deduction beginning 1 April 2005. The application of FSP No. 109-1 did not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

The Act also allows for an 85% dividends received deduction on the repatriation of certain earnings of foreign subsidiaries. In December 2004, the FASB issued FSP No. 109-2, "Accounting and Disclosure Guidance for the Foreign Earnings Repatriation Provision within the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004." FSP No. 109-2, which was effective upon issuance, allows companies time beyond the financial reporting period of enactment to evaluate the effect of the Act on its plan for reinvestment or repatriation of foreign earnings for purposes of applying SFAS No. 109. Additionally, FSP No. 109-2 provides guidance regarding the required disclosures surrounding a company's reinvestment or repatriation of foreign earnings. The Company continues to evaluate this provision of the Act and as such, has not yet quantified the impact this provision will have on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

Exchanges of Non-Monetary Assets

In December 2004, the FASB issued SFAS No. 153, "Exchange of Non-Monetary Assets - An Amendment of ARB Opinion No. 29," which requires non-monetary asset exchanges to be accounted for at fair value. The Company is required to adopt the provisions of SFAS No. 153 for non-monetary exchanges occurring in fiscal periods beginning after 15 June 2005. The Company is in the process of evaluating the effect the adoption of this pronouncement will have on its consolidated financial statements; however the Company does not expect it to have a material impact.

Share-Based Payment

In December 2004, the FASB issued SFAS No. 123 (revised 2004), "Share-Based Payment" ("SFAS No. 123R"). SFAS No. 123R replaces SFAS No. 123 and supersedes Accounting Principles Board ("APB") Opinion No. 25, "Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees." Generally, SFAS No. 123R is similar in approach to SFAS No. 123 and requires that compensation cost relating to share-based payments be recognised in the financial statements based on the fair value of the equity or liability instruments issued. SFAS No. 123R is effective as of the beginning of the first interim or annual reporting period that begins after 15 June 2005. In April 2005, the United States Securities and Exchange Commission delayed the effective date of SFAS No. 123R until fiscal years beginning after 15 June 2005. The Company adopted SFAS No. 123 in fiscal year 2003. The Company is in the process of evaluating the effect the adoption of SFAS No. 123R will have on its consolidated financial statements; however the Company does not expect it to have a material impact.

Conditional Asset Retirement Obligations

In March 2005, the FASB issued FASB Interpretation No. ("FIN") 47, "Accounting for Conditional Asset Retirement Obligations." FIN 47 clarifies the term "conditional asset retirement obligation" used in SFAS No. 143, "Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations." FIN 47 is effective no later

James Hardie Industries N.V. and Subsidiaries

Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(Unaudited)

than the end of the fiscal year ending after 15 December 2005. The adoption of this interpretation beginning 1 April 2005 did not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

Accounting Changes and Error Corrections

In May 2005, the FASB issued SFAS No. 154, "Accounting Changes and Error Corrections - a replacement of APB Opinion No. 20 and FASB Statement No. 3." SFAS No. 154 requires retrospective application to prior periods' financial statements of a voluntary change in accounting principle unless it is impracticable. APB Opinion No. 20, "Accounting Changes," previously required that most voluntary changes in accounting principle be recognised by including in net income of the period of the change the cumulative effect of changing to the new accounting principle. This statement is effective for accounting changes and corrections of errors made in fiscal years beginning after 15 December 2005. The Company does not expect the adoption of this standard to have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

Uncertain Tax Positions

In July 2005, the FASB issued an exposure draft of a proposed interpretation "Accounting for Uncertain Tax Positions." The proposed interpretation clarifies the accounting for uncertain tax positions in accordance with SFAS No. 109. The proposed interpretation requires that a tax position meet a "probable recognition threshold" for the benefit of the uncertain tax position to be recognised in the financial statements. A tax position that fails to meet the probable recognition threshold will result in either reduction of current or deferred tax asset or receivable, or recording a current or deferred tax liability. The proposed interpretation also provides guidance on measurement, derecognition of tax benefits, classification, interim reporting disclosure and transition requirements in accounting for uncertain tax positions. The proposed interpretation has a 60-day comment period and shall be effective for all companies as of the first fiscal year ending after 15 December 2005. The Company is assessing the impact of adopting the new pronouncement and is currently unable to estimate its impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

3. Inventories

Inventories consist of the following components:

(Millions of US dollars)	30 September 2005	31 March 2005
Finished goods	\$ 73.9	\$ 70.1
Work-in-process	9.5	8.4
Raw materials and supplies	28.5	22.1
Provision for obsolete finished goods and raw materials	(2.2)	(2.0)
Total inventories	<u>\$ 109.7</u>	<u>\$ 98.6</u>

4. Retirement Plans

The Company sponsors a retirement plan for its Australian employees that is accounted for as a defined benefit plan. Pension expense for this plan is determined using the projected unit credit method to estimate the total benefits ultimately payable to participants and allocates this cost to service periods. The actuarial assumptions used to calculate pension costs are reviewed annually. The Company made contributions of US\$0.3 million and US\$0.7 million for the three and six months ended 30 September 2005. The Company expects to make a contribution to the pension plan of approximately US\$0.7 million for the remainder of fiscal year 2006.

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Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)
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The following are the components of net periodic pension cost for this plan:

(Millions of US dollars)	Three Months Ended 30 September		Six Months Ended 30 September	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
Service cost	\$ 0.5	\$ 0.7	\$ 1.0	\$ 1.5
Interest cost	0.6	0.6	1.2	1.2
Expected return on plan assets	(0.6)	(0.7)	(1.3)	(1.5)
Recognised net actuarial loss	-	0.1	0.1	0.2
Net periodic pension cost	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.4
Settlement loss	-	-	0.3	-
Net pension cost	\$ 0.5	\$ 0.7	\$ 1.3	\$ 1.4

5. Disposal of Chile Business

In June 2005, the Company approved a plan to dispose of its Chile Fibre Cement business to Compania Industrial El Volcan S.A. (Volcan). The sale closed on 8 July 2005. The Company received net proceeds of US\$3.9 million and recorded a loss on disposal of US\$0.8 million. This loss on disposal is included in other operating income (expense) in the Company's consolidated financial statements. The net proceeds from sale were comprised of cash of US\$3.1 million and a receivable of US\$0.8 million. The cash proceeds were offset by cash divested of US\$0.2 million. Short-term debt of US\$11.9 million was repaid in full out of the gross proceeds of US\$15.8 million.

As part of the terms of the sale of the Chile Fibre Cement business to Volcan, the Company entered into a two year take or pay purchase contract for fibre cement product manufactured by Volcan. The first year of the contract amounts to a purchase commitment of approximately US\$2.8 million and the second year amounts to a purchase commitment of approximately US\$2.1 million. As this contract qualifies as continuing involvement per SFAS No. 144, "Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long Lived Assets," the operating results and loss on disposal of the Chile Fibre Cement business are included in the Company's income from continuing operations and are comprised of the following components:

(Millions of US dollars)	Three Months Ended 30 September		Six Months Ended 30 September	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
Chile Fibre Cement				
Net sales	\$ 0.5	\$ 2.7	\$ 5.1	\$ 4.9
Cost of goods sold	(0.4)	(2.0)	(3.5)	(3.7)
Gross profit	0.1	0.7	1.6	1.2
Selling, general and administrative expenses	(0.2)	(0.6)	(1.2)	(1.0)
Other operating income (expense)	0.6	-	(0.8)	-
Operating income (loss)	0.5	0.1	(0.4)	0.2
Interest expense	-	(0.1)	(0.2)	(0.2)
Net income (loss)	\$ 0.5	\$ -	\$ (0.6)	\$ -

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Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)
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Assets and liabilities of business held for sale in the condensed consolidated balance sheet include the following:

(Millions of US dollars)	31 March 2005	
Assets of business held for sale		
Accounts receivable, net	\$	4.4
Inventories		1.3
Property, plant and equipment, net		8.1
Intangible assets, net		2.2
Deferred tax assets		1.9
	<u>\$</u>	<u>17.9</u>
Liabilities of business held for sale		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$	1.9
Short-term debt		11.9
Other		0.5
	<u>\$</u>	<u>14.3</u>

6. Operating Segment Information and Concentrations of Risk

The Company has reported its operating segment information in the format that the operating segment information is available to, and evaluated by, the Board of Directors. USA Fibre Cement manufactures and sells fibre cement interior linings, exterior siding and related accessories products in the United States. Asia Pacific Fibre Cement includes all fibre cement manufactured in Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines and sold in Australia, New Zealand and Asia. Research and Development represents the cost incurred by the research and development centres. Other includes the manufacture and sale of fibre cement products in Chile, the manufacture and sale of fibre cement reinforced pipes in the United States, fibre cement operations in Europe and roofing operations in the United States. The Company's reportable operating segments are strategic operating units that are managed separately due to their different products and/or geographical location.

Operating Segments

The following are the Company's operating segments and geographical information:

(Millions of US dollars)	Net Sales to Customers Three Months		Net Sales to Customers Six Months	
	Ended 30 September 2005	2004	Ended 30 September 2005	2004
USA Fibre Cement	\$ 307.4	\$ 231.0	\$ 594.9	\$ 471.7
Asia Pacific Fibre Cement	63.5	62.5	125.2	119.8
Other	5.7	7.4	15.9	15.5
Worldwide total from continuing operations	<u>\$ 376.6</u>	<u>\$ 300.9</u>	<u>\$ 736.0</u>	<u>\$ 607.0</u>

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(Millions of US dollars)	Income From Continuing Operations Three Months Ended 30 September		Income From Continuing Operations Six Months Ended 30 September	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
USA Fibre Cement	\$ 86.1	\$ 49.0	\$ 180.2	\$ 112.1
Asia Pacific Fibre Cement	12.0	12.3	24.4	24.3
Research and Development	(4.0)	(3.4)	(7.2)	(7.5)
Other	(2.6)	(4.2)	(6.1)	(7.5)
Segments total	91.5	53.7	191.3	121.4
General Corporate	(15.1)	(13.7)	(28.0)	(23.1)
Total operating income	76.4	40.0	163.3	98.3
Net interest income (expense)	(1.0)	(1.3)	(1.7)	(3.8)
Other expense	-	(1.9)	-	(1.9)
Worldwide total from continuing operations	\$ 75.4	\$ 36.8	\$ 161.6	\$ 92.6

(Millions of US dollars)	Total Identifiable Assets	
	30 September 2005	31 March 2005
USA Fibre Cement	\$ 721.9	\$ 670.1
Asia Pacific Fibre Cement	189.1	181.4
Other	66.3	63.7
Segments total	977.3	915.2
General Corporate	223.2	155.8
Assets of business held for sale	-	17.9
Worldwide total	\$ 1,200.5	\$ 1,088.9

Geographic Areas

(Millions of US dollars)	Net Sales to Customers Three Months Ended 30 September		Net Sales to Customers Six Months Ended 30 September	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
USA	\$ 310.9	\$ 234.5	\$ 602.1	\$ 480.1
Australia	43.6	43.4	86.1	84.2
New Zealand	14.2	12.2	27.8	23.2
Other Countries	7.9	10.8	20.0	19.5
Worldwide total from continuing operations	\$ 376.6	\$ 300.9	\$ 736.0	\$ 607.0

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Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)
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(Millions of US dollars)	Total Identifiable Assets	
	30 September 2005	31 March 2005
USA	\$ 780.7	\$ 729.2
Australia	124.8	118.8
New Zealand	23.0	21.4
Other Countries	48.8	45.8
Segment Total	<u>977.3</u>	<u>915.2</u>
General Corporate	223.2	155.8
Assets of business held for sale	-	17.9
Worldwide total	<u>\$ 1,200.5</u>	<u>\$ 1,088.9</u>

7. Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss

The following are the components of total accumulated other comprehensive loss, net of related tax, which is displayed in the condensed consolidated balance sheets:

(Millions of US dollars)	30 September 2005	31 March 2005
Unrealised transition loss on derivative instruments classified as cash flow hedges	\$ (4.9)	\$ (4.9)
Accumulated amortisation of unrealised transition loss on derivative instruments	4.9	4.4
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(24.9)	(23.6)
Total accumulated other comprehensive loss	<u>\$ (24.9)</u>	<u>\$ (24.1)</u>

The following are the components of total comprehensive income:

(Millions of US dollars)	Six Months Ended 30 September	
	2005	2004
Net income	\$ 103.5	\$ 61.1
Other comprehensive income (loss):		
Amortisation of unrealised transition loss on derivative instruments	0.5	0.6
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(1.3)	0.1
Other comprehensive (loss) income	<u>(0.8)</u>	<u>0.7</u>
Total comprehensive income	<u>\$ 102.7</u>	<u>\$ 61.8</u>

James Hardie Industries N.V. and Subsidiaries

Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(Unaudited)

8. Commitments and Contingencies

Claims Against Former and Current Subsidiaries

Amaca Pty Ltd, Amaba Pty Ltd and ABN 60

In February 2001, ABN 60, formerly known as James Hardie Industries Limited ("JHIL"), established the Medical Research and Compensation Foundation (the "Foundation") by gifting A\$3.0 million (US\$1.7 million) in cash and transferring ownership of Amaca and Amaba to the Foundation. The Foundation is a special purpose charitable foundation established to fund medical and scientific research into asbestos-related diseases. Amaca and Amaba were Australian companies which had manufactured and marketed asbestos-related products prior to 1987.

The Foundation is managed by independent trustees and operates entirely independently of the Company and its current subsidiaries. The Company does not control (directly or indirectly) the activities of the Foundation in any way and, effective from 16 February 2001, has not owned or controlled (directly or indirectly) the activities of Amaca or Amaba. In particular, the trustees of the Foundation are responsible for the effective management of claims against Amaca and Amaba, and for the investment of Amaca's and Amaba's assets. Other than the offers to provide interim funding to the Foundation and the indemnity to the directors of ABN 60 as described below, the Company has no legally binding commitment to or interest in the Foundation, Amaca or Amaba, and it has no right to dividends or capital distributions made by the Foundation.

On 31 March 2003, the Company transferred control of ABN 60 to a newly established company named ABN 60 Foundation Pty Ltd ("ABN 60 Foundation"). ABN 60 Foundation was established to be the sole shareholder of ABN 60 and to ensure that ABN 60 meets the payment obligations owed to the Foundation under the terms of a deed of covenant and indemnity described below. Following the establishment of the ABN 60 Foundation, the Company no longer owned any shares in ABN 60. ABN 60 Foundation is managed by independent directors and operates entirely independently of the Company. The Company does not control the activities of ABN 60 or ABN 60 Foundation in any way, it has no economic interest in ABN 60 or ABN 60 Foundation, and it has no right to dividends or capital distributions made by the ABN 60 Foundation.

Up to the date of the establishment of the Foundation, Amaca and Amaba incurred costs of asbestos-related litigation and settlements. From time to time, ABN 60 was joined as a party to asbestos suits which were primarily directed at Amaca and Amaba. Because Amaca, Amaba and ABN 60 are no longer a part of the Company, no provision for asbestos-related claims was established in the Company's condensed consolidated financial statements at 30 September or 31 March 2005.

It is possible that the Company could become subject to suits for damages for personal injury or death in connection with the former manufacture or sale of asbestos products that have been or may be filed against Amaca, Amaba or ABN 60. However, as described further below, the ability of any claimants to initiate or pursue such suits may be restricted or removed by legislation contemplated under the Heads of Agreement, also described further below. Although it is difficult to predict the incidence or outcome of future litigation, and thus no assurances can be given, the Company believes that, in the absence of governmental action introducing legislation or a change in jurisprudence as previously adopted in prior case law before the NSW Supreme Court and Federal High Court, as more fully described below, the risk that such suits could be successfully asserted against the Company is not probable and estimable at this time. This belief is based in part on the following factors given the transfers of Amaca and Amaba to the Foundation and of ABN 60 to the ABN 60 Foundation: none of those companies are part of the Company; the separateness of corporate entities under Australian law; the limited circumstances where "piercing the corporate veil" might occur under Australian and Dutch law; there is no equivalent under Australian common law of the US legal doctrine of "successor liability"; and JHI NV believes that the principle applicable under

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Dutch law, to the effect that transferees of assets may be held liable for the transferor's liabilities when they acquire assets at a price that leaves the transferor with insufficient assets to meet claims, is not triggered by the transfers of Amaca, Amaba and ABN 60 or the restructure of the Company in 2001 or previous group transactions. The courts in Australia have generally refused to hold parent entities responsible for the liabilities of their subsidiaries absent any finding of fraud, agency, direct operational responsibility or the like. However, if suits are made possible and/or successfully brought, they could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, results of operations or financial condition.

In New Zealand, where RCI Holdings Pty Ltd owns a subsidiary that formerly manufactured asbestos-containing products, there is current legislation entitled the "Accident Insurance Act 1998" which bars claims for compensatory damages arising from work-related asbestos exposure. Although claims in New Zealand for non work-related injury might still be alleged, and although it is possible that a claimant for work-related asbestos exposure could still seek non-compensatory damages, the Company believes that any such claims would not have a material adverse effect on its business, results of operations or financial condition.

During the period ended 30 September 2005, the Company was not a party to any material asbestos litigation and did not make any settlement payments in relation to any such litigation.

Under US laws, the doctrine of "successor liability" provides that an acquirer of the assets of a business carried on by a corporation can, in certain states and under certain circumstances, be held responsible for liabilities arising from the conduct of that business prior to the acquisition, notwithstanding the absence of a contractual arrangement between the acquirer and the selling corporation pursuant to which the acquirer agreed to assume such liabilities.

The general principle under Australian law is that, in the absence of a contractual agreement to transfer specified liabilities of a business, and where there is no fraudulent conduct, the liabilities remain with the corporation that previously carried on the business and are not passed on to the acquirer of assets. Prior to March 2004, the Company leased manufacturing sites from Amaca, a former subsidiary that is now owned and controlled by the Foundation. In addition, the Company purchased certain plant and equipment and inventory from Amaca at fair value in connection with the first phase of the Company's restructuring. Each of these transactions involved only Australian companies and, accordingly, the Company believes the transactions are governed by Australian laws and not the laws of any other jurisdiction. The Company does not believe these transactions should give rise to the assumption by the Company of any asbestos-related liabilities (tortious or otherwise) under Australian law that may have been incurred during the period prior to the transfer of the assets.

Under Dutch law, a Dutch transferee of assets may be held responsible for the liabilities of the transferor following a transfer of assets if the transfer results in the transferor having insufficient assets to meet the claims of its creditors or if the transfer otherwise jeopardizes the position of the creditors of the transferor. The Company believes the transfer by ABN 60 of all of the shares of JHNV to JHI NV in the 2001 Restructuring will not result in the Company being held responsible as transferee under this rule because, upon the transfer and the implementation of the other aspects of the 2001 Restructuring, ABN 60 had the same financial resources to meet the claims of its creditors as it had prior to the transfer.

Special Commission of Inquiry

On 29 October 2003, the Foundation issued a press release stating that its "most recent actuarial analysis estimates that the compensation bill for the organisation could reach one billion Australian dollars in addition to those funds already paid out to claimants since the Foundation was formed and that existing funding could be exhausted within five years." In February 2004, the NSW Government established a Special Commission of Inquiry ("SCI") to investigate, among other matters described

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below, the circumstances in which the Foundation was established. The SCI was instructed to determine the current financial position of the Foundation and whether it would be likely to meet its future asbestos-related claims in the medium to long-term. It was also instructed to report on the circumstances in which the Foundation was separated from ABN 60 and whether this may have resulted in or contributed to a possible insufficiency of assets to meet future asbestos-related liabilities, and the circumstances in which any corporate restructure or asset transfers occurred within or in relation to the James Hardie Group prior to the funding of the Foundation to the extent that this may have affected the Foundation's ability to meet its current and future liabilities. The SCI was also instructed to report on the adequacy of current arrangements available to the Foundation under the Corporations Act of Australia to assist the Foundation in managing its liabilities and whether reform is desirable in order to assist the Foundation in managing its obligations to current and future claimants.

On 14 July 2004, following the receipt of a new actuarial estimate of asbestos liabilities of the Foundation by KPMG Actuaries Pty Ltd ("KPMG Actuaries"), the Company lodged a submission with the SCI stating that the Company would recommend to its shareholders that they approve the provision of an unspecified amount of additional funding to enable an effective statute-based scheme to compensate all future claimants for asbestos-related injuries for which Amaca and Amaba are liable. The Company proposed that the statutory scheme include the following elements:

- speedy, fair and equitable compensation for all existing and future claimants, including objective criteria to reduce superimposed (judicial) inflation. Superimposed inflation is inflation in claim awards above the underlying rate of inflation and is sometimes called judicial inflation;
- contributions to be made in a manner which provide certainty to claimants as to their entitlement, the scheme administrator as to the amount available for distribution, and the proposed contributors (including the Company) as to the ultimate amount of their contributions;
- significant reductions in legal costs through reduced and more abbreviated litigation; and
- limitation of legal avenues outside of the scheme.

The submission stated that the proposal was made without any admission of liability or prejudice to the Company's rights or defences.

The SCI finished taking evidence on 13 August 2004 and issued its report on 21 September 2004. The SCI indicated that the establishment of the Foundation and the establishment of the ABN 60 Foundation were legally effective, that any liabilities in relation to the asbestos claims for claimants remained with Amaca, Amaba or ABN 60 (as the case may be), and that no significant liabilities for those claims could likely be assessed directly against the Company.

The following is a summary of the principal findings of the SCI relating to the Company based on the SCI's report and other information available to the Company. This summary does not contain all of the findings contained or observations made in the SCI report. It should be noted that the SCI is not a court and, therefore, its findings have no legal force.

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Principal findings in favour of the Company

The principal findings in favour of the Company were that:

- the establishment of the Foundation was legally effective and causes of action which the Foundation, Amaba or Amaca might have against the James Hardie Group, its officers and advisers would be unlikely to result in any significant increase in the funds of Amaba, Amaca or the Foundation (putting this finding conversely, the Company is unlikely to face any significant liability to the Foundation, Amaba or Amaba as a result of the then current causes of action of such entities against the current members of the James Hardie Group);
- there was no finding that JHI NV had committed any material breach of any law as a result of the separation and reorganisation transactions which took place in 2001;
- many of the allegations and causes of action put forward by lawyers for the Foundation, Amaba and Amaca were described as “speculative;” and
- the SCI rejected the suggestion that JHI NV had breached any law or was part of a conspiracy in relation to the fact that the reorganisation scheme documents prepared in 2001 did not refer to the possibility of the partly-paid shares being cancelled (the shares were cancelled in 2003).

Other principal findings relevant to the Company

The other principal findings relevant to the Company were that:

- as a practical (but not legal) matter, if the “right” amount (and not merely the minimum amount) of funding was not provided to the Foundation, the Company would face potential legislative, customer, union and public action to apply legislative and boycott measures and public pressure to ensure that the Company met any significant funding shortfall; and
- the directors of ABN 60 at the time of the cancellation of the partly-paid shares (Messrs Morley and Salter) effectively followed the instructions of JHI NV in relation to the cancellation. As a result, it might be concluded that JHI NV was a shadow director of ABN 60 at that time. However, while expressing some reservations about what occurred, the SCI did not find that the ABN 60 directors (including JHI NV as a shadow director) breached their duties in undertaking the cancellation.

Principal findings against ABN 60 (formerly called JHIL)

A number of further findings (positive and adverse) were also made in relation to ABN 60, which is not a current member of the James Hardie Group. Such findings were not directed against the Company. For the reasons provided above, the Company does not believe that it will have any liability under current Australian law if future liabilities of ABN 60 or ABN 60 Foundation exceed the funds available to those entities. This includes liabilities that may attach to ABN 60 or ABN 60 Foundation as a result of claims made, if successful, in connection with the transactions involved in the establishment of the ABN 60 Foundation and the separation of ABN 60 from the Company.

The SCI found that, given ABN 60's limited financial resources, ABN 60 would need to be able to succeed in making a claim against JHI NV in respect of the cancellation of the partly-paid shares before claims by Amaba or Amaca against ABN 60 had any practical value. Although expressing reservations about what occurred, the SCI did not find that the directors of ABN 60 had breached their duty in cancelling the partly-paid shares.

The SCI did not make any finding that any cause of action by ABN 60 with respect to the partly-paid shares was likely to succeed.

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Principal findings against Mr Macdonald and Mr Shafron

The principal (but non-determinative) findings against Messrs Macdonald and Shafron pertained to their conduct while officers of ABN 60 in relation to:

- alleged false and misleading conduct associated with a 16 February 2001 press release, particularly regarding a statement that the Foundation was “fully funded” in contravention of New South Wales and Commonwealth legislation prohibiting false or misleading conduct;
- allegedly breaching their duties as officers of ABN 60 by encouraging the board of directors of ABN 60 to act on the Trowbridge report, dated 13 February 2001 (the “Trowbridge Report”), in forming a view that the Foundation would be “fully funded;” and
- criticisms, falling short of findings of contraventions of law, based on their respective roles in the separation and reorganization transactions. These included criticisms relating to their development, control over, reliance on and use of the Trowbridge Report, despite (in the SCI’s view) their knowledge of its limitations.

The Commissioner noted that he had not carried out an exhaustive investigation and concluded that it was a matter for Commonwealth authorities (notably the Australian Securities and Investments Commission) to determine whether any further action should be taken in relation to matters which the Commissioner considered comprised, or might be likely to have comprised, contraventions of Australian corporations law. The Commissioner acknowledged that in relation to various of his findings, there was an issue as to whether Amaba or Amaca suffered any loss or damage from the actions reviewed by him but in this regard he did not find it necessary to reach any definitive conclusion.

In relation to the question of the funding of the Foundation, the SCI found that there was a significant funding shortfall. In part, this was based on actuarial work commissioned by the Company indicating that the discounted value of the central estimate of the asbestos liabilities of Amaca and Amaba was approximately A\$1.573 billion as of 30 June 2003. The central estimate was calculated in accordance with Australian Actuarial Standards, which differ from generally accepted accounting principles in the United States. As of 30 June 2003, the undiscounted value of the central estimate of the asbestos liabilities of Amaca and Amaba, as determined by KPMG Actuaries, was approximately A\$3.403 billion (US\$2.272 billion). The SCI found that the net assets of the Foundation and the ABN 60 Foundation were not sufficient to meet these prospective liabilities and were likely to be exhausted in the first half of 2007.

In relation to the Company's statutory scheme proposal, the SCI reported that there were several issues that needed to be refined quite significantly but that it would be an appropriate starting point for devising a compensation scheme.

The SCI’s findings are not binding and if the same issues were presented to a court, the court might come to different conclusions on one or more of the issues.

Events Following the SCI

The NSW Government stated that it would not consider assisting the implementation of any proposal advanced by the Company unless it was the result of an agreement reached with the unions acting through the Australian Council of Trade Unions (“ACTU”), UnionsNSW (formerly known as the Labour Council of New South Wales), and a representative of the asbestos claimants (together, the “Representatives”). The statutory scheme that the Company proposed on 14 July 2004 was not accepted by the Representatives.

The Company believes that, except to the extent that it agrees otherwise as a result of these discussions with the NSW Government, as discussed below under the subheading “Interim Funding

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and ABN 60 Indemnity," under current Australian law, it is not legally liable for any shortfall in the assets of Amaca, Amaba, the Foundation, the ABN 60 Foundation or ABN 60.

It is also possible that the Representatives and others may encourage or continue to encourage consumers and union members in Australia and elsewhere to ban or boycott the Company's products, to demonstrate or otherwise create negative publicity toward the Company in order to influence the Company's approach to the discussions with the NSW Government or to encourage governmental action if the discussions are unsuccessful. The Representatives and others might also take such actions in an effort to influence the Company's shareholders, a significant number of which are located in Australia, to approve any proposed arrangement. Any such measures, and the influences resulting from them, could have a material adverse impact on the Company's financial position, results of operations and cash flows.

On 28 October 2004, the NSW Premier announced that the NSW Government would seek the agreement of the Ministerial Council, comprising Ministers of the Commonwealth and the Australian States and Territories, to allow the NSW Government to pass legislation which he announced would "wind back James Hardie's corporate restructure and rescind the cancellation of A\$1.9 billion in partly-paid shares." The announcement said that "the laws will effectively enforce the liability [for asbestos-related claims] against the Dutch parent company." On 5 November 2004, the Australian Attorney-General and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer (the two relevant ministers of the Australian Federal Government) issued a news release stating that the Ministerial Council for Corporations (the relevant body of Federal, State and Territory Ministers, "MINCO") had unanimously agreed "to support a negotiated settlement that will ensure that victims of asbestos-related diseases receive full and timely compensation from James Hardie" and if "the current negotiations between James Hardie, the ACTU and asbestos victims do not reach an acceptable conclusion, MINCO also agreed in principle to consider options for legislative reform." The news release of 5 November 2004 indicated that treaties to enforce Australian judgments in Dutch and US courts are not required, but that the Australian Government has been involved in communications with Dutch and US authorities regarding arrangements to ensure that Australian judgments are able to be enforced where necessary. If negotiations do not lead to an acceptable conclusion, the Company is aware of suggestions of legislative intervention, but has no detailed information as to the content of any such legislation.

Heads of Agreement

On 21 December 2004, the Company announced that it had entered into a non-binding Heads of Agreement with the NSW Government and the Representatives which is expected to form the basis of a proposed binding agreement (the "Principal Agreement") under which a subsidiary of the Company will agree to provide, and the Company will guarantee, funding payments to a special purpose fund (the "SPF") established to provide funding on a long-term basis to be applied towards meeting proven asbestos-related personal injury and death claims ("Claims") against Amaca, Amaba, and ABN 60 (the "Liable Entities").

The principles set out in the Heads of Agreement include:

- the establishment of the SPF to compensate asbestos claimants;
- initial funding of the SPF by the Company on the basis of a November 2004 KPMG report (which provided a net present value central estimate of A\$1.536 billion (US\$1.03 billion) for all present and future claims at 30 June 2004). The undiscounted value of the central estimate of the asbestos liabilities of Amaca and Amaba as determined by KPMG was approximately A\$3.586 billion (US\$2.471 billion). At 21 December 2004, the initial funding for the first three years was expected to be A\$239 million (based on KPMG's estimate of liabilities as of 30 June 2004) less the assets to be contributed by the Foundation which were expected to be approximately A\$125 million. The actuarial assessment is to be updated annually;

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- a two-year rolling cash buffer in the SPF and an annual contribution in advance based on actuarial assessments of expected claims for the next three years, to be revised annually;
- a cap on the annual payments made by the Company to the SPF, initially set at 35% of annual net operating cash flow (defined as cash from operations in accordance with US GAAP) for the immediately preceding year, with provisions for the percentage to decline over time depending upon the Company's financial performance and claims outlook; and
- no cap on individual payments to asbestos claimants.

The Heads of Agreement contains an agreement from the NSW Government to provide releases to the James Hardie Group and to its present and past directors, officers, employees and advisors from all civil liabilities (if any) incurred prior to the date of the Principal Agreement in relation to the events and transactions examined by the SCI. These releases will take the form of legislation to be passed by the NSW Parliament, and other state and territory parliaments in Australia (and the Commonwealth Parliament) will be approached by the Company and the NSW Government to pass similar legislation.

Subsequent to the Company entering into the Heads of Agreement, the NSW Government conducted a review of legal and administrative costs in dust diseases compensation in New South Wales. The purpose of this review was primarily to determine ways to reduce legal and administrative costs, and to consider the current processes for handling and resolving dust diseases compensation claims in New South Wales. The NSW Government announced its findings on 8 March 2005 and the relevant legislation and regulations became effective on 1 July 2005.

As part of the discussions surrounding the Principal Agreement, the Company has been progressing with the NSW Government relevant options in relation to the establishment of the SPF referenced to above.

The number of outstanding issues between the Company and the NSW Government with respect to the Principal Agreement has reduced over the last quarter, but there remain a number of material and complex issues which have not been resolved and in respect of which negotiations and discussions are continuing.

If executed, the Principal Agreement will be a legally binding agreement. The implementation of the Principal Agreement will be subject to a number of conditions precedent, including but not limited to the delivery of an independent expert's report, the Company being satisfied as to the certainty of tax deductibility of proposed asbestos compensation payments, and the approval by the Company's board of directors, shareholders and lenders.

If negotiations in relation to the Principal Agreement are completed and the Principal Agreement is subsequently executed and becomes effective, the Company will be required to make a substantial provision in its consolidated financial statements and, depending on the terms of the Principal Agreement when settled, it is possible that the Company may need to seek additional borrowing facilities. If the terms of the Principal Agreement result in the Company making payments, either on an annual or other basis, the Company's financial position, results of operations and cash flows could be materially adversely affected and its ability to pay dividends could be impaired.

Actuarial Study; Claims Estimate

The Company commissioned updated actuarial studies of potential asbestos-related liabilities as of 30 June 2004 and 31 March 2005. Based on the results of these studies, it is estimated that the discounted value of the central estimate for claims against the Liable Entities was approximately A\$1.536 billion (US\$1.059 billion) and A\$1.685 billion (US\$1.302 billion) as of 30 June 2004 and 31 March 2005, respectively. The undiscounted value of the central estimate of the asbestos liabilities of Amaca and Amaba as determined by KPMG Actuaries was approximately A\$3.586 billion (US\$2.471

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billion) and A\$3.604 billion (US\$2.784 billion) as of 30 June 2004 and 31 March 2005, respectively. Actual liabilities of those companies for such claims could vary, perhaps materially, from the central estimate described above. This central estimate is calculated in accordance with Australian Actuarial Standards, which differ from generally accepted accounting principles in the United States.

In estimating the potential financial exposure, the actuaries made assumptions related to the total number of claims which were reasonably estimated to be asserted through 2071, the typical cost of settlement (which is sensitive to, among other factors, the industry in which the plaintiff claims exposure, the alleged disease type and the jurisdiction in which the action is being brought), the legal costs incurred in the litigation of such claims, the rate of receipt of claims, the settlement strategy in dealing with outstanding claims and the timing of settlements.

Further, the actuaries have relied on the data and information provided by the Foundation and Amaca Claim Services, Amaca Pty Ltd (Under NSW External Administration) ("ACS") and assumed that it is accurate and complete in all material respects. The actuaries have not verified the information independently nor established the accuracy or completeness of the data and information provided or used for the preparation of the report.

Due to inherent uncertainties in the legal and medical environment, the number and timing of future claim notifications and settlements, the recoverability of claims against insurance contracts, and estimates of future trends in average claim awards, as well as the extent to which the above-named entities will contribute to the overall settlements, the actual amount of liability could differ materially from that which is currently projected.

A sensitivity analysis has been performed to determine how the actuarial estimates would change if certain assumptions (i.e., the rate of inflation and superimposed inflation, the average costs of claims and legal fees, and the projected numbers of claims) were different than the assumptions used to determine the central estimates. This analysis shows that the discounted central estimates could fall in a range of A\$1.0 billion to A\$2.3 billion (undiscounted estimates of A\$2.0 billion to A\$5.7 billion) and A\$1.1 billion to A\$2.6 billion (undiscounted estimates of A\$2.0 billion to A\$5.9 billion) as of 30 June 2004 and 31 March 2005, respectively. It should be noted that the actual cost of the liabilities could fall outside of that range depending on the results of actual experience relative to the assumptions made.

The potential range of costs as estimated by KPMG Actuaries is affected by a number of variables such as nil settlement rates (where no settlement is payable by the Liable Entities because the claim settlement is borne by other asbestos defendants (non-Liable Entities) which are held liable), peak year of claims, past history of claims numbers, average settlement rates, past history of Australian asbestos-related medical injuries, current number of claims, average defence and plaintiff legal costs, base wage inflation and superimposed inflation. The potential range of losses disclosed includes both asserted and unasserted claims. While no assurances can be provided, if the Company signs the Principal Agreement and it is approved by all of the necessary parties, including the board of directors, shareholders and lenders, the Company expects to be able to partially recover losses from various insurance carriers. As of 31 March 2005, KPMG Actuaries' undiscounted central estimate of asbestos-related liabilities was A\$3.604 billion. This undiscounted central estimate is net of expected insurance recoveries of A\$453.0 million after making a general credit risk allowance for bad debt insurance carriers and an allowance for A\$49.8 million of "by claim" or subrogation recoveries from other third parties.

Currently, the timing of any potential payments is uncertain because the Company has not reached agreement with the NSW Government regarding the Principal Agreement and because the conditions precedent to any agreement that may be reached have not been satisfied. In addition, the Company has not yet incurred any settlement costs pursuant to its offer to provide the Foundation

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with interim funding, which is described below under the heading "Interim Funding and ABN 60 Indemnity" because the Foundation continues to meet all claims of the Liable Entities.

The Company has commissioned KPMG Actuaries to project an actuarial assessment of asbestos claims costs at 30 June 2005, reflecting the impact of reforms of dust diseases compensation claims in New South Wales (and other states of Australia) and other factors. If the Principal Agreement is executed and presented to the shareholders for approval, the report is expected to be released with the Explanatory Memorandum.

The Company has not established a provision for asbestos-related liabilities as of 30 September or 31 March 2005 because, at this time, no such liability is probable and estimable in accordance with SFAS No. 5, "Accounting for Contingencies."

Claims Data

The following table, provided by KPMG Actuaries, shows the number of claims pending as of 30 September 2005 and 31 March 2005:

	<u>30 September 2005</u>	<u>31 March 2005</u>
Australia	578	712
New Zealand	-	-
Unknown - Court Not Identified ⁽¹⁾	43	36
USA	1	1

⁽¹⁾The "Unknown – Court Not Identified" designation reflects that the information for such claims had not been, as of the date of publication, entered into the database which the Foundation maintains. Over time, as the details of "unknown" claims are provided to the Foundation, the Company believes the database is updated to reflect where such claims originate. Accordingly, the Company understands the number of unknown claims pending fluctuates due to the resolution of claims as well as the reclassification of such claims.

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For the six months ended 30 September 2005 and the twelve months ended 31 March 2005, the following tables, provided by KPMG Actuaries, show the claims filed, the number of claims dismissed, settled or otherwise resolved for each period, and the average settlement amount per claim.

	Six Months Ended 30 September 2005	Twelve Months Ended 31 March 2005
Australia:		
Number of new claims filed	174	489
Number of claims dismissed	56	62
Number of claims settled or otherwise resolved	252	402
Average settlement amount per claim	A\$ 143,261	A\$ 157,594
	US\$ 109,460	US\$ 116,572
Unknown - Court Not Identified:		
Number of new claims filed	17	7
Number of claims dismissed	5	20
Number of claims settled or otherwise resolved	5	2
Average settlement amount per claim	A\$ 191,005	A\$ 47,000
	US\$ 145,939	US\$ 34,766
USA		
Number of new claims filed	-	-
Number of claims dismissed	-	3
Number of claims settled or otherwise resolved	-	1
Average settlement amount per claim	A\$ -	A\$ 228,293
	US\$ -	US\$ 168,868

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The following table, provided by KPMG Actuaries, shows the activity related to the numbers of open claims, new claims, and closed claims during each of the past five years and the average settlement per settled claim and case closed.

	As of or for the Period Ended 30 September	As of or for the Period Ended 31 March				
		2005	2005	2004	2003	2002
		Number of open claims at beginning of year	749	743	814	671
Number of new claims	191	496	380	409	375	
Number of closed claims	318	490	451	266	273	
Number of open claims at year-end	622	749	743	814	671	
Average settlement amount per settled claim	A\$ 144,190 US\$ 110,176	A\$ 157,223 US\$ 116,298	A\$ 167,450 US\$ 116,127	A\$ 201,200 US\$ 112,974	A\$ 197,941 US\$ 101,603	
Average settlement amount per case closed	A\$ 116,531 US\$ 89,041	A\$ 129,949 US\$ 96,123	A\$ 117,327 US\$ 81,366	A\$ 177,752 US\$ 99,808	A\$ 125,435 US\$ 64,386	

The Company has not had any responsibility or involvement in the management of claims against ABN 60 since the time ABN 60 left the James Hardie Group in 2003. Since February 2001, when Amaca and Amaba were separated from the James Hardie Group, neither the Company nor any current subsidiary of the Company has had any responsibility or involvement in the management of claims against those entities. Prior to that date, the principal entity potentially involved in relation to such claims was ABN 60, which has not been a member of the James Hardie Group since March 2003.

On 15 April 2005, the Company announced that it had extended the coverage of the funding arrangements agreed under the Heads of Agreement to enable the SPF to settle or meet proven Claims by members of the Baryugil community in Australia against Asbestos Mines Pty Ltd (Asbestos Mines), a former ABN 60 subsidiary which conducted asbestos-related mining activities in or around Baryugil. The Company has no current right to access any Claims information in relation to Claims against Asbestos Mines, and has no current involvement in the management or settlement of such Claims. The Company's proposal to provide additional funding to the SPF will be based on actuarial assessments of the estimated Claims against Asbestos Mines. The Company's proposal is not limited as to the time period to which the Claims arose.

The Company's offer to extend the funding arrangements of the SPF to permit the SPF to meet proven asbestos-related Claims from members of the Baryugil community is proposed to be implemented subject to the same or similar conditions applicable to funding provided to the SPF for use in meeting proven claims from Amaca, Amaba and ABN 60, including that information in relation to the proven claims is provided to the Company. Asbestos Mines has not been part of the James Hardie Group since 1976, when it was sold to Woodsreef Mines Ltd, which was subsequently renamed Mineral Commodities Ltd. From 1954 until 1976, Asbestos Mines was a wholly owned subsidiary of James Hardie Industries Limited (now ABN 60). Except as described below, the Company has not had access to any information regarding claims or the decisions taken by the Foundation in relation to them.

On 26 October 2004, the Company, the Foundation and KPMG Actuaries entered into an agreement under which the Company would be entitled to obtain a copy of the actuarial report prepared by

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KPMG Actuaries in relation to the claims liabilities of the Foundation and Amaba and Amaca, and would be entitled to publicly release the final version of such reports. The Company is seeking to obtain similar rights of access to actuarial information produced for the SPF by the actuary to be appointed by the SPF (the "Approved Actuary"). The terms of such access are not yet settled. The Company's future disclosures with respect to claims statistics is subject to it obtaining such information from the Approved Actuary. The Company has had no general right (and will not obtain any right under the Principal Agreement) to audit or otherwise itself independently verify such information or the methodologies to be adopted by the Approved Actuary. As a result, the Company cannot make any representations or warranties as to the accuracy or completeness of the actuarial information disclosed herein or that may be disclosed in the future.

SCI and Other Related Expenses

The Company has incurred substantial costs associated with the SCI and may incur material costs in the future related to the SCI or subsequent legal proceedings. The following are the components of SCI and other related expenses:

(Millions of US dollars)	Three Months Ended 30 September		Six Months Ended 30 September	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
SCI	\$ -	\$ 3.4	\$ -	\$ 6.3
Internal Investigation	-	1.1	-	1.1
ASIC investigation	-	-	0.2	-
Resolution advisory fees	3.3	0.7	5.7	0.7
Funding advice and other	1.4	0.4	4.0	0.4
Total SCI and other related expenses	<u>\$ 4.7</u>	<u>\$ 5.6</u>	<u>\$ 9.9</u>	<u>\$ 8.5</u>

Internal investigation costs reflect costs incurred by the Company in connection with an internal investigation conducted by independent legal advisors to investigate allegations raised during the SCI and the preparation and filing of the Company's annual financial statements in the United States.

Australian Securities and Investments Commission Investigation

The Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) has announced that it is conducting an investigation into the events examined by the SCI, without limiting itself to the evidence compiled by the SCI. ASIC has served notices to produce relevant documents upon the Company and various directors and officers of the Company and upon certain of the company's advisers and auditors at the time of the separation and restructure transactions described above. ASIC has also served notices requiring the Company and ABN 60 to produce certain computerized information and requiring certain current and former directors and officers of ABN 60 or the Company to present themselves for examination by ASIC delegates. The individuals who have been required to attend such examinations have done so. To date, ASIC has announced that it is investigating various matters, but it has not specified the particulars of alleged contraventions under investigation, nor has it announced that it has reached any conclusion that any person or entity has contravened any relevant law.

To assist ASIC's investigation, the Australian Federal Government enacted legislation to abrogate the legal professional privilege which would otherwise have attached to certain documents relevant to matters under investigation or to any future proceedings to be taken. The legislation is set out in the James Hardie (Investigations and Proceedings) Act 2004.

The Company may incur liability to meet the costs of current or former directors, officers or employees of the James Hardie Group to the extent that those costs are covered by indemnity arrangements granted by the Company to those persons. To date, no claims have been received from any current or former officers in relation to the ASIC investigation, except in relation to the examination by a former director of ABN 60 by ASIC delegates, the amount of which cannot be

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assessed at present. In relation to this claim and any others that may arise, the Company may be reimbursed in whole or in part under directors' and officers' insurance policies maintained by the Company.

Interim Funding and ABN 60 Indemnity

The Company has previously announced a number of measures in relation to the funding position of the Foundation prior to the Company's entry into the Principal Agreement. On 3 December 2004, and in part as a result of initiatives undertaken by the Company, the Foundation received a payment of A\$88.5 million from ABN 60 for use in processing and meeting asbestos-related claims pursuant to the terms of a deed of covenant and indemnity which ABN 60, Amaca and Amaba had entered into in February 2001.

The Company facilitated the payment of such funds by granting an indemnity (under a separate deed on indemnity) to the directors of ABN 60, which it announced on 16 November 2004. Under the terms of that indemnity, the Company agreed to meet any liability incurred by the ABN 60 directors resulting from the release of the A\$88.5 million by ABN 60 to the Foundation. The Company believes that the release of funding by ABN 60 is in accordance with law and contracts in place and therefore the Company should not incur liability under this indemnity. The Company did not make any payments in relation to this indemnity during the period ended 30 September 2005.

Additionally, on 16 November 2004, the Company offered to provide funding to the Foundation on an interim basis for a period of up to six months from that date. Such funding would only be provided once existing Foundation funds have been exhausted. The Company believes, based on actuarial and legal advice, that claims against the Foundation should not exceed the funds which are available to the Foundation (particularly in the light of its receipt of the A\$88.5 million described above) or which are expected to become available to the Foundation during the period of the interim funding proposal.

On 31 March 2005, the Company provided a further commitment to assist the Foundation to obtain interim funding, if necessary, prior to the Principal Agreement being finalised in accordance with the updated timetable announced on that date.

The Company has not recorded a provision for either the proposed indemnity or the potential payments under the interim funding proposal. The Company has not made any payments in relation to this commitment.

With regard to the ABN 60 indemnity, there is no maximum value or limit on the amount of payments that may be required. As such, the Company is unable to disclose a maximum amount that could be required to be paid. The Company believes, however, that the expected value of any potential future payments resulting from the ABN 60 indemnity is zero and that the likelihood of any payment being required under this indemnity is remote.

Financial Position of the Foundation

On the basis of the current cash and financial position of the Foundation's subsidiaries (Amaca and Amaba) and following the Company's entry into the Heads of Agreement, the applications previously made to the Supreme Court of NSW for the appointment of a provisional liquidator to the Foundation's subsidiaries were dismissed with their consent.

The potential for Amaba, Amaca or ABN 60 to be placed into insolvency has been further reduced by legislation passed in NSW (the James Hardie Former Subsidiaries (Special Provisions) Act 2005), which came into force on 23 June 2005. The stated purpose of the legislation was to maintain the status quo of Amaca, Amaba and ABN 60, including by providing for a statutory form of administration for those entities so as to prevent them being placed into administration or liquidation under the provisions of the Australian Corporations Act which would usually apply to an insolvent

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Australian company. The legislation also sought to ensure that the directors of those entities would not seek to remove the assets or the register of shares in those entities outside New South Wales.

Environmental and Legal

The operations of the Company, like those of other companies engaged in similar businesses, are subject to a number of federal, state and local laws and regulations on air and water quality, waste handling and disposal. The Company's policy is to accrue for environmental costs when it is determined that it is probable that an obligation exists and the amount can be reasonably estimated. In the opinion of management, based on information presently known, the ultimate liability for such matters should not have a material adverse effect on either the Company's consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

The Company is involved from time to time in various legal proceedings and administrative actions incidental or related to the normal conduct of its business. Although it is impossible to predict the outcome of any pending legal proceeding, management believes that such proceedings and actions should not, individually or in the aggregate, have a material adverse effect on either its consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

The Company believes that future costs related to the Company's negotiations toward a Principal Agreement are likely to be material over the short term. The Company does not expect any additional costs to be incurred in connection with the SCI.

9. New Debt Facilities

In June 2005, the Company entered into new uncollateralized debt facilities totalling US\$355.0 million. These new debt facilities are revolving US dollar cash advance facilities involving bilateral agreements with six banks and replace the Company's previous revolving and stand-by credit facilities at 31 March 2005 of approximately US\$286.0 million. These new facilities are available for general corporate purposes.

Each of these new facilities is for an initial term of 364 days. The interest rate for each facility is the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate ("LIBOR") for US dollar deposits plus a margin. These facilities also require the Company to maintain certain ratios of debt to equity and net worth and levels of earnings before interest and taxes and have limits on how much the Company can spend on an annual basis in relation to asbestos payments.

Upon completion and execution of the proposed Principal Agreement and it becoming effective within the 364 day initial term, US\$245.0 million of these facilities will be extended by four years to a five-year term. With the exception of margins and commitment fees, terms of these extended facilities would not change.

If the terms of the final Principal Agreement are materially different from those set forth in the Heads of Agreement, the banks may not agree to extend the facilities described above, and, in such event, the Company would have to seek alternative financing. At 30 September 2005, there were no amounts outstanding under any of these facilities and management believes that the Company was in compliance with all restrictive covenants related to these borrowing facilities. Under the most restrictive of these covenants, the Company is required to maintain certain ratios of debt to equity and net worth and levels of earnings before interest and taxes and has limits on how much it can spend on an annual basis in relation to asbestos payments to either Amaca Pty Ltd, Amaba Pty Ltd or ABN 60 Pty Ltd.

Item 2. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

In this report, James Hardie Industries N.V. and its subsidiaries are collectively referred to as “we,” “us,” or “our,” and the terms “US\$”, “A\$”, “NZ\$”, “PHP”, refer to United States dollars, Australian dollars, New Zealand dollars and Philippine pesos, respectively.

We have operations in foreign countries and, as a result, are exposed to foreign currency exchange rate risk inherent in purchases, sales, assets and liabilities denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. We also are exposed to interest rate risk associated with our long-term debt and to changes in prices of commodities we use in production.

Our policy is to enter into derivative instruments solely to mitigate risks in our business and not for trading or speculative purposes.

Foreign Currency Exchange Rate Risk

We have significant operations outside of the United States and, as a result, are exposed to changes in exchange rates which affect our financial position, results of operations and cash flows. For the six months ended 30 September 2005, the following currencies comprised the following percentages of our net sales, cost of goods sold, expenses and liabilities:

	US\$	A\$	NZ\$	Other ¹
Net sales	81.8%	11.7%	3.8%	2.7%
Cost of goods sold	83.6%	11.0%	3.1%	2.3%
Expenses	69.5%	22.1%	2.6%	5.8%
Liabilities (excluding borrowings)	79.4%	12.9%	5.7%	2.0%

(1) Comprised of Philippine pesos, Euros and Chilean pesos.

We purchase raw materials and fixed assets and sell some finished product for amounts denominated in currencies other than the functional currency of the business in which the related transaction is generated. In order to protect against foreign exchange rate movements, we may enter into forward exchange contracts timed to mature when settlement of the underlying transaction is due to occur. At 30 September 2005, outstanding foreign exchange contracts were not material.

Interest Rate Risk

We have market risk from changes in interest rates, primarily related to our borrowings. At 30 September 2005, 100% of our borrowings were fixed-rate. The fixed-rate debt reduces the earnings volatility that would result from changes in interest rates. From time to time, we may enter into interest rate swap contracts in an effort to mitigate interest rate risk. During the six months ended 30 September 2005, no interest rate swap contracts were entered into and no contracts were outstanding.

The following table presents our long-term borrowings at 30 September 2005, the expected maturity date of future principal repayments and related weighted average interest rates. The fair value of our outstanding debt is what we likely would have to pay over the term of the loan if we were to enter into debt on substantially the same terms today. At 30 September 2005, all of our outstanding fixed-rate borrowings were denominated in U.S. dollars.

Future Principal Repayments by Expected Maturity Date
(in millions of US dollars, except percentages)
For the Years Ended 31 March

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>Thereafter</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>
Fixed rate debt.....	\$ 25.7	\$ 27.1	\$ 8.1	\$ 46.2	\$ 40.3	\$ 147.4	\$ 174.4
Weighted-average interest rate	6.92%	6.99%	7.05%	7.12%	7.35%	7.12%	

On 5 November 2005, we repaid \$25.7 million of outstanding borrowings in accordance with the debt maturity schedule.

Commodity Price Risk

Pulp is a raw material we use to produce fibre cement, and it has historically demonstrated more price sensitivity than other raw materials we use in our manufacturing process. Although we have entered into contracts to hedge pulp prices in the past, we do not anticipate entering in such transactions in the near future.

Disclaimer

This Financial Report contains forward-looking statements. We may from time to time make forward-looking statements in our periodic reports filed with or furnished to the United States Securities and Exchange Commission on Forms 20-F and 6-K, in our annual reports to shareholders, in offering circulars and prospectuses, in media releases and other written materials and in oral statements made by our officers, directors or employees to analysts, institutional investors, representatives of the media and others. Examples of forward-looking statements include:

- projections of our operating results or financial condition;
- statements regarding our plans, objectives or goals, including those relating to competition, acquisitions, dispositions and our products;
- statements about our future performance;
- statements about product or environmental liabilities; and
- expectations about payments to a special purpose fund for the compensation of proven asbestos-related personal injury and death claims.

Words such as “believe,” “anticipate,” “plan,” “expect,” “intend,” “target,” “estimate,” “project,” “predict,” “forecast,” “guideline,” “should,” “aim” and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements but are not the exclusive means of identifying such statements.

Forward-looking statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties. We caution you that a number of important factors could cause actual results to differ materially from the plans, objectives, expectations, estimates and intentions expressed in such forward-looking statements. These factors, some of which are discussed under “Risk Factors” beginning on page 6 of our Form 20-F filed on 7 July 2005 with the Securities and Exchange Commission, include but are not limited to: all matters relating to or arising out of the prior manufacture of products that contained asbestos by current and former James Hardie Australian subsidiaries; compliance with and changes in tax laws and treatments; competition and product pricing in the markets in which we operate; the consequences of product failures or defects; exposure to environmental, asbestos or other legal proceedings; general economic and market conditions; the supply and cost of raw materials; the success of our research and development efforts; our reliance on a small number of product distributors; compliance with and changes in environmental and health and safety laws; risks of conducting business internationally; compliance with and changes in laws and regulations; foreign exchange risks; and the successful implementation of new software systems. We caution you that the foregoing list of factors is not exclusive and that other risks and uncertainties may cause actual results to differ materially from those in forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made.