

# AGM Statement

**5 July 2005**

## Huntsworth PLC

At today's Annual General Meeting of Huntsworth PLC, Lord Chadlington, Executive Chairman of the Company, made the following statement:

Our 2004 financial year and the first half of 2005 have heralded unprecedented change for your company.

During the period to which the Annual Report refers, we continued to trade well and completed the largest acquisitions which we have made since the new Huntsworth Board was elected nearly five years ago. These companies have, as our 2004 results show, settled in well and, together with the longer established Huntsworth companies, continue to make good - and sometimes excellent - progress.

Our expansion has culminated, since the year end, with the merger of our business with that of Incepta - the international public relations, marketing services and advertising group.

I am particularly pleased to welcome some of the original Incepta shareholders and employees here this morning.

Such has been the speed and thoroughness of the integration process, we no longer think of "Huntsworth" and "Incepta" as two separate businesses. We are increasingly one business with one emerging culture - a culture of co-operation and willingness to embrace radical change.

We are now a £200 million group with global reach, outstanding brands, blue chip clients and exceptionally talented people.

The executive team have set themselves the task of completing, within 100 working days, a Strategic Review of the composition, structure, management and policies of this new Group. If our work continues as it has begun, I expect to announce our conclusions when we publish our half-year numbers in the Autumn.

We have established a five point grid against which to evaluate the strategic options available to us.

First, we must create focus and commercial logic for the enlarged group and its constituent parts:

Second, we must improve operating margins - before central and financing costs - to an average of 20%.

