

Company No. 63611 - U

PELIKAN INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION BERHAD
(Incorporated in Malaysia)

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

31 MARCH 2018

PELIKAN INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION BERHAD (63611-U)
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
Interim report for the financial period ended 31 March 2018
The figures have not been audited.

| | Note | Individual Quarter 3 months ended | | Cumulative Quarter Financial period ended | |
|---|------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | | 31/03/2018 RM' 000 | 31/03/2017 RM' 000 | 31/03/2018 RM' 000 | 31/03/2017 RM' 000 |
| Revenue | | 243,391 | 255,438 | 243,391 | 255,438 |
| Other operating income | | 7,849 | 6,110 | 7,849 | 6,110 |
| Expenses excluding finance costs and tax | | (239,786) | (244,328) | (239,786) | (244,328) |
| Finance costs | | <u>(5,606)</u> | <u>(5,720)</u> | <u>(5,606)</u> | <u>(5,720)</u> |
| Profit before tax | | 5,848 | 11,500 | 5,848 | 11,500 |
| Tax expense | B1 | <u>(3,197)</u> | <u>(2,868)</u> | <u>(3,197)</u> | <u>(2,868)</u> |
| Profit from continuing operations | | 2,651 | 8,632 | 2,651 | 8,632 |
| Discontinued operations: | | | | | |
| Loss from discontinued operations, net of tax | | <u>-</u> | <u>(7,554)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>(7,554)</u> |
| Profit for the financial period | | 2,651 | 1,078 | 2,651 | 1,078 |
| Other comprehensive (loss)/income: | | | | | |
| Item that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss: | | | | | |
| Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations | | <u>(1,518)</u> | <u>8,974</u> | <u>(1,518)</u> | <u>8,974</u> |
| Total comprehensive income for the financial period | | <u>1,133</u> | <u>10,052</u> | <u>1,133</u> | <u>10,052</u> |
| Total profit/(loss) attributable to: | | | | | |
| Owners of the parent | | | | | |
| - from continuing operations | | 2,739 | 8,563 | 2,739 | 8,563 |
| - from discontinued operations | | <u>-</u> | <u>(7,554)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>(7,554)</u> |
| Non-controlling interests | | <u>2,739</u> | <u>1,009</u> | <u>2,739</u> | <u>1,009</u> |
| | | <u>(88)</u> | <u>69</u> | <u>(88)</u> | <u>69</u> |
| | | <u>2,651</u> | <u>1,078</u> | <u>2,651</u> | <u>1,078</u> |
| Total comprehensive income/(loss) attributable to: | | | | | |
| Owners of the parent | | 1,040 | 10,908 | 1,040 | 10,908 |
| Non-controlling interests | | <u>93</u> | <u>(856)</u> | <u>93</u> | <u>(856)</u> |
| | | <u>1,133</u> | <u>10,052</u> | <u>1,133</u> | <u>10,052</u> |
| | | sen | sen | sen | sen |
| Basic earnings per ordinary share attributable to equity holders of the parent | B11 | 0.50 | 0.18 | 0.50 | 0.18 |

The Condensed Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2017 and the accompanying explanatory notes attached to the interim financial statements.

PELIKAN INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION BERHAD (63611-U)
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
Interim report as at 31 March 2018
The figures have not been audited.

| | Note | 31/03/2018 RM'000 | 31/12/2017 RM'000 |
|--|------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| ASSETS | | | |
| Non-current assets | | | |
| Property, plant and equipment | | 389,977 | 400,982 |
| Trademarks | | 17,352 | 17,748 |
| Development costs | | 2,902 | 3,099 |
| Goodwill | | 130,341 | 133,656 |
| Computer software licence | | 4,559 | 4,928 |
| Investment in associates | | - | - |
| Available-for-sale financial assets | | 2,417 | 2,467 |
| Pension Trust Fund | | 134,969 | 134,608 |
| Deferred tax assets | | 115,017 | 116,905 |
| | | <u>797,534</u> | <u>814,393</u> |
| Current assets | | | |
| Inventories | | 281,290 | 250,654 |
| Receivables, deposits & prepayments | | 307,680 | 322,264 |
| Tax recoverable | | 10,658 | 7,703 |
| Pension Trust Fund | | 15,895 | 16,256 |
| Deposits, cash and bank balances | | 33,947 | 52,414 |
| | | <u>649,470</u> | <u>649,291</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | <u>1,447,004</u> | <u>1,463,684</u> |
| EQUITY AND LIABILITIES | | | |
| Equity attributable to owners of the parent | | | |
| Share capital | | 618,887 | 618,887 |
| Foreign currency translation reserves | | (63,742) | (62,043) |
| Equity-settled employee benefits | | - | 226 |
| Accumulated losses | | (102,115) | (105,080) |
| Treasury shares, at cost | | (5,150) | (5,150) |
| | | <u>447,880</u> | <u>446,840</u> |
| Non-controlling interests | | 377 | 284 |
| Total equity | | <u>448,257</u> | <u>447,124</u> |
| Non-current liabilities | | | |
| Post employment benefit obligations | B4 | | |
| - Removable pension liabilities | | 173,882 | 181,526 |
| - Others | | 129,525 | 129,704 |
| Borrowings | B2 | 42,363 | 49,684 |
| Deferred tax liabilities | | 17,343 | 17,042 |
| | | <u>363,113</u> | <u>377,956</u> |
| Current liabilities | | | |
| Payables | | 204,315 | 209,516 |
| Borrowings | B2 | 391,791 | 388,954 |
| Current tax liabilities | | 39,528 | 40,134 |
| | | <u>635,634</u> | <u>638,604</u> |
| Total liabilities | | <u>998,747</u> | <u>1,016,560</u> |
| TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES | | <u>1,447,004</u> | <u>1,463,684</u> |
| Net assets per share attributable to owners of the parent (RM) | | 0.81 | 0.81 |

The Condensed Consolidated Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2017 and the accompanying explanatory notes attached to the interim financial statements.

PELIKAN INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION BERHAD (63611-U)
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
Interim report for the financial period ended 31 March 2018
The figures have not been audited.

| | Share Capital | Share premium (non distributable) | Foreign currency translation reserves (non distributable) | Equity-settled employee benefits (non distributable) | Accumulated losses | Treasury shares, at cost | Equity attributable to owners of the parent | Non- controlling interests | Total equity |
|---|----------------|---|---|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------|
| | RM' 000 | RM' 000 | RM' 000 | RM' 000 | RM' 000 | RM' 000 | RM' 000 | RM' 000 | RM' 000 |
| At 1 January 2018 | 618,887 | - | (62,043) | 226 | (105,080) | (5,150) | 446,840 | 284 | 447,124 |
| Profit/(Loss) for the financial period | - | - | - | - | 2,739 | - | 2,739 | (88) | 2,651 |
| Other comprehensive (loss)/income | - | - | (1,699) | - | - | - | (1,699) | 181 | (1,518) |
| Total comprehensive (loss)/income | - | - | (1,699) | - | 2,739 | - | 1,040 | 93 | 1,133 |
| Transaction with owners: ESOS lapsed | - | - | - | (226) | 226 | - | - | - | - |
| At 31 March 2018 | 618,887 | - | (63,742) | - | (102,115) | (5,150) | 447,880 | 377 | 448,257 |
| At 1 January 2017 | 553,296 | 65,591 | (76,829) | 226 | (116,426) | (5,150) | 420,708 | 3,621 | 424,329 |
| Adjustments of effects of Companies Act 2016 (Note a) | 65,591 | (65,591) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Profit for the financial period | - | - | - | - | 1,009 | - | 1,009 | 69 | 1,078 |
| Other comprehensive income/(loss) | - | - | 9,899 | - | - | - | 9,899 | (925) | 8,974 |
| Total comprehensive income/(loss) | - | - | 9,899 | - | 1,009 | - | 10,908 | (856) | 10,052 |
| At 31 March 2017 | 618,887 | - | (66,930) | 226 | (115,417) | (5,150) | 431,616 | 2,765 | 434,381 |

Note a

With the introduction of the Companies Act 2016 effective 31 January 2017, the concepts of authorised share capital and par value of share capital have been abolished. Consequently, balance within the share premium account of RM65,590,691 has been transferred to the share capital account pursuant to the transitional provisions set out in Section 618(2) of the Companies Act 2016. Notwithstanding this provision, the Company may utilise its share premium account for purposes stipulated in Section 618(3) of the Companies Act 2016 for a transitional period of 24 months from 31 January 2017.

The Condensed Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2017 and the accompanying explanatory notes attached to the interim financial statements.

PELIKAN INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION BERHAD (63611-U)
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
Interim report for the financial period ended 31 March 2018
The figures have not been audited.

| | Financial period ended | |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|
| | 31/03/2018 | 31/03/2017 |
| | RM' 000 | RM' 000 |
| Cash Flows From Operating Activities | | |
| Cash receipts from customers | 260,017 | 306,981 |
| Cash paid to suppliers and employees | <u>(274,602)</u> | <u>(325,251)</u> |
| | (14,585) | (18,270) |
| Interest received | 49 | 362 |
| Interest paid | (5,107) | (5,560) |
| Taxation paid | <u>(3,860)</u> | <u>(16,717)</u> |
| Net cash used in operating activities | <u>(23,503)</u> | <u>(40,185)</u> |
| Cash Flows From Investing Activities | | |
| Interest paid | (609) | (307) |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment | (297) | (2,385) |
| Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment | 255 | 3,782 |
| Purchase of intangible assets | <u>(158)</u> | <u>(33)</u> |
| Net cash (used in)/from investing activities | <u>(809)</u> | <u>1,057</u> |
| Cash Flows From Financing Activities | | |
| Drawdowns of bank borrowings | 89,486 | 131,079 |
| Repayments of bank borrowings | (83,478) | (106,872) |
| Repayments of hire purchase and lease payables | <u>(1,270)</u> | <u>(62)</u> |
| Net cash from financing activities | <u>4,738</u> | <u>24,145</u> |
| Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents during the financial period | (19,574) | (14,983) |
| Effects of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents | 750 | (163) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the financial period | <u>42,461</u> | <u>50,786</u> |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of the financial period | <u><u>23,637</u></u> | <u><u>35,640</u></u> |
| Cash and cash equivalents comprise : | | |
| Deposits, cash and bank balances | 33,947 | 43,370 |
| Bank overdrafts | <u>(9,294)</u> | <u>(7,450)</u> |
| | 24,653 | 35,920 |
| Less: Deposits pledged to licensed banks | <u>(1,016)</u> | <u>(280)</u> |
| | <u><u>23,637</u></u> | <u><u>35,640</u></u> |

The Condensed Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2017 and the accompanying explanatory notes attached to the interim financial statements.

A. Notes to the Interim Financial Report
For the first quarter and financial period ended 31 March 2018

A1. Basis of Preparation

This interim financial report is based on the unaudited financial statements for the quarter ended 31 March 2018 and has been prepared in accordance with applicable disclosure provisions of paragraph 9.22 of the Listing Requirements of the Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad and MFRS 134, Interim Financial Reporting in Malaysia. They do not include all of the information required for full annual financial statements, and should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements of the Group as at end of the financial year ended 31 December 2017.

A2. Significant Accounting Policies

The accounting policies applied by the Group in this interim financial report are consistent with those followed in the preparation of the Group's annual consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2017.

In the current financial period, the Group has applied a number of new and revised MFRSs issued by the Malaysian Accounting Standards Board ("MASB") that are mandatorily effective for an accounting period that begins on or after 1 January 2018.

MFRSs, Amendments to MFRSs and IC Interpretations

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Amendments to MFRS 2 | Classification and Measurement of Share-based Payment Transactions |
| Amendments to MFRS 4 | Insurance Contracts - Applying MFRS 9 Financial Instruments with MFRS 4 Insurance Contracts |
| MFRS 9 | Financial Instruments (IFRS 9 as issued by IASB) |
| MFRS 15 | Revenue from Contracts with Customers (and the related Clarifications) |
| Amendments to MFRS 128 | Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures (Annual Improvements to MFRSs 2014 - 2016 Cycle) |
| Amendments to MFRS 140 | Transfers of Investment Property |
| IC Interpretation 22 | Foreign Currency Transactions and Advance Consideration |

The adoption of the above did not have any significant effect on the interim financial report upon their initial application. The Group has adopted the standards retrospectively from 1 January 2018, with the practical expedients permitted under the standards. Comparatives for 2017 are not restated.

A. Notes to the Interim Financial Report
For the first quarter and financial period ended 31 March 2018

A3. Report of the Auditors to the Members

The report of the auditors on the annual financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2017 was not subject to any qualification and did not include any adverse comments made under subsection (3) of Section 266 of the Companies Act 2016.

A4. Seasonality or Cyclicity of Interim Operations

The Group's traditional business dealing with stationery, especially for school and office, was affected by the "back to school" season in Europe which normally records higher sales in mid-year.

A5. Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items Affecting Assets, Liabilities, Equity, Net Income or Cash Flows

There were no exceptional and/or extraordinary items affecting assets, liabilities, equity, net income or cash flows for the current quarter ended 31 March 2018.

A6. Material Changes in Estimates

There were no material changes in estimates of amounts reported in prior interim periods of the current financial period or prior financial years.

A7. Debt and Equity Securities

There were no issuances, cancellations, repurchases, resales and repayments of debt and equity securities during the current quarter ended 31 March 2018.

A8. Dividends

No dividends have been paid during the current quarter ended 31 March 2018.

A9. Segment Information

| | Germany RM'000 | Rest of Europe RM'000 | Americas RM'000 | Rest of World RM'000 | Elimination RM'000 | Group RM'000 |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 31 March 2018 | | | | | | |
| External revenue | 128,866 | 48,762 | 51,372 | 14,391 | - | 243,391 |
| Intersegment revenue | 84,770 | 9,887 | 4,794 | 39,912 | (139,363) | - |
| | <u>213,636</u> | <u>58,649</u> | <u>56,166</u> | <u>54,303</u> | <u>(139,363)</u> | <u>243,391</u> |
| Segment result | <u>(153)</u> | <u>(2,600)</u> | <u>4,917</u> | <u>11,387</u> | <u>(2,097)</u> | <u>11,454</u> |

A. Notes to the Interim Financial Report
For the first quarter and financial period ended 31 March 2018

A9. Segment Information (cont'd)

Germany

The German segment which represents 53.0% of the Group's revenue showed a decrease in revenue of RM5.5 million (4.1%) as compared to the previous year's corresponding quarter. The decreased in sales were mainly due to the lower sales fulfilment at the end of March due to seasonal holidays. Nevertheless, these sales as expected to be realised in the month of April.

The segment suffered a segment loss of RM0.2 million mainly due to the lower margin contribution from lower sales and the lower production output during the current quarter resulting in higher cost absorption.

Rest of Europe

The contribution in revenue from all other European countries, except Germany, represents 20.0% of the Group's total revenue.

Compared to the same quarter in the previous year (adjusted for discontinued business) sales have increased by RM0.2 million in the current quarter. Sales in countries such as Poland, Belgium, Czech Republic and Slovakia see a positive increase during the current quarter.

The region recorded a segment loss of RM2.6 million as sales generally are still within a lower revenue generating quarter.

Americas

Americas, which comprise 21.1% of the Group's revenue are represented by Mexico, Colombia and Argentina. The reduction in sales as compared to previous year's corresponding quarter were mainly due to the weakening of the local currencies against Ringgit Malaysia. In terms of local currencies, the region achieved positive growth ranging from 3.9% to 20.0%. Sales performance in Colombia shows positive sales growth, especially in the export market, which was driven by the gradual tax safeguard reduction on the Ecuador market. Argentina's sales for this quarter continues to show more encouraging results since the last quarter of 2017 as compared to previous year's corresponding quarter. Positive sales growth in Mexico were evident mainly from the growth in local markets.

As a consequence of the weaker local currencies, the segment results of RM4.9 million was lower than the previous year corresponding quarter's results of RM6.0 million.

A. Notes to the Interim Financial Report
For the first quarter and financial period ended 31 March 2018

A9. Segment Information (cont'd)

Rest of the World

Rest of the World which comprise 5.9% of the Group's revenue consist mainly countries such as Japan, Taiwan/China, South East Asia and Middle East. These markets are relatively stable and growing albeit its' small percentage over the sales of the Group. However, in the current quarter, the segment revenue was lower by 23.1% as compared to the previous year's corresponding quarter as a result of more apparent direct import activities via other regions for the China markets due to the high demand for our products. The segment results, as a consequence, was lower than the previous year corresponding quarter by RM1.6 million.

A10. Valuation of Property, Plant and Equipment

There were no valuations of property, plant and equipment during the current quarter ended 31 March 2018.

A11. Changes in the Composition of the Group

There were no changes in the composition of the Group during the current quarter ended 31 March 2018.

A12. Events Subsequent to the End of the Reporting Period

There were no event subsequent to the financial period ended 31 March 2018.

A13. Contingent Liabilities

The Group still has several legal claims brought by Original Equipment Manufacturers ("OEM") for perceived breach of patents related to the discontinued printer consumable business with an assessed potential maximum exposure of EUR2.5 million (RM11.9 million). Historically, the Group has been successful in defending most cases and management remains confident that the Group's exposure to these claims can be reduced or can be successfully defended, especially when it has now exited the printer consumable business. In the opinion of the management, the lawsuits, claims and proceedings which are pending against the Group will not have a material effect on the Group.

B. Additional Information Required by the Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad's Listing Requirements

B1. Tax Expense

| | 3 months ended | | Financial period ended | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| | 31/03/18 RM'000 | 31/03/17 RM'000 | 31/03/18 RM'000 | 31/03/17 RM'000 |
| Tax expense charged in respect of current financial period | | | | |
| - income tax | (3,197) | (3,693) | (3,197) | (3,693) |
| - deferred tax | - | 804 | - | 804 |
| | <u>(3,197)</u> | <u>(2,889)</u> | <u>(3,197)</u> | <u>(2,889)</u> |
| Tax expense on | | | | |
| - continuing operations | (3,197) | (2,868) | (3,197) | (2,868) |
| - discontinued operations | - | (21) | - | (21) |
| | <u>(3,197)</u> | <u>(2,889)</u> | <u>(3,197)</u> | <u>(2,889)</u> |

The Group's effective tax rate were higher than the statutory income tax rate in Malaysia mainly due to non-availability of group relief where subsidiaries with taxable profits cannot utilise the unused tax losses of other subsidiaries.

B2. Borrowings

Details of the Group's borrowings as at 31 March 2018 are as set out below:

| Currency | Short Term | | Long Term | | Total RM'000 |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| | Secured RM'000 | Unsecured RM'000 | Secured RM'000 | Unsecured RM'000 | |
| Argentina Peso | 7,164 | 293 | - | - | 7,457 |
| Euro | 192,041 | 15,386 | 31,363 | - | 238,790 |
| Hungarian Forint | 479 | - | - | - | 479 |
| Japanese Yen | - | 1,815 | - | - | 1,815 |
| Mexican Peso | - | 28,952 | - | - | 28,952 |
| Polish Zloty | - | 2,526 | - | - | 2,526 |
| Ringgit Malaysia | 4,957 | 750 | 11,000 | - | 16,707 |
| US Dollar | 88,416 | 49,012 | - | - | 137,428 |
| Total | <u>293,057</u> | <u>98,734</u> | <u>42,363</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>434,154</u> |

B. Additional Information Required by the Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad’s Listing Requirements

B3. Material Litigation

The Group still has several legal claims brought by Original Equipment Manufacturers (“OEM”) for perceived breach of patents related to the discontinued printer consumable business with an assessed potential maximum exposure of EUR2.5 million (RM11.9 million). Historically, the Group has been successful in defending most cases and management remains confident that the Group’s exposure to these claims can be reduced or can be successfully defended, especially when it has now exited the printer consumable business. In the opinion of the management, the lawsuits, claims and proceedings which are pending against the Group will not have a material effect on the Group.

B4. Post-Employment Benefit Obligations

| | RM’000 |
|--|---------------|
| Removable Pension Liabilities: | |
| Liabilities funded by Pension Trust Fund | 108,795 |
| Liabilities assumed by the Company | 65,087 |
| | 173,882 |
| Other post-employment benefit obligations of the Group | 129,525 |
| | 303,407 |

Pursuant to the acquisitions of Pelikan Holding AG group (“PHAG group”) in 2005, part of the defined benefits retirement plans of the PHAG group in Germany (known as “Removable Pension Liabilities”) is now funded by an external Pension Trust Fund created for this purpose, whilst the Company is assuming the balance of the said Removable Pension Liabilities fixed in Ringgit Malaysia as at the completion date of the acquisitions of PHAG group. If the assets in the Pension Trust Fund are capable of paying the entire Removable Pension Liabilities, the Removable Pension Liabilities assumed by the Company will be relinquished.

B. Additional Information Required by the Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad's Listing Requirements

B5. Capital Commitments

Capital commitments not provided for in the financial statements as at 31 March 2018 were as follows:

| | RM'000 |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Authorised and contracted for: | |
| Property, plant and equipment | <u>8,368</u> |
| Authorised but not contracted for: | |
| Property, plant and equipment | <u>190</u> |

B6. Review of Performance

The Group achieved a continuing revenue of RM243.4 million in the current quarter as opposed to RM255.4 million in the previous year's corresponding quarter. The Group's key market in Germany and Europe are more or less achieving stable development whilst the Group's business in Americas although achieved positive increase in sales, it was impacted negatively by the strengthening of the RM against local currencies such as Mexican Peso, Argentine Peso and Colombian Peso.

The lower production output in the current quarter resulted in higher cost absorption. The Group recorded a profit before tax of RM5.8 million in the current quarter as compared to profit before tax of RM11.5 million in the previous year's corresponding quarter.

B7. Variation of Results Against Preceding Quarter

| | Current Quarter 31/03/18 RM'000 | Immediate Preceding Quarter 31/12/17 RM'000 | Changes % |
|--|--|---|--------------|
| Continuing operations: | | | |
| Revenue | 243,391 | 254,320 | -4.3 |
| Profit/(Loss) before interest and tax | 11,454 | (9,716) | +>100.0 |
| Profit/(Loss) before tax | 5,848 | (15,648) | +>100.0 |
| Profit/(Loss) from continuing operations | 2,651 | (17,406) | +>100.0 |
| Discontinued operations: | | | |
| Profit from discontinued operations, net of tax | <u>-</u> | <u>16,097</u> | ->100.0 |

B. Additional Information Required by the Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad's Listing Requirements

B7. Variation of Results Against Preceding Quarter (cont'd)

The Group's continued revenue decreased to RM243.4 million in the current quarter as compared to RM254.3 million in the preceding quarter, mainly due to the decrease in sales in Europe market. Generally, the first quarter is a weak quarter for the Group as the major "back to school" season are between the second and third quarters of the year.

The Group's profit before tax of RM5.8 million was higher than preceding quarter because of improvement in contribution in certain countries arising from better product mix and higher losses in the last quarter from lower production in European factories especially in the month of December.

B8. Prospects

The European economy grew at its fastest rate in 10 years in 2017 as a result of the expansion in economies of its member states. The key factors which led to the growth in performance were high levels of confidence, increased support from a synchronised global expansion, low financing costs, improving private balance sheets and brightening labour market conditions. According to the European Commission's spring 2018 forecast, short-term indicators suggest a slower pace of growth in early 2018 and similar to the previous winter interim forecast, euro area GDP growth is forecast to moderate only from mildly from 2.4% in 2017 to 2.3% this year before easing to 2.0% in 2019. Although consistent growth rates are forecasted, the growth drivers behind them have changed and the balance of risks shifted meaningfully to the downside as a result of recent policy developments and their potential impact on global financial conditions and trade.

The German economy is expected to continue growing steadily on the back of robust domestic demand, and strong foreign trade. Private consumption growth is driven by the rise in real wages, which should continue as labour market constraints become apparent. Overall, real GDP growth is expected to increase by 2.3% this year and by 2.1% in 2019. The positive economic data on the Group's key region is quite encouraging for the business development as it improves overall consumer sentiments which can help bolster sales in particular in the "back to school" season.

Based on the World Economic Outlook Update ("WEO"), April 2018, published by the International Monetary Fund, in Latin America, the recovery is expected to strengthen with growth of 2.0% in 2018 and 2.8% in 2019 (an upward revision of 0.1% and 0.4%, respectively, relative to the October WEO). This change primarily reflects an improved outlook for Mexico, benefiting from stronger U.S. demand, a firmer recovery in Brazil, and favourable effects of stronger commodity prices and easier financing conditions on some commodity-exporting countries. Mexico's economy is forecasted to accelerate from 2.0% in 2017 to 2.3% in 2018 and 3.0% in 2019. Positive economic data is expected to bolster the level of consumer spending which is favourable to the Group.

B. Additional Information Required by the Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad's Listing Requirements

B8. Prospects (cont'd)

The development of the key currencies of the Group namely Euro, United States Dollar ("USD") and the America's region currencies remains mixed. Currently, the RM has been strengthening against USD which would benefit the Group from USD denominated liabilities, the strengthening of RM against Euro and the America's region currencies will result in lower translated profit for the Group.

The Group is now fully focused in the stationery business mainly through the Pelikan Group GmbH Group. The focus to bring relevant products into the markets in particular branded products shall remain as the key priority for the Group. Streamlining of product mix and offerings to customers remained an important factor going forward to improve profitability and reduce business complexity and cost.

B9. Dividend

The Board of Directors does not recommend any dividend for the current financial period.

B10. Variance on Profit Forecast / Shortfall in Profit Guarantee

Not applicable.

B11. Earnings/(Loss) Per Ordinary Share

| Basic earnings/(loss) per ordinary share: | 3 months ended | | Financial period ended | |
|--|----------------|----------|------------------------|----------|
| | 31/03/18 | 31/03/17 | 31/03/18 | 31/03/17 |
| Profit attributable to owners of the parent (RM'000) | 2,739 | 1,009 | 2,739 | 1,009 |
| from continuing operations (RM'000) | 2,739 | 8,563 | 2,739 | 8,563 |
| from discontinued operations (RM'000) | - | (7,554) | - | (7,554) |
| Weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue ('000) | 548,368 | 548,368 | 548,368 | 548,368 |
| Basic earnings/(loss) per ordinary share (sen) | 0.50 | 0.18 | 0.50 | 0.18 |
| from continuing operations (sen) | 0.50 | 1.56 | 0.50 | 1.56 |
| from discontinued operations (sen) | - | (1.38) | - | (1.38) |

B. Additional Information Required by the Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad's Listing Requirements

B12. Additional Notes to the Statement of Comprehensive Income

| | 3 months ended | | Financial period ended | |
|---|----------------|----------|------------------------|----------|
| | 31/03/18 | 31/03/17 | 31/03/18 | 31/03/17 |
| | RM'000 | RM'000 | RM'000 | RM'000 |
| Profit before tax is arrived at after charging/(crediting): | | | | |
| Interest income | (49) | (362) | (49) | (362) |
| Interest expense | 5,606 | 5,720 | 5,606 | 5,720 |
| Depreciation and amortisation | 6,907 | 6,709 | 6,907 | 6,709 |
| Impairment loss on receivables | 225 | 287 | 225 | 287 |
| Inventories write down | 19 | 66 | 19 | 66 |
| Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment | (135) | (1,985) | (135) | (1,985) |
| Foreign exchange (gain)/loss | (3,327) | 1,170 | (3,327) | 1,170 |