ASPO INTERIM REPORT JANUARY 1 – JUNE 30, 2003

The net sales of the Aspo Group totaled EUR 67.5 million (MEUR 66.3). The operating profit for the period was EUR 2.7 million (EUR 3.5 million) and the loss before taxes was EUR 5.6 million (EUR +10.5 million). Earnings per share were EUR 0.19 (EUR 0.25). The Group’s net sales for the whole year are expected to exceed EUR 140 million and earnings to reach last year’s level.

KEY FIGURES

	1-6/03	1-6/02	1-12/02
Net Sales, MEUR	67.5	66.3	138.9
Operating Profit, MEUR	2.7	3.5	9.0
Share of Net Sales, %	4.0	5.3	6.5
Profit before Extraordinary Items and Taxes, MEUR	2.1	2.9	8.0
Share of Net Sales, %	3.1	4.4	5.7
Earning/Share, EUR	0.19	0.25	0.66
Equity/Share, EUR	5.74	6.99	7.41
Equity Ratio, %	47.6	52.3	55.0
Personnel at period end	564	531	538

OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

In the second quarter the Aspo Group generated a heavy spurt in growth, outstripping the previous year’s volume by six percent. Most of the increase was generated by Shipping and Systems operations. The strong second quarter showing enabled the Group to spark an over EUR 1 million six-month jump over last year’s half-year sales performance.

The Chemicals Division continued to struggle with relatively poor business conditions. Prices, which were on the rise earlier in the year, began to dip, and the division’s profitability declined to some extent. In contrast, Shipping and Systems operations generated good results in the aftermath of an unusually cold winter, and both divisions generated significant improvements in profitability. Shipping yielded record-breaking earnings for the quarter.

Aspo Chemicals

The Chemicals Division consists of Aspokem Ltd and its subsidiaries. They distribute, store and market chemicals and plastics in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia. The division engages in processing activities in Finland and Estonia. Aspokem is also engaged in East-West chemical trading.

	1-6/03	1-6/02	1-12/02
Net sales, MEUR	29.0	27.4	56.6
Operating profit, MEUR	1.5	1.5	2.6
Personnel	81	74	76

There were no signs of recovery on the domestic market during the second quarter, and international demand remained weak as well. On the other hand, demand in the Baltic region was more pronounced and Russia continues to show vigorous growth. In many markets, however, supply outstripped demand, squeezing margins and eroding operational profitability. Despite this, Aspokem was able to increase its volumes by over 10% in both Finland and Russia, which in turn enhanced its market position in both countries, while, on the other hand, its market position slipped in the Baltic countries.

Aspo Shipping

The Shipping Division consists of ESL Shipping Oy and its subsidiaries. ESL Shipping is the leading dry bulk sea transport company operating in the Baltic area, primarily sailing the Finnish, Swedish, Russian, Baltic, Polish, German, Danish and Norwegian sea lanes.

	1-6/03	1-6/02	1-12/02
Net sales, MEUR	23.2	19.5	43.1
Operating profit, MEUR	2.7	2.3	7.4
Personnel	213	179	192

The fleet’s capacity utilization improved significantly during the second quarter. Dry-dockings were kept to a minimum and the two pusher barges acquired toward the end of last year were able to sail normally once ice conditions leveled off. Above average coal transports and extended capacity combined to boost freight transport volumes 35% over the beginning of the year.

Both net sales and earnings rose over the beginning of the year by almost 20%, although a weak dollar and the above average price of bunker oil blunted earnings.

Aspo Systems

The Systems Division comprises Autotank Ltd and its subsidiaries. Autotank is the leading supplier of service station equipment and systems as well as related services in the Baltic region. Autotank has subsidiaries in Sweden, Norway, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and the Czech Republic.

	1-6/03	1-6/02	1-12/02
Net sales, MEUR	15.3	19.4	39.2
Operating profit, MEUR	-1.6	0.8	0.6
Personnel	227	261	249

Systems operations picked up clearly in the second quarter, even though its half-year sales performance fell 8% short of last year's benchmark in the aftermath of a poor first quarter showing. The second-quarter performance was still unprofitable, but earnings turned the corner on the strength of a determined streamlining program.

The improvement in the division's sales and earnings performance stemmed also from service station development projects after the winter season, as well as the launch of a new range of dispensers. Conditions in the service station sector were poor at the beginning of the year and investments remained at a low ebb. Customers invested primarily in essential asset replacement, or critical outlays related to increasingly stringent environmental legislation.

GROUP SALES AND EARNINGS

Aspo Group net sales totaled EUR 67.5 million for the January 1 to June 30, 2003 period, compared with the previous year's figure of EUR 66.3 million. The Chemicals and Shipping Divisions increased their net sales. The Chemicals Division generated earnings on par with last year while the Shipping Division improved its financial performance. Falling volumes in the Systems Division in combination with rationalization-related expenditure inhibited a profitable financial divisional performance.

Net Sales by Division

	1-6/03 MEUR	1-6/02 MEUR	Change MEUR	1-12/02 MEUR
CHEMICALS				
Aspokem Ltd	23.7	23.3	0.4	47.4
Aspokem Eesti AS	2.2	2.3	-0.1	5.0
Aspokem Latvia SIA	2.3	1.6	0.7	3.3
UAB Aspokemlit	1.8	1.2	0.6	3.0
OOO Aspokem	1.9	1.3	0.6	3.2
Internal eliminations	-2.9	-2.3	-0.6	-5.3
TOTAL	29.0	27.4	1.6	56.6
SHIPPING				
ESL Shipping Oy	21.2	19.5	1.7	41.4
Paratug Ltd Oy	2.0		2.0	1.7 *
TOTAL	23.2	19.5	3.7	43.1

* 9-12/02

SYSTEMS				
Autotank Ltd	5.7	6.9	-1.2	15.0
Autotank AB	4.9	5.5	-0.6	12.3
Autotank Service AB	3.2	2.9	0.3	6.4
Autotank As	2.1	1.7	0.4	3.6
Autotank Oü	0.3	0.3		0.6
SIA Autotank	0.1	0.1		0.3
UAB Autotank	0.02	0.01		0.1
Aspo Systems Ceska s.r.o.		0.01		0.1
Autotank Sp.zo.o				
Suhi-Suomalainen Hiili Oy*		2.8	-2.8	2.7
Internal eliminations	-1.0	-0.8	-0.2	-1.9
TOTAL	15.3	19.4	-4.1	39.2
* Formerly Navintra Ltd, 1-5/02				
TOTAL NET SALES	67.5	66.3	1.2	138.9

EARNINGS

The Group’s operating profit was EUR 2.7 million or 4.0 % of net sales (EUR 3.5 million; 5.3% in 2002). Depreciation was on par with last year’s level or EUR 3.9 million. Net financial costs totaled EUR 0.6 million (EUR 0.6 million).

The profit before extraordinary items and taxes was EUR 2.1 million (EUR 2.9 million). The Group’s pre-tax profit was EUR –5.6 million (EUR +10.5 million). Funds related to the Helsinki Administrative Court order to pay back-taxes from the company’s adjusted 1994 taxation totaling EUR 7.7 million with interest have been recorded under extraordinary expenses.

Operating Profit by Division

	1-6/03 MEUR	1-6/02 MEUR	Change MEUR	1-12/02 MEUR
Chemicals	1.5	1.5		2.6
Shipping	2.7	2.3	0.4	7.4
Systems	-1.6	0.8	-2.4	0.6
Other operations	0.1	-1.1	1.2	-1.6
TOTAL	2.7	3.5	-0.8	9.0

Stock Performance

The Group generated earnings per share of EUR 0.19 (EUR 0.25). Equity per share was EUR 5.74 (EUR 6.99).

INVESTMENTS AND FINANCE

Most of the Group’s EUR 0.5 million in total investments (EUR 4.2 million) were directed at essential asset replacement.

The Group’s liquidity has remained satisfactory. Liquid assets totaled EUR 7.2 million (EUR 14.0 million) at the end of the period.

The Group’s equity ratio adjusted for nominal tax liabilities was 47.6% (52.3%). The payment of back-taxes impacting our operations during the period has not yet been executed.

Investments by Division

	1-6/03 MEUR	1-6/02 MEUR	1-12/02 MEUR
Chemicals	0.2	0.1	0.1
Shipping			3.1
Systems	0.2	4.1	4.2
Group Administration	0.1		
TOTAL	0.5	4.2	7.4

PERSONNEL

The Group’s personnel averaged 529 from January 1 to June 30, 2003 compared with 522 for the same period the previous year. Personnel averaged 525 for 2002.

Average Personnel by Division

	1-6/03	1-6/02	1-12/02
Chemicals	81	74	76
Shipping	213	179	192
Systems	227	261	249
Corporate Administration	8	8	8
TOTAL	529	522	525

SHARES AND SHARE CAPITAL

During the period extending from January through June 2003 a total of 777,300 shares with a value of EUR 7.4 million were traded on the Helsinki Stock Exchange, or 9.1% of the total number of shares outstanding. The non-domestic share in equity ownership was 0.5% and 40,107 shares as of June 30, 2003.

The share price reached a high of EUR 11.00 and a low of EUR 8.60 during the period under review. The average share price was EUR 9.56 and the closing price on June 30, 2003 EUR 8.80. The market value of the share capital was EUR 75.2 million as of the end of the period under review.

The total share capital of Aspo Plc is EUR 17,101,442 on 8,550,721 shares outstanding. As of June 30, 2003 the total number of Aspo Plc shareholders was 2,089. The ten largest shareholders were in possession of 57.4% of the shares and voting rights. The total number of shares held by the CEO and the members of the Board of Directors of Aspo Plc and those within their sphere of influence was 743,135 shares, corresponding to 8.7% of the shares and voting rights outstanding.

Board Authorizations

The Annual Shareholders' meeting authorized the Board to decide on increases of the share capital in one or more lots through new share issues and/or convertible bond and/or stock option issues that would allow share capital to be increased by up to EUR 3,420,000.

In addition, the Board has been authorized to decide on the purchase or disposal of shares held by the company itself. The shares will be acquired through public trading on the Helsinki Stock Exchange at the market price prevailing at the time of the purchase. The maximum number of shares to be repurchased is 427,536. The authorization of disposals concerns the same amount of shares.

All authorizations are valid for one year from the date of approval at the Annual Shareholders' Meeting. As of August 20, 2003 the Board of Directors had not applied these authorizations.

TAXATION

Aspo has appealed the verdict of the Administrative Court of Helsinki concerning its 1994 tax return to the Supreme Administrative Court. The remittance ordered by the lower court has not yet been paid.

The controversy involves taxation related asset valuation and merger compensation pertaining to the restructuring of the Group. Aspo has published releases covering this issue in its stock exchange bulletins of August 30, 1996, June 27, 1997, August 25, 1997, December 23, 1999, April 25, 2001, July 9, 2001, June 13, 2002, July 29, 2002 and April 9, 2003.

POST-FISCAL EVENTS

ESL Shipping Ltd and JIT-Trans Ltd, a subsidiary of the Rautaruukki Group, have on July 30, 2003 signed a letter of intent covering the shipment of raw materials on the Baltic Sea as of the beginning of 2004. The final agreement, which is to be signed by the end of the year, is a seven-year contract worth approximately 20 million euros per year.

The final agreement, once signed, will significantly increase both the company's tonnage and its freight volumes from 2004 on.

PROSPECTS FOR THE YEAR-END

Despite the Group's increasing expansion in the Baltic region, Finland has retained its position as Aspo's single most important market area. Cautious investment and sluggish domestic business conditions will primarily impact the Chemicals and Systems Divisions, which in turn would suggest that year-end demand will be stable, but weak. An economic recovery toward the year-end could rapidly spark increased demand and investments. Conditions elsewhere in the Nordic area are similar to Finland, where as business conditions in the Baltic region are markedly more dynamic, underscored by local expectations of EU membership. The Shipping Division appears to be set to continue its strong performance.

We expect the Aspo Group's performance for the second half of the year to clearly improve over the first half of the year. Net sales is expected to rise over last year with fiscal sales exceeding EUR 140 million and operational earnings holding at last year's level.

Aspo Chemicals

Domestic demand will continue to reflect general macroeconomic trends, while we expect growth to remain brisk in Russia and somewhat weaker in the Baltic countries. The fall in prices that took place in the second quarter has put increasing pressure on manufacturers to raise prices. The direction that international economic conditions take during the rest of the year will ultimately determine whether market conditions will remain unchanged or will there in fact be a slow or even rapid recovery.

We have lowered the 2003 sales and earnings forecast for the Chemicals Division, but we expect the figures to outstrip 2002.

Aspo Shipping

The Shipping Division continued to benefit from robust market conditions. Strong cargo shipment demand in combination with existing contracts, have created a strong basis for high year-end capacity utilization. A major large-scale dry-docking program aimed at two of the fleet's older vessels was completed at the beginning of the year. As a consequence of this rebuilding program, as well as the acquisitions of last fall, the fleet's capacity has expanded. In the Baltic region demand has been stimulated by large-scale energy sector shipments in the aftermath of a very dry summer and an unusually cold winter season. Demand in other sectors has been strong as well.

The decline of the dollar appears to have stopped, at least for the time being. In the event that the dollar appreciated toward the year-end it would have a positive impact on Shipping earnings. On the other hand, it appears that bunker oil prices will continue holding above the average for the year-end, and this will raise operating expenses.

We expect freight volumes to continue rising toward the year-end, and consequently Shipping net sales for the year will rise markedly over 2002. We also expect earnings to improve over last year.

Aspo Systems

Sluggish investment activity continues to plague divisional prospects for the year-end. Profitability has taken a turn for the better, but a significant further improvement would require sales growth, or at least holding net sales at last year's year-end level.

We expect the division to generate a mildly profitable performance in the third quarter, and a clearly profitable performance in the final quarter. However, the year-end improvement will not suffice to produce a profitable financial performance for the year as a whole.

Helsinki, August 20, 2003

ASPO Plc

Board of Directors

ASPO GROUP INCOME STATEMENT

	1-6/03		1-6/02		1-12/02	
	MEUR	%	MEUR	%	MEUR	%
NET SALES	67.5	100.0	66.3	100.0	138.9	100.0
Other operating income	2.3	3.4	2.6	3.9	3.8	2.7
Depreciation and write-downs	3.9	5.8	3.7	5.6	7.4	5.3
OPERATING PROFIT AFTER DEPRECIATION	2.7	4.0	3.5	5.3	9.0	6.5
Financial income and expenses	-0.6	-0.9	-0.6	-0.9	-1.0	-0.7
PROFIT BEFORE EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS AND TAXES	2.1	3.1	2.9	4.4	8.0	5.7
Extraordinary income			7.6		7.6	
Extraordinary expenses	7.7					
PROFIT BEFORE TAXES AND MINORITY INTEREST	-5.6	-8.3	10.5	15.8	15.6	11.3
PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD	-5.9	-8.7	9.6	14.5	13.2	9.5
EARNIGS/SHARE, EUR	0.19		0.25		0.66	

Accrued taxes for this interim period have been calculated in accordance with the corporate tax rate in force during the period under review and they include taxes brought forward from earlier periods. The calculation of earnings/share excludes taxes on extraordinary items.

ASPO GROUP BALANCE SHEET

	6/03	6/02	Change	12/02
	MEUR	MEUR	%	MEUR
Non-Current Assets				
Intangible and tangible assets	64.3	68.3	-5.9	70.4
Long-term Investments	0.5	0.9	-44.4	0.9
Current Assets				
Inventories	10.5	10.3	1.9	11.7
Receivables	21.6	22.9	-5.7	18.9
Short-term investments	4.3	12.5	-65.6	10.9
Cash and bank deposits	2.9	1.5	93.3	3.7
TOTAL ASSETS	104.1	116.4	-10.6	116.5

Shareholders' Equity	49.1	59.8	-17.9	63.4
Minority interest	0.2	0.2		0.3
Mandatory reserves	0.3	0.3		0.4
Long-term liabilities	22.4	25.8	-13.2	25.2
Short-term liabilities	32.1	30.3	5.9	27.2
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	104.1	116.4	-10.6	116.5
EQUITY / SHARE, EUR	5.74	6.99		7.41
EQUITY RATIO, %	47.6	52.3		55.0

Accumulated excess depreciation and voluntary reserves totaling EUR 39.5 million have been divided among shareholders' equity, nominal tax liabilities and as part of minority interest.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	1-6/03 MEUR	1-6/02 MEUR	1-12/02 MEUR
OPERATIONS			
Operating profit	2.7	3.5	9.0
Adjustments to operating profit	3.9	3.7	7.4
Net changes in working capital	-3.1	-0.9	1.7
Interest paid	-0.8	-0.9	-1.6
Interest received	0.2	0.3	0.7
Taxes paid	-2.2	-0.9	-3.3
Net Operational Cash Flow	0.7	4.8	13.9
INVESTMENTS			
Investments in tangible and intangible assets	-0.5	-0.3	-0.5
Gains on the sale of tangible and intangible assets		1.8	2.5
Gains on the sale of shares	0.6		0.5
Sale of subsidiary shares	3.9		
Purchases of subsidiary shares		-3.9	-6.3
Total Cash Flow From Investments	4.0	-2.4	-3.8
FINANCING			
Increase/Decrease in long-term receivables			0.1
Increase/Decrease in short-term receivables			0.1
Repayments of short-term debt	-0.8		
New short-term loans		4.5	0.5
Repayments of long-term debt	-2.9	-1.7	-5.0
Back-taxes (entered in extraordinary items)		7.6	7.6
Dividends paid	-8.4	-4.8	-4.8
Total Financing	-12.1	5.6	-1.5

Increase/Decrease in Liquid Funds	-7.4	8.0	8.6
Liquid funds in beginning of year	14.6	6.0	6.0
Liquid funds at period end	7.2	14.0	14.6

CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

	6/03 MEUR	12/02 MEUR
Securities on Group liabilities	27.6	27.6
Leasing liabilities	20.9	21.8
Derivative contracts	2.0	0.7
TOTAL	50.5	50.1

All figures are unaudited.

Helsinki, 20 August 2003

ASPO Plc

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ASPO´S FINANCIAL INFORMATION

We have arranged a press conference for the media and analysts to be held today, Wednesday August 20, 2003, starting at 13.00 at the following address: Hotel Palace, Eteläranta 10.

Aspo will release Interim Report for the third quarter on Thursday, 23 October 2003.

Distribution:
Helsinki Stock Exchange
The media
www.aspo.fi

Aspo Group focuses on logistical services for industry. Aspo serves businesses in the energy and industrial process sectors requiring strong specialist and logistical know-how. Aspo’s net sales in 2002 totalled EUR 138.9 million. About 41% of this came from Aspo Chemicals, 31% from Aspo Shipping and 28% from Aspo Systems.