

# METRO INTERNATIONAL S.A.

# FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2007

Luxembourg, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2008 – Metro International S.A. ("Metro") (MTROA, MTROB), today announced its financial results for the fourth quarter ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007. The Group's consolidated results have been prepared according to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

# HIGHLIGHTS FOR Q4 2007

- Net sales increased by 12% to US\$ 139.2 million (2006: US\$ 124.1 million).
- Operating profits (before disputed taxes) were delivered in 9 out of 14 owned operations in the fourth quarter with the exception of Czech Republic, Spain, Greece, the US and Bostad
- The operating profit was US\$ 9.8m (2006: US\$ 10.9 million profit) excluding a disputed Advertising Tax provision in Sweden of \$10.2m and a net gain of \$4.7m from the sale of 60% of Metro Czech Republic in December 2007.
- Including these two items Group operating profit was US\$ 4.3m (2006: US\$ 10.9 million profit).
- The contribution from subsidiary newspaper operations was an operating profit of US\$ 16.2 million excluding the provision for Ad Tax in Sweden (2006: US\$ 16.3 million profit).
- Metro International achieved a net profit of US\$ 5.1 million (2006: net profit US\$ 11.5 million).

# **TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2007**

- 8.8% year- on- year increase in net sales to US\$ 453.0 million (2006:US\$ 416.5 million).
- Operating profits (before disputed taxes) were delivered in 10 out of 14 full year with the exception of operations undergoing reorganisation: Czech Republic, Spain, the US and Bostad
- The operating loss was US\$ 15.2m excluding a disputed Advertising Tax provision in Sweden of \$10.2m and a net gain of \$4.7m from the sale of 60% of Metro Czech Republic in December 2007 (2006: US\$ 4.6 million profit excluding a capital gain of US\$ 12.3m from the sale of Finland).
- Including these two items the operating loss was US\$ 20.7m (2006: US\$ 16.9 million profit).
- The contribution from subsidiary newspaper operations for the full year decreased to US\$ 14.2 million, excluding the \$10.2m provision for Ad Tax (2006: US\$ 26.7 million profit) mainly due to the weak start to the year for the Swedish operations and the increased losses in the US.
- Net loss of US\$ 27.6 million ( 2006: net profit of US\$ 13 million).
- Basic loss per share of US\$ 0.05 (2006: profit of US\$ 0.02).

# P&L VARIANCE ANALYSIS

#### Q407 v Q406

USD millions	2007	2006	Variance
Contribution from controlled newspaper operations Disputed Swedish Ad Tax Total Contribution	16.2 -10.2 <b>6.0</b>	16.3 <b>16.3</b>	-0.1 -10.2 <b>-10.3</b>
JVs, Franchises HQ Online / MMM	1.1 -6.7 -0.8	0.9 -6.0 -0.5	0.2 -0.7 -0.3
Group EBIT	-0.4	10.7	-11.1
Divestments Interest Tax	4.7 -2.4 3.2	0.2 -0.7 1.3	4.5 -1.7 1.9
Net profit/loss	5.1	11.5	-6.4

# 2007 v 2006

USD millions	2007	2006	Variance
Contribution from controlled newspaper operations Disputed Swedish Ad Tax	14.2 -10.2	26.7	-12.5 -10.2
Total Contribution	4.0	26.7	-22.7
JVs, Franchises HQ	1.8 -28.5	1.7 -21.7	0.1 -6.8
Online / MMM	-2.7	-2.1	-0.6
Group EBIT	-25.4	4.6	-30.0
Divestments Interest Tax	4.7 -5.4 -1.5	12.3 -3.8 -0.1	-7.6 -1.6 -1.4
Net profit/loss	-27.6	13.0	-40.6

# **OPERATIONAL REVIEW**

Per Mikael Jensen, Chief Executive Officer of Metro International, said:

"Metro International has not been immune from the volatility affecting the global newspaper industry, which has been reflected in the latest results of the company. While the loss for the full year 2007 is a disappointment, the board, management and employees of Metro International remain committed to reversing losses in markets that are underperforming and to focus investment in areas of strong potential growth, including online."

"Nevertheless, I am encouraged by the current underlying performance of the company in many markets, while there is a clear need for further action to deliver sustained profitability.

"Since becoming Chief Executive last November, the company has focused on a broad strategic review of its operations. This review was designed to position Metro International for continued growth in markets around the world where its strategy is successful and to address areas of weakness. Action has already been taken to reorganise the portfolio in markets such as Sweden, the Czech Republic and the US, and further steps will be taken to develop Metro's full potential around the world."

"The 4th quarter is a seasonally strong quarter for Metro and this was the case in 2007. However, the quarter's results are impacted by a provision of \$10.2m for Swedish Ad Tax. The Ad Tax provision is prudent and reflects a recent judgement from the Swedish Tax Office for the years 2001-2006. The Ad Tax is appealed by the company.

Excluding the Ad Tax provision, the underlying operational EBIT in the fourth quarter 2007 is close to the operating profit for the fourth quarter 2006.

In real terms, allowing for the depreciation of the US dollar, owned operations net sales growth excluding Bostad, Poland and the divested operation in Finland, was 5.0% year-on-year. This is primarily due to recovering sales for Green Metro in Sweden which achieved similar real sales to the fourth quarter 2006 and is an improvement on the 13% decline in Q3. Excluding Sweden, the rest of the group delivered 6.1% growth with especially strong growth in Holland, Czech, Italy, Portugal, France, New York, Chile and Hong Kong. France achieved back-to-back record sales in September and October. Year-on-year sales growth was lower in November and December than in October especially in the US as we felt the impact of the US credit crunch.

Excluding the Swedish Ad Tax provision, the contribution from subsidiary operations delivered a similar EBIT to last year (\$16.2m profit v \$16.3m profit). In Sweden, a \$2.0m rebate for the reduction in the Ad Tax rate from 8% to 3% from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 helped the December results and after a weak third quarter it is evident that underlying margins are trending upwards based on improving net prices for Green Metro. In December 2007 the Stockholm edition of Bostad was suspended for 2008 due to lack of profitability and was replaced with "Living" – a supplement in Green Metro which was profitable from the first edition. The profitable Malmo edition of Bostad continues.

Despite continuing strong competition Denmark maintained its profitability at the 2006 level delivering a high double-digit profit margin in Q4. Similarly, Holland continues to deliver high EBIT margins based on healthy page rates and strong volumes. Hungary also continues to deliver good double-digit profit margins due to its strong position in the newspaper market.

France and Italy delivered very strong profits in Q4 based on strong sales and cost savings in France and in excess of 20% real sales growth in Italy. Portugal delivered over 30% sales growth despite increased competition in Q407.

Sales in Spain's remain a concern and were down in the fourth quarter following a very disappointing December and EBIT has consequently declined. Competition in the market remains strong and Spain is receiving a lot of management focus to improve performance.

Chile and Hong Kong have maintained their strong 2007 performance in Q4 with sales and EBIT growth.

US results in Q4 were very disappointing. Good revenue growth in October was followed by a drop in sales versus 2006 in November and December as the US credit crunch started to bite. Cost reductions involving 27 redundancies across the three US cities were implemented in January 2008 to minimise the impact of revenue declines. Further actions to improve the business in the US may be taken.

Looking at the full year performance, 2007 EBIT, excluding divestments, is a loss of \$25.4m compared to a profit of \$4.6m in 2006. However, the underlying operational performance is not quite as bad as it looks. The newspapers generated an EBIT loss of \$4.9m due primarily to poor results in Sweden and the US – actions have been taken to rectify the weaknesses in 2008. The additional negative results in 2007 are due to the \$10.2m Ad Tax provision, \$5.1m HQ restructuring costs relating to the departure of senior executives and the \$5.2m investment in our online activities.

Excluding Sweden's Ad Tax provision, all of our controlled operations were profitable in the FY07, except for Czech, Spain, the US and Bostad. However, currently, the margins in profitable countries are not high enough to cover the losses in the 4 operations and to cover Online and HQ costs. This will be a key focus in 2008.

On 21<sup>st</sup> December we announced the sale of 60% of the Metro Czech operation to MAFRA. This generated a profit of \$4.7m. We are working to deliver synergies with our new partner.

Our joint venture operations have delivered an additional \$0.3m EBIT in Q4 including a quarterly profit in Brazil after only 8 months of operation. The improvement arises from the operations in Mexico, Korea and Canada which all continue to deliver improving profits. Canada's sales have increased 53% in Q407 versus 2006 and it is now the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest Metro operation in terms of revenue.

Metro's board recently confirmed our commitment to developing our Online business with web sites in France, Spain and Holland starting with the French website launching in March 2008. We will test a new interactive approach in Metro's metropolitan areas to strengthen links with our readers and to provide advertisers with a cost-effective route to our unique demographics. The 2007 central investment was \$2.7m for the year and \$2.5m was invested in local websites. Further investments will be decided based on the performance of the first three websites.

Per Mikael Jensen CEO Metro International

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

US\$ 000s	Q4 2007	Q4 2006	12 Months 2007	12 Months 2006
Net Sales	139,187	124,140	452,955	416,534
Operating profit / (loss) Net interest & other financial items	4,329 (2,395)	10,916 (681)	(20,760) (5,400)	16,926 (3,827)
Profit / (loss) after financial items and before income tax	1,934	10,235	(26,160)	13,099
Тах	3,163	1,265	(1,486)	(124)
Net profit / (loss)	5,097	11,500	(27,646)	12,975
Weighted average number of shares outstanding	527,296,944	527,296,944	527,296,944	527,036,707
Basic and diluted earnings / (loss) per share (US\$)	0.01	0.02	(0.05)	0.02

# **GROUP OVERVIEW**

#### Sales

Net sales in the quarter were US\$ 139.2 million, an increase of 12% on 2006 (2006: US\$ 124.1 million) but 2.6% up in real terms, allowing for the depreciation of the US dollar.

# **Operating Profit**

Group operating profit for the quarter was US\$ 4.3 million including a \$10.2m Ad Tax provision and \$4.7m profit on disposal of 60% stake in Czech (2006: profit of US\$ 10.9 million).

### **Czech Disposal**

On 21<sup>st</sup> December 2007 Metro announced the sale of 60% of the Czech business to MAFRA a.s., a leading publishing group in the Czech Republic. Metro reports a profit of \$4.7m on the deal. Other financial terms of the deal are subject to a confidentiality agreement. Metro remains a 40% shareholder.

Metro Czech Republic publishes the leading national free daily newspaper Metro in the Czech Republic, distributed in all main towns throughout the country. The majority of the newspaper's readers are in the Prague metropolitan area.

Metro Czech Republic will continue to publish the free daily Metro in the country, under a trade mark license with Metro International. The newspaper will also remain included in Metro International's Pan-European advertising packages.

### Tax

Current and deferred tax credits for the quarter were US\$3.1 million (2006: US\$ 1.3 million) due to an increase in the deferred tax asset for countries with increased profitability who are more likely to utilise their tax losses in the future.

### Swedish Advertising Tax

On 29<sup>th</sup> November 2007 the Swedish parliament approved the application of the lower 3% Advertising Tax rate retroactively, from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007, to all publications, including free publications, that have a "daily news" character. This represents a reduction from the current 8%

rate charged on net sales, less distribution costs. This improved EBIT in Metro Sweden by \$2.0m in Q407.

As reported in the Q4 2006 release, Metro has taken professional advice and is contesting its liability to bear advertising tax at the 11% rate for the years 2001 to 2005 and at 8% for 2006. During these years paid-for newspapers were charged at the lower rates of 4% and 3% respectively. This is unfair treatment against free newspapers and is recognised by the law change in November 2007 which reduced the rate to 3% for all newspapers but only from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007.

Metro has made certain deductions in determining its advertising tax base for the years 2001 to 2006. On 29<sup>th</sup> January 2007 Metro wrote to the Swedish Tax Office restating the advertising tax computations for 2001 to 2006 and contesting Metro's treatment as non-newspaper media. On 19<sup>th</sup> December 2007 the Tax Office issued its judgement that Metro owes additional tax on the deducted distribution costs. We have appealed this decision and have obtained a deferral of the payment. However, under IFRS rules we are obliged to book a provision in the P&L in Q407. We have booked a \$10.2m provision in Q407.

Advertising Tax is reported within Sweden's operating result, not on the tax line.

# Bank covenant

Metro has a waiver for one of its covenants related to income for countries pledged as security to the bank consortium and is therefore compliant with its bank conditions.

# **Increased Circulation**

Total average daily newspaper copies printed by Metro's 13 fully consolidated country operations increased by 3% year-on-year in the fourth quarter (excluding the weekly Swedish real estate editions and Poland which was shut down in January 2007). This reflects the significant circulation increases at a number of existing Metro editions such as Holland, Spain and Chile, as well the addition of a Portuguese national edition.

The daily circulation of associated companies and franchise operations was 2.4 million. The total daily circulation of titles in which Metro has an interest (subsidiaries, associates, franchise editions and the share investment in Metro Dublin) was 8.8 million copies in the fourth quarter, making Metro the second largest daily newspaper in the world and the world's largest international newspaper. At the end of December 2007, Metro was distributed on a national basis in 14 out of its 21 country markets. Metro was the most read or highest circulation newspaper in 9 of these markets.

### **Foreign Currency**

Between Q4 2006 and Q4 2007 the US\$ weakened against the Swedish Kronor (9%) and the Euro (9%). This weakening had little effect on Metro's cash flow since few of our costs or revenues are priced in the US dollar and the transaction exposure is limited.

However, since our reporting currency is the US\$ our US\$ revenue figures in Q4 2007 are on average 9% higher than at Q4 2006.

### **Reporting Currency**

The Board has approved the change of Metro's reporting currency from US\$ to the  $\in$  This change will be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008.

### **Subsequent Events**

Metro has implemented cost-saving measures, involving redundancies of 27 employees at its New York, Philadelphia and Boston operations. The actions taken in the Boston operations have been

agreed in conjunction with The New York Times Company, the joint venture partner in the publication. The restructuring costs are estimated to be \$0.5m in Q108 but will deliver annual cost savings of \$4.6m.

# SEGMENTAL OPERATING REVIEW

# Newspaper Operations by Age (excl Finland & Poland)

The 12 month sales and operating results for the Group's subsidiary and associated operations above and below 3 years old on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007 are:

USD 000	Net Sales	EBIT	EBIT Margin
More than 3 years	448,431	32,330 (28,753)	7.2%
Less than 3 years	104,258	(28,755)	-27.6%
Total	552,689	(25,178)	-4.6%

These figures include our owned operations and the gross results of our JV operations in Canada, Korea, Mexico and Brazil. The margin for editions older than three years has dropped from 9.6% in the 3rd quarter to 7.6% in the 4th quarter due to lower margins in Sweden and the US.

#### Sweden

US\$'000s	Q4 2007	Q4 2006	12 Months 2007	12 Months 2006
Net Sales	32,631	31,311	104,781	106,609
EBIT	(4,478)	5,705	(2,186)	16,904
EBIT %	-14%	18%	-2%	16%
Number of Editions	6	6		

Metro Sweden publishes daily Metro editions in Stockholm, Gothenburg, Skåne (Malmö), and nationally, plus a weekly real estate newspaper, 'Metro Bostad' (Metro Property), distributed in Stockholm and Malmö, and a weekly tech paper, "Teknik".

A 2% real decline in sales in Q4 for Green Metro consisted of an 17% price increase due to work to control discounts on ad rates and a 16% volume drop. Ad rates are being increased reflecting our strong position in the Swedish market and we see this trend continuing.

Other developments in Sweden include strong first readership numbers and break-even in the first year for Metro Teknik, the launch of Custom Publishing, and the tripling of the key account sales team.

Metro has launched a Metro Teknik TV show on TV8 attracting 80,000 viewers. It is one of the most highly rated shows on the channel.

The latest Orvesto survey shows that Metro remains the largest daily newspaper in Sweden with twice the readers nationally compared to our nearest free competitor. The national edition has enjoyed a comparable year-on-year readership increase of 13.4%.

Bostad's Q4 revenues are 22% lower in real terms than last year and EBIT is 1.2m lower. In December 2007 the Stockholm edition was suspended for 2008 due to lack of profitability and replaced with "Living" – a weekly supplement which has been profitable from the early editions. Bostad Malmo continues as a profitable operation.

Excluding the Ad Tax provision, Sweden generated a Q4 profit of 5.7m – the same level as Q4 2006 – and an 8.0m profit for the year. The annual result is 8.9m below 2006 due to the disappointing Q1 and Q3 results for Green Metro and Bostad.

# Northern Europe

US\$'000s	Q4 2007	Q4 2006	12 Months 2007	12 Months 2006
Net Sales	33,242	29,587	110,914	104,287
EBIT	5,603	5,164	11,425	9,194
EBIT %	17%	17%	10%	9%
Number of Editions	13	12		

Northern Europe includes the Group's operations in Holland, Denmark, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. Finland was sold on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006 and Poland was closed in January 2007.

Excluding Finland and Poland's results in 2006, Northern Europe's sales have increased by 4.1% in real terms due to strong growth in Holland and Czech Republic but margins are lower due to lower prices in Denmark and a 5% sales decline in Hungary. Total EBIT margins are higher than 2006 due to the removal of the loss-making editions in Finland and Poland.

Real sales growth remains strong in Holland and reported an increase of 12% in the fourth quarter, despite the launch of a new competitor in November. In Holland, Metro is the  $2^{nd}$  most read newspaper with almost 2 million readers, a 20% increase over the last survey, and over 100,000 more readers than our closest free competitor (NOM Oct 2006 to July 2007). Margins remain strong.

The Czech Republic showed a 20% real sales growth versus the fourth quarter last year. In December Metro International sold 60% of Metro Czech to MAFRA and generated a \$4.7m profit. The capital gain is excluded from the EBIT shown above.

Hungary's economic difficulties have resulted in a 5% real drop in sales in Q4. Hungary's margin has declined due to an overall weak economy and lower sales in 2007 when compared to the strong 2006 sales arising from last year's election.

Denmark's sales are down 3% in real terms, excluding last year's Afternoon edition, due to price competition from three competitors in the market. In Denmark, stiff competition has reduced readership and prices, and consequently, operating margin has declined but Metro maintains its position as the most-read newspaper in Denmark. Margins are also down due to investments in distribution to increase readership but continue to be healthy and double-digit.

### Southern Europe

US\$'000s	Q4 2007	Q4 2006	12 Months 2007	12 Months 2006
-				
Net Sales	48,256	40,219	146,604	125,101
EBIT	5,556	4,541	(272)	906
EBIT %	12%	11%	0%	1%
Number of Editions	33	30		

Southern Europe comprises the Group's operations in France, Spain, Italy, Greece and Portugal.

The region delivered real sales growth in Q4 of 8% mainly driven by Italy and Portugal.

Italy enjoyed real sales growth of 20% in the quarter and more than 16% year-to-date. Continuing good margins helped deliver Italy's first full year profit.

Portugal has doubled its sales since Q4 2006 and was profitable in 2007, three years after launch. Metro is now the 3<sup>rd</sup> most read general interest newspaper with a 60% increase in readership.

France's real sales growth was 2%. Two months of record sales in September and October during the Rugby World Cup were followed by lower sales in November and December. Transport strikes in November had a negative impact on sales. However, due to lower costs, France delivered \$1m additional EBIT in Q407 versus 2006. According to the latest readership survey (EPIQ Sept 07) Metro France is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most read general interest newspaper in France with over 2m daily readers up 28% and 445,000 daily readers since the last survey. Metro now has more readers than Le Monde and Le Parisien.

Spain's sales were 2% lower than Q4 2006 in real terms due to a weakening economy and real estate market. As a result, we have launched local sales teams in Madrid and re-focused our distribution strategy. October and November showed impressive sales growth but December sales were disappointing, mainly in direct client sales, and brought down the sales growth for the quarter. Spanish margins have fallen and EBIT for the quarter is \$1m lower than 2006 due to higher costs arising from investments in quality and marketing, such as full colour pages, the Real Madrid sponsorship deal, and investments in Madrid circulation and the sales team.

Metro Spain's 3 year sponsorship deal with the Real Madrid basketball team gives us rights to distribute at some soccer games at the Bernabeu Stadium. This deal will enable Metro to grow readership and brand awareness and to develop new products.

Metro Greece delivered real sales growth of 4% in Q4 despite transport strikes in November and December.

The region's operating margin has declined as a result of lower sales in Spain, circulation investments in France and Spain, and flat sales in Greece with higher circulation costs.

**United States** 

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US\$'000s	Q4 2007	Q4 2006	12 Months 2007	12 Months 2006
Net Sales	9,189	8,920	35,575	32,979
EBIT	(2,802)	(1,213)	(12,240)	(6,766)
EBIT %	-30%	-14%	-34%	-21%
Number of Editions	3	3		

Sales growth was 3% in the US in Q4 due to a 3% drop in Philadelphia and a 2% drop in Boston. However, New York delivered 12% growth in the 4th quarter and 21% for the full year. Boston's sales are lower partly due to a lower sales contribution from classified sales.

US operating income has fallen by \$1.6m in the quarter and by \$5.4m in the year due to low sales in Philadelphia and Boston failing to cover the higher costs arising from the investment in the sales teams and higher circulation costs. The turbulent credit markets in the US have affected all 3 cities but especially in Boston and Philadelphia. New York's higher sales has recouped the investment in the sales team but has not improved the operating income over 2006. In January 2008, cost reductions were implemented across the three cities, including a headcount reduction of 27 employees.

According to latest official readership figures, Metro is now the most-read free newspaper in New York City.

Rest of World				
US\$'000s	Q4 2007	Q4 2006	12 Months 2007	12 Months 2006
Net Sales EBIT EBIT % Number of Editions	11,496 2,137 19% 2	10,068 2,075 21% 2	40,277 7,278 18%	35,846 6,503 18%

The Rest of World segment comprises the operations in Chile and Hong Kong.

Chile's sales have grown in real terms by 14% in Q4 and 13% for the year. Margins are slightly lower in Q4 due to cost increases and investments. Metro is the most-read newspaper in Santiago with readership up 13% year-on-year.

Hong Kong's sales have grown by 12% in real terms in Q4. Margin has been maintained and EBIT has increased by 11% despite competition from two free newspapers launched in 2005.

# **Franchise Income**

Franchise fees are receivable from the Group's franchisees in Seoul and Pusan (South Korea), St Petersburg (Russia), Canary Islands (Spain), Mexico, Brazil, Finland and Croatia. Franchise income has increased by 26% from \$0.7m to \$0.9m due to the new franchise operations in Mexico, Croatia and Finland.

# Joint Ventures

Joint Ventures

US\$'000s	Q4 2007	Q4 2006	12 Months 2007	12 Months 2006
Net Sales	2,050	1,579	7,162	5,217
EBIT	1,058	917	1,762	1,737
EBIT %	52%	58%	25%	33%
Number of Editions	8	7		

The figures above are Metro's share of the JV operations that are included in our consolidated results. Net sales relate mainly to the Canadian sales companies for Toronto and Montreal in which we have a majority stake as well royalty income from our Canadian partners.

JV Gross Sales US\$'Millions	Q4 2007	Q4 12 Months 2006 2007		12 Months 2006
Canda	19.0	12.8	58.4	41.8
Korea	10.3	9.0	32.8	30.3
Brazil	2.4	-	4.4	-
Mexico	2.3	0.7	5.2	1.1
TOTAL	34.0	22.5	100.8	73.2

Metro owns minority equity positions in joint venture operations in Seoul (South Korea), Brazil and Mexico, and also holds 25% equity stakes in the entities that publish Metro Toronto, Vancouver, Ottawa and Montreal. Metro has an overall financial interest of 50% in all of the Canadian Metro operations.

In March 2007, Metro launched a new edition in Calgary followed by Edmonton in April 2007. Both editions were launched in equal partnership with Torstar Corporation.

In May 2007 Torstar Corporation and Metro International S.A. announced that they have acquired the interest held by CanWest MediaWorks Publications Inc. in the Metro Vancouver and Metro Ottawa free daily newspapers, launched in March 2005. Each of Torstar and Metro International now has a 50% financial interest in those newspapers.

Metro Canada's sales increased year-on-year in Q4 by 53%. However, Metro's profit share from the Canadian operations decreased by \$0.2m in Q4 2007 compared to the 2006 performance as a result of the new editions. Toronto and Montreal deliver good profit margins while the new start-ups in Ottawa, Vancouver, Edmonton and Calgary invest in readership.

Metro's 29.99% joint venture in Seoul delivered a \$0.5m profit in Q4 2007, \$0.1m higher than 2006.

The Mexican joint venture was launched in May 2006, and Metro holds a 35% equity share. Publimetro is the largest newspaper by circulation in Mexico City, the world's second largest city by population. The new edition has more than trebled sales compared to Q406 and delivered monthly profits in every month in Q4. This delivered a gross EBIT improvement of \$1.1m versus Q406.

A new edition of Metro was launched in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 7th May 2007. Metro International has a 29.99% interest in the joint venture operation and will account for its interest in the company as an equity participation. Metro International also receives a franchise fee reflecting Metro International's significant operational support of the joint venture. Grupo Bandeirantes owns the remaining shares in the joint venture and the operation will benefit from sales synergies with Grupo Bandeirantes' as well as Group Bandeirantes' considerable expertise of the Brazilian media market.

The Group's total share in the pre-tax earnings of these associated companies was a profit of \$1.2 million in the fourth quarter (2006: profit of \$0.9 million) due mainly to Canada, Korea and Mexico.

# **Online:**

During Q4 Metro approached completion of its new online proposition that will be launched in France, Spain and Holland in the first half of 2008.

Incremental costs for the new concept in Q4 were \$0.7m and an additional \$0.7m was invested in the existing websites in Sweden, France, Denmark and Spain.

Over the course of Q4 Sweden has seen strong user growth in its new blogging site with visitors increasing to 213,000 unique users by the end of December 2007. Traffic to the core news site also increased to 310,000 visitors up 140% from the beginning of the year.

France's unique visitors increased significantly over the course of 2008 going up from 225,000 in January to 500,000 in December 2008.

HQ & Other activ	rities					
US\$'000s		Q4 2007		(	Q4 2006	
	Revenue	Costs	Net	Revenue	Costs	Net
Online	0	(878)	(878)	0	(152)	(152)
Other activities	1,270	(1,573)	(303)	1,529	(1,263)	266
HQ costs	0	(5,503)	(5,503)	0	(6,134)	(6,134)
TOTAL	1,270	(7,954)	(6,684)	1,529	(7,549)	(6,020)

# HQ & Other activities

Headquarter costs comprise group senior management and central administration functions; the global advertising research and marketing teams; global IT support and management, and the costs associated with the Group's long-term incentive plans (LTIPs).

Other activities include Global Sales, Logistics, Metro World News, and Metro Life Panel.

Despite \$1.3m restructuring costs in Q407, core HQ costs have decreased by \$1.9m versus Q406 due to \$0.7m cost savings and a \$1.2m release of costs for incentive programmes due to leavers.

# FINANCIAL REVIEW

# **Cash Flow**

In the full year to December 2007, cash and cash equivalents have decreased by US\$ 1.3 million, to US\$ 33.9 million. Cash flow used by operations for the full year amounted to US\$ 8.9 million (2006: generated US\$ 11.7 million). Working capital over the nine months has been reduced by US\$ 4.1 million, compared to a reduction of US\$ 1.7 million in 2006.

Group capital expenditure on tangible and intangible fixed assets amounted to US\$ 9.2 million (2006: US\$ 4.4 million) for the year and was equivalent to 2% of group sales, whilst depreciation charges totalled US\$ 3.6 million (2006: US\$ 3.3 million). Intangible capital expenditure consists of online development and global editorial software development.

# **Group Net Debt and Financing Items**

Group net debt amounted to US\$ 39.7 million at the end of the year, compared to US\$ 16.7 million as at 31 December 2006, and comprised cash and cash equivalents of US\$ 33.9 million, the US\$ 63.5 million (net of prepaid finance charges) drawn under the Group's multi-currency revolving credit facility, US\$ 6.7 million of loans payable to minority shareholders and other short-term bank loans totalling US\$ 3.4 million.

In July and September 2007 Metro drew down a further \$20m on its \$90m Nordea bank facility. The total draw down is now \$65 million. No amortisation is required on this facility until the end of 2009.

Net interest costs were US\$ 1.7 million (2006: US\$ 0.9 million) in the quarter, and comprised US\$ 1.0 million (2006: US\$ 0.2 million) of interest income on the Group's cash balances and loans outstanding with associated companies, and US\$ 2.7 million (2006: US\$ 1.2 million) interest payable on the Group's credit facility and other borrowings. Other financial costs totalled US\$ 0.1 million (2006: US\$ 0.4 million) and primarily comprised foreign exchange differences and credit facility commitment fees.

### Net Tax Charges and Utilization of Deferred Tax Assets

The Group reported a net current tax credit of US\$2.2million in Q4 2007 (Q4 2006: credit of US\$ 1.3 million). Deferred tax credit amounted to US\$ 3.5m million (Q4 2006: credit of US\$ 2.2 million). The Group's total tax loss carried forward for its newspaper publishing entities was approximately US\$ 150 million at the end of the reporting period and the Group reported deferred tax assets of US\$ 19.0 million (2006: US\$ 18.4 million).

### **Minority Interests**

The net result for the quarter attributable to minority shareholders in the Group's subsidiaries in France, Denmark, Boston and Portugal was a charge of US\$ 0.8 million (Q4 2006: profit of US\$ 1.4 million).

### **Shares Outstanding**

The total number of issued and outstanding shares at 31 December was 527,296,944.

# NOMINATION COMMITTEE FOR THE 2008 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A Nomination Committee of major shareholders in Metro has been convened in accordance with the resolution of the 2007 Annual General Meeting. The Nomination Committee is comprised of Cristina Stenbeck on behalf of Investment AB Kinnevik and Emesco AB, Annika Andersson on behalf of the 4<sup>th</sup> AP Fund and Björn Björnsson on behalf of Harald Lundén Kapitalförvaltning, who together represent more than 50% of the voting rights in Metro. The composition of the Nomination Committee may be changed to reflect any changes in the shareholding of the major shareholders during the nomination process.

The Nomination Committee will submit a proposal for the composition of the Board of Directors, remuneration for the Board of Directors and the auditor and proposal on the Chairman of the Annual General Meeting 2008 that will be presented to the 2008 Annual General Meeting for approval. Shareholders wishing to propose candidates for election to the Board of Directors of Metro should submit their proposal in writing to the Company Secretary, Metro International S.A, 11, Boulevard Royal, L-2249 Luxembourg, Luxembourg.

# **CONFERENCE CALL**

The company will host a conference call today at 10.00 (CET). The call will also be webcast on Metro's website at <u>www.metro.lu</u>. To participate in the conference call, please dial in on the following numbers:

UK / International:	+44 (0)20 3043 2436
Sweden:	+46 (0)8 505 598 53
US (free phone):	+1 866 458 40 87

A replay facility will be available shortly after the conclusion of the call at <u>www.metro.lu</u>

### DATE OF NEXT REPORT

Metro's financial results for the first quarter and 3 months ended 31 March 2008 will be published on 21 April 2008.

Metro's 2007 annual report will be published in early May 2008 and will be on Metro's website at <u>www.metro.lu</u>

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008

The 2008 Annual General Meeting will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2008 in Luxembourg. Shareholders wishing to have a matter considered at the Annual General Meeting should submit their proposals in writing to The Company Secretary, Metro International S.A., 11 Boulevard Royal, L-2249 Luxembourg, Luxembourg at least seven weeks before the Annual General Meeting in order to guarantee that the proposal may be included in the notice to the meeting.

Further details on how and when to register will be published in advance of the Annual General Meeting.

It is expected that no dividend will be recommended at the AGM.

### **AUDIT STATEMENT**

This interim report has not been subject to review by the company's auditors.

The Board of Directors Metro International S.A.

Luxembourg, 8 February 2008.

11 Boulevard Royal L-2449, Luxembourg Registration no: B73790

#### For further information, please visit www.metro.lu, email info@metro.lu or contact:

Per Mikael Jensen, CEO Frank Mooty, CFO Birgitta Henriksson, IR contact tel: +44 (0) 20 7016 1300 tel: +44 (0) 20 7016 1300 tel: +46 (0) 708 12 86 39

Metro is the largest international newspaper in the world. Metro is published in over 100 major cities in 21 countries across Europe, North & South America and Asia. Metro has a unique global reach - attracting a young, active, well-educated Metropolitan audience of over 20 million daily readers. Metro's advertising sales have grown at a compound annual rate of 38% since the launch of the first edition in 1995. Metro International 'A' and 'B' shares are listed on the OMX Nordic Exchange's Nordic List under the symbols MTRO SBD A and MTRO SBD B.

### METRO INTERNATIONAL S.A. CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT (US\$ '000s)

(US\$ '000s)	Year ended 31 December 2007	Year ended 31 December 2006
Net Sales	452,955	416,534
Cost of production Gross income	(283,582) 169,373	(253,303) 163,231
Sale of shares in subsidiary Selling expenses Administrative and development expenses Share of earnings in associated companies <b>Operating profit/(loss)</b> (3)	4,671 (108,301) (87,848) 1,345 (20,760)	12,472 (88,741) (71,011) <u>975</u> 16,926
Financial items, net Profit /(loss) after financial items and before income tax	(5,400) (26,160)	(3,827) 13,099
Current tax Deferred tax Net result	(2,540) 1,054 (27,646)	(1,868) 1,744 12,975
Attributable to: Equity holders of the parent Minority interest Net result	(26,820) (826) (27,646)	11,604 1,371 12,975
Basic and diluted earnings/(loss) per share Weighted average number of shares outstanding Diluted weighted average number of shares	(0.05) 527,296,944	0.02 527,036,707
outstanding	528,066,218	528,079,186

# METRO INTERNATIONAL S.A. CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT (US\$ '000s)

	Q4 2007	Q4 2006
Net Sales	139,187	124,140
Cost of production	(86,229)	(70,648)
Gross income	52,958	53,492
Sale of shares in subsidiary	4,671	167
Selling expenses	(32,151)	(24,113)
Administrative and development expenses	(22,347)	(19,150)
Share of earnings in associated companies	1,198	520
Operating profit/(loss) (3)	4,329	10,916
Financial items, net	(2,395)	(681)
Profit /(loss) after financial items and before income tax	1,934	10,235
Current tax	(363)	(908)
Deferred tax	3,526	2,173
Net result	5,097	11,500
Attributable to:		
Equity holders of the parent	3,980	10,260
Minority interest	1,117	1,240
Net result	5,097	11,500
Basic and diluted earnings/(loss) per share Weighted average number of shares	0.01	0.02
outstanding	527,296,944	527,296,944
Diluted weighted average number of shares outstanding	528,066,218	527,296,930

### METRO INTERNATIONAL S.A. CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF RECOGNISED INCOME AND EXPENSES (US\$ '000s)

	Year ended 31 December 2007	Year ended 31 December 2006
Foreign exchange translation differences Other recognised income and expenses	1,953	3,761
recognised in the income statement	1,953	3,761
Net result for the year	(27,646)	12,975
Total recognised income and expenses	(25,693)	16,736
Attributable to:		
Equity holders of the parent	(25,018)	15,689
Minority interest	(675)	1,047
Total recognised income and expenses	(25,693)	16,736

# METRO INTERNATIONAL S.A. CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET (US\$ '000s)

(000 0000)	31 December 2007	31 December 2006
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Intangible assets		
Trademarks and Licenses	1,617	1,518
Capitalised development Costs	6,319	1,442
Goodwill	15,965	16,355
	23,901	19,315
Property, plant and equipment		
Machinery and equipment	8,628	7,631
Financial assets		
Shares in associated companies	3,040	5,376
Other investments	238	238
Receivables from associated companies	9,841	6,830
Long-term receivables	6,810	2,674
-	19,929	15,118
Deferred tax assets		
Deferred tax assets	19,722	18,396
Total non-current assets	72,180	60,460
Current assets		
current ussets		
Accounts receivable, net	98,865	90,632
Other current receivables	11,840	11,282
Prepaid expenses	8,239	4,956
Cash and cash equivalents	33,920	35,254
Total current assets	152,864	142,124
TOTAL ASSETS	225,044	202,584

# METRO INTERNATIONAL S.A. CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET (US\$ '000s)

		31 December 2007	31 December 2006
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES Equity	(5)	16,890	41,677
Non-current liabilities			
Liability to minority partner		6,688	5,605
Provisions		12,051	-
Long-term bank loans		63,513	43,141
Total non-current liabilities	-	82,252	48,746
Current liabilities			
Short-term bank loans		3,445	3,160
Accounts payable		49,875	49,860
Other liabilities		23,107	21,616
Accrued expenses and deferred income	_	49,475	37,525
		125,902	112,161
TOTAL LIABILITIES		208,154	160,907
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	-	225,044	202,584

#### METRO INTERNATIONAL S.A. CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW (US\$ '000s)

(US\$ '000s)	Year ended 31 December 2007	Year ended 31 December 2006
Operating activities		
Profit/(loss) before income tax	(26,160)	13,099
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and amortisation	3,579	3,274
Other non-cash items	5,505	(9,196)
Financial items, net	5,400	3,827
Share of earnings in associated companies	(1,345)	(975)
Changes in working capital:		
Change in current receivables	(14,602)	(22,153)
Change in current liabilities	18,724	23,842
Cash flow contributed/(used) by operations	(8,899)	11,718
Interest paid, net	(3,466)	(3,194)
Income tax paid	(777)	(2,936)
Net cash contributed/(used) by operations	(13,142)	5,588
Investment activities		
Investment in associated company shares	(1,474)	(870)
(Increase)/decrease in long-term receivables	(1,144)	(3,329)
Investment in intangible assets	(3,700)	-
Sale of operations and interest in subsidiaries	4,411	11,166
Investment in property, plant and equipment	(5,493)	(4,367)
Net cash flow contributed/(used) in investing activities	(7,400)	2,600

#### METRO INTERNATIONAL S.A. CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW (US\$ '000s)

(US\$ '000s)	Year ended 31 December 2007	Year ended 31 December 2006
Financing activities		
Loan from minority partner	456	623
Loans to joint ventures	(1,386)	0
Capital increase		229
Bank loans	20,000	(1,917)
Net cash flow contributed/(used) in financing activities	19,070	(1,065)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(1,472)	7,123
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	35,254	29,209
Currency effects on cash	138	(1,078)
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	33,920	35,254

### Note 1

#### Basis of preparation and scope of consolidated financial statements

Metro International S.A. was formed in December 1999 and was a wholly owned subsidiary of Modern Times Group MTG AB ("MTG"). MTG divested Metro International S.A. to its shareholders through a dividend on 18 August 2000.

Metro International S.A., its subsidiaries (the "Company"), together with its associates, franchise editions and share investments publish free-of-charge newspapers, Monday through Friday and in some cases also on Saturday. As at 31 December 2007, 70 editions of Metro newspapers were distributed in 21 countries. Metro newspapers were distributed on national or "main-cities" level in Sweden, Denmark, The Netherlands, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Hungary, Czech Republic, Croatia, Canada, Chile and Hong Kong; Metro newspapers were also distributed in Helsinki and surroundings (Finland), St Petersburg (Russia), Dublin (Ireland), Sao Paolo (Brazil), Mexico City (Mexico), New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Seoul and Pusan (South Korea).

Metro's distribution includes: Amsterdam, Athens, Barcelona, Boston, Budapest, Calgary, Copenhagen, Edmonton, Gothenburg, Helsinki, Hong Kong, Lisbon, Madrid, Malmo, Mexico City, Milan, Montreal, New York, Paris, Philadelphia, Prague, Rome, Santiago, Sao Paolo, Seoul, Seville, Stockholm, St Petersburg, Toronto, Vancouver and Zagreb.

Metro mainly derives its revenues from advertising sales.

The Company is domiciled in Luxembourg.

### Note 2

#### Accounting and valuation policies

Metro's accounting policies are in accordance with IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards) as endorsed by the EU and are the same as in the consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2007.

#### Note 3

#### Seasonality of operations

The Group's operations are subject to seasonal fluctuations as advertising clients generally reduce advertising activity during the summer holiday period, particularly in Northern and Southern Europe. The group attempts to minimize the impact of this by reducing the number of editions published during the period.

#### Note 4

#### Segment Reporting

The segment reporting is based on geographic areas for subsidiary newspaper operations – Sweden, Northern Europe, Southern Europe, USA, and Rest of World. Other reporting segments are Equity Participants, Other Businesses and Headquarters.

Northern Europe comprises operations in Holland, Denmark, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

Southern Europe comprises operations in France, Spain, Italy Greece and Portugal.

Rest of World comprises operations in Chile and Hong Kong.

Other includes equity participations in associated company operations in Canada, South Korea, Brazil and Mexico, various Online services businesses and the income from franchise operations in St Petersburg, South Korea, Finland, Croatia and the Canary Islands.

Metro does not own the editions published in Alicante, Valencia, Elche and Castilla La Mancha but reports a share of the national advertising sales.

Metro owns the majority of the sales companies in Toronto and Montreal and 25% of the publishing entities. Metro therefore accounts for the sales companies as subsidiaries and the publishing entities as associated companies. Metro also owns 25% of the equity of the Vancouver and Ottawa joint venture and therefore accounts for these operations as associates. Metro, through royalty agreements, holds a 50% financial interest in the Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary and Montreal joint ventures and a 50% financial interest in the joint venture publishing the editions in Vancouver and Ottawa.

# Segment Reporting - Net Sales (External)

2007 (US\$ '000s)	Q1 2007	Q2 2007	Q3 2007	Q4 2007	TOTAL
Sweden	24,889	26,997	20,264	32,631	104,781
Nothern Europe	24,309	30,075	23,288	33,242	110,914
Southern Europe	32,498	39,733	26,117	48,256	146,604
USA	8,688	9,730	7,968	9,189	35,575
Rest of World	9.274	9,171	10,336	11,496	40,277
Other	2.811	4,097	3,523	4,373	14,804
TOTAL	102,469	119,803	91,496	139,187	452,955
			,		

2006 (US\$ '000s)	Q1 2006	Q2 2006	Q3 2006	Q4 2006	TOTAL
Sweden	24,313	28,303	22,682	31,311	106,609
Nothern Europe	24,355	28,310	22,035	29,587	104,287
Southern Europe	27,350	35,299	22,233	40,219	125,101
USA	7,469	8,639	7,951	8,920	32,979
Rest of World	7,449	8,839	9,490	10,068	35,846
Other	2,246	2,705	2,726	4,035	11,712
TOTAL	93,182	112,095	87,117	124,140	416,534

There are no inter-segment sales.

# Segment Reporting - Operating Profit/(loss) exclusing sale of subsidiaries

2007 (US\$ '000s) Sweden Nothern Europe Southern Europe USA Rest of World Other	Q1 2007 (907) 574 (2,614) (2,965) 1,722 (7,335)	Q2 2007 3,903 5,246 1,151 (2,070) 1,291 (4,919)	Q3 2007 (704) 2 (4,365) (4,403) 2,128 (10,824)	Q4 2007 (4,478) 5,603 5,556 (2,802) 2,137 (6,357)	TOTAL (2,186) 11,425 (272) (12,240) 7,278 (29,435)
Operating profit/(loss) from operations	(11,525)	4,602	(18,166)	(342)	(25,431)

2006 (US\$ '000s)	Q1 2006	Q2 2006	Q3 2006	Q4 2006	TOTAL
Sweden	3,437	5,563	2,199	5,705	16,904
Nothern Europe	1,493	3,553	(1,016)	5,164	9,194
Southern Europe	(2,197)	1,878	(3,316)	4,541	906
USA	(2,395)	(1,078)	(2,080)	(1,213)	(6,766)
Rest of World	1,162	1,383	1,883	2,075	6,503
Other	(5,388)	(4,831)	(6,545)	(5,523)	(22,287)
Operating profit/(loss)	(3,888)	6,468	(8,875)	10,749	4,454

### Note 5

### Shareholders' equity

Metro International S.A. was formed on December 29, 1999.

The authorized share capital of the Company is US\$ 450 million divided into 1,000,000,000 Metro class A Shares (voting shares) and 500,000,000 Metro class B Shares (non-voting) with no par value.

The issued and outstanding share capital of the Company is US\$ 131,537,821 divided into 263,554,560 Metro class A Shares and 262,596,727 Metro class B Shares with no par value. Metro class A Shares carry one vote for every share while Metro class B Shares carry no votes. Dividends may be paid in US\$ or in shares of the Company or otherwise as the Company's Board may determine in accordance with the provisions of the Luxembourg Companies Act. The holders of Metro class B Shares are entitled to the greater of a) a cumulative preferred dividend corresponding to 0.5% of the accounting par value of the Metro class B shares in the Company or b) 2% of the overall dividend distributions made in a given year. Any balance of dividends must be paid equally on each Metro class A and Metro class B Share.

Total shareholders equity	Equity	Minority	Total
(US\$ '000s)	holders of	interest	equity
	the parent		
Balance at 1 January 2006	23,845	(1,545)	22,300
Total recognised income and expenses	15,689	1,047	16,736
Restricted share program of LTIP scheme	1,655	-	1,655
Share option program of LTIP scheme	986	-	986
Balance at 31 Deccember 2006	42,175	(498)	41,677
Total recognised income and expenses	(25,018)	(675)	(25,693)
Restricted share program of LTIP scheme	-	-	-
Share option program of LTIP scheme	906	-	906
Balance at 31 December 2007	18,063	(1,173)	16,890

# Note 6

# **Contingent Liabilities**

Metro Spain is party to a lawsuit from a third party sales agency for termination of a contract without notice and breach of the non-compete clause. Advice from legal counsel is that there is a possible exposure but it is not possible to quantify the risk.