

Press release

Strong progress for Hurtigruten Group ASA:

Results improved by NOK 171 million in 2006

Preliminary accounts for 2006 show a pre-tax loss of NOK 62.4 million for Hurtigruten Group ASA, an improvement of NOK 171.3 million from 2005.

Increased cruise revenues from the Hurtigruten service, another record year for activities in Svalbard, chartering out vessels and a strong focus on operations mean that the preliminary accounts for 2006 show very positive progress for the company.

This development confirms that the turnaround in Hurtigruten Group is well under way. That has been confirmed by further progress in the fourth quarter, and is expected to continue in 2007.

This applies particularly for Hurtigruten and the other travel businesses, but a moderate improvement in results is also expected for the public transport business area.

Increased debt as a result of the delivery of m/v *Fram* in April and higher interest rates will act to curb the growth in results.

"Our progress and improved results are very gratifying," says Henrik Andenæs, president and CEO of Hurtigruten Group. "We've had an eventful and demanding year in 2006.

"The merger has been implemented, and the turnaround is well under way. Our NOK 171 million improvement in results confirms that. At the same time, we still face many major challenges."

Progress in the fourth quarter means that the group has upgraded its ambitions for the synergy and improvement programme, which originally aimed at an effect of NOK 120 million.

Set in 2005, this target has now been doubled to an annual improvement in results of NOK 240 million by 2008. The programme yielded an effect of NOK 64 million in 2006, the merger year.

One of the main challenges for 2007 is to increase sales for Hurtigruten and the other travel businesses. In addition, frame conditions set by the central government budget in 2007 will be significant for the group.

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The net pay scheme is being extended to Hurtigruten crew who form part of the safety personnel on the vessels on 1 July 2007, with a gross effect of about NOK 90 million per year. Other changes in the central government budget for 2007 could have an effect on the company, which has led to a renegotiation of the public procurement contract for Hurtigruten. It is accordingly too early to say what the net effect of the changed frame conditions will be.

“We face a major job to generate profits in one of Norway’s largest travel companies,” says Mr Andenæs. “Demand for Greenland cruises with our new m/v *Fram* explorer ship is very positive, and bookings for cruises to Svalbard are growing by 34 per cent.”

“Where Hurtigruten is concerned, bookings for 2007 are rather mixed, but cost trends are positive. “We’re going to have an exciting time in 2007, and are maintaining our ambition of breaking even this year as the next step on the road to profitability.”

Further information from:

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- Jens Kristian Johnsen, CFO, Hurtigruten Group ASA, tel: +47 95 79 25 37

Hurtigruten Group, Q4 and preliminary accounts for 2006:

Key figures (pro forma)

| (Figures in NOK million) | Q4 06 | Q4 05 | Full 2006 | Full 2005 |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Total sales revenues | 748.1 | 665.1 | 3 722.9 | 3 461.1 |
| Total operating costs | 784.2 | 861.7 | 3 224.4 | 3 206.3 |
| EBITDA | (37.8) | (150.9) | 513.3 | 331.5 |
| EBIT | (165.2) | (282.2) | 38.0 | (141.7) |
| Pre-tax profit | (166.4) | (324.0) | (62.4) | (233.7) |

The group had an equity of NOK 1 701.4 million at 31 December and the equity ratio was 22.7 per cent, (23.8 per cent including the convertible bond loan). Cash in hand at 31 December 2006 totalled NOK 768 million.

For further details, see the website at www.hurtigruten.no.



NOTE TO EDITORS

ABOUT HURTIGRUTEN GROUP ASA

Based in Norway and listed on the Oslo stock exchange, Hurtigruten Group ASA has an annual turnover of NOK 3.7 billion and some 3.400 employees. The company runs the Hurtigruten coastal express and has a leading position within the Norwegian tourist travel industry and as a provider of public transport. Hurtigruten Group ASA is a result of a merger of Ofotens og Vesteraalens Dampskibsselskab ASA and Troms Fylkes Dampsskibsselskap ASA. Hurtigruten Group aims to be a leading provider of explorer cruises in the Polar regions.