



Record forward order book places SEA in a strong position for the year

SEA has announced a record order intake book for 2007/08 at the end of their trading year. Lateness in confirmation of orders, together with unusually high investment expenditure (£809k), resulted in a slightly lower year-on-year Group performance. Turnover was down by 4% to £18.2M, and profit before tax was down to £1.4M resulting in earnings per share of 466p; however, at the year end the order book stood at £17.7M, 65% of the turnover budgeted for 2007/08.

Reporting the latest results, the Chairman Roger Pinnington, said: "Our strategy continued of becoming a partner and contractor of choice to end customers, prime contractors, system integrators and major suppliers in the UK, Europe and the USA and several new relationships were forged. We continue to develop good working relationships with Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs), technology institutes and centres of excellence within universities. This ensures that SEA continues to pull through science and technology successfully, and deliver improved capabilities at reduced cost to our customers."

During the year, SEA continued to implement its strategy of delivering larger and more complex systems and novel products. A high-capacity data recording system for submarines was supplied and is now at sea. The first secure communications and network system for Trafalgar Class submarines was delivered to Devonport Management Ltd. Orders were received from AgustaWestland for vibration recorder monitor units and the first advanced scatterometer calibration transponder was installed and commissioned in Turkey. SEA continues to be at the forefront of new technology and was awarded several research contracts throughout the year, the most significant being the award of the SEA-led consortium for Future Dismounted Close Combat research programme valued at £6M.

Commenting on the future, Roger said: "There are several major bids currently in adjudication, in preparation and planned later in the year, as well as outstanding quotations for our various proprietary products. Those, together with our strong order book, place the Group in a strong position to resume growth over the forthcoming year." Commenting on the award of this important contract win Paul Phillips, Managing Director of SEA's Defence Division said: "We are clearly delighted with this award and look forward to working with our partners and military representatives to provide insight and improvements in the way the modern soldier is equipped. The consortium is able to draw upon many years experience in the military domain and this has obviously been recognised by the award of this contract."