

Edgar Filing: ALLIED DOMEQC PLC - Form 6-K

2pm 30 January 2004

Allied Domecq PLC Trading Statement - AGM

Allied Domecq PLC Positive After Strong Start To Year

Allied Domecq PLC announces that trading for the first four months of its current financial year has been strong in most areas of the business.

The performance of the spirits portfolio has been robust. The nine core brands have delivered growth in both value and volume of over 6% supported by growth in advertising and promotion as predicted at the close of the last financial year. The Spanish market has substantially recovered from the change in wholesaler buying patterns experienced by the industry last year. Both Ballantine's and Beefeater have gained further share in this market supported by increased brand investment. Elsewhere in the Eurozone the economies remain challenging but Ballantine's has gained market share in both France and Germany. The North American business has performed strongly and gained market share from competitors. These positive performances have more than offset weaker trends in Mexico and Asia Pacific, in particular Korea.

The wine portfolio has continued to deliver good revenue and profit growth due to the Group's strategic focus on product mix at the premium end, despite the anticipated decline in volumes of table wines from Spain.

Results from the Quick Service Restaurant division are very strongly ahead. These reflect the impact of the increased pace of new store openings over the past twelve months, product innovation driving same store sales growth in Dunkin' Donuts, and a lower cost base following the restructuring of the business at the end of last fiscal year.

If the US dollar remains at its current rate for the remainder of the financial year we estimate a full year translation impact on trading profits of approximately GBP25 million. Notwithstanding this Allied Domecq is on track to deliver good earnings growth in the current financial year.

ENDS

For further information:

Media Enquiries

Stephen Whitehead	Allied Domecq PLC	+44 (0) 20 7009 3927
		+44 (0) 7880 783 532
Anthony Cardew/ Rupert Pittman	CardewChancery	+44 (0) 20 7930 0777

Original high-resolution photographs are available to the media free of charge at www.newscast.co.uk +44(0) 207 608 1000.

Investor Enquiries

Peter Durman	Allied Domecq PLC	+44(0) 7771 974 817
--------------	-------------------	---------------------

Forward-Looking Statements:

Information in this release may involve guidance, expectations, beliefs, plans,

Edgar Filing: ALLIED DOMEQC PLC - Form 6-K

intentions or strategies regarding the future. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties. All forward-looking statements included in this release are based upon information available to Allied Domecq PLC (the "Company") as of the date of the release, and we assume no obligation to update any such forward-looking statements. The statements in this release are not guarantees of future performance and actual results could differ materially from our current expectations. Numerous factors could cause or contribute to such differences. Please refer to the Company's Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended August 31, 2002, and our other reports filed from time to time with (or submitted from time to time to) the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for a further discussion of the factors and risks associated with our business.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereto duly authorized.

30 January, 2004

ALLIED DOMEQC PLC

By: /s/ Charles Brown

Name: Charles Brown
Title: Director of Secretariat & Deputy
Company Secretary