Annual Report 1995


## Millercantile



## Mercantile Technical Trade

Mercantile Technical Trade provides raw materials, industrial supplies, machines and manufacturing systems to industry and the trade. The suppliers are leading companies in their field throughout the world. Operations are divided into six departments: Steel, Chemicals, Machine Tools, Industrial Machinery and Supplies, Fastening Equipment (Mercantile Pultti), as well as Hepoteräs. The Machine Tools Department also covers the operations of the industrial automation manufacturer Fastems. The subsidiary, Oy Mercantile KSB Ab, is engaged in the wholesale, installation and servicing of pumps and valves.


## Oy Wulff Ab

Oy Wulff Ab is engaged in the wholesale and marketing of office supplies and equipment for Finnish companies and distributors. The company has a market share of approximately 20 percent in office supplies in Finland. Wulff sources most products direct from leading domestic and foreign suppliers. The Estonian subsidiary, Mammuti Kontoritarbe AS in Tallinn, is engaged in the wholesale of office supplies.

## Oy Qualitron Ab

Oy Qualitron Ab markets television production technology and audio-visual equipment both in Finland and the CIS countries. The company also designs and installs complete systems. The company has its own office in Moscow to take care of trade in the CIS countries.


## Helvar Electrosonic Group

The Helvar Electrosonic Group is a multinational group manufacturing components for the lighting industry and for illumination electronics, as well as light, sound and image control systems. The Group comprises Oy Helvar with its foreign sales subsidiaries (The Helvar Group) and Electrosonic Limited with its subsidiaries (The Electrosonic Group).

## Picture on the cover:

The Broadway production of How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying uses ELECTROSONIC PICBLOC image processing technology.

## Contents

Group Structure ..... 4
Key Figures .....  5
Managing Director's Review ..... 6
Operational Activities
Mercantile Technical Trade ..... 8
Oy Transkem Ab ..... 11
Oy Örum Ab ..... 12
Oy Wulff Ab ..... 13
Helvar Electrosonic Group ..... 14
Oy Qualitron Ab ..... 16
Financial Statements
Board of Directors' Report ..... 17
Consolidated Profit and Loss Account ..... 18
Consolidated Balance Sheet ..... 19
Parent Company's Profit and Loss Account ..... 20
Parent Company's Balance Sheet ..... 21
Funds Statement ..... 22
Notes to the Financial Statements ..... 23
Auditors' Report ..... 28
Addresses ..... 29

## Group Structure, 1 April 1996

## Oy Mercantile Ab

## Board

Dieter Aminoff, Chairman
Edward Andersson
Christian Westerlund
Stig Gustavson
Philip Aminoff
Thomas Aminoff, Deputy Member

## Managing Director

Christian Westerlund

Finance
Kari Lounasmeri

International Operations
Göran Backman

Development of Business Operations
Paavo Feirikki

## Mercantile Technical Trade

Kari Raski
Stainless steel, steel products and aluminium
Chemicals
Pumps and valves
Fastening equipment
Machine tools, robotics and flexible manufacturing systems
Industrial machinery and supplies
Engineering workshop for industrial subcontracting

## Oy Transkem Ab

Heikki Auvinen
Transit terminals for bulk liquid chemicals

## Oy Örum Ab

Heimo Arovaara
Spare parts and accessories for motor vehicles

## Oy Wulff Ab

Aarne Hallama
Office supplies and equipment

## Oy Qualitron Ab

Tapani Karjalainen
Marketing of television production technology and audiovisual equipment, systems design and project deliveries

## Helvar Electrosonic Group

Mikko J. Aro
Components for the lighting industry and illumination electronics as well as the manufacture and marketing of light, sound and image control systems

## Key Figures

| Mercantile Group | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Net sales, FIM million | 1402 | 1331 | 1334 | 1484 | 1571 |
| Change over previous year, \% | -9.4 | -5.1 | 0.2 | 11.3 | 6.0 |
| Operating result, FIM million | -1 | 15 | 57 | 106 | 102 |
| Profit after financing items, FIM million | -66 | -7 | 11 | 78 | 81 |
| Shareholders' equity and reserves, FIM million | 377 | 387 | 395 | 438 | 491 |
| Balance sheet total, FIM million | 1204 | 1115 | 1076 | 1174 | 1198 |
| Capital employed, FIM million | 975 | 957 | 873 | 895 | 930 |
| Return on investment, \% | -0.1 | 1.5 | 6.5 | 11.8 | 10.9 |
| Solidity, \% | 31 | 35 | 37 | 37 | 41 |
| Gearing, \% | 141 | 119 | 106 | 78 | 62 |
| Quick ratio | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Investment, gross, FIM million | 53 | 48 | 51 | 134 | 69 |
| Staff on 31 December | 1617 | 1454 | 1254 | 1254 | 1466 |



# Managing Director's Review 


#### Abstract

1995 was a satisfactory year for the Mercantile Group. Profit trends in the different businesses were mixed but consolidated profits remained almost the same as previous year. The on-going growth in the domestic market boosted Group profits. The companies engaged in exports and operating on international markets did not achieve their profit objectives.


The Mercantile Group is engaged in trade and industrial operations. The Group's aim is to operate at a profit and to achieve and maintain a leading position in selected business areas. Another aim is to maintain a good solvency ratio.

## Overview of 1995

The turnover of the Mercantile Group in 1995 amounted to FIM 1571 million, representing a growth of $6 \%$. Trade accounted for $67 \%$ and industrial operations for 33 \%. Profits before extraordinary items, appropriations and taxes amounted to FIM 85.7 million, which was FIM 1.4 million up on 1994.

The Group's liquidity remained good. Investments amounted to FIM 69 million and were financed internally. The equity ratio at year end amounted to $41 \%$, which was 4 percentage points better than in the previous year. At the year end the Group had a staff of 1466.

The operations of the business units engaged in trade - Mercantile Technical Trade, Oy Örum Ab, Oy Wulff Ab and Oy Qualitron Ab - succeeded above expectations, both as regards sales and above all in terms of profits. The turnover of Oy Transkem Ab offering transit services fell by $35 \%$ and the financial result was not satisfactory. The turnover of the Helvar Electrosonic Group engaged in industrial operations was equal to 1994
and profits failed to meet expectations.
The Group's most important asset is its highly qualified staff whose knowhow and expertise have been further upgraded during the year by arranging, among other things, sales, EDP, financial and management training.

Development of the Group's quality systems continued and the greater part of the Group's operations has already been granted certificates according to the ISO 9000 standard. The aim for 1996 is to obtain a certificate for those companies still lacking certification.

## Changes in Group structure

Mercantile Technical Trade extended its field of operations into the manufacture of factory automation when the entire operations of Fastems Oy belonging to the Sisu Group were acquired at the beginning of September. At year end, Wulff acquired a majority shareholding in Mammuti Kontoritarbe AS, which is Estonia's largest company in the field of office supplies.

The internal distribution of work in the Helvar Electrosonic Group was changed in the spring so that Electrosonic's Lighting Division was merged operationally with the Helvar Group. As a result of this rearrangement, the Electrosonic Group concentrated on image control systems and video display.

## Prospects for 1996

Profits are expected to improve in 1996 as a result of the production investment carried out by the Helvar Electrosonic Group and the prospects for video and lighting products.

I would like to thank the whole staff for their dedicated contribution. I would also like to thank other stakeholders customers, suppliers, investors and owners - for the confidence they have shown in the Mercantile Group.

## Christian Westerlund

Managing Director


Mercantile's Board of Directors: first row from the left Stig Gustavson, Philip Aminoff and Dieter Aminoff, second row from the left Thomas Aminoff, Christian Westerlund and Edward Andersson.

## Mercantile Technical Trade

Industrial exports, particularly those of the metal and engineering industry, continued to grow. As a result the sales of technical trade in Finland increased by 20 \%. Also the turnover of Mercantile Technical Trade rose by 20 \% to reach FIM 604 million. The financial result was good.


Kari Raski


|  | 1995 | 1994 | $\%$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Turnover FIM million | 604 | 502 | +20 |
| Staff, 31 December | 409 | 249 | +64 |



The restructuring of Mercantile Technical Trade continued and the emphasis in its operations shifted from that of a mere importer to a company producing its own added value and even engaging in export business. The aim is to become one of the two largest companies in its own selected areas of focus. The business operations of Fastems Oy, a leading manufacturer of factory automation, were acquired in the autumn and this further improved Mercantile's position in machine tool technology and factory automation. At year end, it was decided to discontinue the activities of the Woodworking Industry Machinery Unit.

Mercantile Technical Trade was granted certification to the ISO 9001 standard in May.

## Good profits for the Steel Department

The strong upswing in the demand for stainless steel in Europe and in Finland continued in the first half of 1995. Demand exceeded supply which hampered the availability of raw materials in many product groups. Demand at the beginning of the autumn, however, declined and the supply of goods improved. As a result, stocks generally started to grow. The order books of producers decreased and delivery times became shorter and prices dropped.

It was a good year for the Steel Products Unit which supplied over 20000 tonnes of steel. In cooperation with British Steel plc Track Products, sales of rails to Finnish Railways exceeded targets. The Building Products Unit, which also delivers Nokia Alumiini Oy's construction systems, boosted sales in the Baltic states and in the St Petersburg area.

Overall the financial result of the Steel Department was good.

## Growth in the Chemical Department

At the beginning of the year the sales of the chemical industry on the Finnish market exceeded those of the previous year. However, from the autumn on, the growth in sales slowed due to a lowering of the price level and efforts by customers to reduce their stocks.

There was favourable development in the activities of the Chemical Department and the increase in turnover was clearly greater than the growth in the market. Warehousing activities were concentrated on Hakkila and Rauma. New representations were added to the operations of the Department and profits were good.

## Good year for Mercantile KSB

The subsidiary Mercantile KSB's first year of operations for the company developed favourably. Domestic investments in the process industry, especially the paper industry, have increased. This was illustrated by the growth in the demand for Stafsjö gate valves. Submersible raw water pumps and feed-water pumps as well as high-pressure valves from KSB were delivered to the paper industry.


Several different types of pumps and valves were supplied to the back-pressure power plant of the Rovaniemi Power Utility.


Investments were made in the central warehouse in Hakkila to support the growing operations of Mercantile Pultti.


Gloria F 2000 represents a new generation of fire extinguishers.

Operations in the Baltic states have developed favourably. Pumps and valves were supplied to the district heating plant in the city of Tallinn. Positions were strengthened in Latvia and the company established its own office in Riga.

The condensate pumps at the Olkiluoto power station of Teollisuuden Voima Oy were modernized to increase power output. Mercantile KSB was able to conclude this important modernization agreement, among other things, because of its efficient and ontime service organization.

The turnover of the company exceeded the targets and the financial result was good.

## Growth continues in the Fastening

 Equipment DepartmentThe turnover of Mercantile Pultti continued to grow favourably and posted an increase of over $30 \%$. Owing to the expansion in operations, investments were made in the Hakkila central warehouse and service warehouses were established in Oulu and Turku There was further development in the control system for Finland's largest assortment of
fastening products, consisting of 30000 items, and the various alternatives for electronic trading were tested to function well in practice. These measures will enable the department to serve the clientele both efficiently and competitively in the future as well.

In 1995, prices of fastenings again rose in Europe and the erratic deliveries of the factories created problems. As the leading wholesaler of fastening equipment and been certified with ISO 9001, Mercantile Pultti has made a particular point of ensuring that the products are obtained from classified suppliers. During the year, several occasions were arranged by representatives of manufacturers and the importer to demonstrate the technical properties of different products to the staff of client firms. The financial result of the department was good.

## Fair winds for Industrial Machinery and Supplies

With continuing buoyant demand, the operations of the Industrial Machinery and Supplies Department developed favourably and the financial result was good

The Pneumatic and Hydraulic Unit, which sells components used in automation, mechanization and industrial filtration and vacuum engineering applications, developed successfully and posted an increase in growth.

The Machinery and Supplies for the Graphical Industry Unit maintained its strong position on the market. The unit expanded its product range and started sales of digital computer-to-plate systems produced by Eskofot International A/S of Denmark. The first system was supplied to Multiprint in Helsinki.

The turnover of the Safety Products Unit rose by $44 \%$ and the unit further consolidated the position of Gloria extinguishers as market leaders.

The Machinery and Supplies for the Paper Industry Unit expanded its activities and the business operations of Valtameri Osakeyhtiö's Paper Machinery Department were merged with the unit in May. In connection with the acquisition, the representations for Beloit Walmsley Limited, Sandusky Limited and BemaTec SA were transferred to Mercantile. The activities of the unit now


The core of a Fastems flexible manufacturing system (FMS) is a user-friendly control system.


Hepoteräs's two laser cutting lines offer solutions for even the most sophisticated of customers' requirements.
range from maintenance products to comprehensive turnkey deliveries.

During the year, the Woodworking Industry Machinery Unit completed important sawmill deliveries, but it was decided to discontinue this cyclically very sensitive sector.

## Fastems was merged with <br> Mercantile's Machine Tools <br> Department

The Machine Tools Department imports and markets machine tools and related peripheral equipment, industrial robots and CAD/CAM systems. Sales are supported by a strong service unit. The department supplied, among other things, the Hämeenlinna axle works of Oy Sisu Ab with a production cell for the manufacture of housings for planetary gears. A total of 35 robot units including robotized turning cells were sold to the Hydroline Oy and Landis \& Gyr Suomi Oy. The financial result of the Machine Tools Department was good.

To improve its market position, Mercantile acquired the business operations
of Fastems Oy at the beginning of September. Fastems is a leading supplier of flexible manufacturing systems for engineering workshops in Scandinavia and its operations are divided into two units: FMS and Special Machine Tools.

The FMS Unit manufactures and markets flexible manufacturing systems which boost the utilization rate of machine tools and consequently improve customers' competitiveness. Deliveries of FMS systems are principally supplied on a turnkey basis. Major deliveries in 1995 included systems for ABB Hochspannungstechnik AG in Switzerland, Scania AB Sweden in Sweden and Nokia Mobile Phones Ltd in Finland. The unit grew strongly.

The Special Machine Tools Unit supplies custom-design solutions which, in addition to special machine tools, include methods technology, tooling and materials handling equipment. The most important delivery was a completely automatic production line for lorry back axles to Scania AB's factory in Luleå in Sweden. The unit also manufactures, as a subcontractor, paper path measuring beams
for Valmet Automation Inc.

## Hepoteräs continues its investment programme

In December, a high-powered 2800-watt laser cutting line went on stream and this considerably boosted laser cutting capacity. As a subcontractor to major manufacturers in the metal and engineering industry, the company continued to develop favourably. Turnover rose by $30 \%$ and the financial result was good.

Hepoteräs Oy was merged with the parent company at the end of 1995 and from the beginning of 1996, it will operate as a Mercantile department.

## Prospects are good for 1996

A sizeable order book from 1995 will be carried over to 1996. The investments and development measures already implemented will also boost activities. The export industry could well maintain high volumes. Because of these positive factors, 1996 is expected to be a good year.

## Oy Transkem Ab

The oversupply prevailing on the world market and the depressed price level reduced exports of Russian chemicals. The volumes of chemicals handled by Transkem which is specialized in transit services dropped sharply compared with 1994. The company's turnover fell by 35 \% to FIM 127 million. Because of the decrease in turnover, the financial result was not satisfactory.


Heikki Auvinen


|  | 1995 | 1994 | $\%$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Turnover, FIM million | 127 | 194 | -35 |
| Staff, 31 December | 83 | 83 | 0 |

The top-flight tank terminal at Mussalo in Kotka serves the transit cargoes of liquid chemicals.

The economic and political uncertainty in Russia, which has already lasted for several years, increased in 1995. Russian industrial output shrank by $5 \%$ and the production of crude oil fell for the sixth year in succession.

The oversupply prevailing on the international chemical market, the low price level and the hikes in the country's internal freight rates further cut back exports of chemicals from Russia. High inflation and the heightened raw-material and energy costs brought about by the fixed rouble/ dollar ratio have resulted in a deterioration in the profitability of production for
export. Because of the poor trends in profitability, manufacturing plants and production lines have been forced to shut down temporarily.

The transportation of liquid products via Finland fell by $20 \%$. This in turn affected the volumes handled by Transkem which were considerably down on the previous year. The downturn in business resulted in overcapacity with the result that staff had to be laid off in Kotka.

## Prospects for 1996

The difficult situation is expected to continue in the transit of chemicals. The same factors of uncertainty, which impacted in 1995, will also characterize forecasts for 1996. The volume of chemicals transported through Finland is expected to show a further downswing. Despite the poor prospects, Transkem will continue measures designed to improve the quality and safety of handling in 1996.


## Oy Örum Ab

In Finland, sales of spare parts for passenger cars rose by about 10 \% in 1995 for the same reasons as in 1994: the average age of passenger cars continued to rise and the markets in St Petersburg and the Baltic states accelerated exports. Örum's turnover was FIM 163 million, representing an increase of $22 \%$. Because of the tight cost control and upswing in turnover, the company's

## financial result was good.



Heimo Arovaara

Share of Group
turnover 10 \%


|  | 1995 | 1994 | $\%$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Turnover, FIM million | 163 | 134 | $\mathbf{+ 2 2}$ |
| Staff, 31 December | 89 | 76 | +17 |

Hella's worldwide success is based on dedicated and systematic product development and the results can be seen e.g. in the new supplementary brake lights which serve to improve road safety.

During 1995, 79890 new passenger cars were sold in Finland and this served to replace those that were withdrawn. The average age of the car stock, which in 1994 had been 9.2 years, rose slightly in 1995 to about 9.7 years.

The old car stock, the high capacity utilization rate in the trailer industry and the export efforts to St Petersburg and the Baltic area enabled the trade to achieve probably the best financial result in this decade. No changes are discernible in the purchasing habits of consumers, because price continues to be a more important criterion than quality.

Although the products represented by Örum are at the upmarket end as regards price and quality, nearly all the company's spare parts groups were able to maintain or even to improve their market shares. At the beginning of the year Örum acquired a majority shareholding in the Estonian A/S MG-AUTO. The lack of sufficient space
which had slowed the progress of the company's development project was solved at the end of the year when all the Tallinn operations, with the exception of the wholesale of tools, were moved to new premises. The decision by Hella KG Hueck \& Co. of Germany to concentrate the importation, marketing and warehousing of its products to Örum from the beginning of September made it possible to stock a much more comprehensive range of Hella car lights. The change will make Hella products more readily available in Finland in the future.

## Prospects for the spare parts trade in 1996

The age structure of Finland's car stock will remain largely unchanged while the demand for car spares will grow especially in the St Petersburg area. For this reason, the independent trade in spare parts will continue to develop favourably. Price will continue to remain the most important buying criterion. This could well force importers of traditional quality products to re-examine their product policy.

The most challenging aims for Örum in 1996 will include certification to the ISO 9002 quality assurance standard and the embodiment of a customer-oriented attitude throughout the whole organization.


## Oy Wulff Ab

The economic upswing and higher raw-material prices boosted price development particularly for paper and plastic products. The overall growth in the business was $13 \%$. Wulff's turnover rose by 17 \% to FIM 115 million. The financial result was good.


Aarne Hallama

Share of Group
turnover 7 \%


|  | 1995 | 1994 | $\%$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Turnover, FIM million | 115 | 98 | +17 |
| Staff, 31 December | 75 | 74 | +1 |

The Paternoster equipment linked to the materials management computer system collects $40 \%$ of the delivered items.

In order to handle the burgeoning sales volumes efficiently, investments were made in developing the logistics functions and increasing warehousing capacity. A $750 \mathrm{~m}^{2}$ warehouse extension was completed in June. Development projects in the field of communications and order handling systems continued and the first EDI connections were established with both customers and suppliers. Particularly at the beginning of the year, the high rawmaterial prices pushed up the prices of paper and plastic products. With the slowdown in the market, inflated stocks started to run down towards the end of the year which created uncertainty and pressure to reduce prices. Owing to the increased supply of EDP accessories and the short lifecycle of products, the market is characterized by intense competition and prices are constantly falling.

In recent years, there have been no fun-
damental changes in the structure of the office supplies trade although there is a clear situation of oversupply in the business. Wulff is the market leader, but to maintain this position will require a continuous improvement in operations.

The Lahti-based subsidiary Torkkelin Paperi Oy moved to new modern premises in September which made it possible to boost the quality of customer service. The company's position as a supplier of office supplies in the Lahti area has been further consolidated. At year end, Wulff acquired a majority shareholding in Mammuti Kontoritarbe AS operating in Tallinn in Estonia. The aim is to make Mammuti the leading wholesaler in office supplies in Estonia.

## Development work will continue in 1996

The concerted development of the quality and competitiveness of service will continue. The aim during 1996 will be to get Wulff's operations certified according to the ISO 9002 standard. Although the growth in demand is expected to level off, the company is in a good position to maintain a good level of profits also in 1996


## Helvar Electrosonic Group


#### Abstract

Construction slowed in Europe and as a result the demand for ballasts was reduced. The demand for lighting electronics, especially energy-saving equipment, however, continued to grow strongly. The strong Finnmark weakened Helvar's competitiveness during the year. Electrosonic, which manufactures professional image control systems, maintained its position as one of the world's major marketers of video display technology. The turnover of the Helvar Electrosonic Group amounted to FIM 528 million and the financial result was below budget.




Mikko J. Aro

Share of Group turnover 34 \%


|  | 1995 | 1994 | $\%$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Turnover, FIM million | 528 | 536 | -1 |
| Staff, 31 December | 755 | 762 | -1 |

A lighting control system covering the entire vessel and incorporating the latest leadingedge dimmer technology was installed on board the MV Century.

The internal division of responsibilities of the Helvar Electrosonic Group was changed in the spring so that the Helvar Group will manufacture and market components for the lighting industry as well as light control products and the Electrosonic Group will concentrate on image control systems. The Helvar Electrosonic Group's production plants were transferred under the same management and the division of work at the factories was restructured. The Pitäjänmäki factory in Finland mass-produces electronic ballasts while the Maidstone factory in England manufactures dimmers, control units and system modules in small series.

## HELVAR GROUP

The positive development in the lighting sector which started in 1994 slowed down in Europe during 1995. The levelling-off

of demand in the major markets in Europe also impacted on the operations of lighting and component manufacturers. The considerable growth in the lighting industry in the countries of eastern Europe, in Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, opened up new markets for Helvar. In the first half of 1995, prices of raw materials continued to rise and especially the demand for copper wire at times exceeded supply. The strong external value of the Finnmark compared to the currencies of the more important export countries undermined competitiveness.

The lighting electronics business continued to be strongly developed. A new highly automated production line at the Pitäjänmäki factory enables Helvar to offer technically advanced, competitive products of good quality to a growing market in the years to come. Projects in the shipbuilding industry were major sales targets during the year.

Sales and marketing of the Helvar Group's products in the increasingly important markets in Asia Pacific were concentrated on the Helvar Electrosonic Group's office in Hong Kong.

Quality assurance work continued and the Electronics Division gained ISO 9001 certification. The entire operations of Helvar have now been awarded certification to ISO 9000.

The turnover of the Helvar Group amounted to FIM 347 million, and the budgeted target was not reached.

## Prospects for 1996

No fundamental changes are expected in the market for electromagnetic ballasts. Demand for electronic ballasts, however, will continue to grow strongly. Due to the new product range and the modern production technology, Helvar has excellent possibilities to strengthen its market position in Europe.


Philip Aminoff

Electrosonic's delivery to the Hong Kong Telecom Tower also included a sophisticated video conferencing system.

## ELECTROSONIC GROUP

During the year, the Electrosonic Group continued the restructuring of its business operations and concentrated on improving profits instead of boosting the volume of turnover. Turnover in pounds sterling rose by $4 \%$. Due to the strengthening of the Finnmark, turnover in Finnmarks fell slightly and amounted to FIM 199 million. The financial result improved over the previous year to an almost satisfactory level.

In June, the Electrosonic operation in Dartford was awarded certification to ISO 9001. The certification follows previous certification to ISO 9002 of the factory in Maidstone. It will be followed up with a major Total Quality Management (TQM) project to be launched in early 1996.

The use of videowalls in retail applications spread from North America to the United Kingdom and Asia Pacific. Sales of videowall processors developed well.

Towards the end of the year, Electrosonic launched the $2 x$ View display, a new type of shallow display product targeted at the retail market. The product met

with immediate marketplace approval and its competitive price has clearly extended the appeal of videowalls to new customer segments. In 1995, two new ranges of AV products were launched. ESTA II is a range of products that enables the user to download, store, programme and replay CD quality stereo sound using reprogrammable solid state memory cards (PCMCIA). ESLINX is a new flexible range of products for audio-visual control.

An increasing part of Electrosonic's Systems activities is linked to image processing. The strong ranges of in-house products have allowed the Systems divisions to build a solid foundation for their systems offering in the United Kingdom and the United States. Major installations include the control room for the Ariane satellite launch operators, a high-tech visitor centre for Hong Kong Telecom and the refurbishment of the London Planetarium.

The Celco Division completed a substantial upgrade of its current product range of consoles for live entertainment lighting control and started a gradual shift of focus to live entertainment image control. After unsatisfactory development during the first three quarters of the year, business picked up in autumn when the new products came onto the market. The order book for 1996 is excellent.

## Prospects for 1996

In 1996, Electrosonic will continue to build on its own unique expertise in large image display, heading towards a future as the digital display company. New product ranges currently under development will soon make it easier than ever for Electrosonic customers to manipulate input signals from a variety of sources and to display them simultaneously on the display medium of their choice.

## Oy Qualitron Ab

## Important export projects for audio and video systems boosted turnover. Sales of VideoCube work stations also developed well in Finland. Qualitron's turnover rose by 96 \% to FIM 47 million and the result was good.



Tapani Karjalainen

Share of Group
turnover 3 \%


|  | 1995 | 1994 | $\%$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Turnover, FIM million | 47 | 24 | +96 |
| Staff, 31 December | 20 | 15 | +33 |

[^0]1995 was a year of vigorous growth and further internationalization for company operations. Major export projects included the Moscow Kremlin TV studio as well as a video editing system for REN-TV, which represents leading-edge serial digital technology. The latest market conquest in the project sector was an extensive co-operation agreement with Kværner Masa-Yards Oy for the supply of video systems to their luxury cruise ships under construction.

During 1995, sound and image production technology was digitalized as com-puter-based work stations and digital sound mixers came into use. Qualitron signed major representation agreements with Lawo Gerätebau GmbH, manufacturers of sound mixers, and CreamWare Datentechnik GmbH which produces audio production work stations. New video
production representations included Discreet Logic and XaosTools software based on Silicon Graphics computers.

Some of the more notable deliveries to the home market included a Grass Valley Model 4000 digital image mixer for MTV-3's news studio and Grass Valley TypeDeko text generators for YLE, the Finnish Broadcasting Company. During 1995, Qualitron delivered several Tektronix Profile disk recorders and ImMIX VideoCube work stations.

## Prospects for 1996

The digitalization of sound and image production technology will continue and this will strengthen Qualitron's position due to new representations. Deliveries of audio and video production systems are expected to continue to the CIS countries and to Finland.


## Board of Directors' Report

## General overview

In 1995, GDP in Finland rose by $4.2 \%$ marking an increase for the second year running over the difficult period of recession at the beginning of the 1990s. The strong growth in the export industry continued but slowed towards the end of the year.

## Trend in profits

Compared with the previous year, the Group's turnover rose by $6 \%$ to FIM 1571 million. Group profits before appropriations and taxes amounted to FIM 85.7 million which was slightly up on the previous year's figure of FIM 84.3 million. The result of the Group companies engaged in trade in Finland was good. The financial result of the subsidiary Oy Helvar, which is mainly engaged in exports, deteriorated partly as a result of the strengthening of the Finnmark. The UK based subsidiary Electrosonic Limited posted a considerable upswing in its financial result and almost came back into the black.

## Mergers and company acquisitions

In August, Oy Mercantile Ab acquired the business operations of Fastems Oy, a subsidiary of Oy Sisu Ab. Fastems designs and manufactures flexible manufacturing systems as well as special machine tools for the engineering industry.

At the beginning of the year, the subsidiary Oy Örum Ab acquired $51 \%$ of the shares in A/S MG-AUTO, which is a company engaged in the trade in car spare parts and accessories in Estonia and Latvia.

At the end of the year, the subsidiary Oy Wulff Ab acquired $70.8 \%$ of the shares in Mammuti Kontoritarbe AS, a company which is engaged in the wholesale of office supplies in Tallinn, Estonia. During the year, the subsidiaries Hepoteräs Oy, Oy Merca Invest Ab , Oy Merca Tekniikka Ab and Oy Merca Trading Ab were merged with the parent company.

At the end of the year, Oy Helvar's Pension Fund was merged with Mercantile's Pension Fund. During the year, the company redeemed 890 of its own shares in Mercantile's Pension Fund after which the pension fund no longer owns any Mercantile shares.

## Management and personnel

During the year, Board members included Dieter Aminoff, Chairman, Edward Andersson, Christian Westerlund, Stig Gustavson and Philip Aminoff, as well as deputy member Thomas Aminoff.

During the year, Oy Mercantile Ab had an average of 266 employees compared to 211 in the previous year. The Group had an average of 1386 employees compared with 1249 the previous year.

The remuneration paid to the parent company's Board of Directors and the Managing Director amounted to FIM 2.2 million in salaries and bonuses and FIM 48.0 million to other employees. The remuneration paid to the Group's Boards of Directors and Managing Directors amounted to FIM 13.8 million in salaries and bonuses and FIM 209.7 million to other employees.

## Future prospects

According to forecasts, the economic situation will deteriorate in Finland. On the other hand, the value of the Finnmark weakened at the beginning of 1996, boosting export competitiveness. The financial result of the Mercantile Group in 1996 is expected to remain at the level of the previous year.

## Proposal on the distribution of Group profits

The net profit of Oy Mercantile Ab for the year amount to FIM 5310 187.11. The Board of Directors proposes that FIM 5132160 or a dividend of FIM 640 be paid on external shares and that the remainder be carried forward to the profit and loss account.

## Consolidated Profit and Loss Account

Net turnover
Other operating income
Costs
Depreciations
Operating profit
Financial income and expenses
Profit before extraordinary items,
voluntary provisions and income taxes
Extraordinary income and charges
Profit before voluntary provisions and income taxes
Change in accelerated depreciation
Change in voluntary provisions
Income taxes

Profit before minority interest
Minority interests

Profit for the period
(1)
(2)
(2)
(2)
(5)
(2)
(2)
-

1484279
4669
$-1310635$
$-72670$
105643
$\begin{array}{r}-28079 \\ \hline\end{array}$

77564
6724
84288
-5 688
24698
$-40401$
62897
114

63011

## Consolidated Balance Sheet

## ASSETS

FIXED ASSETS AND OTHER NON-CURRENT INVESTMENTS
Intangible assets
Intangible rights
Goodwill
Other capitalized expenditure
Tangible assets
Land and water
Buildings
Machinery and equipment
Other tangible assets
Advance payments and construction in progress
Financial assets


| 1875 | 16503 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1836 |  |
| 12792 |  |
| 61842 |  |
| 362947 |  |
| 98583 |  |
| 2343 |  |
| 9840 | 535555 |
| 56428 |  |
| 3272 | 59700 |
|  | 611758 |

## CURRENT ASSETS

Stocks
Raw materials and consumables
Work in progress
Finished products/goods
Advance payments
ceivables
Trade receivables
Loan receivables
Prepaid expenses and accrued income
Other receivables

| 33996 |  |  |
| ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 12802 |  |  |
| 203313 |  |  |
|  | 15600 | 265711 |
|  |  |  |
| 257342 |  |  |
| 12593 |  |  |
| 17119 |  |  |
| 8666 | 295720 |  |
|  |  | 90496 |
|  |  | 1198437 |


| 28670 |  |  |
| ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 8669 |  |  |
| 170774 |  |  |
| 1854 | 209967 |  |
| 216323 |  |  |
| 7847 |  |  |
| 21938 |  |  |
| 15431 |  |  |
|  |  | 261539 |
|  |  | 90977 |

## LIABILITIES

CAPITAL AND RESERVES
(10)

Restricted equity
Subscribed capital
Reserve fund
Revaluation fund
Non-restricted equity Translation adjustment
Operating fund
Retained earnings
Profit for the period
MINORITY HOLDING
PROVISIONS
Accelerated depreciation
Voluntary provisions
Other provisions
Obligatory provisions
CREDITORS
(12)

Non-current
Loans from credit institutions
Pension loans
Other non-current liabilities
Current
Loans from credit institutions
Pension loans
Trade payables
Notes payables
Accrued liabilities and deferred income
Other current liabilities

| 17682 |  | 105619 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 291718 |  | 294144 |  |
| 1623 | 311023 | 1280 | 401043 |
| 81880 |  | 30997 |  |
| - |  | 569 |  |
| 44609 |  | 55022 |  |
| 137471 |  | 139670 |  |
| 85963 |  | 84738 |  |
| 46379 | 396302 | 24363 | 335359 |
|  | 1198437 |  | 1174241 |

## Parent Company's Profit and Loss Account

Net turnover
Other operating incom

Costs
Profit from operations before depreciation
Depreciations
Operating profit
Financial income and expenses
Profit before extraordinary items,
voluntary provisions and income taxes
Extraordinary income and charges
Profit before voluntary provisions and income taxes
Change in accelerated depreciation
Change in voluntary provisions
Income taxes
Profit for the period
(2)
(2)
(1)
(2)
(2)
(2)

| 490136 | 463725 |
| ---: | ---: |
| 33912 | 8487 |
| -482236 | -437257 |
| $\mathbf{4 1 8 1 2}$ | 34955 |
| -9184 |  |
| $\mathbf{3 2 6 2 8}$ | -10203 |
| -1815 | 24752 |

30813
$-15701$

15112
3857
-3 992
-4 374
3927
24299
$-9737$
5310

## Parent Company's Balance Sheet

## ASSETS

FIXED ASSETS AND OTHER NON-CURRENT INVESTMENTS

Intangible assets
Other capitalized expenditure
Tangible assets
Land and water
Buildings
Machinery and equipment
Other tangible assets
Financial assets
Shares in subsidiaries
Bonds and shares

CURRENT ASSETS
Stocks
Raw materials and consumables
Work in progress
Finished products/goods
Advance payments
Receivables
Trade receivables
Loan receivables
Prepaid expenses and accrued income
Other receivables
Cash in hand and at bank

6931

14036
90300
15087
(6)

| 152898 |  |
| ---: | ---: |
| 58957 |  |
|  | 211855 <br> 338209 |

5174
5450
104307
12295
80673
61126
24150
4024

| 169973 |
| ---: |
| 65127 |
| 700535 |

2634

13442
86912
7833
3296
111483

262026
376143

| - |  |
| ---: | ---: |
| 82859 |  |
| 1855 | 84714 |
| 72045 |  |
| 164781 |  |
| 18390 |  |
| 7548 | 262764 <br>  |

(10)

| $\begin{array}{r} 110000 \\ 1500 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | 111500 | $\begin{array}{r} 110000 \\ 1500 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | 111500 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |
| - |  | 70000 |  |
| 124953 |  | 68299 |  |
| 5310 | 130263 | 4050 | 142349 |
|  | 50366 |  | 42465 |
|  | 27009 |  | 30937 |
| 1500 |  | 6106 |  |
| 188740 | 190240 | 185758 | 191864 |
| 3617 |  | 21606 |  |
| 35622 |  | 39411 |  |
| 67376 |  | 64736 |  |
| 44288 |  | 30652 |  |
| 40254 | 191157 | 92971 | 249376 |
|  | 700535 |  | 768491 |

## Funds Statement

| (FIM 1 000) | Group |  | Parent company |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1995 | 1994 | 1995 | 1994 |
| SOURCE OF FUNDS |  |  |  |  |
| Internal financing |  |  |  |  |
| Net result in the Income Statement | 67910 | 63011 | 5310 | 4050 |
| Depreciation | 64997 | 72670 | 9183 | 10204 |
| Changes in untaxed reserves | 1075 | -16318 | 3974 | -19 148 |
| Total internal financing | 133982 | 119363 | 18467 | -4895 |
| Reduction in fixed assets | 67835 | 20558 | 47814 | 139819 |
| Increase in long-term financing | - | 51555 | - | - |
|  | 201817 | 191476 | 66281 | 134924 |
| APPLICATION OF FUNDS |  |  |  |  |
| Investments in fixed assets | 69223 | 134243 | 19065 | 22491 |
| Decrease in long-term financing | 90021 | - | 1625 | 13518 |
| Translation adjustment in stockholders' equity | 1287 | 2762 | - | - |
| Change in minority holding | -2 971 | 543 | - | - |
| Redemption of own shares | 14829 | - | 14829 | - |
| Dividends distributed | 2566 | 1459 | 2566 | 1425 |
|  | 174955 | 139007 | 38085 | 37434 |
| Change in working capital | 26862 | 52469 | 28196 | 97490 |
|  | 201817 | 191476 | 66281 | 134924 |
| CHANGE IN WORKING CAPITAL |  |  |  |  |
| Cash and bank accounts | -482 | 40097 | 20256 | 19218 |
| Short term receivables | 32543 | 18145 | -92791 | 70408 |
| Inventories | 55744 | -2 288 | 42512 | -6 778 |
| Current liabilities | -60943 | -3 485 | 58219 | 14642 |
|  | 26862 | 52469 | 28196 | 97490 |
| Working capital on 1 January | 227125 | 174656 | 142972 | 45482 |
| Working capital on 31 December | 253987 | 227125 | 171168 | 142972 |

## Notes to the Financial Statements

## Accounting principles for the consolidated accounts

The consolidated accounts have been prepared in accordance with the acquisition cost method. The consolidated financial statements include the Parent Company, Oy Mercantile Ab, and those companies in which Oy Mercantile Ab directly or indirectly holds more than $50 \%$ of the voting rights of all the shares. The real estate company, Kiinteistö Oy Toivikkeenrinne, serving staff housing needs, is not included in the consolidated financial statements. The financial statements of Group companies operating outside Finland have been converted and grouped according to the Finnish Accounting Act. The translation of the Balance Sheet into Finnmarks has been effected according to the Bank of Finland's average rates on the date of the closing of the accounts and the financial statements according to the average rates for the year.

## Foreign currency-denominated items

Receivables and liabilities included in the Balance Sheet on the date of the closing of the accounts have been translated into Finnmarks at the rates prevailing on the date of the closing of the accounts. The hedging instruments of the open foreign currencydenominated items have been valued at their current value taking into account the interest rate factors.

## Inventories

Inventories in the consolidated accounts are valued at their acquisition cost, which includes in addition to the direct costs part of the indirect costs of acquisition and production.

## Depreciation principles

Fixed assets are entered in the Balance Sheet as depreciation according to plan reduced to the direct acquisition cost. Depreciation according to plan has been calculated according to the economic life of fixed asset commodities as straight-line depreciation on the original acquisition price. Depreciation periods according to plan are:

| Other long-term expenses | $5-10$ years |
| :--- | ---: |
| Buildings and constructions | $20-40$ years |
| Machinery and equipment | $3-10$ years |
| Goodwill | 5 years |

## Compulsory reserves

Items are entered in the Balance Sheet as compulsory reserves which have been pledged by agreement or otherwise but which have not yet been realized. Changes in them have been included in the financial statements.

| (FIM 1 000) | Group |  | Parent company |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1995 | 1994 | 1995 | 1994 |
| 1 SALES BY BUSINESS AREA |  |  |  |  |
| Trading | 832857 | 708159 | 490136 | 463725 |
| Service | 126677 | 194252 | - | - |
| Production | 611505 | 581868 | - | - |
|  | 1571039 | 1484279 | 490136 | 463725 |
| SALES BY MARKET AREA |  |  |  |  |
| Finland | 1033497 | 976528 | 490136 | 463725 |
| Other Europa | 352084 | 346587 | - | - |
| Other countries | 185458 | 161164 | - | - |
|  | 1571039 | 1484279 | 490136 | 463725 |
| 2 SPECIFICATION OF PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT |  |  |  |  |
| Materials and supplies | 1044752 | 900857 | 406135 | 346378 |
| Change in inventories | -40 115 | 3792 | -25 944 | 3468 |
| Personnel costs | 258225 | 248685 | 60469 | 51638 |
| Rental costs | 18576 | 21894 | 5865 | 3848 |
| Expenses | 152824 | 135407 | 35712 | 31925 |
|  | 1434262 | 1310635 | 482237 | 437257 |
| Depreciation according to plan |  |  |  |  |
| Intangible rights | 537 | 575 | - | - |
| Other capitalized expenditure | 2709 | 2565 | 985 | 696 |
| Buildings | 26209 | 30275 | 5044 | 5624 |
| Machinery and equipment | 28157 | 27966 | 3154 | 3883 |
| Other tangible assets | 1061 | 828 | - | - |
| Goodwill | 6324 | 10460 | - | - |
|  | 64997 | 72669 | 9183 | 10203 |


| (FIM 1 000) | Group |  | Parent company |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1995 | 1994 | 1995 | 1994 |
| Financial income and expenses |  |  |  |  |
| Dividends received | 253 | 834 | - | - |
| Interest income from long-term financial assets | 340 | 119 | 290 |  |
| Interest income from short-term financial assets | 5902 | 6532 | 12795 | 10405 |
| Other financial income | 588 | 347 | 403 | 221 |
| Exchange gains and losses | -28 | -2 885 | -1 181 | -893 |
| Interest expenses | -24 473 | -30 613 | -13 517 | -18 342 |
| Other financial expenses | -2 091 | -2 413 | -604 | -1 246 |
| Depreciation on investments | -625 | - | - | - |
|  | -20 134 | -28 079 | -1814 | -9 855 |
| Extraordinary income and expenses |  |  |  |  |
| Extraordinary income | 4194 | 15594 | 19005 | 16722 |
| Extraordinary expenses | - | -8870 | -34706 | -27 761 |
| Depreciation difference |  |  |  |  |
| Intangible rights | 160 | 303 | - | - |
| Other long-term expenses | -195 | -1 165 | -455 | -1 541 |
| Buildings | -3 108 | -4 365 | -2 163 | -778 |
| Machinery and equipment | -12100 | -556 | -1 374 | -2 054 |
| Other tangible assets | 213 | 96 | - | - |
|  | -15 030 | -5 687 | -3 992 | -4373 |
| Direct taxes |  |  |  |  |
| For the financial year | -22 598 | -39 885 | -9 999 | -18703 |
| For previous years | 66 | -516 | 262 | -1 030 |
|  | -22 532 | -40 401 | -9 737 | -19 733 |
| 3 PERSONNEL EXPENSES |  |  |  |  |
| Wages and salaries | 225350 | 204129 | 53390 | 43997 |
| Fringe benefits | 3177 | 3644 | 1210 | 1454 |
| Pension costs | 6307 | 15490 | - | - |
| Other personnel costs | 26565 | 29066 | 7079 | 7641 |
|  | 261399 | 252329 | 61679 | 53092 |
| 4 FINANCIAL INCOME AND EXPENSES WITHIN THE GROUP |  |  |  |  |
| Interest income |  |  | 8732 | 2165 |
| Interest expenses |  |  | 2456 | 4598 |
| 5 EXTRAORDINARY INCOME AND EXPENS |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Gains on sales of fixed assets | 4113 | 8584 | - | 9558 |
| Profits of merges | - | - | 5 | 42 |
| Group contributions received | - | - | 19000 | 7000 |
| Change in accounting principles | - | 6155 | - | - |
| Other income | 80 | 855 | - | 122 |
|  | 4193 | 15594 | 19005 | 16722 |
| Extraordinary expenses |  |  |  |  |
| Losses on sales of fixed assets | - | 6709 | - | 6261 |
| Losses of merges | - | - | 34706 | 21500 |
| Change in accounting principles | - | 1900 | - | - |
| Other expenses | - | 262 | - | - |
|  | - | 8871 | 34706 | 27761 |

6 BREAKDOWN OF PORTFOLIO
GROUP COMPANIES

| Company | Share \% Parent company | Share \% Mercantile Group | Group ownership of equity | Number of shares | Nominal value of shares | Book value of shares |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Oy Helvar | 100 | 100 | 120256 | 400000 | 40000 | 29558 |
| Oy Transkem Ab | 100 | 100 | 71160 | 138750 | 62437 | 62437 |
| Oy Wulff Ab | 100 | 100 | 14411 | 500 | 5000 | 6931 |
| Oy Örum Ab | 100 | 100 | 25370 | 1800000 | 18000 | 46640 |
| Kiinteistö Oy Keskuojankatu 12 | 100 | 100 | 474 | 100 | 500 | 500 |
| Kiinteistö Oy Ahertajankatu 6 | 100 | 100 | 261 | 100 | 60 | 2032 |
| Oy Mercantile KSB Ab | 80 | 80 | 7023 | 4800 | 4800 | 4800 |

Indirectly owned subsidiaries

| Helvar Ltd. | 100 | 1066 | 50 | 337 | 4242 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Helvar GmbH | 100 | 1995 | 600 | 1826 | 2575 |
| Helvar AB | 100 | 3156 | 5000 | 327 | 2998 |
| Helvar S.r.L. | 100 | 517 | 2000 | 550 | 687 |
| Electrosonic Holdings Ltd. | 95 | 68728 | 10195554 | 68728 | 49377 |
| Electrosonic Ltd. | 100 | 14214 | 8949500 | 60329 | 60329 |
| Electrocue Ltd. | 100 | -6698 | 100 | 1 | 1 |
| Electrosonic GmbH | 91 | 679 | 91000 | 276 | 147 |
| Electrosonic Systems Inc. | 100 | 6893 | 310000 | 1351 | 1709 |
| Multivision Electrosonic Ltd. | 100 | -1923 | 302491 | 967 | 49 |
| Celco Ltd. | 100 | 1475 | 7200 | 1471 |  |
| Electrosonic NSW Pty Ltd. | 100 | -922 | 850000 | 2760 | 0 |
| Dartford Invest B.V. | 100 | 9406 | 60 | 164 | 7474 |
| Svenska AB Mercantile | 100 | 589 | 75000 | 491 | 589 |
| Kiinteistö Oy Toivikkeenrinne | 89 | 9 | 89 | 9 | 9 |
| Oy Qualitron Ab | 55 | 3694 | 550 | 550 | 615 |
| Torkkelin Paperi Oy | 100 | 1381 | 40000 | 400 | 1455 |
| A/S MG-AUTO | 51 | 222 | 112 | 39 | 1149 |

Other shares

| Kiinteistö Oy Luna | 484 | 46842 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Kiinteistö Oy Viljatie 2 | 2637 | 865 |
| Kiinteistö Oy Malmintori | 40 | 1260 |
| As. Oy Nordgolf Houses | 1 | 852 |
| Nordgolf Oy | 4 | 114 |
| Helsingin Puhelinyhdistys | 187 | 391 |
| Vakuutus Oy Garantia | 120 | 500 |
| Other shares | 341 |  |
|  | 5957 |  |


| (FIM 1 000) | Group |  | Parent company |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1995 | 1994 | 1995 | 1994 |
| 7 TAXATION VALUES OF FIXED ASSETS |  |  |  |  |
| Land and water | 34725 | 31909 | 22504 | 11108 |
| Buildings | 158170 | 211322 | 50148 | 49207 |
| Subsidiaries | - | - | 165346 | 190932 |
| Other shares | 52178 | 44106 | 46506 | 3323 |
|  | 245073 | 287337 | 284504 | 254570 |

Book value is used, if there
is no taxation value available.


| (FIM 1 000) | Group |  | Parent company |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1995 | 1994 | 1995 | 1994 |
| 13 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES |  |  |  |  |
| Collateral for own loans |  |  |  |  |
| Pledges | 46842 | 105925 | 46842 | 58462 |
| Mortgage on real estate | 120747 | 126580 | 20550 | 28000 |
| Collateral for other own group commitments |  |  |  |  |
| Guarantees | - | - | 73338 | 79751 |
| Collateral for the management |  |  |  |  |
| Guarantees | 57 | 239 | 57 | 239 |
| Collateral for other own commitments |  |  |  |  |
| Guarantees | 697 | 751 | - | - |
| Other collaterals |  |  |  |  |
| Leasing liability | 2026 | 1988 | 990 | 881 |
| Repurchase liability | 3938 | 1705 | 3884 | 1705 |
| Pension liability | 12466 | 9111 | 8425 | 6721 |
| Other liability | 1515 | 2868 | 1515 | 2868 |
| Total |  |  |  |  |
| Pledges | 46842 | 105925 | 46842 | 58462 |
| Mortgage on real estate | 120747 | 126580 | 20550 | 28000 |
| Guarantees | 754 | 990 | 73395 | 79990 |
| Pension liability | 12466 | 9111 | 8425 | 6721 |
| Other liability | 7479 | 6561 | 6389 | 5454 |
|  | 188288 | 249167 | 155601 | 178627 |

[^1]Dieter Aminoff
Edward Andersson
Christian Westerlund

## Auditor's Report

## To the shareholders of Oy Mercantile Ab

We have audited the accounting records, the financial statements and the administration of Oy Mercantile Ab for the financial year 1995. The financial statements, which include the report of the Board of Directors, consolidated and parent company income statements, balance sheets and notes to the financial statements, have been prepared by the Board of Directors and the Managing Director. Based on our audit we express an opinion on these financial statements and on the administration.

We have conducted the audit in accordance with generally accepted Finnish Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the management as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. The purpose of our audit of the administration is to examine that the members of the Board of Directors and the Managing Director have legally complied with the rules of the Companies' Act.

In our opinion the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting Act and other rules and regulations governing the preparation of financial statements. The financial statements give a true and fair view, as prescribed in the Accounting Act, of both the consolidated and parent company's result of operations as well as of the financial position. The financial statements including the consolidated financial statements can be adopted and the members of the Board of Directors and the Managing Director of the parent company be discharged from liability for the financial year audited by us. The appropriation of profits proposal by the Board of Directors is in compliance with the Companies Act.

Helsinki, 15 March 1996

Joe Sundholm
Authorized Public
Accountant

Kim Karhu
Authorized Public
Accountant

## Addresses

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[^0]:    The Profile disk recorder from Tektronix Inc. can digitally record up to nine hours of high-quality video images and stereophonic sound.

[^1]:    Helsinki, 6 March, 1996

