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AUSENCO RECORD PROFIT AND STRONG ORDER BOOK

- Record net profit after tax of \$41.5 million (2006: \$13.4 million), up 209% arising from efficient utilisation of global engineering resources and expanded international presence.
- Record full year revenue of \$368.3 million (2006: \$154.0 million), 139% increase attributed to strong project performance, particularly Lumwana EPC project which is on time and budget.
- Strong operating cash flows of \$88.6 million and improved net cash position of \$94.5 million.
- 130% increase in final dividend payment of 17.25 cents per share bringing year total to 30.25 cents.
- Record order book of projects with US\$2.9 billion installed capital value (2006: US\$1.9 billion)

Twelve months ended 31 December	2007^a A\$'M	2006^b A\$'M	Increase
Operating revenue	368.3	154.0	139%
Earnings before interest and tax	48.8	17.7	175%
<i>EBIT margin</i>	<i>13.2</i>	<i>11.5</i>	<i>15%</i>
Net profit before tax	51.5	17.9	188%
Attributable profit after tax	41.5	13.4	209%
<i>Net margin</i>	<i>11.3</i>	<i>8.7</i>	<i>30%</i>
Basic earnings per share (cents)	50.5	17.3	192%
Operating cash flow	88.6	17.5	406%
Dividends per share (cents)	30.3	10.0	203%

^a The 2007 full year final report and results are in the final stages of the audit process. No changes are expected.

^b Ausenco has adopted proportionate consolidation for its' joint venture interests resulting in a restatement of the 2006 comparatives.

Global engineering services group Ausenco Limited (ASX: AAX) today announced a record attributable profit after tax of \$41.5 million (2006: \$13.4 million), a 209% increase for the year ended 31 December 2007.

This result was achieved on a record operating revenue of \$368.3 million (2006: \$154.0 million), a 139% increase over the previous corresponding period. Ausenco's net profit before tax was up 188% to \$51.5 million (2006: \$17.9 million).

Basic earnings per share were 50.5 cents, an increase of 192% over the 17.3 cents per share achieved in the previous year.

Earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) margin increased to 15.0% compared to 11.5% in 2006. The after tax profit margin of 11.3% was a strong improvement on the 8.7% achieved in the 2006 results. The effective tax rate was lower at 19.4% compared to the previous corresponding period of 25.0%.

Directors have declared a final dividend of 17.25 cents per share, franked to 60%, bringing the total dividend for the year to 30.25 cents representing approximately 60% of group after tax earnings. The dividend will be payable on 12 March 2008 to shareholders registered by 27 February 2008.

Ausenco's year end net cash balance grew to \$94.5 million supported by an undrawn working capital and acquisition facility.

Ausenco Chief Executive Officer Mr Zimi Meka said the solid result reflected the company's strategic approach to global business expansion and strong project performance.

"The Lumwana Copper Project in Zambia is progressing very well and is on schedule, on budget and within the client's project timeline of mechanical completion by 28 June 2008."

"We see Africa continuing to be a growing and productive region for future work with significant new project opportunities across the copper, nickel, coal and gold sectors. New projects won in West Africa and the Kinsevere Stage II project in the DRC together with the opening this year of our Johannesburg office solidifies our position in Africa," said Mr Meka.

"All our other projects are progressing satisfactorily with the Phu Kham Copper Project, in Laos, presently being commissioned expected to be commissioned in early 2008," he said.

Mr Meka said the company's safety performance continued at high industry standards and international best practice with a low Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) of 0.82 based on 10.9 million hours worked, a very commendable result considering the types of workforces utilised in these remote locations.

"Both the Lumwana and Phu Kham project teams delivered world class safety results by working in excess of one million man-hours LTI free continuously during the construction period," said Mr Meka.

"Project pipeline opportunities with existing and new clients as well as new studies currently being undertaken provide a broad range of future project opportunities across a diverse commodity base and in more geographic regions."

"A key strategic objective of management is to broaden the company's services and further expand our geographic and commodity spread."

"The recently announced acquisition of Pipeline Systems Incorporated (PSI) which is the world leader in engineering and design of long distance slurry pipeline transport systems has expanded Ausenco's commodity expertise into the global iron ore and bauxite sectors."

"PSI forms the basis of our process infrastructure business unit which we intend to expand. We also intend to diversify into providing additional geotechnical and environmental consulting, as well as the energy and oil and gas sectors. This expansion of Ausenco's service offerings will be assisted by our growing and increasingly diverse client base and the broadening of our geographical spread, particularly in South America where there are many large opportunities," said Mr Meka.

Ausenco's operating and maintenance services division, Ascentis, continued to deliver strong growth throughout 2007 with an increased earnings contribution of \$0.7 million.

Ascentis achieved a significant milestone being awarded preferred contractor for the contract operation and maintenance of the coal handling and preparation plant at the Isaac Plains Coal Project in Queensland.

"We expect further expansion into the coal sector will expand further in the forthcoming period building on the work currently being undertaken." said Mr Meka.

Outlook

Mr Meka stated that the company expects to continue to delivering sustainable earnings growth in the forthcoming period and beyond despite the current volatility in financial markets.

He said the company's project pipeline was robust and deep with significant upside potential due to the company's decision to broaden its process engineering services offerings and the continuing strong global demand for commodities and resource industry infrastructure.

"Over the next three years our existing clients have more than US\$4 billion in committed capital expenditure. In addition, the PSI acquisition will enable us to take better access the estimated US\$5 billion worth of work in minerals pipeline transportation opportunities in the iron ore and base metal sectors."

"Our strong financial position, together with our balanced client order book and geographic spread, reduce the risks of exposure to any one particular market or sector. "

"Our expanded workforce of over 1,500 personnel and 17 offices globally, including Asian based engineering and procurement centres will ensure economies of scale, increased workforce efficiency and improved project logistics. This is a sound platform for growth," said Mr Meka

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About Ausenco Limited

Ausenco is a leading process engineering and project management services provider to the minerals and resource industries. Within the key resource industries Ausenco's global specialist expertise delivers innovative solutions for its clients across a full project lifecycle, from preliminary scoping studies, through innovative engineering to project operation.

Focused on delivering on its purpose and strategic growth initiatives, Ausenco is working to build upon its key minerals industry experience through project delivery and alliances to grow a sustainable business in the process infrastructure and related resource industries.