

RESULTS for the year ended 30 September 2017



FINANCIAL REVIEW

Good revenue momentum has been maintained in the business and the increased profitability achieved during the year is most encouraging. All divisions contributed to improved pro forma operating profit compared to the prior year, with group pro forma operating profit (before capital items) at R6 078 million (FY16PF: R4 855 million) representing growth of 25.2%.

As described in STAR's pre-listing statement and this set of results, caution should be exercised when comparing the statutory 12-month audited financial statements with the 15-month comparative period. In particular, earnings growth on a statutory basis is not representative and should be considered on a pro forma basis.

Tax rate

The effective tax rate was 30.9%, marginally higher than the statutory South African tax rate, mainly due to withholding taxes.

Working capital

Net working capital increased by R805 million, largely as a result of the acquisition of Tekkie Town and increased inventory levels of a larger store base, in anticipation of the festive season trading period.

Capital structure

As part of the listing process, the balance sheet was restructured and the net debt on 30 September 2017 amounted to R12.0 billion, resulting in a net debt/EBITDA ratio of 1.8 times. Shareholders are reminded that the debt was only introduced as part of the listing process at the end of the period and the calculated interest cover of 10.9 times is expected to reduce in future.

Debt structure

	30 September 2017 Rm	30 September 2016 Rm
Interest-bearing long-term liabilities	16	27
Loans due to Steinhoff and its subsidiaries – long term	11 000	–
Interest-bearing short-term liabilities	11	98
Loans due to Steinhoff and its subsidiaries – short term	4 868	18 196
Bank overdrafts and short-term facilities	89	79
Loans due by Steinhoff and its subsidiaries	(236)	(7 763)
Cash and cash equivalents	(3 797)	(2 771)
Net interest-bearing debt	11 951	7 866
EBITDA	6 775	–
Net finance charges	(620)	–
EBITDA: interest cover (times)	10.9	–
Net debt: EBITDA (times)	1.8	–
Pro forma net debt: EBITDA (times)	1.7	–

Cash flow

Cash generated from operations before working capital changes increased by 20.8% to R7 269 million (fifteen months to 30 September 2016: R6 016 million).

The cash conversion (cash generated from operations/operating profit before capital items) was 111%, despite cyclical increased inventory levels in anticipation of the build-up to the festive season. Cash flow was further supported by the furniture retail business's focus on lay-by products and the group's limited credit sales, which amounted to 12% of total revenue.

Outlook

While real market growth is expected to be subdued, positive sales momentum is expected to continue as STAR's more affordable offer and lower prices resonate with a constrained consumer. Similarly, the positive momentum in the speciality division is expected to continue at improved margins, further supporting group margins.

In addition, the business is well on track to open another 350 stores during the 2018 financial year.

Maintaining a low cost of doing business will remain a focus area within all retail brands. STAR plans to expand its distribution capacity in South Africa with the fit out of two distribution centres and the development of a new distribution centre in Angola, resulting in an increase in the capital expenditure-to-revenue ratio to 3%.

The group will continue to explore new trading formats and also expand its market share in ladies' wear and additional services.

As communicated during the listing process, STAR was only listed for 11 days during the 2017 financial year and thus no further dividend will be declared for FY17. The group targets a dividend cover of two times headline earnings for the next financial year.

Appreciation

STAR's board of directors would like to thank the group's employees, shareholders, customers and suppliers for their continued support and loyalty.

On behalf of the board

Jayendra Naidoo
Chairman

Ben la Grange
Chief executive officer

Riaan Hanekom
Chief financial officer

30 November 2017

PRO FORMA HIGHLIGHTS

13.2%
Increase in revenue to **R58.6bn**

100 bps
Margin increase to **10.4%**

25.2%
Increase in operating profit¹ to **R6.1bn**

R6.5bn
Cash from operations²

¹ Before capital items

² Statutory results

On 20 September 2017, Steinhoff Africa Retail (STAR) successfully listed on the main board of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. The listing provides investors the opportunity to directly access an African retail champion with significant scale. The listing resulted in the issue of 750 million shares (21.47% of issued share capital) at R20.50, in addition to 50 million shares sold indirectly by Steinhoff International Holdings N.V. The overall placement raised R16.4 billion and represents, in aggregate, 23.19% of the issued share capital. STAR distributed the placement proceeds to Steinhoff International Holdings N.V.

Results	Statutory audited			Pro forma		
	12 months ended 30 September 2017 (FY17A)	15 months ended 30 September 2016 (FY16A)	% change	12 months ended 30 September 2017 (FY17PF)	12 months ended 30 September 2016 (FY16PF)	% change
Revenue (Rm)	57 850	61 154	(5%)	58 582	51 766	13.2%
Operating profit before capital items (Rm)	5 815	4 050	44%	6 078	4 855	25.2%
Headline earnings per share (c)	133.6	60.4	121%	–	–	–

In evaluating the 2017 financial year's performance (FY17), the following factors influence comparability:

- Change in financial year-end: STAR's financial year-end was changed from June to September in 2016, and therefore the comparative statutory numbers pertain to a 15-month period.
- Impact of acquisitions and one-off restructuring – refer to the 'Additional information' section of these results.
- Impact of listing on earnings per share: Issuing 750 million new shares on 20 September 2017 increased the total number of shares in issue to 3 450 million.

To enhance comparability, performance commentary is provided based on pro forma results that are based on the 12-month periods ending 30 September 2017 (FY17PF) and 30 September 2016 (FY16PF) and adjusted for the impact of acquisitions and one-off restructuring costs.

During a period characterised by downbeat consumer confidence and low growth, STAR delivered a solid operating performance. A continued focus on price leadership and value offerings across STAR's expanding store footprint drove market share gains in major retail brands. For the 12 months to September 2017, pro forma revenue increased by 13.2% to R58.6 billion (FY16PF: R51.8 billion), and pro forma operating profit was up 25.2% to R6.1 billion.

Notably, trading densities continued to rise above cost inflation while STAR expanded its retail presence through trading space growth of 5% to 2.3 million square meters. STAR group opened 272 stores on a net basis, and the acquisition of Tekkie Town added 308 stores to the group's footprint. As at September 2017, STAR traded from 4 953 retail locations.

STAR's strategic focus on lowering the cost of doing business and accessing new products and services through existing infrastructure drove group operating profit growth. The operating margin increased by 100 basis points to 10.4% of total sales. Pep and Ackermans were the main contributors to group operating profit growth, in addition to the turnaround of the furniture and appliances business.

OPERATIONAL REVIEW

Discount and value

This division reported revenue of R44.1 billion and operating margin strengthened. Revenue growth was largely attributable to Pep and Ackermans, which, in aggregate, account for 85% of divisional revenue. Like-for-like revenue growth of 6.5% was achieved by Pep and Ackermans in aggregate, influenced by a weaker fourth quarter. Within product categories, kids' wear and cellular delivered stand out performances. Home, adult wear and FMCG also supported growth.

The Flash business, servicing customers in informal areas, performed well, driven by a 23% increase in active traders with the number of devices exceeding 121 000 at year-end.

Following the closure of approximately 300 stores, the restructuring of the furniture and appliances business is complete. Despite closing uneconomical trading locations and the operational disruption caused by the restructuring, the business increased revenue on a comparable basis, reaching break-even operating profit.

Africa, being countries other than South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (SA and BLNS), represents approximately 5% of STAR group revenue. A constrained economic environment and currency volatility in some of these countries continued to weigh on operations, resulting in reduced momentum in store openings. In addition, adjustment of product costing rates to manage exchange rate volatility slowed growth in Angola.

Discount and value brands opened a total of 222 stores on a net basis during FY17, expanding the total footprint to 3 679 stores at 30 September 2017.

Speciality

The speciality division, now enlarged by the Tekkie Town footwear business, contributed approximately 25% to group revenue, supported by a robust performance from the Clothing, Footwear and Home (CFH) retail brands. Operating margin strengthened, supported by improved profitability in the do-it-yourself (DIY) business and improved performance in the other retail brands.

In line with its peers, the DIY business experienced a challenging year. Weak market demand for building materials and a store portfolio review resulted in a revenue contraction and 17 store closures. That said, the portfolio review, which is nearing completion, has contributed to improved profitability through integration cost benefits.

The G2 brands reported an acceptable performance in a challenging market where margins are comparatively lower to other businesses within the group.

In speciality bedding, Sleepmasters continued to perform well, expanding its store footprint to 168 stores at 30 September 2017.

Speciality brands opened 50 stores on a net basis during FY17, resulting in a total footprint of 1 274 stores at 30 September 2017.

Corporate information

Steinhoff Africa Retail Limited ('STAR' or 'the company' or 'the group')
Non-executive directors: J Naidoo (Chairman), JB Cilliers, MJ Jooste, VP Khanyile, SH Müller, HJ Sonn, AE Swiegers, DM van der Merwe, JD Wiese
Executive directors: AB la Grange (Chief executive officer), RG Hanekom (Chief financial officer)
Registration number: 2017/221869/06 | **Share code:** SRR | **ISIN:** ZAE00247995
Registered address: 28 Sixth Street, Wynberg, Sandton 2090 | **Postal address:** PO Box 6100, Parow East 7501 | **Telephone:** 021 929 4800
Facsimile: 021 929 4829 | **E-mail:** info@star-group.co.za
Transfer secretaries: Computershare Investor Services Proprietary Limited, Rosebank Towers, 15 Bierman Avenue, Rosebank 2196
Company secretary: Steinhoff Secretarial Services Proprietary Limited | **Auditors:** Deloitte & Touche | **Sponsor:** PSG Capital Proprietary Limited
 * Independent
 Announcement date: 4 December 2017

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Pro forma financial information



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Pro forma 12-month results for the financial year ended 30 September 2017 and for the 12 months ended 30 September 2016

The pro forma results have been prepared for illustrative purposes only, in order to provide information about the impact of the adjustments on revenue, operating profit before capital items (EBIT) and operating profit before depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) for the year ended 30 September 2017, and the 12-month period ended 30 September 2016.

The pro forma financial effects are presented in accordance with the JSE Listings Requirements, the Guide on Pro Forma Financial Information issued by SAICA and the measurement and recognition requirements of IFRS.

Because of its nature, the pro forma financial information may not give a fair reflection on the group's results from operations after the adjustments, as detailed below.

The accounting policies applied in quantifying pro forma adjustments are consistent with the STAR group's accounting policies at 30 September 2017 and 30 September 2016.

The reporting accountants' unmodified reports relating to the pro forma information is available for inspection at the company's registered address. The pro forma results are the responsibility of the board.

Pro forma 12-month results for the financial year ended 30 September 2017

The pro forma 12-month actual results and pro forma 12-month prior year actual results illustrate the effects of the acquisition of Tekkie Town (acquired 1 February 2017), the acquisition of Iliad (acquired, January 2016) and the JD Group discontinued brands ('the adjustments') on the group's revenue, EBIT and EBITDA for the year ended 30 September 2017 and for the 12 months ended 30 September 2016.

	Pro forma 12 months ended 30 September 2017 Rm	Pro forma 12 months ended 30 September 2016 Rm	Growth %
Revenue	58 582	51 766	13.2%
EBITDA	7 046	5 776	22.0%
EBIT	6 078	4 855	25.2%

Pro forma year ended 30 September 2017

	Audited STAR group for the 12 months ended 30 September 2017 ¹ Rm	Tekkie Town reviewed four months ended 31 January 2017 ² Rm	JD Group discontinued brands 12 months ended 30 September 2017 ³ Rm	STAR group pro forma after all adjustments for the year ended 30 September 2017 Rm
Revenue	57 850	732	–	58 582
EBITDA	6 775	199	72	7 046
EBIT	5 815	191	72	6 078

Notes and assumptions

¹ The column titled 'Audited STAR group for the 12 months ended 30 September 2017' represents the actual audited results for the STAR group for the 12 months ended 30 September 2017.

² The column titled 'Tekkie Town reviewed four months ended 31 January 2017' has been extracted from the Tekkie Town financial statements, reviewed by Grant Thornton and audit partner C Minie, for the four months ended 31 January 2017. Tekkie Town was acquired by the STAR group and consolidated as part of the STAR group results from 1 February 2017.

³ The column titled 'JD Group discontinued brands 12 months ended 30 September 2017' includes one-off expenses that the group was not allowed to provide for during the 2016 financial year, which relates to the one-off JD Group brand consolidation during the 2017 financial year.

Pro forma period ended 30 September 2016

The pro forma 12-month prior year actual results illustrate the impact of acquiring the Steinhoff Africa Retail Assets ('SARA'); acquiring Tekkie Town and Iliad; and removing the one-off JD Group discontinued brands and related restructuring costs. These adjustments have been described in detail in the pre-listing statement (PLS) dated 4 September 2017. Refer Annexure 1F on pages 194 and 195 of the PLS. The amounts adjusting revenue, EBIT and EBITDA remain unchanged from previously disclosed amounts.

	Reviewed SARA 12 months ended 30 September 2016 Rm	Tekkie Town audited 12 months ended 28 February 2017 Rm	JD Group discontinued brands and related restructuring costs 12 months ended 30 September 2016 Rm	Iliad three months ended 31 December 2015 Rm	STAR group pro forma after all adjustments for the 12 months ended 30 September 2016 Rm
Revenue	51 234	1 513	(2 087)	1 106	51 766
EBITDA	4 397	344	975	60	5 776
EBIT	3 485	322	998	50	4 855