

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

BT GROUP PLC
Form 6-K
November 07, 2002

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

Report of Foreign Private Issuer

Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

7 November, 2002

BT Group plc
(Translation of registrant's name into English)

BT Centre
81 Newgate Street
London
EC1A 7AJ
England

(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F..X... Form 40-F.....

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes No ..X..

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82- _____

Enclosures: 1. Broadband Strategy Update announcement made on 6 November, 2002.
2. 2nd Quarter Results announcement made on 7 November, 2002.
3. Interim Report announcement made on 7 November, 2002.

Exhibit No. 1

November 6, 2002

NEW STRATEGIC ALLIANCE WITH MICROSOFT

WILL BOOST BT'S BROADBAND STRATEGY

BT has become one of Microsoft's key European telecoms partners after signing a new strategic alliance that will see the two companies collaborating on how to bring dynamic broadband applications to the market for residential and business customers.

The alliance - negotiated throughout the summer - has been signed by the chief executives of both companies, Ben Verwaayen for BT and Steve Ballmer for Microsoft Corp. This moves Microsoft's relationship with BT onto the same footing as its other alliances in the global telecom sector - Korea Telecom in Asia and Verizon in the US.

This announcement clearly demonstrates Microsoft's deep level of commitment to the broadband strategy and technologies being deployed by BT. It also builds on the partnership between BT and Microsoft on existing projects like Xbox Live and web services.

The alliance is a marriage of BT's broadband capability and Microsoft's strength in .Net technology. Both companies will now be putting their best development teams to work in inventing and revolutionising communications over broadband.

Microsoft and BT will focus their efforts on five key programmes, developing applications for:

- multi-media home computing
- increasing the productivity and flexibility of large organisations
- the new generation of mobile computing
- .Net and web services
- portals

Around 30 separate projects are included within the five programmes, with details being announced as they progress. The latest of these involves discussions with Microsoft about becoming the software and digital content partner for BT Home Computing, the one-stop service to take the hassle out of going online.

Steve Ballmer, chief executive of Microsoft, said: "Microsoft is strongly committed to speeding up the adoption of broadband in the UK, and we are very excited about BT's broadband strategy and innovative no-frills product, which we believe is a great catalyst for broadband penetration.

"We are taking this important step because BT is a company that delivers - it has a proactive broadband strategy and a passionate focus on customer satisfaction. This alliance with BT is very important to Microsoft. Both our organisations will be working hard to ensure we spot the right opportunities and quickly bring to market great products and services that match the needs of our customers," added Ballmer.

Ben Verwaayen, chief executive of BT Group, said: "Make no mistake, this alliance is not window dressing. Our relationship with Microsoft in Europe is moving on to an unprecedented and exciting level that will bring real benefits for the customers of both companies.

"BT has accelerated on all fronts during the past year to make broadband

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

available to more customers across the UK. Now we want to do all we can to make broadband as attractive as possible to potential customers, residential and business, by giving them the compelling applications that will deliver a superb online experience that meets their needs and aspirations. That's where this alliance comes in.

"By combining our broadband drive with Microsoft's software capability, this will be a formidable alliance that will transform the experience of our broadband users."

Inquiries about this news release should be made to the BT Group Newsroom on its 24-hour number: 020 7356 5369. From outside the UK, dial +44 20 7356 5369. Calls may also be made to the BT Retail Press Office on 020 7356 4523/6045

All BT group news releases can be accessed at our web site:

<http://www.btplc.com/mediacentre>

Journalists can also contact The Microsoft Press Centre on 0870 20 77377. Lines are open 9.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday or email ukprteam@microsoft.com

Exhibit No. 2

November 7, 2002

SECOND QUARTER AND HALF YEAR RESULTS TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

SECOND QUARTER AND HALF YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

- Group turnover* of GBP4,661 million, up 2 per cent
- Profit before taxation* of GBP496 million, up 55 per cent
- Earnings per share* of 3.7 pence, up 54 per cent
- Free cash flow of GBP552 million generated
- Net debt reduced by GBP285 million in the quarter
- Interim dividend of 2.25 pence per share
- Broadband end users of 451,000 at November 1
- Customer satisfaction well ahead of the competition

*from continuing activities before goodwill amortisation and exceptional items

Chairman's statement

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

Sir Christopher Bland, Chairman, commenting on the second quarter results, said:

"This is an excellent set of results. The operating performance of the business has been particularly strong in a difficult market. We generated over half a billion pounds in free cash flow in the quarter.

I am pleased to report that we will be paying an interim dividend of 2.25 pence per share.

The recently announced agreement to dispose of our stake in Cegetel will see net debt reduce by a further GBP2.5 billion on completion.

These results demonstrate our ability to reduce debt, reward our shareholders and invest for the future."

Chief Executive's statement

Ben Verwaayen, Chief Executive, commenting on the second quarter results said:

"We continue to make strong progress in achieving our key goals of improving cash flow, earnings per share and customer satisfaction. Free cash flow was GBP552 million and earnings per share* increased by 54 per cent over last year to 3.7 pence, well ahead of our targets. Customer satisfaction was also well ahead of the competition.

Our revenue growth in the quarter was 2 per cent. Although the three year revenue target of 6 to 8 per cent compound annual growth is unlikely to be achieved in the present market conditions, we expect total revenue growth for the second half to be in line with current market expectations. Future revenue growth will benefit from our focus on developing new wave initiatives, particularly in broadband and ICT."

*from continuing activities before goodwill amortisation and exceptional items

BT Group's results, excluding discontinued activities, exceptional items and goodwill amortisation, are summarised in the following table:

RESULTS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER AND HALF YEAR TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

BT Group's continuing activities before goodwill amortisation
and exceptional items

	Second quarter		Better (worse) %	2002 GBPm	Half
	2002 GBPm	2001 GBPm			
Group turnover	4,661	4,557	2	9,248	
EBITDA before leaver costs	1,515	1,403	8	2,974	
EBITDA after leaver costs	1,478	1,385	7	2,781	
Group operating profit	729	657	11	1,299	

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

Net interest charge	295	352	16	595
Profit before taxation	496	321	55	818
Profit after taxation	331	206	61	546
Earnings per share	3.7p	2.4p	54	6.2p
Capital expenditure	559	660	15	1,108
Net debt				13,112

GROUP RESULTS

Group turnover increased year on year by 2 per cent to GBP4,661 million in the second quarter. This was a good performance in a difficult market for telecoms operators and solutions businesses. Although the three year revenue target of 6 to 8 per cent compound annual growth is unlikely to be achieved in the present market conditions, we expect total revenue growth for the second half to be in line with current market expectations. Future revenue growth will benefit from our focus on developing new wave initiatives.

Group operating profit before goodwill amortisation and exceptional items at GBP729 million for the quarter was GBP72 million higher than the second quarter of last year, with improved gross margins in BT Retail, cost reductions across the lines of business and reduced losses in the overseas activities of BT Ignite. The strong operating performance is despite the negative operating profit effect of unwinding the Concert global venture, the Telereal property sale and leaseback and the impact of GBP37 million of leaver costs (GBP18 million last year). The operating improvement does however reflect the year on year effect of one off charges of GBP52 million, relating to certain regulatory decisions, made in the second quarter of last year.

BT's share of associates and joint ventures operating profits before goodwill amortisation was GBP66 million (GBP9 million last year) in the quarter, benefiting from the unwind of Concert and improved results from Cegetel.

Net interest payable was GBP295 million for the quarter, an improvement of GBP57 million against last year as a result of the significant reduction in the level of net debt.

Profit before taxation of GBP496 million in the quarter increased by 55 per cent reflecting the underlying operating performance of the group and lower net interest costs.

The taxation charge for the quarter was GBP165 million; this represents an effective rate of 33.3 per cent (35.8 per cent last year) on the profit before exceptional items and goodwill amortisation.

Earnings per share before goodwill amortisation and exceptional items were 3.7 pence for the quarter (2.4 pence last year), an increase of 54 per cent.

Goodwill amortisation at GBP3 million for the quarter was GBP38 million lower than last year. This reduction reflects the disposals and goodwill impairment write downs made last year. Earnings per share after goodwill amortisation and exceptional items were 3.7 pence compared to a loss of 15.0 pence last year.

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

An interim dividend of 2.25 pence per share will be paid on February 10, 2003 to shareholders on the register on December 31, 2002. We expect this year's final dividend to be slightly more than the historical level of one and a half times the interim dividend. Our progressive dividend policy remains unchanged.

Underlying performance and intra-group trading

In the line of business commentaries that follow, references to "underlying performance" are to trading performance after adjusting for the estimated impact of the Concert unwind and business acquisitions and disposals on the line of business results. Trends in the results of the lines of business are described by reference to the underlying performance.

The group results have not been adjusted for the pro forma impact of the Concert unwind.

There is extensive trading between the lines of business, the effect of which is eliminated in arriving at the group results. The intra-group turnover and intra-group costs of BT Retail for comparative periods and the first quarter ended June 30, 2002 have been restated to reflect changes to the intra-group trading arrangements.

OPERATING PERFORMANCE BY LINE OF BUSINESS

Second quarter ended September 30, 2002 (i)	Group Turnover GBPm	EBITDA Before exceptional Items GBPm	Group operating profit (loss) before goodwill amortisation and exceptional items GBPm
BT Retail	3,288	439	388
BT Wholesale	2,833	990	512
BT Ignite	1,267	34	(115)
BT Openworld	67	(16)	(22)
Other	85	31	(34)
Intra-group items (ii)	(2,879)	-	-
Total	4,661	1,478	729

Half year ended September 30, 2002 (i)	Group turnover GBPm	EBITDA before exceptional items GBPm	Group operating profit (loss) before goodwill amortisation and exceptional items GBPm
BT Retail	6,463	858	758
BT Wholesale	5,583	1,835	885
BT Ignite	2,513	44	(245)
BT Openworld	132	(38)	(46)
Other	168	82	(53)
Intra-group items (ii)	(5,611)	-	-

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

Total 9,248 2,781 1,299

- i. See note 2 on pages 24 and 25 for prior year figures
- ii. Includes elimination of turnover between businesses, which is included in the turnover of the originating business

BT Retail

	Second quarter ended September 30				Half ended S 200 GBP
	2002	2001	Better (worse)		
	GBPm	GBPm	Actual	Underlying (b)	
			%	%	
Group turnover	3,288	3,184 (a)	3	1	6,46
Gross margin	948	846	12	8	1,90
Sales, general and administration costs	509	531			1,04
EBITDA	439	315	39	39	85
Depreciation	51	46			10
Operating profit	388	269	44	44	75
Capital expenditure	26	18	(44)	(44)	4
Operating free cash flow	413	297	39	39	81

(a) Internal turnover restated to reflect changes in intra-group trading arrangements

(b) Adjusting for the effect of the Concert unwind

Compared to the second quarter of last year, BT Retail increased turnover by GBP46 million (1 per cent). Operating profits increased by GBP119 million (44 per cent) due to margin improvements and cost reductions.

The estimated impact on BT Retail of integrating the returning Concert multinational customers and associated sales staff on the reported results for the second quarter of last year would have been to increase turnover by GBP58 million (in the product areas of fixed network calls, exchange line connections and private circuits) and increase gross margin by GBP34 million. There would have been no impact on EBITDA and operating profit.

Turnover for the quarter is summarised as follows:

BT Retail turnover	Second quarter ended September 30			
	2002	2001	Better (worse) Actual	Underlying

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

	GBPm	(a) GBPm	%	(b)	%
Voice Services					
Fixed network calls	1,200	1,217	(1)		(2)
Analogue lines	772	743	4		4
Other	454	433	5		(2)
	2,426	2,393	1		-
Intermediate Products					
Narrowband access (inc. ISDN)	215	187	15		12
Digital private circuits	270	298	(9)		(12)
Other	184	160	15		10
	669	645	4		1
New Wave	193	146	32		32
Total	3,288	3,184	3		1
Sales to other BT businesses incl. above	458	515	(11)		(2)

(a) Internal turnover restated to reflect changes in intra-group trading arrangements

(b) Adjusting for the effect of the Concert unwind

Turnover from voice services was unchanged from the second quarter of last year, with growth in the consumer market being offset by a decline in the business market. Within this, turnover from fixed network calls including outbound international calls, calls to mobile phones and calls to the internet decreased by 2 per cent to GBP1,200 million reflecting a reduction in call volumes. The effect was partly offset by an increase in revenue from packages such as BT Together and from analogue line rentals and connections.

The continued success of BT Together and BT Answer 1571 has held the rate of decline in geographic call volumes in BT Retail to 4 per cent, consistent with the last quarter. In the second quarter of last year the rate of decline was 5 per cent. The growth in fixed to mobile call minutes of 7 per cent (5 per cent in the last quarter), compares to 13 per cent in the second quarter of last year. Internet related and other non-geographic call minutes declined by 8 per cent compared to the second quarter of last year mainly due to customers continuing to switch to either FRIACO (Flat Rate Internet Access Call Origination) based internet products or, increasingly, broadband.

Within the residential voice market BT Retail has maintained market share at around 73 per cent as it has done since June 2000. In the business voice market, excluding the returned Concert businesses, estimates show BT Retail's market share to be down around 0.5 percentage points since the first quarter to 45 per cent.

Turnover from analogue exchange lines of GBP772 million increased by 4 per cent compared to the second quarter of last year as a result of rebalancing tariff charges. The number of residential voice lines has remained stable.

Other voice services include operator services, directory enquiries, payphones and chargecards. Turnover from these services decreased by 2 per cent to GBP454 million compared to the second quarter of last year.

Turnover from intermediate products of GBP669 million increased by 1 per

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

cent compared to the second quarter of last year, despite the continued migration of customers from retail private circuits to partial private circuits, the effect of which is estimated at GBP41 million for the quarter. Narrowband (ISDN) lines continue to grow and at 3.7 million are 11 per cent higher than last year. Total business lines grew by 1 per cent reflecting the growth in ISDN lines. Other services comprise hardware, conferencing and other data services.

New Wave revenue grew by 32 per cent in the quarter as a result of the continued focus on the information, communications and technology ("ICT"), broadband and mobility products. The benefit of product launches during the quarter should contribute to further revenue growth in the second half of the year.

During the quarter BT Retail announced the next strand of its ICT strategy, namely the provision of applications management, hosting, mobility and web services which together with the IP infrastructure portfolio products helped BT achieve some notable wins: Unilever, Dixons Group and Leisure Link.

BT Retail fully launched its direct broadband product on September 22, 2002. Volumes are being stimulated by an extensive marketing campaign.

September also saw the launch of the BT click&buy micropayments service which offers customers a secure means of buying digital content on the internet. At launch, twenty content partners were on-line with a further twenty-five signed up.

The increase in gross margin of GBP68 million (1.7 percentage points to 28.8 per cent) compared to the second quarter of last year continues to benefit from a more favourable traffic mix, value added offers and lower wholesale prices. The prior year effect of one-off charges relating to regulatory decisions, totalling GBP30 million, in the second quarter of last year has also improved the year on year gross margin.

Cost transformation programmes have generated a 10 per cent saving in sales, general and administration costs of GBP56 million against the second quarter of last year. These savings have been driven by the implementation of the call centre rationalisation programme, the reduction in business expenses, lower service payments resulting from improvements in service quality and other similar cost transformation programmes. On a full year basis these programmes are expected to deliver GBP200 million savings in the voice services and intermediate products.

EBITDA in the second quarter was GBP124 million (39 per cent) higher than the prior year which enabled BT Retail to contribute an operating free cash flow (EBITDA less capital expenditure) of GBP413 million in the quarter; GBP116 million better than the second quarter of last year.

The second quarter saw continued success in achieving our objective of establishing "clear blue water" against the competition for customer satisfaction. Customer satisfaction was well ahead in all areas of the business with Consumer achieving 80 per cent satisfaction (9 per cent ahead of the competition), Business achieving 67 per cent (3 per cent ahead) and Major Business achieving 66 per cent (10 per cent ahead).

BT Wholesale

Second quarter ended September 30

		Better (worse)	
2002	2001	Actual	Underlying*
GBPm	GBPm	%	%

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

Group turnover	2,833	3,027	(6)	-
Total operating costs before depreciation	1,872	2,090		
Other operating income	29	54		
EBITDA	990	991	-	-
Depreciation	478	468		
Operating profit	512	523	(2)	(2)
Capital expenditure	385	439	12	12
Operating free cash flow	605	552	10	10

*Adjusting for the effect of the Concert unwind and transfer of a major account from BT Ignite

BT Wholesale's turnover for the quarter at GBP2,833 million was flat and operating profit was 2 per cent lower than the second quarter of last year at GBP512 million. Operating free cash flow has continued to improve, showing growth of 10 per cent, mainly as a result of tight control of capital expenditure.

Second quarter ended September 30

BT Wholesale turnover	2002 GBPm	2001 GBPm	Better (worse)	
			Actual %	Underlying* %
Internal turnover	1,968	2,097	(6)	(3)
Concert	-	148	n/m	n/m
UK fixed operators	515	480	7	4
UK mobile operators	350	302	16	16
Total	2,833	3,027	(6)	-

*Adjusting for the effect of the Concert unwind and transfer of a major account from BT Ignite

Turnover was flat due to the adverse market conditions in the telecommunications sector and a reduction in prices.

External turnover in the quarter of GBP865 million showed an increase of GBP66 million (8 per cent) over the second quarter of last year. This partly reflects the year on year effect of regulatory provisions, made in the second quarter of last year, for the retrospective effect of the Oftel Number Translation Services (NTS) determination. This reduced prior year revenues by GBP22 million.

New business external revenues, including broadband and solutions, at GBP45 million were 55 per cent higher than the second quarter of last year reflecting, in part, the significant growth of wholesale ADSL lines of which there were 451,000 as at November 1, 2002.

Within traditional products, the impact of price reductions - due to flat rate price packages, new Network Charge Control (NCC) pricing formulae and Oftel

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

determinations - coupled with unfavourable market conditions have continued to slow turnover growth. Mobile operator originated transit continues to grow although the effect is partly offset by the decline in fixed operator originated transit. FRIACO revenues continue to grow but are partly offset by the slow down in the conveyance revenues they substitute. Also, revenues from retail private circuits are down, due to migration of customers to lower priced partial private circuits.

Internal turnover in the quarter at GBP1,968 million showed a decrease of GBP65 million (3 per cent) due to a reduction in both volumes and prices charged to BT Retail, partly offset by an increase in sales (including ADSL) to other BT lines of business.

Despite network volume increases, BT Wholesale's operating costs, excluding depreciation, of GBP1,872 million were broadly flat against the second quarter of last year. Full time equivalent staff numbers have reduced by 8 per cent since the second quarter of last year, the benefit of which is recognised in lower capital investment and improved operating efficiencies. Leaver costs were GBP6 million in the second quarter, GBP5 million higher than last year.

Depreciation at GBP478 million increased by GBP10 million (2 per cent) reflecting the move towards shorter asset lives partly offset by reduced capital expenditure.

Operating profit decreased by GBP11 million (2 per cent) whilst operating profit margins remained stable at 18 per cent.

Capital expenditure at GBP385 million decreased by GBP54 million (12 per cent) reflecting the continued tight control over capital investment.

BT Wholesale has maintained its focus on managed cash costs (operating costs excluding payments to other network operators and depreciation, plus capital expenditure). Managed cash costs at GBP1,436 million decreased by 3 per cent despite an increase in network volumes. Managed cash cost savings are GBP133 million, year to date, and BT Wholesale remains on track to achieve the full year target savings of GBP200 million after allowing for price and volume effects.

BT Ignite

Second quarter ended September 30

	2002 GBPm	2001 GBPm	Better (worse)	
			Actual %	Underlying* %
Group turnover	1,267	1,131	12	1
EBITDA	34	34	-	n/m
Group operating loss	(115)	(87)	(32)	25
Capital expenditure	93	104	11	48
Operating free cash flow	(59)	(70)	16	70

*Adjusting for the effect of the Concert unwind, acquisitions and disposals and the transfer of a major account to BT Wholesale

BT Ignite made good progress in the quarter with a significant improvement in underlying profitability and cash flow despite experiencing difficult trading conditions in the corporate sector and reduced carrier revenues. Underlying operating losses for the quarter were reduced by 25 per cent on last year.

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

Underlying turnover for the quarter grew at 1 per cent to GBP1,267 million. This includes the impact of a 16 per cent fall in Global Carrier turnover primarily due to the decline in trade with AT&T and Worldcom following the unwind of the Concert global venture. Excluding Global Carrier, BT Ignite's turnover grew by 6 per cent. Global Products grew by 10 per cent and Solutions by 9 per cent. Syntegra has outperformed the declining systems integration market, holding turnover at around last year's level. European Connectivity turnover fell by 2 per cent to GBP243 million due mainly to the decline of non-core revenues as BT Ignite has exited non profitable elements of the SME and consumer markets in Europe. Growth in core European Connectivity revenues was 5 per cent compared to the second quarter of last year.

Costs have been managed carefully to compensate for the lower revenue growth with EBITDA improving by GBP49 million over the second quarter of last year. As part of the cost reduction programme approximately 350 people left under early leaver terms at a cost of GBP14 million (GBP5 million last year). Excluding leaver costs EBITDA was GBP58 million ahead. All businesses generated an improvement in EBITDA compared to the second quarter of last year.

European operations have made excellent progress towards their targeted EBITDA break even run rate by March 31, 2003 with their combined EBITDA improving by GBP25 million to a loss of GBP4 million. The results benefited from one off credits in the quarter of GBP3 million. During the second quarter Spain became the second operation to generate positive EBITDA, following Ireland in the first quarter.

The operating loss was GBP101 million in the quarter before early leaver costs, a GBP48 million improvement from the second quarter of last year.

Capital expenditure was GBP93 million in the quarter, GBP87 million lower than the second quarter of last year. As a result, the operating free cash outflow (EBITDA less capital expenditure) of GBP59 million was 70 per cent better than the second quarter of last year.

BT Openworld

	Second quarter ended	September 30		Half
	2002	2001	Better	
	GBPm	GBPm	%	
Group turnover	67	56	20	
EBITDA	(16)	(25)	36	
Group operating loss	(22)	(36)	39	
Capital expenditure	1	3	67	
Operating free cash flow	(17)	(28)	39	

BT Openworld made further good improvements in turnover, profitability and cash flow. Turnover for the second quarter was GBP67 million, an increase of GBP11 million (20 per cent) on the second quarter of last year. The improvement is mainly due to growth in new broadband products and continued growth in the core narrowband product range.

EBITDA loss for the second quarter was GBP16 million, GBP9 million (36 per cent) less than the second quarter of last year and GBP6 million less than the previous quarter. Operating losses fell by 39 per cent to GBP22 million. The reduced losses reflect economies of scale from increased volumes, in particular in the narrowband business, which is now EBITDA positive. This is well ahead of the target date of March 31, 2003.

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

As at September 30, 2002, BT Openworld had 213,000 broadband customers, representing approximately 20 per cent of the total UK broadband market.

CASH FLOW AND NET DEBT

Cash inflow from operating activities amounted to GBP1,423 million in the quarter. This represents a strong conversion of profits into cash with EBITDA of GBP1,478 million in the quarter. The reported cash inflow last year of GBP1,433 million in the quarter was generated from both the continuing and discontinued activities of the Group.

The cash outflow on fixed asset purchases was GBP602 million in the quarter which compares to GBP804 million from the continuing activities last year. This reflects the continued management focus and control over capital expenditure. Full year capital expenditure is expected to be around GBP2.8 billion.

Free cash flow (before acquisitions and disposals, dividends and financing) was GBP552 million in the quarter.

Net debt at September 30, 2002 was GBP13.1 billion, a reduction of GBP285 million in the quarter. BT repaid GBP381 million of gross borrowings during the quarter, principally bonds held by Esat, the group's Irish subsidiary.

The group's gross borrowings at September 30, 2002 totalled GBP16,978 million, compared with GBP18,440 million at March 31, 2002. After deducting short term investments and cash of GBP3,866 million (GBP4,739 million at March 31, 2002), net debt was GBP13,112 million at September 30, 2002 (GBP13,701 million at March 31, 2002).

In the third quarter the previously announced annual deficiency funding and special contribution for early leavers' pension costs, totalling approximately GBP340 million, will be paid to the BT Pension Scheme. In addition, bond interest payments of approximately GBP370 million will be made.

POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

On October 16, 2002, BT agreed to sell its 26 per cent stake in Cegetel for EUR4.0 billion (GBP2.5 billion) in cash representing a return of around two and a half times on the total investment in Cegetel. BT will recognise a profit of approximately GBP1.4 billion after taking account of goodwill of GBP0.9 billion that had previously been written off directly to reserves. The transaction is conditional upon relevant regulatory approvals and is expected to complete during the second half of the year.

A review has been undertaken of the group's London office strategy with a view to reducing the number of office based staff and the number of office locations in the London and M25 area. It is anticipated this will require an exceptional property rationalisation charge of between GBP150 and GBP200 million to be recognised in the third quarter.

On October 8, 2002 the shareholders of Blu SpA agreed to the sale of their shares to Telecom Italia Mobile. As a result BT expects to write back approximately GBP150 million of exceptional charges when the transaction completes.

The half year report, which contains the independent review report of the auditors, will be advertised in the Financial Times on November 8, 2002.

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

The third quarter results of BT Group are expected to be announced on February 13, 2003.

GROUP PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

for the three months ended September 30, 2002

(unaudited)	Notes	GBPm	Continuing activities Before goodwill amortisation and exceptional items	Goodwill amortisation except-ional items (no	Dis activ eli
Total turnover		5,094			
Group's share of associates and joint ventures turnover		(433)			
Group turnover	2	4,661			
Other operating income		44			
Operating costs		(3,976)			
Group operating profit (loss)	2	729			
Group's share of operating profits of associates and joint ventures	4	66			
Total operating profit (loss)		795			
Loss on sale of fixed asset investments and group undertakings		-			
Profit on sale of property fixed assets		3			
Amounts written off investments		(7)			
Net interest payable	6	(295)			
Profit (loss) before taxation		496			
Taxation		(165)			
Profit (loss) after taxation		331			
Minority interests		(9)			
Profit (loss) attributable to shareholders		322			
Earnings per share					
- basic	9				
- diluted					

GROUP PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

for the three months ended September 30, 2001

Continuing activities Before goodwill amortisation and exceptional items	Goodwill amortisation and except-ional items (note 7)	Dis activ eli
---	---	---------------------

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

(unaudited)	Notes	GBPm	GBPm
Total turnover		5,487	-
Group's share of associates and joint ventures turnover		(1,087)	-
Trading between group and principal joint venture		157	-
Group turnover	2	4,557	-
Other operating income	3	74	-
Operating costs		(3,974)	(123)
Group operating profit (loss)	2	657	(123)
Group's share of operating profits (losses) of associates and joint ventures	4	9	(825)
Total operating profit (loss)		666	(948)
Profit on sale of fixed asset investments and group undertakings		-	2
Profit on sale of property fixed assets		7	-
Amounts written off investments		-	(535)
Net interest payable	6	(352)	-
Profit (loss) before taxation		321	(1,481)
Taxation		(115)	(2)
Profit (loss) after taxation		206	(1,483)
Minority interests		(1)	-
Profit (loss) attributable to shareholders		205	(1,483)
Earnings (loss) per share	9		
- basic		2.4p	
- diluted		2.4p	

GROUP PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

for the six months ended September 30, 2002

(unaudited)	Notes	GBPm	Continuing activities Before goodwill amortisation and exceptional items	Goodwill amortisation except-ional i (not
Total turnover		10,092		
Group's share of associates and joint ventures turnover		(844)		
Group turnover	2	9,248		
Other operating income		96		
Operating costs		(8,045)		
Group operating profit (loss)	2	1,299		
Group's share of operating profits of	4	115		

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

associates and joint ventures		
Total operating profit (loss)		1,414
Profit on sale of fixed asset investments and group undertakings	5	-
Profit on sale of property fixed assets		6
Amounts written off investments		(7)
Net interest payable	6	(595)
Profit before taxation		818
Taxation		(272)
Profit after taxation		546
Minority interests		(11)
Profit attributable to shareholders		535
Dividends	8	
Retained profit for the period		
Earnings per share	9	
- basic		6.2p
- diluted		6.2p

GROUP PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

for the six months ended September 30, 2001

(unaudited)	Notes	Continuing activities		Discontinued activities
		Before goodwill amortisation and exceptional items	Goodwill amortisation and exceptional items (note 7)	
		GBPm	GBPm	
Total turnover		10,921	-	
Group's share of associates and joint ventures turnover		(2,188)	-	
Trading between group and principal joint venture		322	-	
Group turnover	2	9,055	-	
Other operating income	3	167	-	
Operating costs		(7,872)	(166)	
Group operating profit (loss)	2	1,350	(166)	
Group's share of operating profits (losses) of associates and joint ventures	4	(43)	(843)	
Total operating profit (loss)		1,307	(1,009)	
Profit on sale of fixed asset investments and group undertakings		-	129	
Profit on sale of property fixed assets		12	-	
Amounts written off investments		-	(535)	
Net interest payable	6	(798)	-	

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

Profit (loss) before taxation		521	(1,415)
Taxation		(221)	2
Profit (loss) after taxation		300	(1,413)
Minority interests		(1)	-
Profit (loss) attributable to shareholders		299	(1,413)
Earnings per share	9		
- basic		3.7p	
- diluted		3.7p	

GROUP CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the three months and six months ended September 30, 2002

(unaudited)	Second quarter ended September 30		en 2002 GBPm
	2002 GBPm	2001 GBPm	
Net cash inflow from operating activities (note 10)	1,423	1,433	2,735
Dividends from associates and joint ventures	1	1	1
Net cash outflow for returns on investments and servicing of finance	(235)	(138)	(606)
Taxation paid	(58)	(144)	(146)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(602)	(1,204)	(1,269)
Net sale of fixed asset investments	1	55	1
Sale of tangible fixed assets	22	21	42
Net cash outflow for capital expenditure and financial investments	(579)	(1,128)	(1,226)
Acquisitions	(105)	(32)	(127)
Disposals	-	383	128
Net cash inflow (outflow) for acquisitions and disposals	(105)	351	1
Equity dividends paid	(173)	-	(173)
Cash inflow before use of liquid resources and financing	274	375	586
Management of liquid resources	334	3,878	1,117
Issue of ordinary share capital	-	107	42
New loans	17	1	20
Repayment of loans	(381)	(499)	(1,467)
Net movement on short-term borrowings	-	(4,365)	(64)

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

Net cash outflow from financing	(364)	(4,756)	(1,469)
Increase (decrease) in cash	244	(503)	234
 Decrease in net debt from cash flows (note 11)	 274	 482	 628

GROUP BALANCE SHEET

at September 30, 2002

	2002	September 30 (unaudited)	2001
	GBPm		GBPm
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	230		18,557
Tangible assets	15,995		21,748
Investments	946		1,797
	17,171		42,102
Current assets			
Stocks	104		253
Debtors	5,384		6,186
Investments	3,748		6,973
Cash at bank and in hand	118		404
	9,354		13,816
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Loans and other borrowings	1,584		6,202
Other creditors	7,180		8,239
	8,764		14,441
Net current assets (liabilities)	590		(625)
Total assets less current liabilities	17,761		41,477
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year			
Loans and other borrowings	15,394		17,704
Provisions for liabilities and charges (note 12)	2,304		2,763
Minority interests	67		78
Capital and reserves (note 13)			
Called up share capital	434		9,890
Reserves	(438)		11,042
Total equity shareholders' funds (deficiency)	(4)		20,932
	17,761		41,477

NOTES

1 Basis of preparation

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

The unaudited interim results of BT Group, which are not statutory accounts, have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies as set out in the report and accounts of BT Group plc for the year ended March 31, 2002. Figures for the year ended March 31, 2002 are extracts from the group accounts for that year.

The group accounts for the year ended March 31, 2002, on which the auditors issued an unqualified report which did not contain a statement under Section 237 (2) or (3) of the Companies Act 1985, have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies.

The activities of mm02, Japan Telecom, J-Phone Communications, Airtel and Yell were disposed of in the year ended March 31, 2002, and are shown as discontinued operations in the profit and loss account for the comparative periods. The eliminations are intra-group eliminations.

2 Results of businesses

The tables below show the results of BT's lines of business. There is extensive trading between many of the business units and profitability is dependent on the transfer price levels. These intra-group trading arrangements are subject to review and have changed in certain instances. Comparative figures were restated for these changes during the first quarter.

During the second quarter, the intra-group turnover and intra-group costs of BT Retail for comparative periods and the first quarter ended June 30, 2002 have been further restated to reflect refinements to the intra-group trading arrangements. This has no impact on the group results.

2 Results of businesses continued

(a) Operating results

	Group turnover	EBITDA before exceptional items
	GBPm	GBPm
Second quarter ended September 30, 2002		
BT Retail	3,288	439
BT Wholesale	2,833	990
BT Ignite	1,267	34
BT Openworld	67	(16)
Other	85	31
Intra-group items (ii)	(2,879)	-
Total before exceptional items	4,661	1,478
Second quarter ended September 30, 2001 (i)		
BT Retail	3,184	315
BT Wholesale	3,027	991

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

BT Ignite	1,131	34
BT Openworld	56	(25)
Other	69	70
Intra-group items (ii)	(2,910)	-
Total continuing activities before exceptional items	4,557	1,385
Discontinued activities	1,062	71
Intra-group items (ii)	(315)	-
Total before exceptional items	5,304	1,456

2 Results of businesses continued

(a) Operating results continued

	Group turnover	EBITDA before exceptional items
	GBPm	GBPm
Half year ended September 30, 2002		
BT Retail	6,463	858
BT Wholesale	5,583	1,835
BT Ignite	2,513	44
BT Openworld	132	(38)
Other	168	82
Intra-group items (ii)	(5,611)	-
Total before exceptional items	9,248	2,781
Half year ended September 30, 2001 (i)		
BT Retail	6,315	676
BT Wholesale	6,016	1,951
BT Ignite	2,146	70
BT Openworld	102	(63)
Other	173	174
Intra-group items (ii)	(5,697)	-
Total continuing activities before exceptional items	9,055	2,808
Discontinued activities	2,270	176
Intra-group items (ii)	(567)	-
Total before exceptional items	10,758	2,984

(i) The results of the lines of business for the quarter ended September 30, 2001 and the half year ended September 30, 2001 have been restated to reflect changes to intra-group trading arrangements.

(ii) Includes elimination of intra-group turnover between businesses which is included in the total turnover of the originating business.

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

2 Results of businesses continued

BT Ignite analysis

	2002 GBPm	Second quarter ended September 30		Underlying (i) %
		2001 GBPm	Actual %	
Before goodwill amortisation and exceptional items				Better (worse)
Group turnover				
Solutions	475	434	9	9
Syntegra	143	145	(1)	-
Global Products	459	379	21	10
Global Carrier	247	64	286	(16)
Other and eliminations	(57)	109		
	1,267	1,131	12	1
European connectivity included above	243	248	(2)	(2)
EBITDA				
Solutions	45	31		
Syntegra	5	3		
Global Products	(27)	5		
Global Carrier	34	5		
Other (ii)	(23)	(10)		
	34	34	-	n/m
European connectivity included above	(4)	(29)		
Group operating profit (loss)				
Solutions	26	11		
Syntegra	2	1		
Global Products	(123)	(51)		
Global Carrier	13	(11)		
Other (ii)	(33)	(37)		
	(115)	(87)	(32)	25
European connectivity included above	(43)	(68)		
Capital expenditure	93	104	11	48
Operating free cash flow	(59)	(70)	16	70

(i) Adjusted for the effect of the Concert unwind, acquisitions and disposals and the transfer of a major account to BT Wholesale.

(ii) Other is after charging leaver costs of GBP14 million in the second quarter (GBP5 million last year) and GBP39 million (GBP5 million last year) in the half year ended September 30, 2002.

BT Ignite's comparative figures for the segmental results have been reclassified to reflect the new internal financial reporting lines that were introduced with effect from March 31, 2002.

2 Results of businesses continued

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

(b) Capital expenditure on plant, equipment and motor vehicle additions

	Second quarter ended September 30		ende
	2002 GBPm	2001 GBPm	
BT Retail	26	18	
BT Wholesale	385	439	
BT Ignite	93	104	
BT Openworld	1	3	
Other	54	96	
Total continuing activities	559	660	
Discontinued activities	-	339	
Total	559	999	

(c) Net operating assets (liabilities)

	September 30 2002 GBPm
BT Retail	(141)
BT Wholesale	12,117
BT Ignite	1,510
BT Openworld	(37)
Other	926
Total	14,375

Note: Net operating assets (liabilities) comprise tangible and intangible fixed assets, stocks, debtors less creditors (excluding loans and other borrowings) and provisions for liabilities and charges (excluding deferred tax). The March 31, 2002 comparatives have been restated to reflect changes to the method of allocating central balances to the lines of business.

3 Other operating income

In the quarter and half year ended September 30, 2001 other operating income included income from the provision of administration services to the Concert global venture of GBP28m and GBP70m, respectively.

4 Group's share of profits (losses) of associates and joint ventures

Second quarter ended September 30		ende
2002 GBPm	2001 GBPm	

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

Share of operating profits (losses) before goodwill amortisation and exceptional items	66	9
Provision for impairment of Concert tangible fixed assets and goodwill, and share of redundancy and unwind costs	-	(806)
Provision for impairment of other associates and joint ventures assets and goodwill	-	(10)
Amortisation of goodwill	-	(9)
Share of operating profits (losses) of continuing associates and joint ventures	66	(816)
Discontinued activities	-	2
Total share of operating profits (losses) of associates and joint ventures	66	(814)

5 Profit on sale of fixed asset investments and group undertakings

The profit in the six months ended September 30, 2002 of GBP66m is mainly attributable to the sale of B SkyB shares.

6 Net interest payable

	Second quarter ended September 30	
	2002 GBPm	2001 GBPm
Group	343	460
Joint ventures and associates	6	35
Total interest payable	349	495
Interest receivable	(54)	(133)
Net interest payable	295	362
 Analysed:		
Continuing activities	295	352
Discontinued activities	-	10
	295	362

7 Exceptional items and goodwill amortisation

	Second quarter ended September 30	
	2002 GBPm	2001 GBPm
Attributable to continuing activities:		
Impairment of Concert and AT&T Canada investments	-	(1,153)
Impairment of other investments and related costs	-	(221)
Costs related to mm02 demerger	-	(68)
Profit (loss) on sale of group undertakings and fixed asset investments	(4)	2
Goodwill amortisation	(3)	(41)
Net credit (charge) before tax and minority interests	(7)	(1,481)
 Attributable to discontinued activities:		
Profit on sale of group undertakings and fixed asset investments	-	9
mm02 demerger costs	-	(6)
Goodwill amortisation	-	(90)
Net credit (charge) before tax and minority interests	-	(87)

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

interests		
Total exceptional items and goodwill amortisation	(7)	(1,568)

8 Dividends

	Half year ended September 30	
	2002	2001
	pence per share	
Interim dividend	2.25	-

9 Earnings per share

The basic earnings per share are calculated by dividing the profit attributable to shareholders by the average number of shares in issue after deducting the company's shares held by employee share ownership trusts. In calculating the diluted earnings per share, share options outstanding and other potential ordinary shares have been taken into account.

The average number of shares in the periods were:

	Second quarter ended September 30			ende
	2002	2001		2002
	million of shares			mil
Basic	8,613	8,530		8,609
Diluted	8,649	8,578		8,659

10 Reconciliation of operating profit to operating cash flow

	Second quarter ended September 30			ende
	2002	2001		ende
	GBPm	GBPm		ende
Group operating profit	726	344		
Depreciation and amortisation	752	1,031		
Changes in working capital	(93)	96		
Provision movements and other	38	(38)		
Net cash inflow from operating activities	1,423	1,433		

11 Net debt

(a) Analysis

At September 30		
	2002	2001
	GBPm	GBPm

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

Long-term loans and other borrowings falling due after more than one year	15,394	17,704
Short-term borrowings and long-term loans and other borrowings falling due within one year	1,584	6,202
Total debt	16,978	23,906
Short-term investments	(3,748)	(6,973)
Cash at bank	(118)	(404)
Net debt at end of period	13,112	16,529

11 Net debt continued

(b) Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net debt

	Second quarter ended September 30		
	2002 GBPm	2001 GBPm	
Net debt at beginning of period	13,397	17,481	1
Decrease in net debt resulting from cash flows	(274)	(482)	
Net debt assumed or issued on acquisitions	-	-	
Currency and other movements	(16)	174	
Other non-cash movements	5	(644)	
Net debt at end of period	13,112	16,529	1

12 Provisions for liabilities and charges

	Second quarter ended September 30		
	2002 GBPm	2001 GBPm	
Deferred taxation	2,146	2,276	
Pension provisions (a)	33	372	
Other provisions	125	115	
	2,304	2,763	

(a) The pension provision relating to the BT Pension Scheme of GBP351m at September 30, 2001 has moved into a prepayment of GBP231m at September 30, 2002 and is included in debtors.

13 Share capital and reserves

	Share capital GBPm	Reser G
Balances at April 1, 2002	434	(7
Profit for the six months ended September 30, 2002	-	
Dividend	-	(1
Goodwill written back on disposals	-	
Currency movements (a)	-	(

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

Balances at September 30, 2002

434

(a) Net of GBP7m movement on the retranslation of foreign borrowings and other hedging instruments in the six months ended September 30, 2002.

14 Earnings before interest, taxation, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA)

	Second quarter ended September 30	
	2002 GBPm	2001 GBPm
Group operating profit before exceptional items	726	441
Depreciation	749	893
Amortisation	3	122
EBITDA before exceptional items	1,478	1,456
Analysed:		
Continuing activities	1,478	1,385
Discontinued activities	-	71
Total before exceptional items	1,478	1,456

15 United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

The results set out above have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United Kingdom. The table below sets out the results calculated in accordance with United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

	Second quarter ended September 30	
	2002	2001
Net income (loss) attributable to shareholders (GBP million) including discontinued activities and exceptional items	514	(1,046)
Earnings (loss) per ADS (GBP)		
- basic	0.60	(1.23)
- diluted	0.59	(1.23)

Each American Depositary Share (ADS) represents 10 ordinary shares of BT Group plc.

Shareholders' equity, calculated in accordance with United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, is GBP3,798m deficiency at September 30, 2002 (September 30, 2001 - GBP18,538m surplus, March 31, 2002 - GBP4,247m deficiency).

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

Forward-looking statements - caution advised

Certain statements in this results release are forward-looking and are made in reliance on the safe harbour provisions of the US Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements include, without limitation, those concerning: expectations regarding broadband growth and the benefits of other new wave initiatives; the possible or assumed future results of operations of BT and/or its lines of business; dividend cover and the group's cash position; expectations regarding revenue growth, capital expenditure, investment plans, cost reductions, return on capital employed and pension funding; the sale of Blu SpA; the disposal of Cegetel and net debt.

Although BT Group believes that the expectations reflected in these forward-looking statements are reasonable, it can give no assurance that these expectations will prove to have been correct. Because these statements involve risks and uncertainties, actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements.

Factors that could cause differences between actual results and those implied by the forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to: material adverse changes in economic conditions in the markets served by BT and its lines of business; future regulatory actions and conditions in BT's operating areas, including competition from others in the UK and other international communications markets; selection by BT and its lines of business of the appropriate trading and marketing models for its products and services; fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates; technological innovations, including the cost of developing new products and the need to increase expenditures for improving the quality of service; prolonged adverse weather conditions resulting in a material increase in overtime, staff or other costs; developments in the convergence of technologies; the anticipated benefits and advantages of new technologies, products and services, including broadband and other new wave initiatives, not being realised; the timing of entry and profitability of BT and its lines of business in certain communication markets; significant changes in market shares for BT and its principal products and services; to the extent that BT chooses to sell assets or minority interests in its subsidiaries, prevailing market levels for such sales; general financial market conditions affecting BT's performance; the reintegration of Concert; and the outcome of the actuarial funding valuation as at December 31, 2002. BT Group undertakes no obligation to update any forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Exhibit No. 3

BT Group Half Year Results and Interim Report

Chairman's Statement

"This is an excellent set of results. The operating performance and cash generation of the business has been particularly strong in a difficult market.

I am pleased to report that we will be paying an interim dividend of 2.25 pence per share.

The recently announced agreement to dispose of our stake in Cegetel will see net debt reduce by a further GBP2.5 billion on completion.

These results demonstrate our ability to reduce debt, reward our shareholders

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

and invest for the future."

Sir Christopher Bland, 6 November 2002

Review

Group turnover from continuing activities increased by 2 per cent. This was a good performance in difficult market conditions. Although the three year revenue target of 6 to 8 per cent compound annual growth is unlikely to be achieved in the present market conditions, we expect total revenue growth for the second half to be in line with current market expectations. Future revenue growth will benefit from our focus on developing new wave initiatives.

Group profit before taxation* increased by 57 per cent to GBP818 million reflecting improved gross margins in BT Retail, cost reductions across the lines of business, reduced operating losses in the overseas activities of BT Ignite and a reduction in the level of interest payable.

Earnings per share* were 6.2 pence, an increase of 68 per cent.

An interim dividend of 2.25 pence per share will be paid on 10 February 2003 to shareholders on the register on 31 December 2002. We expect this year's final dividend to be slightly more than the historical level of one and a half times the interim dividend. Our progressive dividend policy remains unchanged.

Cash inflow from operating activities amounted to GBP2,736 million, representing a strong conversion of profits into cash. Capital expenditure at GBP1,108 million was 19 per cent lower than last year reflecting the continued management focus and control over capital expenditure. Full year expenditure is expected to be around GBP2.8 billion. Net debt was reduced by a further GBP589 million to GBP13.1 billion at 30 September 2002.

Exceptional profits of GBP66 million reflect the gain on disposal of BSKyB shares.

On 16 October 2002 we agreed to sell our stake in Cegetel, subject to regulatory approval, for approximately GBP2.5 billion which will generate a profit of approximately GBP1.4 billion.

*from continuing activities before goodwill amortisation and exceptional items

Group profit and loss account for the six months ended 30 September

(unaudited)

	2002 (a) GBPm	2001 (b)
Turnover, including share of ventures	10,092	13,000
Group turnover	9,248	10,000
Group operating profit	1,288	840
Share of operating profit (loss) of ventures	115	(80)
Profit on sale of investments and group undertakings	66	40
Profit on sale of property fixed assets	6	120
Amounts written off investments	(7)	(50)
Net interest payable	(595)	(80)

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

Profit before taxation	873	3,
Taxation	(272)	(2
Profit after taxation	601	2,
Minority interests	(11)	(1
Profit attributable to shareholders	590	2,
Interim dividend	(194)	-
Earnings per share		
- basic	6.9p	35
- diluted	6.8p	35
Earnings per share before goodwill amortisation and exceptional items		
- basic	6.2p	3.
- diluted	6.2p	3.
Interim dividend per share	2.25p	-

(a) Results are wholly from continuing activities.

(b) Includes the results of discontinued activities - mm02, Japan Telecom, J-Phone Communications, Airtel and Yell.

Group cash flow statement for the six months ended 30 September

(unaudited)

	2002	
	GBPm	
Inflow from operating activities, including ventures	2,736	
Outflow for returns on investments	(606)	
and servicing of finance		
Taxation paid	(146)	
Outflow for capital expenditure and financial investments	(1,226)	
Inflow for acquisitions and disposals	1	
Equity dividends paid	(173)	
Inflow before use of liquid resources and financing	586	
Management of liquid resources	1,117	
Outflow from financing	(1,469)	
Increase in cash	234	

Group balance sheet

	30 September 2002	2001 (a) (unaudited)
	GBPm	GBPm
Fixed assets	17,171	42,102
Current assets	9,354	13,816
Current liabilities	(8,764)	(14,441)
Net current assets (liabilities)	590	(625)
Total assets less current liabilities	17,761	41,477

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	15,394	17,704
Provisions for liabilities and charges	2,304	2,763
Minority interests	67	78
Capital and reserves	(4)	20,932
	17,761	41,477

(a) Before the demerger of mm02.

Notes

1. This statement has been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies in the statutory accounts for the year ended 31 March 2002.

2 The figures for the year ended 31 March 2002 are extracts from those accounts. A copy of the statutory accounts for that year, on which the auditors have issued an unqualified report, has been delivered to the Registrar of Companies.

If you have any queries as a shareholder please call Freefone 0808 100 4141. Further information about BT and these financial results may be found on the internet at

www.btplc.com/investorcentre

BT Group plc

81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ

Independent Review Report to

BT Group plc

Introduction

We have been instructed by the company to review the financial information which comprises the group profit and loss account, group cash flow statement, group balance sheet and the related notes. We have read the other information contained in the interim report and considered whether it contains any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial information.

Directors' responsibilities

The interim report, including the financial information contained therein, is the responsibility of, and has been approved by the directors. The directors are responsible for preparing the interim report in accordance with the Listing Rules of the Financial Services Authority which require that the accounting policies and presentation applied to the interim figures should be consistent with those applied in preparing the preceding annual accounts except where any changes, and the reasons for them, are disclosed.

Review work performed

We conducted our review in accordance with guidance contained in Bulletin 1999/4

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

issued by the Auditing Practices Board for use in the United Kingdom. A review consists principally of making enquiries of group management and applying analytical procedures to the financial information and underlying financial data and, based thereon, assessing whether the accounting policies and presentation have been consistently applied unless otherwise disclosed. A review excludes audit procedures such as tests of controls and verification of assets, liabilities and transactions. It is substantially less in scope than an audit performed in accordance with United Kingdom Auditing Standards and therefore provides a lower level of assurance than an audit. Accordingly we do not express an audit opinion on the financial information.

Review conclusion

On the basis of our review we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial information as presented for the six months ended 30 September 2002.

PricewaterhouseCoopers, Chartered Accountants

London. 6 November 2002

Signatures

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, thereunto duly authorized.

BT Group PLC
(Registrant)

By: /s/ Patricia Day

Patricia Day, Assistant Secretary. Head of Shareholder Services

Date: 7 November, 2002