



OJSC NOVOLIPETSK STEEL

**INTERIM CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(UNAUDITED)**

**PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES
GENERALLY ACCEPTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**AS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2005 AND DECEMBER 31, 2004
AND FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2005 AND 2004**

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of OJSC Novolipetsk Steel

We have reviewed the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheet of OJSC Novolipetsk Steel and its subsidiaries ("the Group") as of September 30, 2005, and the related condensed consolidated statements of income and cash flows and stockholders' equity and comprehensive income for each of the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2005 and September 30, 2004. These interim financial statements are the responsibility of the Group's management.

We conducted our review in accordance with the standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. A review of interim financial information consists principally of applying analytical procedures and making inquiries of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters. It is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

As discussed in Note 6 to the interim condensed consolidated financial statements, the carrying value of certain property, plant and equipment was determined with the assistance of an independent appraiser, who provided US dollar estimates of the fair value of the Group's property, plant and equipment.

Based on our review, except for the effects of using the appraisal to determine the carrying value for certain property, plant and equipment as discussed in the preceding paragraph, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying interim condensed consolidated financial statements for them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We have previously audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the consolidated balance sheet of the Group as of December 31, 2004, and the related consolidated statements of income, stockholders' equity and comprehensive income, and cash flows for the year then ended (not presented herein); and in our report dated April 15, 2005, we expressed an unqualified opinion on such financial statements, except for the same matter discussed in the third paragraph of this report. In our opinion, the information set forth in the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2004, is fairly stated in all material respects, in relation to the consolidated balance sheet from which it has been derived.



Moscow, Russian Federation

November 23, 2005

OJSC Novolipetsk Steel
Interim condensed consolidated balance sheets
as at September 30, 2005 and December 31, 2004 (unaudited)
(All amounts in thousands of US dollars, except for share data)



	Note	As at September 30, 2005	As at December 31, 2004
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	1,932,743	1,348,615
Short-term investments		18,600	21,153
Accounts receivable, net	3	624,756	588,562
Inventories, net	4	500,028	475,303
Other current assets, net	5	178,884	148,748
Restricted cash		7,897	5,094
		3,262,908	2,587,475
Non-current assets			
Long-term investments		46,831	51,425
Property, plant and equipment, net	6	2,375,278	2,257,628
Intangible assets, net		17,872	21,594
Goodwill		175,082	179,815
Other non-current assets, net	5	88,671	67,984
		2,703,734	2,578,446
Total assets		5,966,642	5,165,921
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY			
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable and other liabilities	7	704,355	455,042
Current income tax liability		26,192	78,638
Short-term capital lease liability		-	232
		730,547	533,912
Non-current liabilities			
Deferred income tax liability		309,626	305,472
Other long-term liabilities	8	47,070	19,946
Long-term capital lease liability		-	313
		356,696	325,731
Total liabilities		1,087,243	859,643
Commitments and contingencies	14	-	-
Minority interest		86,417	85,787
Stockholders' equity			
Common stock, 1 Russian ruble par value – 5,993,227,240 shares issued and outstanding at September 30, 2005 and December 31, 2004		221,173	221,173
Statutory reserve		10,267	10,267
Additional paid-in capital		32,143	680
Other comprehensive income		119,894	242,387
Retained earnings		4,409,505	3,745,984
		4,792,982	4,220,491
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity		5,966,642	5,165,921

The interim condensed consolidated financial statements as set out on pages 4 to 17 were approved on November 23, 2005.

General Director
Nastich V.P.

Chief Accountant
Sokoïov A.A.

OJSC Novolipetsk Steel
Interim condensed consolidated statements of income
for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and 2004 (unaudited)
(All amounts in thousands of US dollars, except for earnings per share amounts)



	Note	For the nine months ended September 30, 2005	For the nine months ended September 30, 2004
Sales revenue	11	3,387,729	3,215,222
Cost of sales			
Production cost		(1,548,077)	(1,360,036)
Depreciation and amortization		(210,556)	(173,824)
		<u>(1,758,633)</u>	<u>(1,533,860)</u>
Gross profit		1,629,096	1,681,362
General and administrative expenses		(111,960)	(46,429)
Selling expenses		(48,003)	(45,543)
Taxes other than income tax		(36,572)	(24,437)
		<u>(196,535)</u>	<u>(116,410)</u>
Operating income		1,432,561	1,564,953
Loss on disposals of property, plant and equipment		(6,923)	(6,050)
(Loss) / gain on investments		(1,104)	141,159
Interest income		73,043	33,713
Interest expense		(10,741)	(9,484)
Foreign currency exchange loss, net		(18,970)	(5,233)
Other expenses, net		(8,243)	(2,732)
		<u>(36,898)</u>	<u>(10,337)</u>
Income before income tax and minority interest		1,459,623	1,716,326
Income tax		(394,783)	(405,665)
		<u>(394,783)</u>	<u>(405,665)</u>
Income before minority interest		1,064,840	1,310,661
Equity in net earnings of associate		3,601	-
		<u>3,601</u>	<u>-</u>
Minority interest		(22,653)	(16,053)
		<u>(22,653)</u>	<u>(16,053)</u>
Net income		1,045,788	1,294,608
Income from continuing operations per share (US dollars)			
basic and diluted	9	0.1745	0.2160
Net income per share (US dollars)			
basic and diluted	9	0.1745	0.2160

OJSC Novolipetsk Steel
Interim condensed consolidated statements of cash flows
for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and 2004 (unaudited)
(thousands of US dollars)



	Note	For the nine months ended September 30, 2005	For the nine months ended September 30, 2004
CASH FLOWS			
FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net income		1,045,788	1,294,608
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Minority interest		22,653	16,053
Depreciation and amortization		210,556	173,824
Loss on disposals of property, plant and equipment		6,923	6,050
Loss / (gain) on investments		1,104	(141,159)
Equity in net earnings of associate		(3,601)	-
Deferred income tax expense		12,716	6,992
Stock-based compensation	13(e)	31,463	-
Other movements		(21,228)	(20,345)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities			
Increase in accounts receivables		(54,577)	(333,679)
Increase in inventories		(40,712)	(78,683)
Increase in other current assets		(10,817)	(72,091)
Increase in loans provided by the subsidiary bank		(45,056)	(11,708)
Increase in customers' deposits in subsidiary bank		33,966	20,657
Increase in accounts payable and other liabilities		42,311	56,018
(Decrease) / increase in current income tax payable		(49,198)	20,450
Net cash provided by operating activities		1,182,291	936,987
CASH FLOWS			
FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		8,973	7,841
Purchases and construction of property, plant and equipment		(420,908)	(172,611)
Proceeds from sale of investments		54,617	163,385
Purchase of investments		(30,766)	(170,238)
Acquisition of subsidiaries, net of cash acquired of \$38,109	10	-	(151,063)
Movement of restricted cash		(2,974)	3,956
Net cash used in investing activities		(391,058)	(318,730)
CASH FLOWS			
FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from borrowings and notes payable		17,045	352
Repayment of borrowings and notes payable		(6,223)	(21,664)
Capital lease payments		-	(9,467)
Payments to controlling shareholders for common control transfer of interests in a new subsidiary, net of cash of \$1,070 received in transferred subsidiary	10	-	(509,005)
Dividends to shareholders		(174,643)	(122,343)
Net cash used in financing activities		(163,821)	(662,127)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		627,412	(43,870)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents		(43,284)	8,539
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	2	1,348,615	729,641
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	2	1,932,743	694,310



	Note	Common stock	Statutory reserve	Additional paid-in capital	Other comprehensive income	Retained earnings	Total stockholders' equity
Balance as at December 31, 2003		14,440	32	680	27,672	2,567,084	2,609,908
Net income		-	-	-	-	1,294,608	1,294,608
Stock split		206,733	-	-	-	(206,733)	-
Increase in statutory reserve		-	10,235	-	-	(10,235)	-
Dividends to shareholders		-	-	-	-	(124,834)	(124,834)
Transfers of subsidiary interests from controlling shareholders	10(a)	-	-	-	-	598,735	598,735
Payments to controlling shareholders for common control transfer of subsidiary interests	10(a)	-	-	-	-	(510,075)	(510,075)
Other comprehensive income:							
Net unrealized loss on a change in valuation of investments		-	-	-	(26)	-	(26)
Cumulative translation adjustment		-	-	-	3,737	-	3,737
Balance as at September 30, 2004		221,173	10,267	680	31,383	3,608,550	3,872,053
Balance as at December 31, 2004		221,173	10,267	680	242,387	3,745,984	4,220,491
Net income		-	-	-	-	1,045,788	1,045,788
Stock-based compensation	13(e)	-	-	31,463	-	-	31,463
Dividends to shareholders		-	-	-	-	(382,267)	(382,267)
Other comprehensive income:							
Net unrealized gain on a change in valuation of investments		-	-	-	9	-	9
Cumulative translation adjustment		-	-	-	(122,502)	-	(122,502)
Balance as at September 30, 2005		221,173	10,267	32,143	119,894	4,409,505	4,792,982



1 BASIS OF INTERIM CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PREPARATION

These unaudited interim condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the open joint stock company Novolipetsk Steel (the "Parent Company", or NLMK) and its subsidiaries (together – the "Group") audited consolidated financial statements as at and for the year ended December 31, 2004. The December 31, 2004 condensed consolidated balance sheet information has been derived from audited consolidated financial statements, however, since it is presented on a condensed basis it does not include all the disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America for annual consolidated financial statements.

In the opinion of the Group's management, the information furnished herein reflects all known accruals and adjustments necessary for a fair statement of the results for the period reported herein. All such adjustments are of a normal recurring nature. The financial results of the period reported herein is not necessarily indicative of future financial results.

Functional and reporting currency

The Group's functional currency, which is considered to be the Russian ruble, was translated into the reporting currency (US dollars) utilizing period-end exchange rates for assets and liabilities, period average exchange rates for consolidated income statement accounts and historic rates for equity accounts in accordance with the relevant provisions of SFAS No. 52.

The Central Bank of the Russian Federation's closing rates of exchange ruling at September 30, 2005, December 31, 2004, September 30, 2004 and December 31, 2003 were 1 US dollar to 28.4989, 27.7487, 29.2171 and 29.4545 Russian rubles, respectively. The period weighted average exchange rates were 28.1455 and 28.9116 Russian rubles to 1 US dollar for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and September 30, 2004, respectively.

Recent accounting pronouncements

In March 2005, the FASB issued Interpretation No. 47, *Accounting for Conditional Asset Retirement Obligations*. The interpretation requires entities to record a liability for the fair value of a conditional asset retirement obligation if the fair value of the liability can be reasonably estimated. The term "conditional asset retirement obligation" refers to a legal obligation to perform an asset retirement activity in which the timing and (or) method of settlement are conditional on a future event that may or may not be within the control of the entity. The interpretation shall be effective no later than December 31, 2005. The Group believes that the adoption of this interpretation in 2005 will not have a material impact on its consolidated financial statements.

In May 2005, the FASB issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 154, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections*, which replaces APB Opinion No. 20, *Accounting Changes*, and FASB Statement No. 3, *Reporting Accounting Changes in Interim Financial Statements*. This Statement provides guidance on the accounting for and reporting of accounting changes and error corrections. It establishes, unless impracticable, retrospective application as the required method for reporting a change in accounting principle in the absence of explicit transition requirements specific to the newly adopted accounting principle. The Statement shall be effective for accounting changes made in fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2005. The Group can not estimate the effect that this standard will have related to future adoption of accounting standards that will be applied retroactively.



2 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	<u>As at September 30, 2005</u>	<u>As at December 31, 2004</u>
Cash – Russian rubles	265,900	269,860
Cash – foreign currency	4,846	2,437
Deposits – Russian rubles	241,232	39,822
Deposits – US dollars	923,614	709,457
Deposits – Euro	496,343	310,782
Other cash equivalents	808	16,257
	<u>1,932,743</u>	<u>1,348,615</u>

3 ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

	<u>As at September 30, 2005</u>	<u>As at December 31, 2004</u>
Trade accounts receivable	373,981	357,948
Advances given to suppliers	60,447	57,260
Taxes receivable	183,117	157,736
Accounts receivable from employees	1,610	1,192
Other accounts receivable	18,622	22,765
	637,777	596,901
Allowance for doubtful debts	(13,021)	(8,339)
	<u>624,756</u>	<u>588,562</u>

As at September 30, 2005 and December 31, 2004, the Group had accounts receivable from Steelco Mediterranean Trading Ltd., Cyprus, Tuscany Intertrade, UK, and Moorfield Commodities Company, UK, each of which exceeded 10% of the gross trade accounts receivable balances. The outstanding balances owed by these debtors totaled \$102,065, \$90,335 and \$45,962 at September 30, 2005 and \$140,265, \$102,908 and \$50,342 at December 31, 2004, respectively.



4 INVENTORIES

	<u>As at September 30, 2005</u>	<u>As at December 31, 2004</u>
Raw materials	343,632	333,414
Work in process	118,357	102,692
Finished goods and goods for resale	<u>45,942</u>	<u>47,054</u>
	507,931	483,160
Provision for obsolescence	<u>(7,903)</u>	<u>(7,857)</u>
	<u>500,028</u>	<u>475,303</u>

5 OTHER CURRENT AND NON-CURRENT ASSETS

	<u>As at September 30, 2005</u>	<u>As at December 31, 2004</u>
Other current assets		
Short-term loans provided by subsidiary bank	158,374	131,267
Other current assets	<u>25,312</u>	<u>20,047</u>
	183,686	151,314
Allowance for doubtful loans	<u>(4,802)</u>	<u>(2,566)</u>
Total other current assets	<u>178,884</u>	<u>148,748</u>
Other non-current assets		
Long-term loans provided by subsidiary bank	56,334	37,500
Other non-current assets	<u>32,337</u>	<u>30,484</u>
Total other non-current assets	<u>88,671</u>	<u>67,984</u>

The loans are provided to customers and other banks by the subsidiary bank of the Group. The interest rates on outstanding loans to customers as at September 30, 2005 range from 7% per annum to 22% per annum for loans denominated in Russian rubles and from 8% per annum to 16% per annum for foreign currency loans.



6 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	As at September 30, 2005	As at December 31, 2004
Land	56,126	46,466
Mineral rights	527,618	500,996
Buildings	690,926	715,759
Land and buildings improvements	765,231	798,892
Machinery and equipment	4,247,165	4,320,088
Vehicles	217,676	205,297
Construction in progress and advances for construction and acquisition of property, plant and equipment	432,481	254,271
Leased assets	-	862
Other	37,807	38,787
	<u>6,975,030</u>	<u>6,881,418</u>
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(4,599,752)</u>	<u>(4,623,790)</u>
Net book value	<u>2,375,278</u>	<u>2,257,628</u>

According to US GAAP, the Group's property, plant and equipment should be reported at their actual historical depreciated cost. However, due to the absence of reliable US GAAP accounting records and impairment calculations, the book value of certain property, plant and equipment was determined with the assistance of an independent appraiser, which management considers provided the best basis for the recognition and depreciation of such items. The appraiser provided US dollar estimates of the fair value, determined on the basis of depreciated replacement cost, which the Group has recorded as its property, plant and equipment balance as at January 1, 2000. As at September 30, 2005 and December 31, 2004, the net book value of these items amounted to 22% and 28% of total net book value of property, plant and equipment, respectively.

7 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND OTHER LIABILITIES

	As at September 30, 2005	As at December 31, 2004
Trade accounts payable	91,304	78,651
Advances received	137,402	127,776
Customers' deposits and accounts in the subsidiary bank	168,949	156,176
Taxes payable other than income tax	23,841	19,044
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities to employees	56,224	51,628
Dividends payable	212,223	6,332
Notes payable	5,178	5,312
Other accounts payable	9,234	10,123
	<u>704,355</u>	<u>455,042</u>



8 OTHER LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

	As at September 30, 2005	As at December 31, 2004
Customers' deposits in the subsidiary bank	32,385	16,150
Notes and loans payable	14,685	3,796
	47,070	19,946

9 EARNINGS PER SHARE

	For the nine months ended September 30, 2005	For the nine months ended September 30, 2004
Average number of shares		
before restatement	5,993,227,240	3,261,822,131
after restatement	5,993,227,240	5,993,227,240
Net income (thousands of US dollars)	1,045,788	1,294,608
Basic and diluted net income per share (US dollars)	0.1745	0.2160

Basic net income per share of common stock is calculated by dividing net income by the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the reporting period.

The Parent Company does not have potentially dilutive shares outstanding.

In May 2005 the Parent Company declared dividends for the year ended December 31, 2004 of 1.8 Russian ruble per share for the total of \$385,556, including interim dividends for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 of 1 Russian ruble per share (\$214,081). In September 2005 the Parent Company declared interim dividends for the six months ended June 30, 2005 of 1 Russian ruble per share for the total of \$210,792. Dividends payable amount to \$212,223 at September 30, 2005 (Note 7).

10 BUSINESS COMBINATIONS

(a) OJSC Stoilensky GOK

In March 2004 companies under the common control of the controlling shareholders of the Parent Company transferred to the Parent Company 59.8% and in November 2004 – 31.1% of the outstanding common shares of OJSC Stoilensky GOK. In these interim condensed consolidated financial statements, the Group accounted for these transfers retrospectively, in a manner similar to pooling by reflecting the controlling shareholders' book value of their acquisition cost in such transfers of \$598,735 as capital contributions. During the nine months ended September 30, 2004, the Group transferred cash consideration to such control parties of \$510,075 for the transfer of 59.8% of OJSC Stoilensky GOK, which was reflected as distributions to controlling shareholders. The remaining part of the consideration, \$126,378, was transferred to the control parties in December 2004. The Group's ownership of the common shares of OJSC Stoilensky GOK as at September 30, 2005 and December 31, 2004 is 96.98%.

(b) OJSC TMTP

In June 2004 the Group acquired 69.4% of the common stock of OJSC TMTP for a consideration of \$189,172 paid in cash to unrelated parties. The Group also obtained control over its subsidiaries OJSC Tuapse Dockyard, OJSC Tuapsegrazhdanstroi, LLC Nafta-T and LLC Karavella. The agreement contains no future contingent payments or commitments.



11 SEGMENTAL INFORMATION

The Group has two reportable business segments: steel and mining. These segments are combinations of subsidiaries, have separate management teams and offer different products and services. The above two segments meet criteria for reportable segments. Subsidiaries are consolidated by the segment to which they belong based on their products and management.

Revenue from segments that does not exceed the quantitative thresholds is attributable to two operating segments of the Group. Those segments include the trade seaport services business, represented by OJSC TMTP and its subsidiaries, and finance business, comprising banking and insurance services to commercial and retail customers. None of these segments has met any of the quantitative thresholds for determining reportable segments.

The Group accounts for intersegmental sales and transfers as if the sales or transfers were to third parties.

The Group's management evaluates performance of the segments based on segment revenues, gross profit, operating income and income before minority interest.

Information on segmental transactions for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and their assets as at September 30, 2005 is as follows:

	<u>Steel</u>	<u>Mining</u>	<u>All other</u>	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Intersegmental operations and balances</u>	<u>Consolidated</u>
Revenue from external customers	3,160,099	98,595	129,035	3,387,729	-	3,387,729
Intersegmental revenue	3,281	368,620	2,337	374,238	(374,238)	-
Gross profit	1,310,266	261,324	42,228	1,613,818	15,278	1,629,096
Operating income	1,154,001	240,497	31,056	1,425,554	7,007	1,432,561
Income before minority interest	847,832	195,058	30,350	1,073,240	(8,400)	1,064,840
Segment assets, including goodwill	4,399,753	1,074,743	695,165	6,169,661	(203,019)	5,966,642

Information on segmental transactions for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 and their assets as at December 31, 2004 is as follows:

	<u>Steel</u>	<u>Mining</u>	<u>All other</u>	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Intersegmental operations and balances</u>	<u>Consolidated</u>
Revenue from external customers	3,143,589	49,567	22,066	3,215,222	-	3,215,222
Intersegmental revenue	2,958	206,424	85	209,467	(209,467)	-
Gross profit	1,555,905	116,198	8,205	1,680,308	1,054	1,681,362
Operating income	1,459,434	105,404	8,142	1,572,980	(8,027)	1,564,953
Income before minority interest	1,223,124	78,947	12,112	1,314,183	(3,522)	1,310,661
Segment assets, including goodwill	3,767,196	984,495	654,131	5,405,822	(239,901)	5,165,921

12 RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

(a) Operating environment of the Group

The Russian Federation's economy continues to display some characteristics of an emerging market. These characteristics include, but are not limited to, the existence of a currency that is not freely convertible in most countries outside of the Russian Federation, restrictive currency controls, and relatively high inflation. The tax, currency and customs legislation within the Russian Federation is subject to varying interpretations, and changes, which can occur frequently.

Whilst there have been improvements in the economic trends, the future economic direction of the Russian Federation is largely dependent upon the effectiveness of economic, financial and monetary measures undertaken by the Russian Government, together with tax, legal and political developments.

(b) Convertibility of Russian ruble

Exchange restrictions and controls exist relating to converting Russian rubles into other currencies. At present, the Russian ruble is not a convertible currency outside of the Russian Federation and, further, the Group is required to convert 10% of its hard currency earnings into Russian rubles starting 2005 (25% before 2005). Future movements in the exchange rate between the Russian ruble and the US dollar will affect the reported US dollar amounts related to the Russian ruble carrying values of the Group's assets and liabilities. Such movements may also affect the Group's ability to realize assets presented in US dollars in these interim condensed consolidated financial statements. Accordingly, any translation of ruble amounts to US dollars should not be construed as a representation that such ruble amounts have been, could be, or will in the future be converted into US dollars at the exchange rate shown or at any other exchange rate.

(c) Commercial risks

The Group minimizes its sales risks by having a wide range of geographical zones for sales, which allows the Group to respond quickly to unexpected changes in the situation on one or more sales markets on the basis of an analysis of the existing and prospective markets.

The Group's exports in monetary terms for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and September 30, 2004 were 58% and 63% of the total sales, respectively.

The Group relies on export sales to generate foreign currency earnings. As the Group exports a significant portion of its production, it is exposed to foreign currency risk as well as global economic and political risks. Due to its foreign currency denominated assets and liabilities, the Group is subject to the risk arising from foreign exchange rate fluctuations. The Group's objective in managing its exposure to foreign currency fluctuations is to minimize earnings and cash flow volatility associated with foreign exchange rate changes.

The Group sells to three international traders that account for the majority of its export sales. During the nine months ended September 30, 2005 Steelco Mediterranean Ltd., Cyprus, Tuscany Intertrade, UK, and Moorfield Commodities Company, UK, purchased 43%, 25% and 17% of the Group's export sales, respectively (44%, 31% and 16% during the nine months ended September 30, 2004, respectively). Price fluctuations of sales to these companies are in line with general trends in global prices fluctuations. The Group's export prices are comparable to the prices of Russian competitors. In August 2005, 1.199% of the share capital of the Parent Company was acquired by a company beneficially owned by shareholders of these traders.

The Group's future profitability and overall performance is strongly affected by the prices of ferrous metal products set in the international metal trading market that are subject to significant fluctuations.



13 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Related party relationships are determined with reference to SFAS No. 57, *Related Party Disclosures*. Balances as at September 30, 2005 and December 31, 2004 and transactions for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and September 30, 2004 with related parties of the Group consist of the following:

(a) Sales to and purchases from related parties

Sales

Sales to related parties, either the companies under common control of the controlling shareholders of the Parent Company ("the Companies under common control"), or companies under control or significant influence of the Group's management, were \$28,084 and \$42,040 for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and September 30, 2004, respectively. Related accounts receivable equaled \$4,420 and \$6,501 as at September 30, 2005 and December 31, 2004, respectively.

Purchases and services

Purchases of raw materials, technological equipment, energy and management services from related parties, either the Companies under common control or companies under control or significant influence of the Group's management, were \$124,335, and \$177,674 for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and September 30, 2004, respectively.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2004, the Group made payments to one of the Companies under common control, acting as an agent between the Group and railroad companies, for the transportation of raw materials and the Group's products. The payments included both railroad tariff (transferred to railroad companies) and agent fee, retained by the agent. The agent fee and purchases of other materials amounted to \$7,585 for the nine months ended September 30, 2004.

Accounts payable to the related parties were \$4,309 and \$2,044 as at September 30, 2005 and December 31, 2004, respectively.

(b) Financial transactions

The subsidiary bank of the Group had loans receivable from Companies under common control or companies under the control or significant influence of the Group's management of \$6,632 and \$7,538 as at September 30, 2005 and December 31, 2004, respectively.

Deposits and current accounts of related parties, either the Companies under common control or companies under the control or significant influence of the Group's management, in the subsidiary bank amounted to \$53,006 and \$28,642 as at September 30, 2005 and December 31, 2004, respectively.

Deposits and current accounts of Group companies in a bank under significant influence of the Group's management amounted to \$62,992 as at September 30, 2005 (nil at December 31, 2004). Related interest income from these deposits and current accounts for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 amounted to \$9,499.

In 2004 the Group leased property, plant and equipment under capital lease arrangements with one of the Companies under common control. The amount of capital lease liabilities incurred during the nine months ended September 30, 2004 was \$19,920. The capital lease liabilities to the related party as at December 31, 2004 amounted to \$545. As at September 30, 2005 all capital lease transactions with related party were discontinued and liabilities were settled.

The Group granted interest-free loans to management, in the total amount of \$330 and \$70 for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and September 30, 2004, respectively. The aggregate amount of such loans outstanding as at September 30, 2005 and December 31, 2004 was \$266 and \$60, respectively.



13 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (continued)

(c) Acquisition and investments

During the nine months ended September 30, 2004 the Companies under common control transferred to the Group a controlling stake in OJSC Stoilensky GOK, and the Group transferred cash consideration to such control parties (Note 10(a)).

(d) Contributions to non-governmental pension fund

Total contributions to a non-governmental pension fund amounted to \$2,060 and \$1,931 for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and September 30, 2004, respectively. The Group has the right to appoint and dismiss top management of the fund as the major contributor to its capital. The Group has no long-term commitments to provide funding, guarantees, or other support to the fund.

(e) Stock-based compensation

In August 2005, the controlling shareholder of the Parent Company effectively sold 200,100,000 of NLMK shares to companies beneficially owned by certain members of its Board of Directors and management of the Group. The purchase price of these shares was based on the Russian Trade System ("RTS") trading price at the date of the transaction. This purchase price is payable by December 31, 2006 with no interest charged on the outstanding debt. The respective shares were pledged to secure the payment. There were no shares under such arrangements at the beginning of the year or in the nine months ended September 30, 2004 or at December 31, 2004. The only movements which took place in the nine month period ended September 30, 2005 were as described above.

This transaction was achieved through contractual arrangements between companies owned by the controlling shareholder of the Parent Company and companies beneficially owned by certain members of NLMK's Board of Directors and management of the Group, and therefore there was no cash outflow to the Group as a result of this transaction.

The Group applied SFAS No. 123, *Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation* ("SFAS No. 123") for the purposes of accounting for this transaction, and recorded an expense of \$31,463 in general and administrative expenses in the nine months ended September 30, 2005, with a corresponding increase in stockholders' equity. The terms of such stock sale by the controlling shareholder resulted in variable accounting for such awards in the Group's financial statements. The arrangement effectively represents the granting of options, at zero consideration, to buy shares at the RTS trading price of the shares on the grant date (in August 2005), the option expiring on December 31, 2006.

The following assumptions were made in applying the Black-Scholes model in estimating the fair values of the options for the purposes of applying SFAS No. 123: risk-free interest rate on Russian dollar-denominated bonds of 4.5%, expected life of 1.33 years, expected volatility of 25.91%, and expected dividend yield of 4.24%.

14 COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

(a) Anti-dumping investigations

The Group's export trading activities are subject to, from time to time, compliance reviews of importers' regulatory authorities and considered within anti-dumping investigation frameworks. The Group takes steps to addressing negative effects of the current and potential anti-dumping investigations and participates in the settlement efforts coordinated through the Russian authorities.

No provision arising from any possible agreements as a result of anti-dumping investigations has been made in the accompanying interim condensed consolidated financial statements.

(b) Litigation

The Group, in the ordinary course of business, is the subject of, or party to, various pending or threatened legal actions. The management of the Group believes that any ultimate liability resulting from these legal actions will not significantly affect its financial position or results of operations, and no amount has been accrued in the interim condensed consolidated financial statements.

14 COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (continued)

(c) Environmental matters

The enforcement of environmental regulations in the Russian Federation is evolving and the enforcement posture of government authorities is continually being reconsidered. The Group periodically evaluates its obligations under environmental regulations. As obligations are determined, they are recognized immediately. Potential liabilities, which might arise as a result of changes in existing regulations, civil litigation or legislation, cannot be estimated but could be material. In the current enforcement climate under existing legislation, management believes that the Group has met the federal and regional authorities' requirements concerning environmental matters, therefore there are no significant liabilities for environmental damage or remediation.

(d) Insurance

The Russian insurance market is in a developing stage and some forms of insurance protection common in other parts of the world are not yet generally available in the Russian Federation.

The Group has entered into insurance contracts to insure property, plant and equipment; land transport; an aircraft and purchased accident and health insurance; inter-city motor vehicle passenger insurance and medical insurance for employees. Furthermore, the Group has purchased operating entities civil liability coverage for dangerous production units.

(e) Capital commitments

Outstanding agreements in connection with equipment supply and construction works amounted to approximately \$328,803 and \$52,000 as at September 30, 2005 and December 31, 2004, respectively.

(f) Social commitments

The Group makes contributions to mandatory and voluntary social programs. The Group's social assets, as well as local social programs, benefit the community at large and are not normally restricted to the Group's employees. The Group has transferred certain assets to local authorities, however, management expects that the Group will continue to fund certain social programs through the foreseeable future. These costs are recorded in the year they are incurred.

(g) Tax contingencies

Russian tax, currency and customs legislation is subject to varying interpretations, and changes, which can occur frequently. Management's interpretation of such legislation as applied to the transactions and activity of the Group may be challenged by the relevant regional and federal authorities. Recent events within the Russian Federation suggest that the tax authorities may be taking a more assertive position in their interpretation of the legislation and assessments, and it is possible that transactions and activities that have not been challenged in the past may be challenged. As a result, significant additional taxes, penalties and interest may be assessed. Fiscal periods remain open to review by the authorities in respect of taxes for three calendar years preceding the year of review. Under certain circumstances reviews may cover longer periods.

As at September 30, 2005 management believes that its interpretation of the relevant legislation is appropriate and the Group's tax, currency and customs positions will be sustained. Where management believes it is probable that a position cannot be sustained, an appropriate amount has been accrued for in these interim condensed consolidated financial statements.

(h) Financial guarantees issued

As at September 30, 2005 and December 31, 2004 the Group has issued guarantees to third parties amounting to \$583 and \$1,365. No amount has been accrued in the interim condensed consolidated financial statements for the Group's obligation under these guarantees as the projected outflows from such guarantees are immaterial.