

## **AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SPIRAX-SARCO ENGINEERING PLC**

We have audited the accounts on pages 26 to 41.

### **RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS**

The directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report, including as described on pages 26 to 41 the accounts. Our responsibilities, as independent auditors, are established by statute, the Auditing Practice Board, the Listing Rules of the Stock Exchange, and by our profession's ethical guidance.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the accounts give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the directors' report is not consistent with the accounts, if the company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for audit, or if any information specified by law or the Listing Rules regarding directors' remuneration and transactions with the company is not disclosed.

We review whether the statement on page 24 reflects the company's compliance with those provisions of the Combined Code specified for our review by the Stock Exchange, and we report if it does not. We are not required to form an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's corporate governance procedures or its internal controls.

We read the other information contained in the Annual Report, including the corporate governance statement, and consider whether it is consistent with the audited accounts. We consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent mis-statements or material inconsistencies with the accounts.

### **BASIS OF AUDIT OPINION**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the accounts. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the accounts, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Group's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the accounts are free from material mis-statement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall presentation of information in the accounts.

### **OPINION**

In our opinion the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and the Group as at 31st December 1998 and of the profit of the Group for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

**KPMG Audit Plc** Chartered Accountants, Registered Auditor

London 15th March 1999