

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Basis of preparation

The consolidated financial statements of BAE Systems plc have been prepared in accordance with EU endorsed International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee interpretations (IFRICs) and the Companies Act 1985 applicable to companies reporting under IFRS.

The consolidated financial statements are presented in pounds sterling and, unless stated otherwise, rounded to the nearest million. They have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of available-for-sale financial assets, and other relevant financial assets and financial liabilities (including derivative instruments).

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates and judgements. An analysis and explanation of the critical accounting estimates and judgements used in producing this set of financial statements is made in the Directors' report on pages 23 and 24.

Basis of consolidation

The financial statements of the Group consolidate the results of the Company and its subsidiary entities, and include its share of its joint ventures' and associates' results accounted for under the equity method, all of which are prepared to 31 December.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the Group. Control is the power to govern the operating and financial policies of the entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities. Subsidiaries include the special purpose entities that the Group transacted through for the provision of guarantees in respect of residual values and head lease and finance payments on certain regional aircraft sold.

The purchase method of accounting is used to account for the acquisition of subsidiaries by the Group. The cost of the acquisition is measured as the fair value of the assets given, equity instruments issued and liabilities incurred or assumed at the date of exchange, plus costs directly attributable to the acquisition. Identifiable assets acquired and liabilities and contingent liabilities assumed in a business combination are measured initially at their fair values at the acquisition date. The excess of the cost of acquisition over the fair value of the Group's share of the identifiable net assets acquired is recorded as goodwill. The results of such subsidiaries are included in the consolidated income statement from the date of acquisition, up to the date of disposal.

An entity is regarded as a joint venture if the Group has joint control over its operating and financial policies. An entity is regarded as an associate if the Group has significant influence, but not control, over its operating and financial policies. Joint ventures and associates are accounted for under the equity method where the Group's income statement includes its share of their profits and losses and the Group's balance sheet includes its share of their net assets.

Where the Group contributes a business, or other non-monetary assets for an interest in a subsidiary, joint venture or associate, such transactions are recorded so that the reduction in ownership of the business being contributed is accounted for as a disposal while the increased interest in the enlarged Group or new interest in the business contributed by other parties to the transaction is accounted for as an acquisition. Fair values are applied to those operations which are subject to the exchange and which have not previously been held within the Group. Any loss or realised gain resulting from the transaction is recorded in the income statement while any unrealised gain is eliminated against the investment.

Goodwill

Goodwill on acquisitions of subsidiaries is included in intangible assets. Goodwill on acquisitions of joint ventures and associates is included in the carrying value of equity accounted investments. Goodwill is tested annually for impairment and carried at cost less accumulated impairment losses. Gains and losses on the disposal of an entity include the carrying amount of goodwill relating to the entity sold.

Goodwill is allocated to cash-generating units for the purpose of impairment testing.

Goodwill arising on acquisitions before the date of transition to IFRS (1 January 2004) has been retained at the previous UK GAAP amounts, as any amounts related to intangible assets that would have been recorded in the acquired entity if it had applied IAS 38 Intangible Assets at the date it was acquired by the Group were considered immaterial, after being tested for impairment at that date. Goodwill written off to reserves under UK GAAP prior to 1998 has not been reinstated and is not included in determining any subsequent profit or loss on disposal.

Impairment

The carrying amounts of the Group's assets are reviewed at each balance sheet date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment as required by IAS 36 Impairment of Assets. If any such indication exists, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated. For intangible assets that are not yet available for use, and goodwill, the recoverable amount is estimated at each balance sheet date.

An impairment loss is recognised whenever the carrying amount of an asset or its cash-generating unit exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognised in the income statement.

The recoverable amount of assets carried at amortised cost is calculated as the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at appropriate pre-tax discount rates. Receivables with a short-term duration are not discounted.

The recoverable amount of other assets is the greater of their fair value less cost to sell and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using an appropriate pre-tax discount rate.

These calculations use cash flow projections based on the Group's Integrated Business Plan and include a terminal value based on the projections for the final year of that plan. This is considered appropriate due to the long-term nature of the defence industry. A pre-tax discount rate of 8.43% has been used in discounting the projected pre-tax cash flows.

For an asset that does not generate largely independent cash inflows, the recoverable amount is determined for the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

An impairment loss in respect of assets, other than goodwill, carried at amortised cost is reversed if the subsequent increase in recoverable amount can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognised. An impairment loss in respect of an equity investment classified as available-for-sale is not reversed through profit or loss. An impairment loss in respect of goodwill is not reversed. An impairment loss in respect of other assets is reversed if there has been a change in the estimate used to determine the recoverable amount. An impairment loss is reversed only to the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortisation, if no impairment loss had been recognised.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Revenue and profit recognition

Sales include the Group's net share of sales of joint ventures and associates. Revenue represents sales made by the Company and its subsidiary undertakings, excluding the Group's share of sales of joint ventures and associates.

Long-term contracts

The majority of the Group's long-term contract arrangements are accounted for under IAS 11 Construction Contracts. Sales are recognised as soon as the Group has obtained the right to consideration in exchange for its performance. This is usually when title passes or a separately identifiable phase (milestone) of a contract or development has been completed and accepted by the customer.

No profit is recognised on contracts until the outcome of the contract can be reliably estimated. Profit is calculated by reference to reliable estimates of contract revenue and forecast costs after making suitable allowances for technical and other risks related to performance milestones yet to be achieved. The amount of profit attributable to the stage of completion of these contracts is arrived at by reference to the estimated overall profitability of the contract. When it is probable that total contract costs will exceed total contract revenue, the expected loss is recognised immediately as an expense.

Goods sold and services rendered

Sales of goods and the provision of services not under a long-term contract are recognised in the income statement when the significant risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the buyer and revenue and costs can be reliably measured.

Profit is recognised at the time of sale. Sales and profits on intercompany trading are generally determined on an arm's length basis.

Lease income

Rental income from aircraft operating leases is recognised in revenue on a straight-line basis.

Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at the exchange rates ruling at the dates of the transactions. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the exchange rates ruling at the balance sheet date. These exchange differences are recognised in the consolidated income statement unless they qualify for net investment hedge accounting treatment, in which case the effective portion is recognised directly in a separate component of equity.

For consolidation purposes the assets and liabilities of overseas subsidiary entities, joint ventures and associates are translated at the exchange rate ruling at the balance sheet date. Income statements of such entities are translated at average rates of exchange during the year. All resulting exchange differences including exchange differences arising from the translation of borrowings and other financial instruments designated as hedges of such investments are recognised directly in a separate component of equity.

Translation differences that arose before the transition date to IFRS (1 January 2004) are presented in equity but not as a separate component. When a foreign operation is sold, the cumulative exchange differences recognised since 1 January 2004 are recognised in the income statement as part of the profit or loss on sale.

Research and development

The Group undertakes research and development activities either on its own behalf or on behalf of customers.

Group-funded expenditure on research activities is written off as incurred and charged to the income statement.

Group-funded expenditure on development activities applied to a plan or design for the production of new or substantially improved products and processes, is capitalised as an internally generated intangible asset if certain conditions are met. The expenditure capitalised includes the cost of materials, direct labour and related overheads. Capitalised development expenditure is stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and impairment losses. Capitalised development expenditure is amortised over the expected life of the product.

Where the research and development activity is performed for customers, the revenue arising is recognised in accordance with the Group's revenue recognition policy above.

Other intangible assets

Acquired computer software licences for use within the Group are capitalised as an intangible asset on the basis of the costs incurred to acquire and bring to use the specific software.

Costs that are directly associated with the production of identifiable and unique software products controlled by the Group, and that will probably generate economic benefits exceeding costs beyond one year, are recognised as intangible assets. Capitalised software development expenditure is stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and impairment losses. Group-funded expenditure associated with enhancing or maintaining computer software programmes for sale is recognised as an expense as incurred.

Trademarks and licences have definite useful lives and are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and impairment losses.

Intangible assets arising from a business combination are recognised at fair value, amortised over their estimated useful lives and subject to impairment testing.

Amortisation is charged to the income statement on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the intangible assets.

The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Acquired computer software licences	2 to 5 years
Capitalised software development	2 to 5 years
Trademarks and licences	up to 20 years
Other intangibles	up to 10 years

Property, plant and equipment

Items of property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. The cost of self-constructed assets includes the cost of materials, direct labour and an appropriate proportion of production overheads.

Depreciation is provided, normally on a straight-line basis, to write off the cost of property, plant and equipment over their estimated useful lives to any estimated residual value, using the following rates:

Buildings	up to 50 years, or the lease term if shorter
Research equipment	8 years
Computing equipment, motor vehicles and short life works equipment	3 to 5 years
Aircraft	up to 15 years, or the lease term if shorter
Other equipment	10 to 15 years, or the project life if shorter

In the Group's North American businesses, depreciation is normally provided on a basis consistent with cost reimbursement profiles under US government contracts. Typically this provides for a faster rate of depreciation than would otherwise arise on a straight-line basis.

No depreciation is provided on freehold land and assets in the course of construction.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

The assets' residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date. Where applicable, useful lives reflect the component accounting principle.

Assets obtained under finance leases are included in property, plant and equipment and stated at an amount equal to the lower of the fair value and the present value of the minimum lease payments at inception of the lease, less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Investment property

Land and buildings that are leased to non-group entities are classified as investment property. The Group measures investment property at its cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation is provided, on a straight-line basis, to write off the cost of investment property over its estimated useful life of up to 50 years.

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date.

Other investments

The Group determines the classification of its other investments at initial recognition taking account of, where relevant, the purpose for which the investments were acquired. The Group classifies its other investments as follows:

- (a) loans and receivables: term deposits, principally comprising funds held with banks and other financial institutions, are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method;
- (b) at fair value through profit or loss: financial instruments held for trading or designated by management on initial recognition. They are held at fair value and included in non-current assets unless management intends to dispose of the investment within 12 months of the balance sheet date;
- (c) held to maturity: non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturities that the Group's management has the positive intention and ability to hold to maturity. During the year, the Group did not hold any investments in this category;
- (d) available-for-sale: investments other than interests in joint ventures and associates and term deposits and not classified as (b) or (c) above. They are held at fair value and included in non-current assets unless management intends to dispose of the investment within 12 months of the balance sheet date.

Purchases and sales of investments are recognised at the date on which the Group commits to purchase or sell the asset. Investments are initially recognised at fair value plus transaction costs for all financial assets not carried at fair value through profit or loss.

Investments are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the investments have expired or have been transferred and the Group has transferred substantially all risks and rewards of ownership.

Realised and unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of the investments classified as at fair value through profit or loss are included in finance costs in the income statement in the period in which they arise. Unrealised gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of investments classified as available-for-sale are recognised in equity. When investments classified as available-for-sale are sold or impaired, the accumulated fair value adjustments are included in the income statement as gains and losses from investment securities within finance costs.

The fair values of quoted investments are based on bid prices at the balance sheet date.

Trade and other receivables

Trade and other receivables are stated at their amortised cost less impairment losses. A provision for impairment is established when there is objective evidence that the Group will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables. Significant financial difficulties of the debtor, probability that the debtor will enter bankruptcy or financial reorganisation, and default or delinquency in payments are considered indicators that the trade receivable is impaired.

Amounts due from customers for contract work include long-term contract balances less attributable progress payments.

Long-term contract balances are stated at cost, plus attributable profit, less provision for any anticipated losses. Appropriate provisions for any losses are made in the year in which they are first foreseen.

Progress payments are amounts received from customers in accordance with the terms of contracts which specify payments in advance of delivery and are credited, as progress payments, against any expenditure incurred for the particular contract. Any unexpended balance in respect of progress payments is held in trade and other payables as customer stage payments or, if the amounts are subject to advance payment guarantees unrelated to company performance, as cash received on customers' account.

Cash received on customers' account is excluded from net cash/(debt) as defined by the Group.

Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost, including all relevant overhead expenditure, and net realisable value.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash in hand, call deposits and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value. For the purpose of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents also includes bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand.

Non-current assets and disposal groups held for sale

Non-current assets and disposal groups are classified as assets held for sale and stated at the lower of carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell if their carrying amount is to be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through continuing use.

This condition is regarded as met only when the sale is highly probable and expected to be completed within a year from the classification. In addition, the asset (or disposal group) is to be available for immediate sale in its present condition and is actively being marketed at a price that is reasonable in relation to its current fair value.

Loans and overdrafts

Loans and overdrafts are recognised initially at fair value, less attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, loans and overdrafts are stated at amortised cost or fair value in respect of the hedged risk where hedge accounting has been adopted, with any difference between cost and redemption value being recognised in the income statement over the period of the borrowings on an effective interest basis.

Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs in connection with the acquisition or construction of items of property, plant and equipment, investment property and inventories are not capitalised.

Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables are stated at their cost.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Leases

Assets obtained under finance leases are included in property, plant and equipment at cost and are depreciated over their useful lives, or the lease term, whichever is the shorter. Future instalments under such leases, net of financing costs, are included within loans. Rental payments are apportioned between the finance element, which is included in finance costs, and the capital element, which reduces the outstanding obligation for future instalments, so as to give a constant charge on the outstanding obligation.

Payments, including any incentives, made under operating leases are recognised in the income statement on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Assets held for leasing out under operating leases are included in property, plant and equipment at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Rental income is recognised in revenue on a straight-line basis.

Assets leased out under finance leases cease to be recognised in the balance sheet after the inception of the lease. Instead, a finance lease receivable, representing the discounted future lease payments to be received from the lessee plus any discounted unguaranteed residual value, is recorded as a long-term financial asset. Interest income is recognised in the income statement as it accrues, taking into account the effective yield on the asset.

Derivative financial instruments

The global nature of the Group's business means it is exposed to volatility in currency exchange rates. In order to protect itself against currency fluctuations, the Group's policy is to hedge all material firm transactional exposures as well as to manage anticipated economic cash flow exposures over the medium term. The Group also uses interest rate derivative instruments to manage the Group's exposure to interest rate fluctuations on its borrowings and deposits by varying the proportion of fixed rate debt relative to floating rate debt over the forward time horizon. The Group aims to achieve hedge accounting treatment for all derivatives that hedge material foreign currency exposures and those interest rate exposures where hedge accounting can be achieved.

In accordance with its treasury policy, the Group does not hold derivative financial instruments for trading purposes. However, derivatives that do not qualify for hedge accounting are accounted for as trading instruments.

Derivative financial instruments are recognised initially at fair value. Subsequent to initial recognition, such instruments are stated at fair value at the balance sheet date. Where a derivative financial instrument is designated as a hedge of cash flows relating to a highly probable forecast transaction (income or expense), the effective portion of any change in the fair value of the instrument is recognised directly in reserves. Amounts recognised in reserves are recycled from reserves and recognised in the income statement when the underlying transaction affects profit or loss. The ineffective portion of any change in the fair value of the instrument is recognised in the income statement immediately. Where a derivative financial instrument is designated as a fair value hedge, changes in the fair value of the underlying asset or liability, and gains and losses on the derivative instrument, are recognised in the income statement for the period. Gains and losses on derivative financial instruments that do not qualify for hedge accounting are recognised in the income statement for the period.

Tax

Income tax on the profit or loss for the year comprises current and deferred tax. Income tax is recognised in the income statement except to the extent that it relates to items recognised directly in equity, in which case it is recognised in equity.

Current tax is the expected tax payable on the taxable income for the year, using rates enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date, and any adjustment to tax payable in respect of previous years.

Deferred tax is provided in full, using the balance sheet liability method, on temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for taxation purposes. The following temporary differences are not provided for: goodwill not deductible for tax purposes, the initial recognition of assets or liabilities that affect neither accounting nor taxable profit, and differences relating to investments in subsidiaries to the extent that they will probably not reverse in the foreseeable future. The amount of deferred tax provided is based on the expected manner of realisation or settlement of the carrying amount of assets and liabilities, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date.

A deferred tax asset is recognised only to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which the asset can be utilised. Deferred tax assets are reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that the related tax benefit will be realised.

Additional income taxes that arise from the distribution of dividends are recognised at the same time as the liability to pay the related dividend.

Provisions

A provision is recognised in the balance sheet when the Group has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and the amount has been reliably estimated. If the effect is material, provisions are determined by discounting the expected future cash flows at an appropriate pre-tax discount rate.

A provision for warranties is recognised when the underlying products and services are sold. The provision is based on historical warranty data and a weighting of all possible outcomes against their associated probabilities.

A provision for restructuring is recognised when the Group has approved a detailed and formal restructuring plan, and the restructuring has either commenced or has been publicly announced. Future operating costs are not provided for.

A provision for onerous contracts is recognised when the expected benefits to be derived by the Group from a contract are lower than the unavoidable cost of meeting its obligations under the contract.

Provisions for losses on contracts are recorded when it becomes probable that total estimated contract costs will exceed total contract revenues. Such provisions are recorded as write downs of work-in-progress for that portion of the work which has already been completed, and as liability provisions for the remainder. Losses are determined on the basis of estimated results on completion of contracts and are updated regularly.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Employee benefits – Pension obligations

Group companies operate various pension plans. The Group has both defined benefit and defined contribution plans.

Obligations for contributions to defined contribution pension plans are recognised as an expense in the income statement as incurred.

For defined benefit retirement plans, the cost of providing benefits is determined periodically by independent actuaries and charged to the income statement in the period in which those benefits are earned by the employees. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised in full in the period in which they occur, and are recognised in the statement of recognised income and expense. Past service cost is recognised immediately to the extent the benefits are already vested, or otherwise is recognised on a straight-line basis over the average period until the benefits become vested.

The retirement benefit obligations recognised in the balance sheet represent the present value of the defined benefit obligations as adjusted for unrecognised past service cost and as reduced by the fair value of scheme assets.

Long-term service benefits – Equity and equity-related compensation benefits

The Group issues equity-settled and cash-settled share options to employees. In accordance with the requirements of IFRS 2 Share-based Payments (IFRS 2), the Group has applied IFRS 2 to all equity-settled share options granted after 7 November 2002 that were unvested as of 1 January 2005 and all cash-settled options outstanding at the balance sheet date.

As explained in note 26, equity-settled share options are measured at fair value at the date of grant using an option pricing model. The fair value is expensed on a straight-line basis over the vesting period, based on the Group's estimate of the number of shares that will actually vest.

Cash-settled share options are measured at fair value at the balance sheet date using an option pricing model. The Group recognises a liability at the balance sheet date based on these fair values, and taking into account the estimated number of the options that will actually vest and the relative completion of the vesting period. Changes in the value of this liability are recognised in the income statement for the year.

Preference share capital

During the year, the Group's 7.75p (net) cumulative redeemable preference shares of 25p each were converted into the Group's ordinary shares of 2.5p on the basis of 0.47904 ordinary shares for every preference share.

In accordance with IAS 32 Financial Instruments: Presentation, the preference shares were considered a compound financial instrument and, accordingly, split into an underlying debt instrument, classified within loans and overdrafts, and an equity conversion option, classified within equity.

The underlying debt instrument was presented on an amortised cost basis until extinguished on conversion.

The equity conversion option was presented at its historic fair value, based on the date of original issue of the preference shares. On conversion of the preference shares into ordinary shares, the equity component was reclassified to share capital and share premium.

Dividends thereon are recognised in the income statement as finance costs.

Dividends

Equity dividends on ordinary share capital are recognised as a liability in the period in which they are declared.

2. Changes in accounting policies

Standards, amendments and interpretations effective in 2007

With effect from 1 January 2007 the Group has adopted IFRS 7, Financial Instruments: Disclosures. This introduces new disclosures for financial instruments, but does not have any impact on the consolidated income statement or balance sheet.

The following amendments and interpretations to published standards are effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2007:

- IFRIC 7, Applying the restatement approach under IAS 29;
- IFRIC 8, Scope of IFRS 2;
- IFRIC 9, Reassessment of embedded derivatives;
- IFRIC 10, Interim financial reporting and impairment; and
- Amendment to IAS 1, Presentation of financial statements – capital disclosures.

None of these have any significant impact on the Group's accounts.

New standards and interpretations to existing standards that are not yet effective and have not been early adopted by the Group

The following EU endorsed standards and interpretations to existing standards have been published and are mandatory for the Group's accounting period beginning on 1 January 2008 or later periods but have not been early adopted by the Group:

- IFRS 8, Operating Segments (effective for 2009). This requires that entities adopt the 'management approach' to reporting the financial performance of their operating segments. The standard is concerned with disclosure only and will therefore have no impact on the consolidated income statement or balance sheet. Following the changes to the Group's organisational structure from 1 January 2007, it is not expected to have a significant disclosure impact;
- IFRIC 11, IFRS 2, Group and Treasury Share Transactions is effective for 2008. It is not expected to have any significant impact on the Group's accounts; and
- IFRIC 14, IAS 19, The Limit on a Defined Benefit Asset, Minimum Funding Requirements and their Interaction is effective for 2008. The interpretation aims to clarify how to determine in normal circumstances the limit on the asset that an employer's balance sheet may contain in respect of its defined benefit pension plans and when additional liabilities might be required to be recognised. This is not expected to have any significant impact on the Group's accounts.