

MXC Capital Limited
(“MXC” or the “Company”)

Interim results for the six months ended 29 February 2016

MXC Capital Limited (AIM:MXCP), the AIM quoted technology focused merchant bank, announces its results for the six months ended 29 February 2016 together with an update on current trading.

Highlights:

- Encouraging first half with step change in scale of the business
- Portfolio valued at £73m at 29 February with 23% (£14m) growth in value achieved since year end
- Post tax profit for the period of £12.4m (H1 2015: £2.9m)*
- Underlying EBITDA** of £1.2m (H1 2015: £0.1m), £0.5m on a consolidated basis (H1 2015: £0.1m), reflecting profitability of capital markets and advisory businesses
- Board to increase distributions to shareholders (£0.8m already returned via tender offer)
- Company working on full pipeline of both new transactions and opportunities for existing investments
- Board confident of outlook for second half and outcome for year

Peter Rigg, Chairman of MXC Capital, commented:

“We have had a very good start to the year, demonstrating the strength of our merchant banking business model. Our Capital Markets and Advisory services are driving high returns on our increasing capital base. In light of this performance, the Board has decided to increase the quantum of distributions to shareholders, so that in future, we will return net proceeds of realisations after retaining sufficient investment capital in the business. We have a full pipeline of opportunity and I am optimistic about our prospects for the second half”.

* Post tax profit includes consolidated trading income and unrealised gains & losses on the group’s investment portfolio

**Underlying EBITDA represents earnings before net finance costs, tax, depreciation and amortisation, restructuring costs, share-based payments and unrealised movements in the fair value of investments. It is stated before the elimination on consolidation of certain transactions of the MXC Capital Markets and MXC Advisory businesses.

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About MXC Capital

MXC is a specialist merchant bank with a track record of supporting growth companies in the TMT sector through our range of merchant banking activities. We bring together a deep knowledge of technology, first-hand experience of managing companies in the sector, an ability to make meaningful investments and a highly experienced corporate advisory team in support, all of which we combine to grow shareholder value.

Finance Review

Investments:

The Group has continued to grow its investment portfolio in the period, investing £21.4 million by making three new investments and increasing its holding in two companies. In addition, the acquisition of MXC Holdings Limited added investments valued at £21.7 million to the Group's portfolio. At 29 February 2016, the investment portfolio was valued at £72.9 million as shown in the table below:

	Original Cost	Fair value at 1 September 2015	Investment in period	On acquisition of MXC Holdings Limited at fair value	Increase in fair value in period	Fair value at 29 February 2016	Total unrealised gain on investments as at 29 February 2016
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Castleton Technology plc	4,605	10,521	135	385	3,253	14,294	9,689
365 Agile Group plc	1,334	3,314	-	-	(543)	2,771	1,437
Pinnacle Technology Group plc	2,472	466	2,087	87	1,972	4,612	2,140
Redcentric plc	3,058	-	-	10,558	336	10,894	7,836
Coretx Holdings plc *	12,900	-	12,900	-	4,085	16,985	4,085
Eco City Vehicles plc	1,333	-	1,333	-	1,809	3,142	1,809
Private companies	5,479	-	4,964	515	-	5,479	-
Total investments	31,181	14,301	21,419	11,545	10,912	58,177	26,996
Warrants	-	1,792	-	10,166	2,813	14,771	14,771
Total investments and warrants	31,181	16,093	21,419	21,711	13,725	72,948	41,767

*formerly Castle Street Investments plc; name changed on 12 April 2016.

In the prior period's consolidated financial statements, the investments were classified as available-for-sale financial assets. During the period ended 29 February 2016, management made a comprehensive assessment of its investments. Given the relative size of the Group's holdings in its investee companies, particularly following the investments made in the period, the board considered that the more appropriate treatment and classification for the investments is at fair value through profit or loss. The investments must be designated at fair value through profit or loss on initial recognition and therefore the prior period consolidated financial statements have been restated to reflect the more applicable accounting treatment in accordance with IAS 8. Accordingly, the unrealised gains and losses recognised in other comprehensive income and reported within the fair value reserve within equity in the 2015 consolidated financial statements are now presented as part of the profit and loss account. The retained earnings, the fair value reserve and the profit and loss have therefore been restated as detailed in note 2.

Income Statement:

The results for the six months reflect income and profit generation from each element of the Company's merchant banking model: its investments, its corporate finance practice and its advisory business. Together these delivered revenue for the six months of £1.7 million (H1 2015: £0.6 million).

The Board measures the underlying trading performance of the Group based on a measure of EBITDA (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation), stated before unrealised fair value movements in investments and certain non-trading costs such as share-based payments and restructuring costs ('Adjusted EBITDA'). The Adjusted EBITDA for the six months to 29 February 2016 was £0.5 million (H1 2015: £0.1 million). This is stated after the elimination on consolidation of revenues charged by the corporate finance and advisory businesses to other group companies, which the businesses undertook in lieu of third party mandates. Allowing for these revenues, on an unconsolidated basis the Adjusted EBITDA was £1.2 million in the period (2015: £0.1 million).

During the period the Group incurred restructuring costs of £0.3 million (2015: £0.2 million) and a non-cash share-based payments charge of £1.3 million (H1 2015: £nil). This charge is in relation to the share incentive scheme implemented in September 2015 and a further non-cash charge will accrue over the next two years. After accounting for these costs and the unrealised gain on the movement in investment fair values of £13.7 million (H1 2015: £3.2 million) the operating profit for the period was £12.6 million (H1 2015: £3.0 million).

After interest costs and taxation, the reported profit for the period was £12.4 million (H1 2015: £2.9 million).

Balance Sheet and Cash:

During the period the Company completed the acquisition of MXC Holdings Limited ('MXCH') for a net consideration of £18.3 million, settled by the issue of shares in the Company. As shown in the table above, the fair value of MXCH's investments on acquisition was £21.7 million. After accounting for borrowings and other liabilities of MXCH, provisional goodwill of £2.5 million has been recognised in these interim consolidated statements. See note 5 for further details.

The fair value of the Group's investments and warrants at 29 February 2016 was £72.9 million (31 August 2015: £16.1 million) as detailed in the above table. Further details are shown in note 4. Net assets at the end of the period were £81.1 million (H1 2015: £24.0 million).

The Group's cash flow from operating activities in the period was £0.1 million (H1 2015: outflow of £0.6 million). Investments of £21.4 million were made in the period and loans were advanced of £1.5 million with a further £0.2 million spent on tangible fixed assets. After accounting for the net overdraft of £4.0 million in MXCH on acquisition, the net cash balance at the end of the period was £1.4 million (31 August 2015: £28.4 million). Post period-end £0.8 million was returned to shareholders by way of a tender offer which had been approved by shareholders immediately before the period end. This amount is included in creditors at 29 February 2016.

Distribution and Capital Returns policy

Further to the Board's commitment to distribute up to 20% of realised gains on our portfolio to our shareholders, the Board has decided to extend its distribution policy. The Company will distribute to shareholders all of the net proceeds of realisations, except for a retention of sufficient capital to fund the company's twelve month investment pipeline at the time of the distribution.

Outlook

We have had a very good start to the year, with our team generating high returns on our increasing capital base. We have a full pipeline of opportunities. Whilst our market remains competitive, the MXC model combining management expertise, access to capital and corporate advice is an increasingly powerful differentiator in the marketplace. We are optimistic about our prospects for the second half and remain confident we can continue to generate strong returns for our shareholders.

**Unaudited interim consolidated statement of profit or loss
for the six months ended 29 February 2016**

	Note	Unaudited 6 months to 29 February 2016 £000	Restated ⁽³⁾ Unaudited 6 months to 28 February 2015 £000	Restated ⁽³⁾ Unaudited Year to 31 August 2015 £000
Continuing operations				
Revenue		1,710	574	2,094
Realised profit on disposal of assets		-	77	5,385
Cost of sales		(45)	-	(66)
Gross profit		1,665	651	7,413
Other income		146	-	-
Adjusted administrative expenses ⁽¹⁾		(1,309)	(586)	(1,761)
Adjusted EBITDA⁽²⁾		502	65	5,652
Restructuring costs		(273)	(178)	(604)
Share-based payments		(1,313)	-	-
Depreciation		(67)	-	(3)
Amortisation of intangible assets		(12)	-	-
Unrealised fair value movement in investments	4	13,725	3,158	9,903
Operating profit		12,562	3,045	14,948
Net finance (costs)/income		(41)	14	23
Profit before taxation		12,521	3,059	14,971
Taxation		(167)	(161)	(161)
Profit for the period		12,354	2,898	14,810
Earnings per share				
Basic	3	0.44p	1.33p	0.71p
Diluted	3	0.41p	1.11p	0.69p

⁽¹⁾ Adjusted administrative expenses excludes depreciation, amortisation, restructuring costs and share-based payments.

⁽²⁾ earnings from continuing operations before net finance costs, tax, depreciation, amortisation, restructuring costs, share-based payments and unrealised movements in the fair value of investments.

⁽³⁾ comparative figures have been restated to reflect the treatment of unrealised movements in the fair value of investments. For further details see note 2.

**Unaudited interim consolidated statement of other comprehensive income
for the six months ended 29 February 2016**

	Unaudited 6 months to 29 February 2016 £000	Restated ⁽¹⁾ Unaudited 6 months to 28 February 2015 £000	Restated ⁽¹⁾ Unaudited Year to 31 August 2015 £000
Profit for the period	12,354	2,898	14,810
Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss			
Available-for-sale financial assets, gains arising during the period	-	728	610
Less: reclassification for gains included in profit	-	(30)	(439)
Other comprehensive income for the period, net of tax	-	698	171
Total comprehensive income for the period	12,354	3,596	14,981

⁽¹⁾ comparative figures have been restated to reflect the treatment of unrealised movements in the fair value of investments. For further details see note 2.

**Unaudited interim consolidated statement of financial position
as at 29 February 2016**

	Note	Unaudited 29 February 2016 £000	Restated ⁽¹⁾ Unaudited 28 February 2015 £000	Restated ⁽¹⁾ Unaudited 31 August 2015 £000
Non-current assets				
Intangible assets		8,508	6,000	6,000
Property, plant and equipment		363	6	8
Investments	4	72,948	6,388	16,093
Other financial assets		1,506	-	-
		83,325	12,394	22,101
Current assets				
Trade and other receivables		1,081	1,482	1,020
Cash and cash equivalents		5,694	981	28,447
Assets classified as held for sale		-	11,338	-
		6,775	13,801	29,467
Total assets		90,100	26,195	51,568
Current liabilities				
Trade and other payables		(2,111)	(2,241)	(1,661)
Bank overdraft		(4,289)	-	-
Borrowings		(288)	-	-
Current tax liabilities		(1,127)	-	-
		(7,815)	(2,241)	(1,661)
Non-current liabilities				
Current tax liabilities		(1,202)	-	-
Total liabilities		(9,017)	(2,241)	(1,661)
Net assets		81,083	23,954	49,907
Capital and reserves attributable to equity holders of the parent				
Share premium		55,047	22,970	37,538
Merger reserve		(23,712)	(23,712)	(23,712)
Share option reserve		2,073	760	760
Fair value reserve		-	527	-
Retained earnings		47,675	23,409	35,321
Total equity attributable to the owners of the parent		81,083	23,954	49,907

⁽¹⁾ comparative figures have been restated to reflect the treatment of unrealised movements in the fair value of investments. For further details see note 2.

**Unaudited interim consolidated statement of changes in equity
for the six months ended 29 February 2016**

	Share premium £000	Investment in own shares £000	Merger reserve ⁽¹⁾ £000	Share option reserve £000	Fair value reserve £000	Retained earnings £000	Total £000
Balance at 1 September 2014 (restated ⁽²⁾)	15,012	(16)	(23,712)	760	(171)	20,527	12,400
Profit for the period	-	-	-	-	-	2,898	2,898
Other comprehensive income							
Available-for-sale financial assets, gains arising during the period	-	-	-	-	728	-	728
Reclassification for gains included in profit	-	-	-	-	(30)	-	(30)
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	-	-	-	698	2,898	3,596
Transactions with owners							
Issue of share capital	7,958	-	-	-	-	-	7,958
Reduction in value of investment in own shares	-	16	-	-	-	(16)	-
	7,958	16	-	-	-	(16)	7,958
Balance at 28 February 2015 (restated⁽²⁾)	22,970	-	(23,712)	760	527	23,409	23,954
Balance at 1 September 2015 (restated ⁽²⁾)	37,538	-	(23,712)	760	-	35,321	49,907
Profit and total comprehensive income for the period	-	-	-	-	-	12,354	12,354
Transactions with owners							
Issue of share capital	18,355	-	-	-	-	-	18,355
Purchase of own shares	(846)	-	-	-	-	-	(846)
Share based payments	-	-	-	1,313	-	-	1,313
	17,509	-	-	1,313	-	-	18,822
Balance at 29 February 2016	55,047	-	(23,712)	2,073	-	47,675	81,083

(1) The merger reserve relates to the acquisition by MXC Capital Limited of its principal subsidiary, MXC Capital (UK) Limited. This acquisition did not meet the definition of a business combination and therefore fell outside the scope of IFRS 3. The acquisition was accounted for in accordance with the principles of predecessor value method accounting and a merger reserve arises on consolidation.

(2) comparative figures have been restated to reflect the treatment of unrealised movements in the fair value of investments. For further details see note 2.

**Unaudited interim consolidated statement of cash flows
for the six months ended 29 February 2016**

	Unaudited 6 months to 29 February 2016 £000	Restated ⁽¹⁾ Unaudited 6 months to 28 February 2015 £000	Restated ⁽¹⁾ Unaudited Year to 31 August 2015 £000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Profit before taxation	12,521	3,059	14,971
Adjustments for:			
Realised profit on disposal of assets held for sale	-	(77)	(5,385)
Unrealised fair value movements	(13,725)	(3,158)	(9,903)
Share based payments charge	1,313	-	-
Loss on cancellation of treasury shares	-	16	-
Net finance costs/(income)	41	(14)	(23)
Depreciation	67	-	3
Amortisation	12	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	541	(1,373)	(960)
(Decrease)/increase in trade and other payables	(641)	985	463
Net cash flows from operating activities	129	(562)	(834)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchases of property, plant and equipment	(220)	(5)	(10)
Cash/(net debt) acquired on acquisition of subsidiary undertaking	(3,967)	444	444
Purchases of investments	(21,419)	(12,410)	(16,544)
Proceeds on disposal of investments	-	447	17,739
Loans advanced	(1,500)	-	-
Net interest (paid)/received	(47)	14	23
Net cash flows from investing activities	(27,153)	(11,510)	1,652
Cash flows from financing activities			
Net proceeds from issue of equity	-	1,950	16,526
Repayment of borrowings	(18)	-	-
Net cash flows from financing activities	(18)	1,950	16,526
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the period	(27,042)	(10,122)	17,344
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	28,447	11,103	11,103
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	1,405	981	28,447

⁽¹⁾ comparative figures have been restated to reflect the treatment of unrealised movements in the fair value of investments. For further details see note 2.

Notes to the consolidated unaudited interim financial statements

1. Basis of preparation

These interim financial statements, which are unaudited, consolidate the results of MXC Capital Limited (the “Company” or the “Parent”) and its subsidiary undertakings (the “Group”) up to 29 February 2016. The Group’s accounting reference date is 31 August. The Company’s shares are listed on the Alternative Investment Market of the London Stock Exchange (AIM). The Company is a private limited liability company incorporated and domiciled in Guernsey. The consolidated financial information is presented in Pounds Sterling (£) which is also the functional currency of the Parent.

The Group has not applied IAS 34, Interim Financial Reporting, which is not mandatory for UK AIM listed Groups, in the preparation of these interim financial statements. The accounting policies used in the preparation of the financial information for the six months ended 29 February 2016 are in accordance with the recognition and measurement criteria of International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union (IFRS) and The Companies (Guernsey) Law, 2008 (as amended) and are consistent with those which will be adopted in the annual financial statements for the year ending 31 August 2016. While the financial information included has been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement criteria of IFRS, these financial statements do not contain sufficient information to comply with IFRS.

The comparative financial information for the period ended 28 February 2015 has been extracted from the interim financial statements for that period, restated for the transactions detailed in note 2 below. The comparative financial information for the year ended 31 August 2015 has been extracted from the annual financial statements of the Group and has also been restated for the transactions detailed in note 2 below.

These interim financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis as the directors have satisfied themselves that, at the time of approving these interim financial statements, the Group has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for at least the next twelve months.

These interim financial statements for the period ended 29 February 2016, which are not audited, do not comprise statutory accounts within the meaning of The Companies (Guernsey) Law, 2008 (as amended). The financial information does not therefore include all of the information and disclosures required in the annual financial statements. The full audited accounts of the Group in respect of the year ended 31 August 2015 received an unqualified audit opinion.

2. Accounting policies

The accounting policies applied in these interim financial statements are consistent with those which will be adopted in the annual financial statements of the Group for the year ending 31 August 2016. They are the same as those published in the Group’s statutory accounts for the year ended 31 August 2015 with the following exceptions:

Investments

In the prior period’s consolidated financial statements, the investments were classified as available-for-sale financial assets. During the period ended 29 February 2016, management made a comprehensive assessment of its investments. Given the relative size of the Group’s holdings in its investee companies, particularly following the investments made in the period, the board considered that the more appropriate treatment and classification for the investments is at fair value through profit or loss. The investments must be designated at fair value through profit or loss on initial recognition and therefore the prior period consolidated financial statements have been restated to reflect the more applicable accounting treatment in accordance with IAS 8. Accordingly, the unrealised gains and losses recognised in other comprehensive income and reported within the fair value reserve within equity in the 2015 consolidated financial statements are now presented as part of the profit and loss account. The retained earnings, the fair value reserve and the profit and loss have therefore been restated.

A summary of the effect of the restatements is shown below:

	6 months to 28 February 2015 £000	Year to 31 August 2015 £000
(Loss)/profit for the period as previously reported	(260)	4,907
Investments designated as fair value through profit and loss	3,158	9,903
Profit for the period as restated	2,898	14,810

	6 months to 28 February 2015 £000	Year to 31 August 2015 £000
Fair value reserve as previously reported	3,685	9,903
Investments designated as fair value through profit and loss	(3,158)	(9,903)
Fair value reserve as restated	527	-

	6 months to 28 February 2015 £000	Year to 31 August 2015 £000
Retained earnings as previously reported	20,260	25,418
Investments designated as fair value through profit and loss	3,158	9,903
Restatement of opening H1 2015 retained earnings	(9)	-
Retained earnings as restated	23,409	35,321

3. Earnings per share

	2016 Earnings per share pence	2016 Profit £000	2016 Weighted average number of ordinary shares	Restated 2015 Earnings per share pence	Restated 2015 Profit £000	2015 Weighted average number of ordinary shares
Basic earnings per share	0.44p	12,354	2,825,452,496	1.33p	2,898	218,145,334
Diluted earnings per share	0.41p	12,354	3,044,587,903	1.11p	2,898	260,128,068

4. Investments

	Investments £000	Warrants £000	Total £000
Cost			
At 1 September 2014	-	-	-
Additions	3,230	-	3,230
Movement in fair value	3,158	-	3,158
At 28 February 2015	6,388	-	6,388
Additions	2,960	-	2,960
Movement in fair value	4,953	1,792	6,745
At 31 August 2015	14,301	1,792	16,093
Additions	21,419	-	21,419
Business Combinations	11,545	10,166	21,711
Movement in fair value	10,912	2,813	13,725
At 29 February 2016	58,177	14,771	72,948

5. Business combinations

On 24 September 2015, the Company acquired the entire share capital of MXC Holdings Limited ('MXCH'), an investment holding company, satisfied by the issue of shares in MXC Capital Limited with a fair value of £18.3 million.

From the date of acquisition to 29 February 2016, the portion of MXCH and its subsidiaries held within continuing activities achieved revenue of £0.2 million and a profit before taxation of £0.8 million. The revenue of MXCH and its subsidiaries from the date of its last statutory period end of 31 August 2015 through to 29 February 2016 was £0.2 million and the profit for the period before taxation was £0.7 million.

The total provisional goodwill arising from the acquisition is the difference between the fair value of consideration less the provisional fair value of assets acquired:

	£000
Fair value of purchase consideration	18,300
Less fair value of assets acquired:	
Investments	(11,545)
Warrants	(10,166)
Property, plant and equipment	(202)
Cash	(326)
Trade and other receivables	(602)
Trade and other payables	300
Bank overdraft	4,293
Borrowings	1,508
Current tax liabilities	960
Goodwill	2,520