

Date 4 April 2008

## **Trading Update**

Hampson Industries PLC (“Hampson” or “the Group”), the international aerospace and precision engineering group, today issues a pre-close update on current trading.

### **Aerospace**

Demand for new commercial aircraft remains at an all time high. February 2008 saw a further 253 orders taken by Boeing and Airbus for large commercial jets, taking the total for the first two months of the current calendar year to date, to 556. On this basis, the combined backlog for new large commercial aircraft at the end of the first quarter of this calendar year is expected to set a new quarterly record, as well as represent the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive quarterly increase.

Against this background, trading in Hampson’s aerospace division remained strong to the financial year end, with both volume and efficiency-driven improvements continuing to benefit results, in line with our expectations.

As reported in the Group’s Interim Management Statement (“IMS”) issued on 15 February 2008, demand in the commercial and military aerospace market is expected to continue to be robust for the foreseeable future. The record global commercial aerospace backlog, combined with the increasing use of carbon composite materials in airframe and aero-engine manufacture, leaves the Group’s aerospace businesses very well positioned to continue to generate attractive growth. In particular, demand for large tooling systems for composite aerostructures is expected to continue to increase markedly over the next 5 years as a result of requirements for initial and production rate tooling on the Airbus A350XWB and other new and derivative commercial and military aerospace programmes.

### **Automotive**

Following major operational improvements including the commissioning of new equipment in the Group’s Skelmersdale, UK facility, profitability was restored in the second half in the Automotive Turbocharger division. In particular, the improvement in results reported in the IMS has been sustained throughout the second half, as anticipated.

The division has also won two major contracts for the supply of precision shaft and turbine wheel assemblies that are expected to be worth in aggregate, over £19m, commencing in the year ending 31 March 2009. Together these factors provide us with the foundations for an expected strong performance from this division in 2008/09 and beyond.

### **Dividend**

In light of current trading and the positive general outlook, the Directors expect, subject to no unforeseen circumstances arising, to recommend an increased final dividend of 1.5p, equivalent to a pay-out of 2.0p for the full year ended 31 March 2008. The Board expects to maintain a progressive dividend thereafter.

Ends.

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**About Hampson:**

Hampson Industries PLC is listed on the main market of the London Stock Exchange (Symbol: HAMP). The Group's operations are structured into three business segments, serving primarily the global commercial and military aerospace and specialist engineering markets from manufacturing facilities in the UK, North America and India.

Approximately 85% of the Group's sales are derived from its aerospace activities, the balance from the market for automotive turbocharger components.

The Hampson group employs over 1,900 people worldwide. For more information on Hampson: [www.hampsongroup.com](http://www.hampsongroup.com)

**Cautionary Statement:**

This announcement contains forward-looking statements that are based on current expectations or beliefs, as well as assumptions about future events. These forward-looking statements can be identified by the fact that they do not relate only to historical or current facts. Forward-looking statements often use words such as anticipate, target, expect, estimate, intend, plan, goal, believe, will, may, should, would, could, is confident, or other words of similar meaning. Undue reliance should not be placed on any such statements because they speak only as at the date of this document and, by their very nature, they are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties and can be affected by other factors that could cause actual results, and Hampson's plans and objectives, to differ materially from those expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements.

There are a number of factors which could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied in forward looking statements. Among the factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements are, increased competition, the loss of or damage to one or more key customer relationships, changes to customer ordering patterns, delays in obtaining customer approvals for engineering or price level changes, the failure of one or more key suppliers, the outcome of business or industry restructuring, the outcome of any litigation, changes in economic conditions, currency fluctuations, changes in interest and tax rates, changes in raw material or energy market prices, changes in laws, regulations or regulatory policies, developments in legal or public policy doctrines, technological developments, the failure to retain key management, or the key timing and success of future acquisition opportunities or major investment projects.

Hampson undertakes no obligation to revise or update any forward looking statement contained within this announcement, regardless of whether those statements are affected as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, save as required by law and regulations.