

HERCULES INVESTMENT APS
c/o Lundgrens Advokatpartnerselskab,
Tuborg Boulevard 12,
2900 Hellerup

Annual report for 2023/24

Adopted at the annual general meeting on
12 February 2025

Donald Edward Meyer

Donald Edward Meyer
chairman

Table of contents

	Page
Statements	
Statement by management on the annual report	3
Independent auditor's report	4
Management's review	
Company details	7
Management's review	8
Financial statements	
Accounting policies	9
Income statement 1 October - 30 September	12
Balance sheet 30 September	13
Statement of changes in equity	15
Notes	16

Statement by management on the annual report

The Executive Board has today discussed and approved the annual report of Hercules Investment ApS for the financial year 1 October 2023 - 30 September 2024.

The annual report is prepared in accordance with the Danish Financial Statements Act.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the company's financial position at 30 September 2024 and of the results of the company's operations for the financial year 1 October 2023 - 30 September 2024.

In our opinion, Management's review includes a fair review of the matters dealt with in the management's review.

Management recommends that the annual report should be approved by the company in general meeting.

Copenhagen, 12 February 2025

Executive Board



Matthew Kyle Spence
Director



Donald Edward Meyer
Director

Independent auditor's report

To the shareholder of Hercules Investment ApS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Hercules Investment ApS for the financial year 1 October 2023 – 30 September 2024, which comprise income statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity and notes, including accounting policies. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Danish Financial Statements Act.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company at 30 September 2024 and of the results of the Company's operations for the financial year 1 October 2023 – 30 September 2024 in accordance with the Danish Financial Statements Act.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) and additional requirements applicable in Denmark. Our responsibilities under those standards and requirements are further described in the "Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements" section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We are independent of the Company in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) and the additional ethical requirements applicable in Denmark, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code.

Management's responsibilities for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the Danish Financial Statements Act and for such internal control as Management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, Management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements unless Management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs and additional requirements applicable in Denmark will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

Independent auditor's report

As part of an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs and additional requirements applicable in Denmark, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- ▶ Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.
- ▶ Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- ▶ Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by Management.
- ▶ Conclude on the appropriateness of Management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- ▶ Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and contents of the financial statements, including the note disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that gives a true and fair view.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Statement on the Management's review

Management is responsible for the Management's review.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the Management's review, and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the Management's review and, in doing so, consider whether the Management's review is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained during the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

Moreover, it is our responsibility to consider whether the Management's review provides the information required under the Danish Financial Statements Act.

Independent auditor's report

Based on the work we have performed, we conclude that the Management's review is in accordance with the financial statements and has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Danish Financial Statements Act. We did not identify any material misstatement of the Management's review.

Copenhagen, 12 February 2025
EY GODKENDT REVISIONSPARTNERSELSKAB
CVR no. 30 70 02 28



Ole Becker
State Authorised Public Accountant
mne33732

Company details

The company

Hercules Investment ApS
c/o Lundgrens Advokatpartnerselskab
Tuborg Boulevard 12
2900 Hellerup

CVR no.: 25 25 68 83

Reporting period: 1 October 2023 - 30 September 2024

Domicile: Gentofte

Executive Board

Matthew Kyle Spence
Donald Edward Meyer

Auditors

EY
Godkendt revisionspartnerselskab
Dirch Passers Allé 36
2000 Frederiksberg

Management's review

Business review

The company's principal activities comprises of financing for other companies within the Ashland Group.

Financial review

The company's income statement for the year ended 30 September 2024 shows a profit of TDKK 15,914, and the balance sheet at 30 September 2024 shows equity of TDKK 816,178.

Significant events occurring after the end of the financial year

No events have occurred after the balance sheet date which could significantly affect the company's financial position.

Accounting policies

The annual report of Hercules Investment ApS for 2023/24 has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Danish Financial Statements Act applying to reporting class B entities, as well as provisions applying to reporting class C entities.

The accounting policies applied are consistent with those of last year.

The annual report for 2023/24 is presented in TDKK

Basis of recognition and measurement

Income is recognised in the income statement as earned, including value adjustments of financial assets and liabilities. All expenses, including amortisation, depreciation and impairment losses, are also recognised in the income statement.

Assets are recognised in the balance sheet when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the company and the value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow from the company and the value of the liability can be measured reliably.

On initial recognition, assets and liabilities are measured at cost. On subsequent recognition, assets and liabilities are measured as described below for each individual accounting item.

Income statement

Gross profit

Gross profit includes other operating income and other external expenses.

Other operating income and expenses

Other income and expenses are items not related to the ordinary activities.

Other external expenses

Other external expenses include expenses related to administration, premises, and advisors.

Financial income and expenses

Financial income and expenses are recognised in the income statement at the amounts that relate to the financial year. Net financials include interest income and expenses, financial expenses relating to realised and unrealised capital/exchange gains and losses on securities, liabilities and foreign currency transactions, amortisation of financial assets and liabilities and surcharges and allowances under the Danish Tax Prepayment Scheme, etc.

Tax on profit/loss for the year

Tax for the year, which comprises the current tax charge for the year and changes in the deferred tax charge, is recognised in the income statement as regards the portion that relates to the profit/loss for the year and directly in equity as regards the portion that relates to entries directly in equity.

Accounting policies

Balance sheet

Receivables

Receivables are measured at amortised cost, which usually corresponds to the nominal value. Provisions are made for bad debts on the basis of objective evidence that are receivable, or a group of receivables are impaired. Provisions are made to the lower net realisable value and the carrying amount.

Prepayments

Prepayments recognised under 'Current assets' comprises expenses incurred concerning subsequent financial years.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash and deposits at banks.

Bank accounts held in the name of the entity which is included in intra-group cash pool scheme are excluded from the Cash and cash equivalents. Cash pool accounts are legally owned by Ashland Services B.V.. The accounts are therefore considered balances with related parties. In the balance sheet the cash pool accounts are recognised under receivables from group companies as part of assets.

Equity

Dividends

Proposed dividends are disclosed as a separate item under equity. Dividends are recognised as a liability when declared by the annual general meeting of shareholders.

Income tax and deferred tax

Current tax liabilities and current tax receivables are recognised in the balance sheet as the estimated tax on the taxable income for the year, adjusted for tax on the taxable income for previous years and tax paid on account.

Deferred tax is measured according to the liability method in respect of temporary differences between the carrying amount of assets and liabilities and their tax base, calculated on the basis of the planned use of the asset and settlement of the liability, respectively. Deferred tax is measured at net realisable value.

Deferred tax assets, including the tax base of tax losses allowed for carry forward, are measured at the value to which the asset is expected to be realised, either as a set-off against tax on future income or as a set-off against deferred tax liabilities within the same legal tax entity. Any deferred net tax assets are measured at net realisable value.

Liabilities

Liabilities, which include trade payables, payables to group entities and other payables, are measured at amortised cost, which is usually equivalent to nominal value.

Foreign currency translation

On initial recognition, foreign currency transactions are translated applying the exchange rate at the transaction date. Foreign exchange differences arising between the exchange rates at the transaction date and at the date of payment are recognised in the income statement as financial income or financial expenses. If foreign currency instruments are considered cash flow hedges, any unrealised value adjustments are taken directly to a fair value reserve under 'Equity'.

Accounting policies

Receivables and payables and other monetary items denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the exchange rates at the balance sheet date. The difference between the exchange rates at the balance sheet date and the date at which the receivable or payable arose or was recognised in the latest financial statements is recognised in the income statement as financial income or financial expenses.

Derivative financial instruments

On initial recognition in the balance sheet, derivative financial instruments are measured at cost and subsequently at fair value. Positive and negative fair values of derivative financial instruments are included in 'Other receivables' or 'Other payables', respectively.

Fair value adjustments of derivative financial instruments designated and qualifying as hedging of the fair value of a recognised asset or liability are recognised in the income statement together with fair value adjustments of the hedged asset or liability.

Fair value adjustments of derivative financial instruments designated and qualifying as hedging of future assets or liabilities are recognised in other receivables or other payables and in equity. If the forecast transaction results in the recognition of assets or liabilities, amounts previously recognised in equity are transferred to the cost of the asset or liability, respectively. If the forecast transaction results in income or expenses, amounts previously recognised in equity are transferred to the income statement in the period in which the hedged item affects the income statement. Fair value adjustments of derivative financial instruments that do not qualify for hedge accounting are recognised in the income statement on an ongoing basis.

Income statement 1 October - 30 September

	Note	2023/24 TDKK	2022/23 TDKK
Gross profit		97	-185
Financial income	2	22,699	20,973
Financial costs	3	<u>-2,457</u>	<u>-223</u>
Profit/loss before tax		20,339	20,565
Tax on profit/loss for the year	4	<u>-4,425</u>	<u>-4,531</u>
Profit/loss for the year		<u>15,914</u>	<u>16,034</u>
 Retained earnings		 <u>15,914</u>	 <u>16,034</u>
		<u>15,914</u>	<u>16,034</u>

Balance sheet 30 September

	Note	2023/24 TDKK	2022/23 TDKK
Assets			
Receivables from group companies		667,459	0
Non-current asset		667,459	0
Total non-current assets		667,459	0
Receivables from group companies		157,095	811,984
Receivables		157,095	811,984
Cash at bank and in hand		40	507
Total current assets		157,135	812,491
Total assets		824,594	812,491

Balance sheet 30 September

	Note	2023/24 TDKK	2022/23 TDKK
Equity and liabilities			
Share capital		60,000	60,000
Other reserves		340,371	340,371
Retained earnings		415,807	399,893
Equity		816,178	800,264
Other provisions		4,056	5,220
Total provisions		4,056	5,220
Payables and accruals		329	106
Payables to group companies		119	2,964
Corporation tax		3,853	2,566
Other payables		59	1,371
Total current liabilities		4,360	7,007
Total liabilities		4,360	7,007
Total equity and liabilities		824,594	812,491

Statement of changes in equity

	<u>Share capital</u>	<u>Other reserves</u>	<u>Retained earnings</u>	<u>Total</u>
Equity at 1 October 2023	60,000	340,371	399,893	800,264
Net profit/loss for the year	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>15,914</u>	<u>15,914</u>
Equity at 30 September 2024	<u>60,000</u>	<u>340,371</u>	<u>415,807</u>	<u>816,178</u>

Notes

	2023/24 TDKK	2022/23 TDKK
1 Staff costs		
Number of fulltime employees on average	0	0
2 Financial income		
Interest received from group companies	22,692	20,962
Other financial income	7	11
	22,699	20,973
3 Financial costs		
Other financial costs	9	9
Exchange adjustments costs	2,448	214
	2,457	223
4 Tax on profit/loss for the year		
Current tax for the year	4,425	4,531
	4,425	4,531

5 Related parties and ownership structure

Ultimate parent company
 Ashland Inc.
 8145 Blazer Drive
 Wilmington, Delaware 19808
 USA

Consolidated financial statements

The parent company does not prepare consolidated financial statements. The company is part of the consolidated financial statement of Ashland Inc.

The consolidated financial statement can be find at: <https://investor.ashland.com/annual-reports>

Parent company

Hercules Holding B.V., B.V.B.A.
 Geslecht 2 9130 Beveren (Doel)
 Belgium