

enhance comparability of performance between periods. A copy of the Company's press release is attached hereto as Exhibit (99.1) and is hereby incorporated by reference.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Company has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

DENTSPLY INTERNATIONAL INC
(Company)

/s/ Bret W. Wise
Bret W. Wise
Senior Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

Date: April 22, 2003

[Logo]

NEWS

For further
Information
Contact:

Bret W. Wise
Senior Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer
(717) 849-4718

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DENTSPLY International INC.
REPORTS RECORD FIRST QUARTER SALES AND EARNINGS

York, PA - April 22, 2003 -- DENTSPLY International Inc. (NASDAQ -XRAY) today announced record sales and earnings for the first quarter of 2003. Sales increased 11.6% to \$396.2 million compared to \$354.9 million in 2002 while sales excluding precious metals rose 11.9% to \$341.8 million.

Net income for the first quarter of 2003 was \$38.3 million, an increase of 15.6% compared to the 2002 period. Diluted earnings per share was \$.48 for the quarter, a 14.3% increase compared to the \$.42 per share reported in 2002. The 2002 quarter included a \$2.0 million benefit from the reversal of a restructuring reserve which added \$.02 per share to earnings in the 2002 period.

John C. Miles, II, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, commented that "the Company is continuing to benefit from several new product introductions. Both our Cercon Smart Ceramic restorative product and our Eclipse Prosthetic Resin System are experiencing rapid growth and strong support from dentists and laboratory customers. In January we introduced our Aquasil Ultra impression material in the United States and have already successfully converted approximately 8,000 new users to this revolutionary material - a spectacular product launch. In addition, our new In-Ovation-R and Mystique orthodontic brackets are experiencing extraordinary growth. Most importantly, DENTSPLY has a very full product pipeline and numerous new products that we expect to commercialize in the second and third quarters of this year. The success of our existing products combined with the potential of upcoming product introductions positions us very well for continued growth driven by product innovation."

DENTSPLY Conference Call Information:

DENTSPLY will hold a conference call on Wednesday, April 23, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. (TZ: Eastern). To access the call, please dial domestic (877) 885-5820 and international (706) 643-9578. This conference call will be broadcast live on the Internet at www.dentsply.com. An audio replay of the conference call will be available for two weeks. To access the replay, please dial domestic (800) 642-1687 and international (706) 645-9291. Call I.D. : 9498761.

DENTSPLY designs, develops, manufactures and markets a broad range of products for the dental market. The Company believes that it is the world's leading manufacturer and distributor of dental prosthetics, precious metal dental alloys, dental ceramics, endodontic instruments and materials, prophylaxis paste, dental sealants, ultrasonic scalers, and crown and bridge materials; the leading United States manufacturer and distributor of dental x-ray equipment, dental handpieces, intraoral cameras, dental x-ray film holders, film mounts and bone substitute/grafting materials; and a leading worldwide manufacturer or distributor of dental injectible

anesthetics, impression materials, orthodontic appliances, dental cutting instruments and dental implants. The Company distributes its dental products in over 120 countries under some of the most well established brand names in the industry.

DENTSPLY is committed to the development of innovative, high quality, cost-effective new products for the dental market.

This press release contains forward-looking statements regarding future events or the future financial performance of the company. Actual events or results may differ materially from those in the projections or other forward-looking statements set forth herein as a result of certain risk factors. These risk factors include without limitation; the ability to continue to generate sufficient cash flow to pay down debt as planned, the continued strength of dental markets, the timing, success and market reception for our new product introductions, and changes in the general economic environment that could affect our business.

For an additional description of risk factors, please refer to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

DENTSPLY INTERNATIONAL INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
(IN THOUSANDS EXCEPT PER SHARE DATA)

	THREE MONTHS ENDED	
	March 31	
	2003	2002
	-----	-----
NET SALES	\$ 396,187	\$ 354,868
NET SALES - ex Precious Metals	341,838	305,568
COST OF PRODUCTS SOLD	206,116	185,496
GROSS PROFIT	190,071	169,372
% OF NET SALES	48.0%	47.7%
% OF NET SALES - ex Precious Metals	55.6%	55.4%
SELLING, GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	128,061	114,416
RESTRUCTURING (INCOME)/COSTS	0	(1,957)
	-----	-----
INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	62,010	56,913
% OF NET SALES	15.7%	16.0%
% OF NET SALES - ex Precious Metals	18.1%	18.6%
NET INTEREST AND OTHER EXPENSE	5,290	6,697
	-----	-----
PRE-TAX INCOME	56,720	50,216
INCOME TAXES	18,453	17,120
	-----	-----
NET INCOME	\$ 38,267	\$ 33,096
% OF NET SALES	9.7%	9.3%
% OF NET SALES - ex Precious Metals	11.2%	10.8%
EARNINGS PER SHARE-BASIC	\$ 0.49	\$ 0.42
-DILUTIVE	\$ 0.48	\$ 0.42

DIVIDENDS PER SHARE	\$ 0.046	\$ 0.046
WEIGHTED AVERAGE NUMBER OF COMMON SHARES OUTSTANDING-BASIC	78,442	77,947
-DILUTIVE	80,007	79,621

DENTSPLY INTERNATIONAL INC.
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(IN THOUSANDS)

	MARCH 31, 2003	DECEMBER 31, 2002
	-----	-----
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS:		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ 46,178	\$ 25,652
ACCOUNTS AND NOTES RECEIVABLE-TRADE, NET	228,857	221,262
INVENTORIES, NET	228,903	214,492
OTHER CURRENT ASSETS	73,914	79,595
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	577,852	541,001
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, NET	329,014	313,178
GOODWILL, NET	918,840	898,497
IDENTIFIABLE INTANGIBLES ASSETS, NET	238,094	236,009
OTHER ASSETS, NET	125,098	98,348
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,188,898	\$2,087,033
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY:		
CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$ 370,871	\$ 365,745
LONG-TERM DEBT	797,627	769,823
OTHER NONCURRENT LIABILITIES	91,845	87,239
DEFERRED INCOME TAXES	30,707	27,039
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,291,050	1,249,846
MINORITY INTEREST IN CONSOLIDATED SUBSIDIARIES	1,335	1,259
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	896,513	835,928
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	\$2,188,898	\$2,087,033