

SHAPING THE RIGHT COURSE

Annual Report 2003

Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd. and its consolidated subsidiaries set sail as the SRI Group on July 1, 2003, with the aim of securing the next stage of growth. After integrating The Ohtsu Tire & Rubber Co., Ltd., Sumitomo Rubber aims to enhance corporate value and to achieve sustainable growth in worldwide tire markets. Based on its new business structure, Sumitomo Rubber will allocate a considerable amount of its management resources to Asia, a region earmarked for significant growth, while continuing to promote its alliance with The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company in the tire business.

Sumitomo Rubber spun off its Sports business and Industrial business, establishing SRI Sports Ltd. and SRI Hybrid Ltd., respectively. Under the umbrella of this new operating structure, each SRI Group company is working to optimize its business scale and unique features, and by promoting greater efficiency and speed in operation, to contribute to enhancing overall corporate value.

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Cautionary Statements with Respect to Forward-Looking Statements

Statements made in this annual report with respect to Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.'s current plans, estimates, strategies and beliefs, and other statements that are not historical facts, are forward-looking statements about the future performance of Sumitomo Rubber. These statements are based on the Company's and the Group's assumptions and beliefs in light of the information currently available to them. Sumitomo Rubber cautions that a number of potential risks and uncertainties could cause actual results to differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking statements and advises readers not to place undue reliance on them.

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