### SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

## CURRENT REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15 (d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

| Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): February 28, 2002 |                             |                                      |  |  |  |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc.                            |                             |                                      |  |  |  |
| (Exact Name of  | Registrant as Specified     | in Charter)                          |  |  |  |
| Delaware 1-6686 13-1024020  |                             |                                      |  |  |  |
| (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)                      | (Commission File<br>Number) | (IRS Employer<br>Identification No.) |  |  |  |
| 1271 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10020               |                             |                                      |  |  |  |
| (Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)                 |                             |                                      |  |  |  |
| Registrant's telephone number, including area code: 212-399-8000    |                             |                                      |  |  |  |
| (Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)       |                             |                                      |  |  |  |

Item 9. Regulation FD Disclosure.

On February 28, 2002, The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc., in connection with a telephone conference with investors, made available via the internet a slide show relating to fourth quarter and full-year 2001 results.

#### SIGNATURES

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

THE INTERPUBLIC GROUP OF COMPANIES, INC.

By: /s/ Nicholas J. Camera Date: March 4, 2002

Nicholas J. Camera SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, GENERAL COUNSEL AND SECRETARY

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The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc

Fourth Quarter 2001 Conference Call Notes

February 28, 2002

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Summary Fourth Quarter Results

(Excludes restructuring charges and other unusual items)

|                             | 2001      | 2000       | Change % |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------------|----------|
|                             |           |            |          |
| Revenue                     | \$1,719.5 | \$ 2,041.8 | (15.8%)  |
| EBITDA                      | 331.8     | 417.0      | (20.4)   |
| Margin %                    | 19.3%     | 20.4%      |          |
| Depreciation                | 50.1      | 49.2       | 2.0      |
| Amortization of Intangibles | 46.1      | 42.4       | 8.7      |
| Income from Operations      | 235.6     | 325.4      | (27.6)   |
| Margin %                    | 13.7%     | 15.9%      |          |
| Net Income                  | 111.2     | 190.5      | (41.6)   |
| EPS                         | .30       | .51        | (41.2)   |

Summary Full Year Results

(Excludes restructuring charges and other unusual items)

|                             | 2001       | 2000       | Change % |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|----------|
|                             |            |            |          |
| Revenue                     | \$ 6,726.8 | \$ 7,182.7 | (6.3%)   |
| EBITDA                      | 1,148.2    | 1,363.7    | (15.8)   |
| Margin %                    | 17.1%      | 19.0%      |          |
| Depreciation                | 199.2      | 192.6      | 3.4      |
| Amortization of Intangibles | 173.0      | 144.3      | 20.0     |
| Income from Operations      | 776.0      | 1,026.8    | (24.4)   |
| Margin %                    | 11.5%      | 14.3%      |          |
| Net Income                  | 359.2      | 570.3      | (37.0)   |
| EPS                         | .96        | 1.53       | (37.3)   |

| Fourth Quarter 2001:         |
|------------------------------|
| Components of Revenue Change |
|                              |

| 2000 Revenue                       | \$2,041.8           |                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Effects of:                        |                     | Variance %      |
| Organic                            | (205.8)             | (10.1)%         |
| Loss of Chrysler                   | (35.9)              | (1.8)           |
| Currency Translation               | (52.2)              | (2.6)           |
| Acquisitions (net of dispositions) | (28.4)              | (1.3)           |
| 2001 Revenue                       | \$1,719.5<br>====== | (15.8)%<br>==== |

Year 2001: Components of Revenue Change

| 2000 Revenue                       | \$7,182.7 |            |
|------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Effects of:                        |           | Variance % |
| Organic                            | (207.4)   | (2.9)%     |
| Loss of Chrysler                   | (116.3)   | (1.6)      |
| Currency Translation               | (159.4)   | (2.2)      |
| Acquisitions (net of dispositions) | 62.2      | 0.9        |
| September 11                       | (35.0)    | (0.5)      |
| 2001 Revenue                       | \$6,726.8 | (6.3)%     |

# 4Q01 Components of Net Income Change (Excludes restructuring charges and other unusual items)

| 4Q 2000 Net | Income                                    | \$190.5          |
|-------------|---|------------------|
| Decrease    | in Revenue                                | (322.3)          |
| Decrease    | in Operating Expenses                     | 237.1            |
| Increase    | in Depreciation and Amortization          | (4.6)            |
| Decrease    | in Non-Operating Items                    | 8.6              |
| Increase    | in Equity Earnings and Minority Interests | 1.9              |
| 4Q 2001 Net | Income                                    | \$111.2<br>===== |

### 2001 Components of Net Income Change

#### (Excludes restructuring charges and other unusual items)

| 2000 Net Income                                    | \$570.3          |
|--|------------------|
| Decrease in Revenue                                | (455.9)          |
| Decrease in Operating Expenses                     | 240.4            |
| Increase in Depreciation and Amortization          | (35.3)           |
| Decrease in Non-Operating Items                    | 32.9             |
| Increase in Equity Earnings and Minority Interests | 6.8              |
| 2001 Net Income                                    | \$359.2<br>===== |

#### Pro Forma EBITDA Margin Trend

\* Estimated impact of September 11: \$35 million or 210 basis points.

| First Quarter  | '00<br>13.4% | '01<br>14.8% |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Second Quarter | 23.3%        | 19.5%        |
| Third Quarter  | 17.8%        | 14.4%*       |
| Fourth Quarter | 20.4%        | 19.3%        |

 $<sup>^{\</sup>ast}$  Estimated impact of September 11 is \$35 million or 210 basis points, which would have resulted in an EBITDA margin trend of 16.5%.

#### Selected Cash Flow Items

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|   | 2001     | 2000     |
|---|----------|----------|
| Depreciation and Amortization of Fixed Assets | \$ 199.2 | \$ 192.6 |
| Amortization of Intangible Assets             | 173.0    | 144.3    |
| Acquisitions                                  | 314.1    | 653.2    |
| Capital Expenditures                          | 268.0    | 259.5    |
| Dividends IPG only                            | 136.6    | 109.1    |
| Purchase of Treasury Stock                    | 115.7    | 253.9    |

#### Selected Balance Sheet Items

|                         | December 31,<br>2001 | September 30,<br>2001 | December 31,<br>2000 |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Cash & Cash Equivalents | \$ 935.2             | \$ 685.6              | \$ 844.6             |
| Total Debt              | 2,933.7              | 3,125.9               | 2,081.1              |
| Debt as % of Capital    | 60%                  | 63%                   | 46%                  |
| Stockholders' Equity    | 1,979.3              | 1,863.5               | 2,482.4              |

Key Wins

Verizon L'Oreal

United Parcel Service

Sepracor Microsoft

Sirius Satellite Radio Pfizer/Pharmacia

Coca-Cola

H.J. Heinz Best Foods (Unilever)

Total Wins

\$5,548.5

Key Losses

Gateway Dell Fidelity Gillette Oral Care

AT&T Wireless Reckitt & Benkiser

PepsiCo

Total Losses \$2,762.9

Net New Business \$2,785.6

Starwood Hotels

HSBC

Zenith Electronics

Tricon Global Restaurants

Electrolux

Nextel

Revlon

Sony

Deutsche Telekom

American Airlines

MCI Worldcom

- o First and second quarter revenue comparisons remain difficult
- o In a flat full-year revenue scenario, EPS grows 15%
  - If full year revenue increases, each 1% of revenue growth generates an incremental 2% EPS growth
  - If full year revenue declines, margins will equal or exceed 2000 level

Total

Fourth Quarter Full Year Revenue Revenue % of % of % % of % of % 2001 Rev 2000 Rev Change 2001 Rev 2000 Rev Change Promotion Event And Direct Marketing (Incl. Healthcare Marketing) 371.5 21.6% 415.5 20.3% (11%) 1,429.1 21.2% 1,366.6 19.0% 5% Public Relations 124.8 7.3% 165.7 8.1% (25%) 578.1 8.6% 611.3 8.5% (5%) Marketing Intelligence 146.8 8.5% 158.5 9.7% (7%) 551.5 8.2% 555.6 7.7% (1%) Interactive 23.9 1.4% 39.1 2.0% (39%) 106.7 1.6% 164.9 2.3% (35%) Total Specialized Marketing Services 667.0 38.8% 778.8 38.1% (14%) 2,665.4 39.6% 2,698.3 37.6% (1%) Total Media Buying & Advertising 1,052.5 61.2% 1,263.0 61.9% (17%) 4,061.4 60.4% 4,484.4 62.4% (9%)

2,041.8

100%

(16%)

6,726.8

100%

7,182.7

100%

(6%)

1,719.5

100%

Appendix II: Revenue by Region Fourth Quarter 2001

(\$Millions)

Total

% % Change % Change % Total Change Revenue Constant \$ Organic Europe \$ 496.6 29% (10%) (6%) (7%) Latin America 96.4 6% (14%) (6%) (7%) Asia/Other 158.5 (18%) (12%) 9% (11%) Canada 49.5 3% 3% (5%) (1%) ---------------Total International 801.0 47% (12%) (7%) (6%) Total Domestic 918.5 53% (19%) (19%) (15%)

100%

(16%)

(14%)

(10.1%)

\$1,719.5

Appendix II: Revenue by Region Year 2001

(\$Millions)

|                     | Revenue             | % Total        | %<br>Change    | % Change<br>Constant \$ | % Change<br>Organic |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Europe              | \$1,840.7           | 27%            | 0%             | 4%                      | 0%                  |
| Latin America       | 327.1               | 5%             | (2%)           | 9%                      | 4%                  |
| Asia/Other          | 583.6               | 9%             | (3%)           | 4%                      | 0%                  |
| Canada              | 169.6               | 2%             | 4%             | 8%                      | 3%                  |
|                     |                     |                |                |                         |                     |
| Total International | 2,921.0             | 43%            | (1%)           | 5%                      | 3%                  |
| Total Domestic      | 3,805.8             | 57%            | (10%)          | (10%)                   | (7%)                |
| Total               | \$6,726.8<br>====== | 100%<br>====== | (6%)<br>====== | (4%)<br>======          | (2.9%)              |

Appendix III: 2001 Quarterly Results Restated for FAS 142

(Excludes one time charges and restructuring items)  $% \left( \left( 1\right) \right) =\left( 1\right) \left( 1\right) \left($ 

|                             | 10        | 2Q        | 3Q        | 4Q        | Year      |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| _                           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Revenue                     | \$1,658.3 | \$1,743.4 | \$1,605.6 | \$1,719.5 | \$6,726.8 |
| EBITDA                      | 246.1     | 339.1     | 231.2     | 331.8     | 1,148.2   |
| Margin %                    | 14.8%     | 19.5%     | 14.4%     | 19.3%     | 17.1%     |
| Depreciation                | 49.6      | 50.4      | 49.1      | 50.1      | 199.2     |
| Amortization of Intangibles | 0.9       | 1.0       | 1.0       | 1.0       | 3.9       |
| Income from Operations      | 195.6     | 287.8     | 181.1     | 280.7     | 945.2     |
| Margin %                    | 11.8%     | 16.5%     | 11.3%     | 16.3%     | 14.1%     |
| Net Income                  | 111.8     | 152.1     | 89.8      | 150.3     | 504.0     |
| EPS                         | .30       | . 40      | . 24      | .40       | 1.34      |

Full Year 2001 (\$ Millions)

|                            | Total            | Cash             | Non-cash         | Annualized<br>Savings |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Severance                  | \$297.5          | \$297.5          | \$ -             | \$250.0               |
| Facilities costs           | 257.6            | 180.1            | 77.5             | 50.0                  |
| Other Restructuring Costs  | 53.3             | 32.2             | 21.1             |                       |
| Transaction costs 37.2     | 31.5             | 5.7              |                  |                       |
|                            | \$645.6<br>===== | \$541.3<br>===== | \$104.3<br>===== | \$300.0               |
| Goodwill and other charges | \$303.1          | -                | \$303.1          | -                     |
| Investment write-offs      | 208.3            | -                | 208.3            | -                     |
| Other Non Recurring (Net)  | 35.4             |                  | 35.4             |                       |
|                            | \$546.8<br>===== |                  | \$546.8<br>===== |                       |

|                             | 2001       | 2000       | Change % |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|----------|
|                             |            |            |          |
| Revenue                     | \$ 1,719.5 | \$ 2,041.8 | (15.8%)  |
| EBITDA                      | 331.8      | 354.8      | (6.5)    |
| Margin %                    | 19.3%      | 17.4%      |          |
| Depreciation                | 50.1       | 49.1       | 2.0      |
| Amortization of Intangibles | 46.1       | 42.5       | 8.5      |
| Income from Operations      | 235.6      | 263.2      | (10.5)   |
| Margin %                    | 13.7%      | 12.9%      |          |
| Net Income                  | 111.2      | 113.0      | (1.6)    |
| EPS                         | .30        | .30        | -        |

Appendix VI: Summary of Reported
Full Year Results

|                               | 2001       | 2000       | Change % |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|----------|
| Revenue                       | \$ 6,726.8 | \$ 7,182.7 | (6.3%)   |
| EBITDA                        | 164.0      | 1,186.0    | (86.2)   |
| Margin %                      | 2.4%       | 16.5%      |          |
| Depreciation                  | 199.2      | 192.6      | 3.4      |
| Amortization of Intangibles   | 173.0      | 144.3      | 19.9     |
| Income (Loss) from Operations | (208.1)    | 849.1      | (124.5)  |
| Margin %                      | (3.1%)     | 11.8%      |          |
| Net Income (Loss)             | (505.3)    | 420.3      | (220.2)  |
| EPS                           | (1.37)     | 1.14       | (220.2)  |

This document contains forward-looking statements. Statements that are not historical fact, including statements about Interpublic's beliefsand

expectations constitute forward-looking statements. These statements are based on current plans, estimates and projections, and therefore undue reliance should not be placed on them. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made, and Interpublic undertakes no obligation to update publicly any of them in light of new information or future events.

Forward-looking statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties. Interpublic cautions that a number of important factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statement. Such factors include, but are not limited to, those associated with the effect of national and regional economic conditions, the ability of Interpublic to attract new clients and retain existing clients, the financial success of the clients of Interpublic, and developments from changes in the regulatory and legal environment for advertising companies around the world, and the successful completion and integration of acquisitions which complement and expand Interpublic's business capabilities.

Another important factor is Interpublic's acquisition strategy. One of Interpublic's business strategies is to acquire businesses that complement and expand its current business capabilities. Accordingly, Interpublic is usually engaged in evaluating potential acquisition candidates. Interpublic is currently engaged in a number of preliminary discussions that may result in one or more substantial acquisitions. These acquisition opportunities require confidentiality and from time to time give rise to bidding scenarios that require quick responses by Interpublic. Although there is uncertainty that any of these discussions will result in definitive agreements or the completion of any transactions, the announcement of any such transaction may lead to increased volatility in the trading price of the shares of Interpublic.

Moreover, the success of recent or contemplated future acquisitions will depend on the effective integration of newly-acquired businesses into Interpublic's current activities. Important factors for integration include realization of anticipated synergies and the ability to retain new personnel and clients.

This document includes financial information calculated on a "pro forma" basis. This "pro forma" financial information, by its very nature, departs from traditional accounting conventions. Accordingly, "pro forma" financial information should be read in conjunction with, and should not be viewed as a substitute for, the information prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) contained in this document, including the GAAP numbers under the "actual reported" columns in the unaudited "consolidated summaries of earnings" contained in this document.

Investors should evaluate any statements in light of these important factors.