UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
FORM 10-Q
(Mark One)
QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2010
$\square$ OR
$\square$
TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the transition period from $\qquad$ to $\qquad$
Commission File Number: 001-31588

## COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)
\(\left.$$
\begin{array}{cc}\text { MINNESOTA } \\
\text { (State or other jurisdiction of } \\
\text { incorporation or organization) }\end{array}
$$ \quad \begin{array}{c}41-0957999 <br>
(Federal Employer <br>

Identification No.)\end{array}\right]\)| 55343 |
| :---: |
| 10900 Red Circle Drive, Minnetonka, MN |
| (Address of principal executive offices) |

(952) 996-1674

Registrant's telephone number, including area code

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. YES $\mathbb{\text { NO }} \square$

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

## YES $\square$ NO $\square$

Indicate by a check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company (as defined by Rule $12 \mathrm{~b}-2$ of the Exchange Act).

Large Accelerated Filer $\square$ Accelerated Filer $\square$ Non-Accelerated Filer $\square$ Smaller Reporting Company $\boxtimes$
Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. YES $\square$ NO $\boxtimes$
APPLICABLE ONLY TO CORPORATE ISSUERS:
Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

| Class | Name of Exchange On Which Registered | Outstanding at November 1, 2010 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Common Stock, par value | NASDAQ | 8,401,891 |
| \$. 05 per share |  |  |

Part I. Financial Information
Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited)
Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets 3
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income and Comprehensive Income (Loss) 4
Condensed Consolidated Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity 5
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows 6
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements 7
Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations 15
Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk 23
Item 4. Controls and Procedures 23
Part II. Other Information 23
SIGNATURES
CERTIFICATIONS

## COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES C ONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (Unaudited)

|  | September 30 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| 2010 |  |


|  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES: |  |  |  |  |
| Current portion of long-term debt | \$ | 392,470 | \$ | 372,926 |
| Accounts payable |  | 4,564,999 |  | 4,986,028 |
| Accrued compensation and benefits |  | 3,929,399 |  | 4,855,899 |
| Other accrued liabilities |  | 1,618,855 |  | 1,370,105 |
| Income taxes payable |  | 1,548,553 |  | 0 |
| Dividends payable |  | 1,259,940 |  | 1,169,040 |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES |  | 13,314,216 |  | 12,753,998 |
| LONG TERM LIABILITIES: |  |  |  |  |
| Long-term compensation plans |  | 1,398,707 |  | 887,210 |
| Income taxes payable |  | 727,209 |  | 723,534 |
| Deferred income taxes |  | 323,738 |  | 208,111 |
| Long term debt - mortgage payable |  | 2,104,704 |  | 2,401,548 |
| TOTAL LONG-TERM LIABILITIES |  | 4,554,358 |  | 4,220,403 |

## COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

| STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Preferred stock, par value \$1.00 per share; 3,000,000 shares authorized; none issued |  |  |  |  |
| Common stock, par value $\$ .05$ per share; $30,000,000$ shares authorized; $8,399,596$ and $8,352,883$ shares issued and outstanding, respectively |  | 419,980 |  | 417,644 |
| Additional paid-in capital |  | 34,250,080 |  | 33,641,510 |
| Retained earnings |  | 56,063,464 |  | 52,007,261 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income, net of tax |  | (204,512) |  | $(127,122)$ |
| TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY |  | 90,529,012 |  | 85,939,293 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY | \$ | 108,397,586 | \$ | 102,913,694 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the condensed consolidated financial statements.

## C OMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF
INCOME AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS) (Unaudited)

|  | Three Months Ended September 30 |  |  |  | Nine Months Ended September 30 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2010 |  | 2009 |  | 2010 |  | 2009 |  |
| Sales from operations | \$ | 33,323,793 | \$ | 28,107,200 | \$ | 89,864,628 | \$ | 83,456,557 |
| Costs and expenses: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cost of sales |  | 18,013,809 |  | 17,239,281 |  | 50,755,575 |  | 52,159,098 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses |  | 9,005,699 |  | 7,518,709 |  | 26,492,580 |  | 23,403,906 |
| Total costs and expenses |  | 27,019,508 |  | 24,757,990 |  | 77,248,155 |  | 75,563,004 |
| Operating income |  | 6,304,285 |  | 3,349,210 |  | 12,616,473 |  | 7,893,553 |
| Other income and (expenses): |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Investment and other income |  | 92,363 |  | 201,841 |  | 177,788 |  | 692,624 |
| Gain on sale of assets |  | 9,763 |  | 32,594 |  | 1,143 |  | 65,266 |
| Interest and other expense |  | $(51,854)$ |  | $(61,826)$ |  | $(160,305)$ |  | $(178,621)$ |
| Other income, net |  | 50,272 |  | 172,609 |  | 18,626 |  | 579,269 |
| Income before income taxes |  | 6,354,557 |  | 3,521,819 |  | 12,635,099 |  | 8,472,822 |
| Income tax expense |  | 2,355,163 |  | 1,660,485 |  | 4,889,452 |  | 3,640,175 |
| Net income |  | 3,999,394 |  | 1,861,334 |  | 7,745,647 |  | 4,832,647 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Additional minimum pension liability adjustments |  | $(17,009)$ |  | $(387,357)$ |  | $(30,590)$ |  | $(615,635)$ |
| Unrealized gains (losses) on available-for-sale securities |  | 11,779 |  | $(3,594)$ |  | 13,259 |  | 63,181 |
| Foreign currency translation adjustment |  | 149,786 |  | $(149,993)$ |  | $(60,059)$ |  | 334,087 |
| Total other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax |  | 144,556 |  | $(540,944)$ |  | $(77,390)$ |  | $(218,367)$ |
| Comprehensive net income | \$ | 4,143,950 | \$ | 1,320,390 | \$ | 7,668,257 | \$ | 4,614,280 |
| Basic net income per share: | \$ | . 48 | \$ | . 22 | \$ | . 92 | \$ | . 58 |
| Diluted net income per share: | \$ | . 48 | \$ | . 22 | \$ | . 92 | \$ | . 58 |
| Average Basic Shares Outstanding |  | 8,398,496 |  | 8,347,701 |  | 8,376,542 |  | 8,336,027 |
| Average Dilutive Shares Outstanding |  | 8,414,865 |  | 8,371,155 |  | 8,401,212 |  | 8,345,290 |
| Dividends per share | \$ | . 15 | \$ | . 14 | \$ | . 44 | \$ | . 38 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the condensed consolidated financial statements.

C OMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY (Unaudited)

|  | Common Stock |  |  | Additional Paid-in Capital |  | Retained <br> Earnings |  | Cumulative Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Shares | Amount |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2009 | 8,352,883 | \$ | 417,644 | \$ | 33,641,510 | \$ | 52,007,261 | \$ | $(127,122)$ | \$ | 85,939,293 |
| Net income |  |  |  |  |  |  | 7,745,647 |  |  | \$ | 7,745,647 |
| Issuance of common stock under Employee Stock Purchase Plan | 8,813 |  | 441 |  | 99,896 |  |  |  |  | \$ | 100,337 |
| Issuance of common stock to Employee Stock Ownership Plan | 37,900 |  | 1,895 |  | 469,581 |  |  |  |  | \$ | 471,476 |
| Share based compensation |  |  |  |  | 39,093 |  |  |  |  | \$ | 39,093 |
| Shareholder dividends |  |  |  |  |  |  | $(3,689,444)$ |  |  | \$ | $(3,689,444)$ |
| Other comprehensive income |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $(77,390)$ | \$ | $(77,390)$ |
| BALANCE AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2010 | 8,399,596 | \$ | 419,980 | \$ | 34,250,080 | \$ | 56,063,464 | \$ | (204,512) | \$ | 90,529,012 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the condensed consolidated financial statements.

## C OMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

## (Unaudited)

|  | Nine Months Ended September 30 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2010 |  | 2009 |  |
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES: |  |  |  |  |
| Net income | \$ | 7,745,647 | \$ | 4,832,647 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: |  |  |  |  |
| Depreciation and amortization |  | 1,418,065 |  | 1,238,362 |
| Share based compensation |  | 39,093 |  | 31,571 |
| Deferred income taxes |  | $(474,900)$ |  | $(253,421)$ |
| Loss (gain) on sale of assets |  | $(1,143)$ |  | $(65,266)$ |
| Excess tax benefit from stock based payments |  | - |  | (952) |
| Changes in assets and liabilities: |  |  |  |  |
| Trade receivables |  | $(5,315,719)$ |  | 2,561,915 |
| Inventories |  | 302,888 |  | 4,708,781 |
| Prepaid income taxes |  | 337,274 |  | - |
| Other current assets |  | $(508,666)$ |  | 100,652 |
| Accounts payable |  | $(421,603)$ |  | $(193,643)$ |
| Accrued compensation and benefits |  | 56,473 |  | 1,298,911 |
| Other accrued expenses |  | 247,625 |  | 173,271 |
| Income taxes payable |  | 1,552,228 |  | 789,876 |
| Other |  | - |  | - |
| Net cash provided by operating activities |  | 4,977,262 |  | 15,222,704 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES: |  |  |  |  |
| Capital expenditures |  | $(1,190,886)$ |  | $(3,159,536)$ |
| Purchases of investments |  | $(17,110,186)$ |  | $(26,819,245)$ |
| Proceeds from the sale of fixed assets |  | 27,593 |  | 77,726 |
| Proceeds from the sale of investments |  | 10,176,299 |  | 11,791,000 |
| Net cash used in investing activities |  | $(8,097,180)$ |  | $(18,110,055)$ |
| CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES: |  |  |  |  |
| Cash dividends paid |  | $(3,598,544)$ |  | $(3,163,810)$ |
| Mortgage principal payments |  | $(277,300)$ |  | $(259,043)$ |
| Proceeds from issuance of common stock |  | 100,337 |  | 140,336 |
| Excess tax benefit from stock based payments |  | - |  | 952 |
| Purchase of common stock |  | - |  | $(52,117)$ |
| Net cash used in financing activities |  | $(3,775,507)$ |  | (3,333,682) |
| EFFECT OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATE CHANGES ON CASH |  | $(31,841)$ |  | 131,610 |
| NET DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS |  | $(6,927,266)$ |  | $(6,089,423)$ |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF PERIOD |  | 21,293,448 |  | 29,951,561 |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF PERIOD | \$ | 14,366,182 | \$ | 23,862,138 |
| SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURES OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION: |  |  |  |  |
| Income taxes paid | \$ | 3,473,805 | \$ | 3,103,719 |
| Interest paid |  | 153,249 |  | 171,610 |
| Dividends declared not paid |  | 1,259,940 |  | 1,168,856 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the condensed consolidated financial statements.

COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC.

## N OTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

## NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

## Description of business

Communications Systems, Inc. (herein collectively called "CSI", "our" or the "Company") is a Minnesota corporation organized in 1969 which operates directly and through its subsidiaries located in the United States, Costa Rica, the United Kingdom and China. CSI is principally engaged through its Suttle and Austin Taylor business units in the manufacture and sale of modular connecting and wiring devices for voice and data communications, digital subscriber line filters, and structured wiring systems and through its Transition Networks business unit in the manufacture of media and rate conversion products for telecommunications networks. CSI also provides through its JDL Technologies ("JDL") business unit IT solutions including network design, computer infrastructure installations, IT service management, change management, network security and network operations services.

## Financial statement presentation

The condensed consolidated balance sheets and consolidated statement of changes in stockholders' equity as of September 30, 2010 and 2009 and the related consolidated statements of income and comprehensive income, and the condensed consolidated statements of cash flows for the periods ended September 30, 2010 and 2009 have been prepared by Company management. In the opinion of management, all adjustments (which include only normal recurring adjustments except where noted) necessary to present fairly the financial position, results of operations, and cash flows at September 30, 2010 and 2009 and for the periods then ended have been made.

Certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in consolidated financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America have been condensed or omitted. We recommend these condensed consolidated financial statements be read in conjunction with the financial statements and notes thereto included in the Company's December 31, 2009 Annual Report to Shareholders on Form 10-K. The results of operations for the periods ended September 30 are not necessarily indicative of operating results for the entire year.

The presentation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. The estimates and assumptions used in the accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements are based upon management's evaluation of the relevant facts and circumstances as of the time of the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Except to the extent updated or described below, the significant accounting policies set forth in Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, appropriately represent, in all material respects, the current status of accounting policies, and are incorporated herein by reference.

## Cash equivalents and investments

For purposes of the condensed consolidated balance sheet and statements of cash flows, the Company considers all highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less at the time of purchase to be cash equivalents. As of September 30, 2010, the Company had $\$ 14.4$ million in cash and cash equivalents. Of this amount, $\$ 6.2$ million was invested in short-term money market funds that are not considered to be bank deposits and are not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") or other government agency. These money market funds seek to preserve the value of the investment at $\$ 1.00$ per share; however, it is possible to lose money investing in these funds.

The remainder of the Company's cash and cash equivalents is deposited at banks. The FDIC insures deposits at banks up to $\$ 250,000$ per account. The Company's cash and cash equivalent are held at large, well-established financial institutions and the Company believes any risk associated with uninsured balances is remote.

The Company had $\$ 25.7$ million in investments which consist of certificates of deposit that were purchased in the public markets and are classified as available-for-sale at September 30, 2010. Of the $\$ 25.7$ million in investments, $\$ 20.4$ million mature in 12 months or less and are classified as current assets. Available-for-sale investments are reported at fair value with unrealized gains and losses net of tax excluded from operations and reported as a separate component of stockholders' equity (See Comprehensive income below).

## Revenue Recognition

The Company's manufacturing operations (Suttle, Transition Networks and Austin Taylor) recognize revenue when the earnings process is complete, evidenced by persuasive evidence of an agreement, delivery has occurred or services have been rendered, the price is fixed or determinable, and collectability is reasonably assured. Revenue is recognized for domestic and international sales at the shipping point or delivery to customers, based on the related shipping terms. Risk of loss transfers at the point of shipment or delivery to customers, and the Company has no further obligation after this time. Sales are made directly to customers and through distributors. Payment terms for distributors are consistent with the terms of the Company's direct customers. The Company records a provision for sale returns, sales incentives and warranty costs at the time of the sale based on historical experience and current trends.

JDL generally records revenue on hardware, software and related equipment sales and installation contracts when the revenue recognition criteria are met and products are installed and accepted by the customer. JDL records revenue on service contracts on a straight-line basis over the contract period, unless evidence suggests the revenue is earned in a different pattern. Each contract is individually reviewed to determine when the earnings process is complete.

Accumulated other comprehensive income
The components of accumulated other comprehensive income, net of tax, are as follows:

|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { September } 30 \\ 2010 \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { December } 31 \\ 2009 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Foreign currency translation | \$ | $(1,149,819)$ | \$ | (1,089,760) |
| Unrealized gain on available-for-sale investments |  | 47,061 |  | 33,802 |
| Minimum pension liability |  | 898,246 |  | 928,836 |
|  | \$ | $(204,512)$ | \$ | $(127,122)$ |

## NOTE 2 - STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION

Common shares are reserved in connection with the Company's 1992 Stock Plan ("the Stock Plan") under which 2,500,000 shares of common stock may be issued pursuant to stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock or deferred stock granted to officers and key employees. Exercise prices of stock options under the Stock Plan cannot be less than fair market value of the stock on the date of grant. Rules and conditions governing awards of stock options, stock appreciation rights and restricted stock are determined by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors, subject to certain limitations incorporated into the Stock Plan. At September 30, 2010, 1,123,739 shares remained available to be issued under the Stock Plan. All currently outstanding awards under the Stock Plan are vested. The options expire five years from date of grant.

Shares of common stock are also reserved for issuance in connection with a nonqualified stock option plan under which up to 200,000 shares may be issued to nonemployee directors (the "Director Plan"). The Director Plan provides for the automatic grant of nonqualified options for 3,000 shares of common stock annually to each nonemployee director concurrent with the annual shareholders' meeting. Exercise price is the fair market value of the stock at the date of grant. Options granted under the Director Plan vest when issued and expire 10 years from date of grant. At September 30, 2010, 37,000 shares are available to be issued under the Director Plan.

The Company also has an Employee Stock Purchase Plan ("ESPP") for which 500,000 common shares have been reserved. Employees are able to acquire shares under the ESPP Plan at $95 \%$ of the price at the end of the current quarterly plan term, which is September 30, 2010. The ESPP Plan is non-compensatory under current rules and does not give rise to compensation cost. At September 30, 2010, 79,015 shares remain available under the Plan for purchase.

Stock compensation expense recognized for the nine month period ended September 30, 2010 was $\$ 39,000$ before income taxes and $\$ 25,000$ after income taxes. Stock compensation expense recognized for the nine month period ended September 30, 2009 was $\$ 32,000$ before income taxes and $\$ 20,000$ after income taxes. Excess tax benefits from the exercise of stock options included in financing cash flows for the nine month periods ended September 30, 2010 and 2009 were $\$ 0$ and $\$ 1,000$, respectively.

The following table summarizes the stock option transactions for the nine month periods ended September 30, 2010. All outstanding stock options are currently exercisable.

|  | Options | Weighted average exercise price per share |  | Weighted average remaining contractual term |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Outstanding - December 31, 2009 | 189,000 | \$ | 9.77 | 4.75 years |
| Issued | 18,000 |  | 11.82 |  |
| Exercised | - |  | - |  |
| Canceled | $(24,000)$ |  | 14.13 |  |
| Outstanding - September 30, 2010 | 183,000 |  | 9.40 | 5.13 years |

18,000 director stock options were granted during the nine month period ended September 30,2010. The aggregate intrinsic value of all options (the amount by which the market price of the stock on the last day of the period exceeded the market price of the stock on the date of grant) outstanding at September 30, 2010 was $\$ 371,000$. No options were exercised during either of the nine months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009.

## NOTE 3 - INVENTORIES

Inventories summarized below are priced at the lower of first-in, first-out cost or market:

|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { September } 30 \\ 2010 \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { December } 31 \\ 2009 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Finished goods | \$ | 15,181,598 | \$ | 15,195,132 |
| Raw and processed materials |  | 9,107,785 |  | 9,403,185 |
| Total | \$ | 24,289,383 | \$ | 24,598,317 |

## NOTE 4 - WARRANTY

We provide reserves for the estimated cost of product warranties at the time revenue is recognized. We estimate the costs of our warranty obligations based on our warranty policy or applicable contractual warranty, historical experience of known product failure rates, and use of materials and service delivery costs incurred in correcting product failures. Management reviews the estimated warranty liability on a quarterly basis to determine its adequacy. The actual warranty expense could differ from the estimates made by the Company based on product performance

The following table presents the changes in the Company's warranty liability for the nine month periods ended September 30, 2010 and 2009, respectively, the majority of which relates to a five-year obligation to provide for potential future liabilities for network equipment sales.

|  | 2010 |  | 2009 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Beginning Balance | \$ | 648,000 | \$ | 593,000 |
| Actual warranty costs paid |  | $(154,000)$ |  | $(277,000)$ |
| Amounts charged to expense |  | 86,000 |  | 540,000 |
| Ending balance | \$ | 580,000 | \$ | 856,000 |

## NOTE 5 - CONTINGENCIES

In the ordinary course of business, the Company is exposed to legal actions and claims and incurs costs to defend against these actions and claims. Company management is not aware of any outstanding or pending legal actions or claims that would materially affect the Company's financial position or results of operations.

## NOTE 6 - INCOME TAXES

In the preparation of the Company's condensed consolidated financial statements, management calculates income taxes based upon the estimated effective rate applicable to operating results for the full fiscal year. This includes estimating the current tax liability as well as assessing differences resulting from different treatment of items for tax and book accounting purposes. These differences result in deferred tax assets and liabilities that are recorded on the balance sheet. These assets and liabilities are analyzed regularly and management assesses the likelihood that deferred tax assets will be recovered from future taxable income.

At September 30, 2010 there was $\$ 579,000$ of net uncertain tax benefit positions that would reduce the effective income tax rate if recognized. The Company records interest and penalties related to income taxes as income tax expense in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income. We do not anticipate that total unrecognized tax benefits will significantly change due to the settlement of audits or the expiration of statutes of limitations within the next twelve months.

The Company is subject to U.S. federal income tax as well as income tax of multiple state and foreign jurisdictions. The tax years 2007-2009 remain open to examination by the Internal Revenue Service and the years 2005-2009 remain open to examination by various state tax departments. The tax years from 2007-2009 remain open in Costa Rica.

The Company's effective income tax rate was $38.7 \%$ for the first nine months of 2010 . The effective tax rate differs from the federal tax rate of $35 \%$ due to state income taxes, foreign losses not deductible for U.S. income tax purposes, return to provision adjustments and provisions for interest charges and settlement of uncertain income tax positions. Although the foreign operating losses may ultimately be deductible in the countries in which they have occurred, the Company has not recorded a deferred tax asset for these losses due to uncertainty regarding the eventual realization of the benefit. The effect of the foreign operations is an overall rate increase of approximately $2.0 \%$ for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. There were no additional uncertain tax positions identified in the third quarter of 2010. The Company's effective income tax rate for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 was $43 \%$, and differed from the federal tax rate due to state income taxes, foreign losses not deductible for U.S. income tax purposes, return to provision adjustments and provisions for interest charges on uncertain tax positions.

## NOTE 7 - SEGMENT INFORMATION

The Company classifies its businesses into four segments as follows:

- Suttle manufactures and sells U.S. standard modular connecting and wiring devices for voice and data communications, digital subscriber line filters, and structured wiring systems;
- Transition Networks designs and markets data transmission, computer network and media conversion products;
- JDL Technologies, Inc. provides IT services including network design, computer infrastructure installations, IT service management, change management, network security and network operations services;
- Austin Taylor Communications LTD manufactures British-standard telephone equipment and equipment enclosures for the U.K and international markets.

Our non-allocated corporate general and administrative expenses are categorized as "Other" in the Company's segment reporting. Management has chosen to organize the enterprise and disclose reportable segments based on our products and services. There are no material inter-segment revenues.

Information concerning the Company's continuing operations in the various segments for the nine month and three month periods ended September 30, 2010 and 2009 is as follows:

## SEGMENT INFORMATION - NINE MONTHS

|  | Suttle |  | Transition Networks |  | JDL <br> Technologies |  | Austin Taylor |  | Other |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Nine months ended September 30, 2010: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sales | \$ | 28,121,860 | \$ | 49,863,982 | \$ | 9,384,330 | \$ | 2,494,456 | \$ |  | \$ | 89,864,628 |
| Cost of sales |  | 20,612,293 |  | 22,686,238 |  | 5,199,168 |  | 2,257,876 |  | - | \$ | 50,755,575 |
| Gross profit |  | 7,509,567 |  | 27,177,744 |  | 4,185,162 |  | 236,580 |  | - |  | 39,109,053 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses |  | 5,364,176 |  | 15,772,091 |  | 1,055,247 |  | 853,435 |  | 3,447,631 | \$ | 26,492,580 |
| Operating income (loss) | \$ | 2,145,391 | \$ | 11,405,653 | \$ | 3,129,915 | \$ | $(616,855)$ | \$ | (3,447,631) | \$ | 12,616,473 |
| Depreciation and amortization | \$ | 623,479 | \$ | 456,335 | \$ | 88,517 | \$ | 29,679 | \$ | 220,055 | \$ | 1,418,065 |
| Capital expenditures | \$ | 501,425 | \$ | 473,015 | \$ | 16,947 | \$ | 35,354 | \$ | 164,145 | \$ | 1,190,886 |
| Assets at September 30, 2010 | \$ | 19,677,651 | \$ | 31,467,598 | \$ | 4,205,027 | \$ | 2,919,046 | \$ | 50,128,264 | \$ | 08,397,586 |
|  |  | Suttle |  | Transition Networks |  | JDL <br> chnologies |  | Austin Taylor |  | Other |  | Total |
| Nine months ended September 30, 2009: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sales | \$ | 33,159,219 | \$ | 39,809,867 | \$ | 8,106,662 | \$ | 2,380,809 | \$ | - | \$ | 83,456,557 |
| Cost of sales |  | 25,613,432 |  | 18,873,905 |  | 5,391,549 |  | 2,280,212 |  | - | \$ | 52,159,098 |
| Gross profit |  | 7,545,787 |  | 20,935,962 |  | 2,715,113 |  | 100,597 |  | - |  | 31,297,459 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses |  | 4,639,869 |  | 14,462,999 |  | 948,362 |  | 838,149 |  | 2,514,527 | \$ | 23,403,906 |
| Operating income (loss) | \$ | 2,905,918 | \$ | 6,472,963 | \$ | 1,766,751 | \$ | (737,552) | \$ | $\underline{(2,514,527)}$ | \$ | 7,893,553 |
| Depreciation and amortization | \$ | 473,404 | \$ | 434,714 | \$ | 118,140 | \$ | 48,300 | \$ | 163,804 | \$ | 1,238,362 |
| Capital expenditures | \$ | 2,735,553 | \$ | 261,141 | \$ | 14,051 | \$ | 85,457 | \$ | 63,334 | \$ | 3,159,536 |
| Assets at September 30, 2009 | \$ | 22,433,288 | \$ | $\underline{26,652,702}$ | \$ | 3,209,269 | \$ | 4,390,817 | \$ | 45,520,693 | \$ | $\underline{02,206,769}$ |

## SEGMENT INFORMATION - THREE MONTHS

|  | Suttle |  | Transition Networks |  | JDL <br> Technologies |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Austin } \\ & \text { Taylor } \end{aligned}$ |  | Other |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Three months ended September 30, 2010: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sales | \$ | 9,069,600 | \$ | 18,991,587 | \$ | 4,463,475 | \$ | 799,131 | \$ | - | \$ | 33,323,793 |
| Cost of sales |  | 6,634,125 |  | 8,400,497 |  | 2,302,883 |  | 676,304 |  | - | \$ | 18,013,809 |
| Gross profit |  | 2,435,475 |  | 10,591,090 |  | 2,160,592 |  | 122,827 |  | - |  | 15,309,984 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses |  | 1,730,506 |  | 5,452,714 |  | 346,899 |  | 324,672 |  | 1,150,908 | \$ | 9,005,699 |
| Operating income (loss) | \$ | 704,969 | \$ | 5,138,376 | \$ | 1,813,693 | \$ | $(201,845)$ | \$ | (1,150,908) | \$ | 6,304,285 |
| Depreciation and amortization | \$ | 187,636 | S | 158,071 | \$ | 11,709 | \$ | 8,952 | \$ | 73,669 | \$ | 440,037 |
| Capital expenditures | \$ | $(3,387)$ | \$ | 193,763 | \$ | - | \$ | $\underline{\text { 20,961 }}$ | \$ | 84,063 | \$ | 295,400 |
|  |  | Suttle |  | Transition Networks |  | JDL <br> chnologies |  | Austin Taylor |  | Other |  | Total |
| Three months ended September 30, 2009: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sales | \$ | 10,548,663 | \$ | 14,001,891 | \$ | 2,723,361 | \$ | 833,285 | \$ | - | \$ | 28,107,200 |
| Cost of sales |  | 8,044,494 |  | 6,484,737 |  | 1,888,195 |  | 821,855 |  | - | \$ | 17,239,281 |
| Gross profit |  | 2,504,169 |  | 7,517,154 |  | 835,166 |  | 11,430 |  | - |  | 10,867,919 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses |  | 1,502,589 |  | 4,668,015 |  | 287,797 |  | 248,675 |  | 811,633 | \$ | 7,518,709 |
| Operating income (loss) | \$ | 1,001,580 | \$ | 2,849,139 | \$ | 547,369 | \$ | (237,245) | \$ | (811,633) | \$ | 3,349,210 |
| Depreciation and amortization | \$ | 160,527 | \$ | 139,852 | \$ | 36,363 | \$ | 16,893 | \$ | 70,271 | \$ | 423,906 |
| Capital expenditures | \$ | 727,561 | \$ | 101,082 | \$ | 5,509 | \$ | 2,106 | \$ | 5,153 | \$ | 841,411 |

## NOTE 8 - PENSIONS

The Company's U.K. based subsidiary Austin Taylor maintains defined benefit pension plans that cover approximately 8 active employees. The Company does not provide any other post-retirement benefits to its employees. Components of net periodic benefit cost of the pension plans were:

|  | Nine months Ended September 30 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2010 |  |  | 2009 |
| Service cost | \$ | 27,000 |  | 29,000 |
| Interest cost |  | 194,000 |  | 201,000 |
| Expected return on plan assets |  | $(168,000)$ |  | $(196,000)$ |
|  | \$ | 53,000 | \$ | 34,000 |

## NOTE 9 - NET INCOME PER SHARE

Basic net income per common share is based on the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during each year. Diluted net income per common share takes into effect the dilutive effect of potential common shares outstanding. The Company's only potential common shares outstanding are stock options, which resulted in a dilutive effect of 16,369 shares and 24,670 shares for the respective three and nine month periods ended September 30,2010 . The dilutive effect of stock options for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2009 was 23,454 shares and 9,263 shares, respectively. The Company calculates the dilutive effect of outstanding options using the treasury stock method. The number of shares not included in the computation of diluted earnings per share because the options' exercise price was greater than the average market price of common stock during the period was 18,000 and 151,100 at September 30, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

## NOTE 10 - FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

The accounting guidance establishes a valuation hierarchy for disclosure of the inputs to valuation used to measure fair value. This hierarchy prioritizes the inputs into three broad levels as follows:

Level 1 - Observable inputs that reflect unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Company has the ability to access at the measurement date.

Level 2 - Observable inputs such as quoted prices for similar instruments and quoted prices in markets that are not active, and inputs that are directly observable or can be corroborated by observable market data. The types of assets and liabilities included in Level 2 are typically either comparable to actively traded securities or contracts, such as treasury securities with pricing interpolated from recent trades of similar securities, or priced with models using highly observable inputs, such as commodity options priced using observable forward prices and volatilities.

Level 3 - Significant inputs to pricing have little or no observability as of the reporting date. The types of assets and liabilities included in Level 3 are those with inputs requiring significant management judgment or estimation, such as the complex and subjective models and forecasts used to determine the fair value of financial instruments.

The Company's assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009, respectively, include money market funds within cash and cash equivalents of $\$ 6,153,000$ and $\$ 12,972,000$ classified as Level 1 within the hierarchy and certificate of deposits within investments of $\$ 25,723,000$ and $\$ 18,776,000$ classified as Level 2 . The Company does not have any assets or liabilities classified as Level 3 within the hierarchy. There were no transfers between levels during the nine months ended September 30, 2010.

## NOTE 11 - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Company has evaluated subsequent events through the date of this filing. We do not believe there are any material subsequent events that would require further disclosure.

## I tem 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

## Forward looking statements

In this report and, from time to time, in reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, in press releases, and in other communications to shareholders or the investing public, the Company may make "forward looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 concerning possible or anticipated future financial performance, business activities, plans, pending claims, investigations or litigation which are typically preceded by the words "believes", "expects", "anticipates", "intends" or similar expressions. For these forward-looking statements, the Company claims the protection of the safe harbor for forward-looking statements contained in federal securities laws. Shareholders and the investing public should understand that these forward looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual performance, activities, anticipated results, outcomes or plans to differ significantly from those indicated in the forward-looking statements. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to:

- lower sales to major telephone companies and other major customers;
- the introduction of competitive products and technologies;
- our ability to successfully reduce operating expenses at certain business units;
- the general health of the telecom sector;
- the continuing economic downturn and the fact that conditions outside the United States are recovering more slowly than within the United States;
- successful integration and profitability of acquisitions;
- delays in new product introductions;
- higher than expected expense related to new sales and marketing initiatives;
- unfavorable resolution of claims and litigation;
- availability of adequate supplies of raw materials and components;
- fuel prices;
- government funding of education technology spending; and
- other factors discussed from time to time in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including risk factors presented under Item 1A of the Company's most recently filed annual report on Form 10-K.


## Three Months Ended September 30, 2010 Compared to <br> Three Months Ended September 30, 2009

Consolidated sales increased $19 \%$ in 2010 to $\$ 33,324,000$ compared to $\$ 28,107,000$ in 2009 . Consolidated operating income in 2010 increased to $\$ 6,304,000$ compared to $\$ 3,349,000$ in the third quarter of 2009.

Net income in 2010 increased to $\$ 3,999,000$ compared to $\$ 1,861,000$ in the third quarter of 2009.

## Suttle

Suttle sales decreased $14 \%$ in the third quarter of 2010 to $\$ 9,070,000$ compared to $\$ 10,549,000$ in the same period of 2009 due to contraction of the housing and building sectors of the economy. Sales by customer groups in the third quarter of 2010 and 2009 were:

|  | Suttle Sales by Customer Group |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2010 |  | 2009 |  |
| Major telephone companies | \$ | 6,596,000 | \$ | 7,455,000 |
| Distributors |  | 1,347,000 |  | 1,696,000 |
| International |  | 1,120,000 |  | 1,367,000 |
| Other |  | 7,000 |  | 31,000 |
|  | \$ | $\underline{9,070,000}$ | \$ | 10,549,000 |

Suttle's sales by product groups in third quarter of 2010 and 2009 were:

|  | Suttle Sales by Product Group |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2010 |  | 2009 |  |
| Modular connecting products | \$ | 3,378,000 | \$ | 3,943,000 |
| DSL products |  | 2,882,000 |  | 3,396,000 |
| Structured cabling products |  | 2,725,000 |  | 3,014,000 |
| Other products |  | 85,000 |  | 196,000 |
|  | \$ | 9,070,000 | \$ | 10,549,000 |

Sales to the major telephone companies decreased $12 \%$ in 2010 due to a decrease in sales of DSL products, an accelerating decline in voice markets and the continued impact of the contraction of the U.S. housing market. Sales to these customers accounted for $73 \%$ of Suttle's sales in the 2010 third quarter compared to $71 \%$ of sales in 2009 . Sales to distributors decreased $21 \%$ in 2010 due to a decline in the home building market. This customer segment accounted for $15 \%$ and $16 \%$ of sales in the third quarters of 2010 and 2009 , respectively. International sales decreased $18 \%$ and accounted for $12 \%$ of Suttle's third quarter 2010 sales. Suttle's products do not have a large international market due to different product specifications in non-US markets. Sales to other customers decreased $77 \%$ to $\$ 7,000$.

Modular connecting products sales have decreased $14 \%$ due to a slowing of the home building business and accelerated decline in the voice market. Sales of DSL products decreased $15 \%$ due to the maturation of the U.S. DSL market and the order cycle of major customers. Sales of structured cabling products decreased $10 \%$ due to the contraction of the housing market, specifically the multi-dwelling unit space.

Suttle's gross margin decreased $3 \%$ in the third quarter of 2010 to $\$ 2,435,000$ compared to $\$ 2,504,000$ in the same period of 2009. Gross margin as a percentage of sales increased to $27 \%$ in 2010 from $24 \%$ in 2009 due to product mix changes. Suttle realizes its highest selling margins on modular connecting products. DSL products are the least profitable. Selling, general and administrative expenses increased $\$ 228,000$ or $15 \%$ in the third quarter of 2010 compared to the same period in 2009 , due to increased spending in the Company's technology development initiative. Suttle's operating income was $\$ 705,000$ in the third quarter of 2010 compared to operating income of $\$ 1,002,000$ in 2009 .

## Transition Networks

Transition Networks sales increased $36 \%$ to $\$ 18,992,000$ in the third quarter of 2010 compared to $\$ 14,002,000$ in 2009.
Third quarter sales by region are presented in the following table:

|  | Transition Networks Sales by Region |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2010 |  | 2009 |  |
| North America | \$ | 16,213,000 | \$ | 11,416,000 |
| Europe, Middle East, Africa ("EMEA") |  | 1,216,000 |  | 1,374,000 |
| Rest of world |  | 1,563,000 |  | 1,212,000 |
|  | \$ | $\underline{\text { 18,992,000 }}$ | \$ | $\underline{14,002,000}$ |

Sales in North America increased $42 \%$ or $\$ 4,797,000$ due to an improving economic situation in the United States and Canada and increased activity in target vertical market segments. International sales increased $\$ 193,000$, or $7 \%$, primarily due to improved economic activity in Asia and Latin America. The economy in the EMEA region continues to be sluggish causing sales to decline $11 \%$ over the same period in the prior year.

The following table summarizes Transition Networks' 2010 and 2009 third quarter sales by its major product groups:

|  | Transition Networks Sales by Product Group |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2010 |  | 2009 |  |
| Media converters | \$ | 13,973,000 | \$ | 9,698,000 |
| Ethernet switches |  | 1,256,000 |  | 1,110,000 |
| Ethernet adapters |  | 2,371,000 |  | 2,229,000 |
| Other products |  | 1,392,000 |  | 965,000 |
|  | \$ | 18,992,000 | \$ | 14,002,000 |

Gross margin on third quarter Transition Networks' sales increased $41 \%$ to $\$ 10,591,000$ in 2010 from $\$ 7,517,000$ in 2009. Gross margin as a percentage of sales was $56 \%$ in 2010 , compared to $54 \%$ in the 2009 period. The increase is due to the mix of products with an increase in some higher margin conversion products and lower operating expenses for the indirect costs related to gross margin. Selling, general and administrative expenses increased $17 \%$ to $\$ 5,453,000$ in 2010 compared to $\$ 4,668,000$ in 2009 due to the hiring of new employees and an increase in selling expenses. Operating income increased to $\$ 5,138,000$ in 2010 compared to $\$ 2,849,000$ in 2009 .

## JDL Technologies, Inc.

JDL Technologies, Inc. sales increased $64 \%$ to $\$ 4,463,000$ in the third quarter of 2010 compared to $\$ 2,723,000$ in 2009.

JDL's revenues by customer group were as follows:

|  | JDL Revenue by Customer Group |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2010 |  | 2009 |  |
| Broward County FL schools | \$ | 4,380,000 | \$ | 2,682,000 |
| All other |  | 83,000 |  | 41,000 |
|  | \$ | 4,463,000 | \$ | $\underline{2,723,000}$ |

Revenues earned in Broward County, Florida increased $\$ 1,698,000$ or $63 \%$ in the third quarter 2010. The increase was the result of higher funding from the federal government for LAN/WAN/Wire work in 2010 than in 2009.

JDL gross margin increased $159 \%$ to $\$ 2,161,000$ in the third quarter of 2010 compared to $\$ 835,000$ in the same period in 2009 . Gross margin as a percentage of sales increased to $48 \%$ in 2010 from $31 \%$ in 2009 due to purchasing discounts and rebates the Company was able to take advantage of during the quarter. Selling, general and administrative expenses increased in 2010 to $\$ 347,000$ compared to $\$ 288,000$ in 2009 due to an increase in compensation expenses. JDL reported operating income of $\$ 1,814,000$ in the third quarter of 2010 compared to $\$ 547,000$ in the same period of 2009.

## Austin Taylor

Austin Taylor's revenues decreased $4 \%$ to $\$ 799,000$ for the third quarter of 2010, compared to $\$ 833,000$ in 2009. This decrease is primarily due to a strategic business partner's reorganization of its purchasing and warehousing operations as well as lower than expected demand in the UK and Ireland telecom markets. Gross margin increased to $\$ 123,000$ in 2010 from $\$ 11,000$ in 2009. Gross margin as a percentage of sales was $15 \%$ in 2010 compared to $1 \%$ in 2009. This increase resulted from the realigning of the Austin Taylor Supplier network and improved efficiencies of the internal manufacturing processes. Austin Taylor reported an operating loss in 2010 of $\$ 202,000$ compared to $\$ 237,000$ in 2009.

## Other

Net investment income decreased $71 \%$ to $\$ 50,000$ in 2010 as compared to $\$ 173,000$ in 2009 This decrease is due to a decrease in interest rates and unrealized foreign exchange losses due to the decline in the Euro. Income before income taxes increased to $\$ 6,354,000$ in 2010 compared to $\$ 3,522,000$ in 2009. The Company's effective income tax rate was $37 \%$ in 2010 and $47 \%$ in 2009. This effective rate was higher than the standard rate of $35 \%$ due to state income taxes, foreign losses not deductible for U.S. income tax purposes, income tax return to provision adjustments, provisions for interest charges and settlement of uncertain income tax positions.

## Nine Months Ended September 30, 2010 Compared to <br> Nine Months Ended September 30, 2009

Consolidated sales increased $8 \%$ in 2010 to $\$ 89,865,000$ compared to $\$ 83,457,000$ in 2009. Consolidated operating income in 2010 increased to $\$ 12,616,000$ compared to $\$ 7,894,000$ in the first nine months of 2009.

Net income in 2010 increased to $\$ 7,746,000$ compared to $\$ 4,833,000$ in the first nine months of 2009.

## Suttle

Suttle sales decreased $15 \%$ in the first nine months of 2010 to $\$ 28,122,000$ compared to $\$ 33,159,000$ in the same period of 2009 . Sales by customer groups in the first nine months of 2010 and 2009 were:

|  | Suttle Sales by Customer Group |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2010 |  | 2009 |  |
| Major telephone companies | \$ | 19,628,000 | \$ | 23,103,000 |
| Distributors |  | 4,179,000 |  | 5,583,000 |
| International |  | 4,220,000 |  | 4,337,000 |
| Other |  | 95,000 |  | 136,000 |
|  | \$ | 28,122,000 | \$ | 33,159,000 |

Suttle's sales by product groups in first nine months of 2010 and 2009 were:

|  | Suttle Sales by Product Group |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2010 |  | 2009 |  |
| Modular connecting products | \$ | 11,186,000 | S | 12,446,000 |
| DSL products |  | 8,930,000 |  | 10,111,000 |
| Structured cabling products |  | 7,566,000 |  | 10,092,000 |
| Other products |  | 440,000 |  | 510,000 |
|  | \$ | 28,122,000 | \$ | 33,159,000 |

Sales to the major telephone companies decreased $15 \%$ in 2010 due to decreased DSL deployment and continued contraction of the domestic housing market. Sales to these customers accounted for $70 \%$ of Suttle's sales in the first nine months of both 2010 and 2009. Sales to distributors decreased $25 \%$ in 2010 primarily due to the decrease of structured cabling sales to these customers. This customer segment accounted for $15 \%$ and $17 \%$ of sales in the first nine months of 2010 and 2009 , respectively. International sales decreased $3 \%$ and accounted for $15 \%$ of Suttle's first nine months 2010 sales. Suttle's products do not have a large international market due to different product specifications in non-US markets. Sales to other customers decreased $30 \%$ to $\$ 95,000$.

Modular connecting products sales have decreased $10 \%$ due to a slowing of the home building business and continued decline in the voice market. Sales of DSL products decreased $12 \%$ due to the maturation of the U.S. DSL market. Sales of structured cabling products decreased $25 \%$ due to the contraction of the housing market, specifically the multi-dwelling unit space.

Suttle's gross margin decreased slightly in the first nine months of 2010 to $\$ 7,510,000$ compared to $\$ 7,546,000$ in the same period of 2009 . Gross margin as a percentage of sales increased to $27 \%$ in 2010 from $23 \%$ in 2009 due to favorable product mix changes. Suttle realizes its highest selling margins on modular connecting products. DSL products are the least profitable. Selling, general and administrative expenses increased $\$ 724,000$ or $16 \%$ in the first nine months of 2010 compared to the same period in 2009 , due to increases in technological development spending. Suttle's operating income was $\$ 2,145,000$ in the first nine months of 2010 compared to operating income of $\$ 2,906,000$ in 2009.

## Transition Networks

Transition Networks sales increased $25 \%$ to $\$ 49,864,000$ in the first nine months of 2010 compared to $\$ 39,810,000$ in 2009.
First nine months sales by region are presented in the following table:

|  | Transition Networks Sales by Region |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2010 |  | 2009 |  |
| North America | \$ | 41,737,000 | \$ | 32,609,000 |
| Europe, Middle East, Africa ("EMEA") |  | 3,292,000 |  | 3,444,000 |
| Rest of world |  | 4,835,000 |  | 3,757,000 |
|  | \$ | 49,864,000 | \$ | $\underline{\text { 39,810,000 }}$ |

Sales in North America increased $\$ 9,128,000$ or $28 \%$ due to an improving economic situation in the United States and Canada and increased activity in target vertical market segments and product groups. International sales increased $\$ 926,000$, or $13 \%$ primarily due to improved economic activity in Asia and Latin America. The EMEA region continues to be sluggish in its economic recovery and sales decreased $4 \%$ in that region.

The following table summarizes Transition Networks' 2010 and 2009 first nine months sales by its major product groups:

|  | Transition Networks Sales by Product Group |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2010 |  | 2009 |  |
| Media converters | \$ | 37,176,000 | \$ | 29,120,000 |
| Ethernet switches |  | 3,153,000 |  | 2,570,000 |
| Ethernet adapters |  | 5,692,000 |  | 5,776,000 |
| Other products |  | 3,843,000 |  | 2,344,000 |
|  | \$ | 49,864,000 | \$ | 39,810,000 |

Gross margin on the first nine months of Transition Networks' sales increased to $\$ 27,178,000$ in 2010 from $\$ 20,936,000$ in 2009. Gross margin as a percentage of sales was $55 \%$ in 2010 , compared to $53 \%$ in the 2009 period, due to the mix of products with an increase in some higher margin conversion products and lower operating expenses for the indirect costs related to gross margin. Selling, general and administrative expenses increased $9 \%$ to $\$ 15,772,000$ in 2010 compared to $\$ 14,463,000$ in 2009 due to the hiring of new employees and an increase in selling expenses. Operating income increased to $\$ 11,406,000$ in 2010 compared to $\$ 6,473,000$ in 2009.

## JDL Technologies, Inc.

JDL Technologies, Inc. reported 2010 first nine months sales of $\$ 9,384,000$ compared to $\$ 8,107,000$ in 2009.

JDL's revenues by customer group were as follows:

|  | 2010 |  | sto |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | 2009 |  |
| Broward County FL schools | \$ | 9,167,000 | \$ | 7,982,000 |
| All other |  | 217,000 |  | 125,000 |
|  | \$ | 9,384,000 | \$ | 8,107,000 |

Revenues earned in Broward County FL increased $\$ 1,185,000$ or $15 \%$ in 2010. The increase was the result of increased IT infrastructure contract funding from the federal government.

JDL gross margin increased $54 \%$ to $\$ 4,185,000$ in the first nine months of 2010 compared to $\$ 2,715,000$ in the same period in 2009. Gross margin as a percentage of sales increased to $45 \%$ in 2010 from $33 \%$ in 2009 due to purchasing discounts and rebates the Company was able to take advantage of during the year. Selling, general and administrative expenses increased $11 \%$ in 2010 to $\$ 1,055,000$ compared to $\$ 948,000$ in 2009 due to increased travel and relocation costs due to a change in management in the first quarter 2010 and increased compensation expenses. JDL reported operating income of $\$ 3,130,000$ in the first nine months of 2010 compared to $\$ 1,767,000$ in the same period of 2009.

## Austin Taylor

Austin Taylor's revenues increased $5 \%$ to $\$ 2,494,000$ for the first nine months of 2010 , compared to $\$ 2,381,000$ in 2009 . This increase is due to deeper sales penetration into UK distribution and an aggressive product development approach Austin Taylor has implemented with existing and new accounts. Gross margin increased $135 \%$ to $\$ 237,000$ in 2010 from $\$ 101,000$ in 2009. Gross margin as a percentage of sales was $9 \%$ in 2010 compared to $4 \%$ in 2009. This increase was due to increased efficiencies in manufacturing and sharper focus on out-sourced suppliers. Austin Taylor reported an operating loss in 2010 of $\$ 617,000$ compared to $\$ 738,000$ in 2009.

## Other

Net investment income decreased $97 \%$ to $\$ 19,000$ in 2010 as compared to $\$ 579,000$ in 2009 . This decrease is due to unrealized foreign exchange losses due to the decline in the Euro against the dollar and decreasing interest rates. Income before income taxes increased to $\$ 12,635,000$ in 2010 compared to $\$ 8,473,000$ in 2009. The Company's effective income tax rate was $39 \%$ in 2010 and $43 \%$ in 2009. This effective rate was higher than the standard rate of $35 \%$ due to state income taxes, foreign losses not deductible for U.S. income tax purposes, income tax return to provision adjustments, and provisions for interest charges as explained in Note 6 above.

## Liquidity and Capital Resources

At September 30, 2010, the Company had approximately $\$ 40,089,000$ of cash equivalents and investments compared to $\$ 40,069,000$ of cash equivalents and investments at December 31, 2009. The Company had current assets of approximately $\$ 84,951,000$ and current liabilities of $\$ 13,314,000$ at September 30,2010 compared to current assets of $\$ 76,967,000$ and current liabilities of $\$ 12,754,000$ at December 31, 2009.

Net cash provided by operating activities was $\$ 4,977,000$ in the first nine months of 2010 compared to $\$ 15,223,000$ in the same period in 2009. Significant working capital changes from December 31, 2009 to September 30, 2010 included an increase in accounts receivable of $\$ 5,316,000$ due to an overall increase in sales in the third quarter of 2010 as compared to the fourth quarter of 2009 and an increase in income taxes payable due to higher taxable income and timing of tax payments.

Net cash used in investing activities was $\$ 8,097,000$ in the first nine months in 2010 compared to cash used of $\$ 18,110,000$ in the same period in 2009 . During the first nine months of 2010, the Company continued to purchase certificates of deposit with maturities of greater than 90 days during the quarter and increased its investments from $\$ 18.8$ million at December 31, 2009 to $\$ 25.7$ million at September 30, 2010.

Net cash used in financing activities was $\$ 3,776,000$ and $\$ 3,334,000$ in the first nine months of 2010 and 2009, respectively. Cash dividends paid in the first nine months of 2010 were $\$ 3,599,000$ ( $\$ .43$ per common share) compared to $\$ 3,164,000$ ( $\$ .38$ per common share) in the same period in 2009 . Proceeds from common stock issuances, principally issued under the Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan, totaled approximately $\$ 100,000$ in the first nine months of 2010 and $\$ 140,000$ in the same period in 2009. In the first nine months of 2010, the Company did not purchase any of its outstanding common shares. At September 30, 2010, 481,938 additional shares could be repurchased under outstanding Board authorizations. The Company has a $\$ 10,000,000$ line of credit from U.S. Bank. Interest on borrowings on the credit line is at the LIBOR rate plus $1.5 \%(1.8 \%$ at September 30, 2010). There were no borrowings on the line of credit during the first nine months of 2010 or 2009 . The credit agreement expires September 30, 2011 and is secured by assets of the Company. As part of the acquisition of the new Minnetonka headquarters building in July 2007, the Company assumed an outstanding mortgage of $\$ 4,380,000$. The mortgage is payable in monthly installments and carries an interest rate of $6.83 \%$. The mortgage matures on March 1 , 2016. Mortgage payments on principal totaled $\$ 94,000$ during the third quarter of 2010. The outstanding balance on the mortgage was $\$ 2,497,000$ at September 30,2010 .

In the opinion of management, based on the Company's current financial and operating position and projected future expenditures, sufficient funds are available to meet the Company's anticipated operating and capital expenditure needs.

## Critical Accounting Policies

Our critical accounting policies, including the assumptions and judgments underlying them, are discussed in our 2009 Form 10-K in Note 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies included in our Consolidated Financial Statements. There were no significant changes to our critical accounting policies during the three months ended September 30, 2010.

The Company's accounting policies have been consistently applied in all material respects and disclose such matters as allowance for doubtful accounts, sales returns, inventory valuation, warranty expense, income taxes, revenue recognition, asset and goodwill impairment recognition and foreign currency translation. On an ongoing basis, we evaluate our estimates based on historical experience and on various other assumptions that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances, the result of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying value of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Results may differ from these estimates due to actual outcomes being different from those on which we based our assumptions. Management reviews these estimates and judgments on an ongoing basis.

## Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

We do not believe there are any recently issued accounting standards that have not yet been adopted that will have a material impact on the Company's financial statements.

## I tem 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk.

The Company has no freestanding or embedded derivatives. The Company's policy is to not use freestanding derivatives and to not enter into contracts with terms that cannot be designated as normal purchases or sales.

The vast majority of our transactions are denominated in U.S. dollars; as such, fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates have historically not been material to the Company. At September 30, 2010 our bank line of credit carried a variable interest rate based on the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) plus $1.5 \%$. The Company's investments are either money market type of investments that earn interest at prevailing market rates or certificates of deposits insured through the FDIC and as such do not have material risk exposure.

Based on the Company's operations, in the opinion of management, no material future losses or exposure exist relative to market risk.

## I tem 4. Controls and Procedures

The Company carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of its management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company's "disclosure controls and procedures" (as defined in the Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(e)) as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based upon that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures are effective.

There was no change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the Company's most recently completed fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

## P ART II. OTHER INFORMATION

## Item 1. Legal Proceedings

Not Applicable.
Item 1A. Risk Factors
Not Applicable.
Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds
Not applicable.
Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities
Not Applicable.
Item 4. [Removed and Reserved]
Item 5. Other Information
Not Applicable

Item 6 Exhibits.

The following exhibits are included herein:
10.1 Consulting Agreement dated December 18, 2008 between Communications Systems, Inc. and Curtis A. Sampson
31.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (Rules 13a-14 and 15d-14 of the Exchange Act).
31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (Rules 13a-14 and 15d-14 of the Exchange Act).
32. Certifications pursuant Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (18 U.S.C. §1350).

## S ignatures

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 thereto duly authorized.

|  |  | Communications Systems, Inc. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | By | /s/ Jeffrey K. Berg |
|  |  | Jeffrey K. Berg |
| Date: November 10, 2010 |  | President and Chief Executive Officer |
|  |  | /s/ David T. McGraw |
|  |  | David T. McGraw |
| Date: November 10, 2010 |  | Chief Financial Officer |

Dear Curt,
We have agreed that it is desirable to document in writing the terms of your consulting services to Communications Systems Inc. which were originally established on October 23, 2007 by action of the Board of Directors at that time.

1. Because of your unique position as a founder of the Company and its CEO for more than 37 years, because of your familiarity with the Company's business practices, clients, contacts, processes and products, and because your knowledge, skill and ability can continue to provide benefit to the Company, the Company desires to retain you to provide consulting services to the Company on a year to year basis.
2. We agree your services as a consultant began on May 21, 2008 in accordance with decisions adopted by Compensation Committee and Board of Director beginning in October 2007, and that this Letter Agreement memorializes both the services you have provided since May 21, 2008 and will continue to provide until such time as this Letter Agreement is modified or terminated.
3. Your compensation for consulting services has been and shall continue to be at the annual rate of $\$ 130,000.00$ per year. While in 2008 this compensation was paid to you as an employee, effective January 1, 2009 you will be compensated as an independent contractor.
4. Your compensation as consultant to the Company is independent of compensation as a director that you have received (beginning at the May 2008 shareholders meeting) and will continue to receive so long as you are a director of the Company.
5. Your duties as a consultant are to faithfully, diligently and to the best of your ability be responsible for the development and support of all projects assigned to you by the Company's CEO or Board of Directors. Within this overall framework, you will serve as a spokesperson and ambassador for the Company with shareholders, customers, suppliers, employees, and other stakeholders. Further, you agree to assist the CEO and provide advice in such areas as corporate planning and strategies, corporate finance, marketing, business development and executive compensation. Upon request, you will provide introductions and liaison with individuals, companies or groups that could assist the Company in its continue development and growth. You agreed that in providing these services, you will at all times be subject to Company policies and procedures, as well as directions and restrictions the Company Board of Directors or CEO may reasonably adopt from time to time.
6. You will formally be treated as an independent contractor rather than an employee effective January 1, 2009. As an independent contractor, the manner you fulfill your responsibilities and render your services shall be in your sole discretion. On the other hand, you understand and agree you shall not have authority to act as an agent or employee of the Company. Also, as an independent contractor you shall be solely responsible for withholding of taxes and FICA, and shall not be eligible to participate in any employee health plan or any other fringe benefit of the Company.
7. The Company will provide reasonable and appropriate support to you in your role as a consultant, as well as to enable you to fulfill your duties as the Chairman of the Company's Board of Directors, including suitable office space in Hector, Minnesota and Minnetonka, Minnesota, a Company provided car and cell phone, and administrative support in Hector, Minnesota.
8. You will provide consulting services to the Company under this agreement on a year to year basis, with the initial term ending May 30, 2009. Within 30 days prior to that date, and each subsequent May 30, we have the right to give you written notice that we wish to terminate this agreement or modify its terms, but if we do not do so, this agreement will automatically renew for an additional one year term. You, however, may terminate this agreement at any time on thirty days notice.

If you agree that this letter correctly documents our understandings and agreements, please sign where indicated below.

Very Truly Yours,
Communication Systems Inc.
/s/ Jeffrey K. Berg
Jeffrey K. Berg
President
Accepted and Agreed
/s/ Curtis A. Sampson
Curtis A. Sampson.

## CERTIFICATION

I, Jeffrey K. Berg certify that:

1. I have reviewed this quarterly report on Form 10-Q of Communications Systems, Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13 a 15(e) and 15d-15(e)) for the registrant and have:
(a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
(b) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
(c) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
(a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
(b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

By /s/ Jeffrey K. Berg
Date: November 10, 2010

Jeffrey K. Berg
President and Chief Executive Officer

## CERTIFICATION

I, David T. McGraw, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this quarterly report on Form 10-Q of Communications Systems, Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13 a 15(e) and 15d-15(e)) for the registrant and have:
(a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
(b) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
(c) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
(a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
(b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

By /s/ David T. McGraw
David T. McGraw
Date: November 10, 2010
Chief Financial Officer

## CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certify pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350, that:
(1) The accompanying Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the periods ended September 30, 2010, fully complies with the requirements of Section 13 (a) or 15 (d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
(2) The information contained in the accompanying Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: November 10, 2010
By /s/ Jeffrey K. Berg
Jeffrey K. Berg
Date: November 10, 2010
By /s/ David T. McGraw
David T. McGraw
Chief Financial Officer
Date: November 10, 2010

