

MDC PARTNERS INC  
Form 10-Q  
November 10, 2008

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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

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**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, 2008**

**or**

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

**For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_**

**Commission file number: 001-13178**

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**MDC Partners Inc.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Canada**

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**98-0364441**

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

**45 Hazelton Avenue**

**Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

(Address of principal executive offices)

**M5R 2E3**

(Zip Code)

**(416) 960-9000**

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:

**950 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10022**

**(646) 429-1809**

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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  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of "accelerated filer" and "large accelerated filer" in Rule 12(b)-2 of the Exchange Act (check one)

Large Accelerated Filer

Accelerated Filer

Non-Accelerated Filer  (Do not check if a smaller reporting company.)

Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes  No

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APPLICABLE ONLY TO REGISTRANTS INVOLVED IN BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PRECEDING FIVE YEARS:

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has filed all documents and reports required to be filed by Section 12, 13 or 15(d) of the Act subsequent to the distributions of securities under a plan confirmed by a court. Yes  No

The numbers of shares outstanding as of October 30, 2008 were: 27,299,602 Class A subordinate voting shares and 2,503 Class B multiple voting shares.

**Website Access to Company Reports**

MDC Partners Inc.'s internet website address is [www.mdc-partners.com](http://www.mdc-partners.com). The Company's annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K, and any amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, will be made available free of charge through the Company's website as soon as reasonably practical after those reports are electronically filed with, or furnished to, the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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## Item 1. Financial Statements

**MDC PARTNERS INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS (unaudited)**  
(thousands of United States dollars, except share and per share amounts)

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2008	2007 Reclassified (Note 1)	2008	2007 Reclassified (Note 1)
<b>Revenue:</b>				
Services	\$ 143,428	\$ 139,135	\$ 444,393	\$ 391,712
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>				
Cost of services sold	95,747	90,469	296,933	253,317
Office and general expenses	32,800	36,048	105,872	104,471
Depreciation and amortization	7,545	9,710	26,327	21,437
	136,092	136,227	429,132	379,225
Operating profit	7,336	2,908	15,261	12,487
<b>Other Income (Expenses):</b>				
Other income (expense)	2,392	(3,119)	5,470	(4,838)
Interest expense	(3,565)	(3,480)	(11,097)	(9,719)
Interest income	126	220	505	1,455
	(1,047)	(6,379)	(5,122)	(13,102)
Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes, equity in affiliates and minority interests	6,289	(3,471)	10,139	(615)
Income tax (expense) recovery	(1,824)	2,450	(4,942)	3,398
Income (loss) from continuing operations before equity in affiliates and minority interests	4,465	(1,021)	5,197	2,783
Equity in earnings of non-consolidated affiliates	69	124	290	135
Minority interests in income of consolidated subsidiaries	(1,284)	(5,163)	(6,261)	(14,873)
Income (loss) from continuing operations	3,250	(6,060)	(774)	(11,955)
Income (loss) from discontinued operations	—	(713)	(3,840)	(6,215)
Net income (loss)	\$ 3,250	\$ (6,773)	\$ (4,614)	\$ (18,170)
<b>Income (loss) Per Common Share:</b>				
<b>Basic and Diluted:</b>				
Continuing operations	\$ 0.12	\$ (0.24)	\$ (0.03)	\$ (0.49)
Discontinued operations	—	(0.03)	(0.14)	(0.25)
Net income (loss)	\$ 0.12	\$ (0.27)	\$ (0.17)	\$ (0.74)
<b>Weighted Average Number of Common Shares Outstanding:</b>				
Basic	26,835,101	24,957,704	26,721,820	24,664,159
Diluted	27,290,259	24,957,704	26,721,820	24,664,159

Non cash stock-based compensation expense is included in the following line items above:

Cost of services sold	\$	236	\$	299	\$	778	\$	802
Office and general expenses		1,593		1,574		4,912		4,540
Total	\$	1,829	\$	1,873	\$	5,690	\$	5,342

See notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

**MDC PARTNERS INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**  
(thousands of United States dollars, except per share amounts)

	September 30, 2008 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2007
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 17,483	\$ 10,410
Accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$1,734 and \$1,357	136,623	135,260
Expenditures billable to clients	25,384	19,409
Prepaid expenses	6,400	5,937
Other current assets	2,419	2,422
Total Current Assets	188,309	173,438
Fixed assets, at cost, less accumulated depreciation of \$69,416 and \$58,822	45,451	47,440
Investment in affiliates	1,871	1,434
Goodwill	227,294	217,726
Other intangibles assets, net	44,347	55,399
Deferred tax asset	6,952	9,175
Other assets	14,491	16,086
Total Assets	\$ 528,715	\$ 520,698
<b>LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 64,662	\$ 65,839
Accruals and other liabilities	63,594	74,668
Advance billings	68,852	50,988
Current portion of long-term debt	1,599	1,796
Deferred acquisition consideration	2,413	2,511
Total Current Liabilities	201,120	195,802
Revolving credit facility	10,302	1,901
Long-term debt	115,063	115,662
Convertible debentures	42,285	45,395
Other liabilities	8,878	8,267
Deferred tax liabilities	596	819
Total Liabilities	378,244	367,846
Minority interests	26,063	24,919
Commitments, contingencies and guarantees (Note 12)		
Shareholders' Equity:		
Preferred shares, unlimited authorized, none issued	—	—
Class A Shares, no par value, unlimited authorized, 26,834,666 and 26,235,932 shares issued in 2008 and 2007	213,063	207,958
Class B Shares, no par value, unlimited authorized, 2,503 shares issued in 2008 and 2007, each convertible into one Class A share	1	1
Share capital to be issued, 27,545 Class A shares in 2007	—	214
Additional paid-in capital	28,348	26,743
Accumulated deficit	(117,585)	(112,969)

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Stock subscription receivable	(354)	(357)
Accumulated other comprehensive income	935	6,343
Total Shareholders' Equity	124,408	127,933
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	\$ 528,715	\$ 520,698

See notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

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**MDC PARTNERS INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (unaudited)**  
(thousands of United States dollars)

	<b>Nine Months Ended September 30,</b>	
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
		<b>Reclassified</b>
		<b>(Note 1 )</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>		
Net loss	\$ (4,614)	\$ (18,170)
Loss from discontinued operations	(3,840)	(6,215)
Loss from continuing operations	(774)	(11,955)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss from continuing operations to cash provided by (used in) operating activities		
Depreciation	12,604	10,658
Amortization of intangibles	13,723	10,779
Non cash stock-based compensation	5,053	4,749
Amortization of deferred finance charges	1,036	1,980
Deferred income taxes	2,000	1,378
(Gain) Loss on sale of assets	113	(1,823)
Earnings of non-consolidated affiliates	(290)	(135)
Minority interest and other	881	1,184
Foreign exchange	(5,627)	8,214
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(1,566)	(24,842)
Expenditures billable to clients	(5,975)	12,701
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	(476)	(2,703)
Accounts payable, accruals and other liabilities	(16,028)	(30,055)
Advance billings	17,650	(4,271)
Cash flows provided by (used in) continuing operating activities	22,324	(24,141)
Discontinued operations	211	338
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	22,535	(23,803)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>		
Capital expenditures	(10,722)	(14,970)
Acquisitions, net of cash acquired	(10,655)	(12,534)
Proceeds from sale of assets	439	8,348
Other investments	(130)	(389)
Profit distributions from non-consolidated affiliates	68	—
Net cash used in investing activities	(21,000)	(19,545)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>		
Proceeds from revolving credit facility	8,401	25,631
Repayment of long-term debt	(1,612)	(5,718)
Purchase of treasury shares	(896)	(765)
Proceeds from stock subscription receivable	1	392
Decrease in bank indebtedness	—	(4,832)
Payments under old revolving credit facility	—	(45,000)
Proceeds from term loan	—	75,000
Proceeds from note payable	—	2,471
Deferred financing costs	—	(3,946)
Issuance of share capital	—	2,125

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Discontinued operations		—	(78)
Net cash provided by financing activities		5,894	45,280
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents		(356)	(1,434)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		7,073	498
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period		10,410	6,591
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$	17,483	\$ 7,089
Supplemental disclosures:			
Cash paid to minority partners	\$	9,678	\$ 16,310
Cash income taxes paid	\$	936	\$ 1,205
Cash interest paid	\$	9,225	\$ 9,133
Non-cash transactions:			
Share capital issued on acquisitions	\$	1,573	\$ 2,497
Capital leases	\$	308	\$ 1,531

See notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

**MDC PARTNERS INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
(thousands of United States dollars, except per share amounts and unless otherwise stated)

**1. Basis of Presentation**

MDC Partners Inc. (the “Company”) has prepared the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements included herein pursuant to the rules and regulations of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”). Certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in annual financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) of the United States of America (“US GAAP”) have been condensed or omitted pursuant to these rules.

The accompanying financial statements reflect all adjustments, consisting of normally recurring accruals, which in the opinion of management are necessary for a fair presentation, in all material respects, of the information contained therein. Results of operations for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of annual results.

These statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and related notes included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007.

In December 2007, the Company discontinued the operations of Margeotes Fertitta Powell, LLC (“MFP”) and Banjo Strategic Entertainment, LLC (“Banjo”) and accordingly has reclassified its 2007 financial results to reflect discontinued operations.

**2. Significant Accounting Policies**

The Company’s significant accounting policies are summarized as follows:

*Principles of Consolidation.* The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts of MDC Partners Inc. and its domestic and international controlled subsidiaries that are not considered variable interest entities, and variable interest entities for which the Company is the primary beneficiary. Intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

*Use of Estimates.* The preparation of financial statements in conformity with US GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions. These estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities including goodwill, intangible assets, valuation allowances for receivables and deferred tax assets, and the reporting of variable interest entities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. The estimates are evaluated on an ongoing basis and estimates are based on historical experience, current conditions and various other assumptions believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

*Fair Value of Financial Instruments.* Effective January 1, 2008, the Company adopted SFAS No. 157, “Fair Value Measurements” (SFAS 157). SFAS 157 defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, and expands disclosure requirements about fair value measurements. In accordance with FASB Staff Position FAS 157-2, “Effective Date of FASB Statement No. 157” (FSP 157-2), we will defer the adoption of SFAS 157 for our nonfinancial assets and nonfinancial liabilities except those items recognized or disclosed at fair value on an annual or more frequent recurring basis, until January 1, 2009. The adoption of SFAS 157 did not have a material impact on our fair value measurements.

*Concentration of Credit Risk.* The Company provides marketing communications services to clients who operate in most industry sectors. Credit is granted to qualified clients in the ordinary course of business. Due to the diversified

nature of the Company's client base, the Company does not believe that it is exposed to a concentration of credit risk; however, one client accounted for approximately 13% of the Company's consolidated accounts receivable at September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007. This client also accounted for 19.1% and 19.3% of revenue for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, respectively, and 17.1% and 15.9% of revenue for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, respectively.

*Cash and Cash Equivalents.* The Company's cash equivalents are primarily comprised of investments in overnight interest-bearing deposits, commercial paper and money market instruments and other short-term investments with original maturity dates of three months or less at the time of purchase. The Company has a concentration risk in that there are cash deposits in excess of federally insured amounts. Included in cash and cash equivalents at September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, is approximately \$52 and \$63, respectively, of cash restricted as to its use by the Company.

*Revenue Recognition.* The Company's revenue recognition policies are in compliance with the SEC Staff Accounting Bulletin 104, "Revenue Recognition" ("SAB 104"), and accordingly, revenue is generally recognized as services are provided or upon delivery of the products when ownership and risk of loss has transferred to the customer, the selling price is fixed or determinable and collection of the resulting receivable is reasonably assured.

In November 2002, EITF Issue No. 00-21, "Revenue Arrangements with Multiple Deliverables" ("EITF 00-21") was issued. EITF 00-21 addresses certain aspects of the accounting by a vendor for arrangements under which it will perform multiple revenue-generating activities and how to determine whether an arrangement involving multiple deliverables contains more than one unit of accounting. EITF 00-21 is effective for revenue arrangements entered into in fiscal periods beginning after June 15, 2003. Also, in July 2000, the EITF of the Financial Accounting Standards Board released Issue No. 99-19, "Reporting Revenue Gross as a Principal versus Net as an Agent" ("EITF 99-19"). This Issue summarized the EITF's views on when revenue should be recorded at the gross amount billed because it has earned revenue from the sale of goods or services, or the net amount retained because it has earned a fee or commission. The Company also follows EITF No. 01-14, "Income Statement Characterization of Reimbursements Received for Out-of-Pocket Expenses Incurred". This issue summarized the EITF's views that reimbursements received for out-of-pocket expenses incurred should be characterized in the income statement as revenue. Accordingly, the Company has included in revenue such reimbursed expenses.

The Company earns revenue from agency arrangements in the form of retainer fees or commissions, from short-term project arrangements in the form of fixed fees or per diem fees for services, and from incentives or bonuses.

Non refundable retainer fees are generally recognized on a straight line basis over the term of the specific customer contract. Commission revenue is earned and recognized upon the placement of advertisements in various media when the Company has no further performance obligations. Fixed fees for services are recognized upon completion of the earnings process and acceptance by the client. Per diem fees are recognized upon the performance of the Company's services. In addition, for certain service transactions, which require delivery of a number of service acts, the Company uses the Proportional Performance model, which generally results in revenue being recognized based on the straight-line method due to the acts being non-similar and there being insufficient evidence of fair value for each service provided.

Fees billed to clients in excess of fees recognized as revenue are classified as Advanced Billings.

A small portion of the Company's contractual arrangements with customers includes performance incentive provisions, which allows the Company to earn additional revenues as a result of its performance relative to both quantitative and qualitative goals. The Company recognizes the incentive portion of revenue under these arrangements when specific quantitative goals are achieved, or when the company's clients determine performance against qualitative goals has been achieved. In all circumstances, revenue is only recognized when collection is reasonably assured. The Company records revenue net of sales and other taxes due to be collected and remitted to governmental authorities.

*Stock-Based Compensation.* The fair value method is applied to all awards granted, modified or settled on or after January 1, 2003. Under the fair value method, compensation cost is measured at fair value at the date of grant and is expensed over the service period that is the award's vesting period. When awards are exercised, share capital is credited by the sum of the consideration paid together with the related portion previously credited to additional paid-in capital when compensation costs were charged against income or acquisition consideration. The Company uses its historical volatility derived over the expected term of the award, to determine the volatility factor used in determining the fair value of the award. The Company uses the "simplified" method to determine the term of the award.

Stock-based awards that are settled in cash or equity at the option of the Company are recorded at fair value on the date of grant and recorded as additional paid-in capital. The fair value measurement of the compensation cost for these awards is derived using the Black-Scholes option pricing model and is recorded in operating income over the service period, which is the vesting period of the award.

It is the Company's policy for issuing shares upon the exercise of an equity incentive award to verify the amount of shares to be issued, as well as the amount of proceeds to be collected (if any) and delivery of new shares to the exercising party.

The Company has adopted the straight-line attribution method for determining the compensation cost to be recorded during each accounting period. However, awards based on performance conditions are recorded as compensation expense when the performance conditions are expected to be met.

In February and March 2008, the Company issued 139,069 Class A shares of time-based restricted stock, and 681,458 Class A shares of time-based restricted stock units, to its employees under the 2005 Stock Incentive Plan. The Class A shares underlying each grant of restricted stock or restricted stock units will vest one-third on each of the anniversary dates of grant in 2009, 2010 and 2011 subject to acceleration if certain financial performance targets are achieved in 2008 and 2009. The Company will be recording a non-cash stock based compensation charge of \$2,480 from the date of grant through March 15, 2009 for these awards.

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For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, the Company has recorded charges of \$620 and \$1,392, respectively, relating to these equity incentive grants. The value of the awards was determined based on the fair market value of the underlying stock on the date of grant. Class A shares of restricted stock granted to employees amounting to 464,936 are included in the Company's calculation of Class A shares outstanding as of September 30, 2008.

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### 3. Income (Loss) Per Common Share

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted income (loss) per common share from continuing operations.

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
<b>Numerator</b>				
Numerator for basic income (loss) per common share – income (loss) from continuing operations	\$ 3,250	\$ (6,060)	\$ (774)	\$ (11,955)
Effect of dilutive securities:	—	—	—	—
Numerator for diluted income (loss) per common share – income (loss) from continuing operations plus assumed conversion	\$ 3,250	\$ (6,060)	\$ (774)	\$ (11,955)
<b>Denominator</b>				
Denominator for basic income (loss) per common share – weighted average common shares	26,835,101	24,957,704	26,721,820	24,664,159
Effect of dilutive securities:	455,158	—	—	—
Denominator for diluted income (loss) per common share - adjusted weighted shares and assumed conversions	27,290,259	24,957,704	26,721,820	24,664,159
Basic income (loss) per common share from continuing operations	\$ 0.12	\$ (0.24)	\$ (0.03)	\$ (0.49)
Diluted income (loss) per common share from continuing operations	\$ 0.12	\$ (0.24)	\$ (0.03)	\$ (0.49)

The 8% convertible debentures, options and other rights to purchase 6,384,950 shares of common stock, which includes 1,652,448 shares of non-vested restricted stock, were outstanding during the nine months ended September 30, 2008, but were not included in the computation of diluted loss per common share because their effect would be antidilutive. Similarly, during the nine months ended September 30, 2007, the 8% convertible debentures, options and other rights to purchase 6,893,847 shares of common stock, which includes 371,614 shares of non-vested restricted stock, were outstanding but were not included in the computation of diluted loss per common share because their effect would be antidilutive.

### 4. Acquisitions

#### 2008 Acquisitions

On June 16, 2008, the Company's 77% owned subsidiary, Crispin Porter & Bogusky ("CPB"), acquired certain assets and assumed certain liabilities of Texture Media, Inc. Texture Media is a digital agency specializing in website development, and is based in Boulder, Colorado with approximately 50 employees. The purchase price consisted of \$2,500 in cash and a non-contingent cash payment of \$1,040 in one year. The allocation of the excess purchase consideration of this acquisition to the fair value of the net assets acquired resulted in identifiable intangibles of \$150 (consisting of customer lists and covenants not to compete) and goodwill of \$3,111. The identified intangibles will be amortized up to a two year period in a manner represented by the pattern in which the economic benefits of the customer contracts/relationship are realized. The intangibles and goodwill are tax deductible.

On February 12, 2008, the Company's Bratskeir subsidiary purchased the net assets of Clifford PR for \$2,050 in cash and the issuance of 30,444 newly issued shares of the Company's Class A stock valued at \$249, plus a 10% membership interest in Clifford/Bratskeir. For accounting purposes, the value of the Company's Class A shares issued as consideration was calculated based on the price of the Company's Class A shares on the date of the acquisition. The accounting value of the 10% membership interest in Clifford/Bratskeir was valued at \$1,064. The allocation of the excess purchase consideration of this acquisition to the fair value of the net assets acquired resulted in identifiable intangibles of \$1,031 (consisting of customer lists, backlog and covenants not to compete) and goodwill of \$2,201. The identified intangibles will be amortized over a period of up to five years in a manner represented by the pattern in which the economic benefits of the customer contracts/relationship are realized. The intangibles and goodwill are tax deductible.

In January 2008, the Company's 62% owned subsidiary, Zyman Group, purchased certain assets of Core Strategy Group and DMG Inc. The aggregate purchase price paid at closing consisted of \$1,000 paid in cash and the issuance of 126,478 newly issued shares of the Company's Class A stock valued at \$1,110. In addition, the principals of Core Strategy Group and DMG received 1,000,000 newly-issued Restricted Class C units of Zyman Group, which will entitle them to a profit interest of 15% of Zyman Group's pre-tax income in excess of a specified threshold amount. For accounting purposes, the value of the Company's Class A shares issued as consideration was calculated based on the price of the Company's Class A share on the date of the acquisitions. The accounting value of the Restricted Class C units of Zyman Group was determined based on a Black-Scholes value of \$1,001. The allocation of the excess purchase consideration of these acquisitions to the fair value of the net assets acquired resulted in identifiable intangibles of \$497 (consisting of customer lists and covenants not to compete) and goodwill of \$2,626. The identified intangibles will be amortized up to a five year period in a manner represented by the pattern in which the economic benefits of the customer contracts/relationship are realized. The intangibles and goodwill are tax deductible.

On January 1, 2008, on April 1, 2008, and again on September 1, 2008, the Company completed 11 equity acquisitions with various shareholders of Allard Johnson Communications Inc. ("Allard"), all pursuant to contractual puts options. The aggregate purchase price for the 11 transactions was cash equal to \$2,870. These transactions increased the Company's equity ownership in Allard to 72.03%, an increase of 11.8%. The allocation of the excess purchase consideration of these step acquisitions to the fair value of the net assets acquired resulted in identifiable intangibles of \$205 (consisting of customer lists and existing backlog) and goodwill of \$2,664. The identified intangibles will be amortized over a five year period in a manner represented by the pattern in which the economic benefits of the customer contracts/relationship are realized. The intangible and goodwill are not tax deductible.



## 2007 Acquisitions

On November 1, 2007, the Company acquired an additional 28% of CPB from certain minority holders resulting in the Company's current ownership of 77%. The purchase price consisted of a payment of approximately \$22,561 in cash and the issuance of 514,025 newly-issued shares of the Company's Class A subordinated voting stock valued at approximately \$5,546. For accounting purposes, the value of the Company's Class A shares issued as consideration was calculated based on the price of the Company's Class A shares over a period two days before and after the November 1, 2007 announcement date. This acquisition represented an accelerated exercise of the Company's existing call option that was otherwise exercisable in December 2007 and in April 2008. Prior to the transaction, the Company consolidated CPB as a Variable Interest Entity ("VIE"). As a result of this step acquisition, the Company now consolidates CPB as a majority owned subsidiary. The allocation of the excess purchase consideration of this acquisition to the fair value of net assets acquired resulted in 100% or \$4,637 of the excess consideration being allocated to identifiable intangible assets. Approximately \$2,000 represents customer backlog and is being amortized over a five month period and the balance of \$2,637 represents customer relationships and is being amortized over a five year period in a manner represented by the pattern in which the economic benefits of the customer contracts/relationship are realized. These intangibles are tax deductible as well as \$23,470 of intangibles which have been previously recorded in connection with the VIE accounting.

On October 18, 2007, the Company acquired the remaining 40% equity interest in KBP Holdings LLC, ("KBP") from KBP Management Partners LLC ("Minority Holder"). The purchase price consisted of an initial payment of approximately \$12,255 in cash and the issuance of 269,389 newly-issued shares of the Company's Class A subordinated voting stock valued at approximately \$2,901. For accounting purposes, the value of the Company's Class A shares issued as consideration was calculated based on the price of the Company's Class A shares on the date of the acquisition. In addition, the Company expects to pay a contingent amount to the Minority Holder in 2009 and 2010, based on KBP's financial performance in 2008 and 2009. These additional contingent payments will be calculated in accordance with KBP's existing limited liability company agreement. In connection with this acquisition, certain key executives of KBP agreed to extend the terms of their existing employment agreements and received grants of restricted stock of the Company valued at \$234 in the aggregate. These equity grants vest over a three year period. This acquisition represented an accelerated exercise of the Company's existing call option that was otherwise exercisable in 2008. The allocation of the excess purchase consideration of this acquisition to the fair value of net assets acquired resulted in 100% or \$14,494 of the excess consideration being allocated to identifiable intangible assets. Approximately \$2,711 represents customer backlog and is being amortized over a six and one-half month period and the balance of \$11,783 represents customer relationships and the amortization rate is expected to be 30%, 25%, 20%, 15% and 10% in years one through five, respectively. The value of the restricted stock grants will be amortized over a three year period. In addition, the Company incurred a non-cash stock based compensation charge of approximately \$2,603 resulting from a portion of the purchase price being paid by the Minority Holder to certain employees of KBP pursuant to an existing phantom equity plan between those employees and the Minority Holder. A similar type of charge will be incurred if and when any contingent payments are made in 2009 and 2010. The intangibles are tax deductible. In May 2008, it was determined that an additional payment of \$814 would be due in December 2008. This additional payment has been allocated to backlog and written off during the second quarter of 2008. In addition, the Company incurred a non-cash stock based compensation charge of \$142 resulting from this payment to the phantom equity holders.

On June 15, 2007, the Company acquired a 60% membership interest in Redscout, LLC ("Redscout"). Redscout is a brand development and innovation consulting firm. Redscout is expected to expand the Company's strategic consultancy services within the Strategic Marketing Services segment. The purchase price consisted of \$4,021 in cash and \$641 was paid in the form of 76,340 newly issued Class A shares of the Company. In addition, the Company may be required to make additional payments which are contingent on the results of Redscout's operations through December 2008. As of December 31, 2007, the Company will be required to make additional payments of \$1,500 of which approximately \$214 may be paid in the form of Class A shares. At December 31, 2007, this amount has been

accrued in deferred acquisition consideration. In addition, the Company incurred approximately \$35 of transaction related costs for a total purchase price of \$4,697. The allocation of the cost of the acquisition to the fair value of net assets acquired resulted in amortizable intangible assets of \$1,275 and goodwill of \$2,706 and is based on estimates of fair values and certain assumptions that the Company believes are reasonable. The identified intangible will be amortized over a five year period in a manner represented by the pattern in which the economic benefits of the customer contracts/ relationship are realized. The intangibles and goodwill are tax deductible.

On April 4, 2007, the Company acquired a 59% membership interest in HL Group Partners LLC (“HL”). The Company intends to use up to 8% of the membership interests acquired for purposes of entering into a profits interest arrangement with other key executives of HL, or “Gen II” management of which 7% has been issued. Gen II management will also have liquidity rights based on any appreciation of value over the original purchase price attributable to the profits interest. HL is a marketing strategy and corporate communications firm with a specialty in high end fashion and luxury goods. HL is expected to expand the Company’s creative talent within the Strategic Marketing Services segment. The purchase price consisted of \$4,813 in cash, of which \$4,493 was paid and \$320 was paid in April 2008, and \$1,000 was paid in the form of 128,550 newly-issued Class A shares of the Company. In addition, the Company incurred transaction costs of approximately \$30 for a total purchase price of \$5,843. The allocation of the cost of the acquisition to the fair value of net assets acquired resulted in amortizable intangible assets of \$2,154 and goodwill of \$3,442 and is based on estimates of fair values and certain assumptions that the Company believes are reasonable. The intangibles and goodwill are tax deductible in future years.

***Pro forma Information***

The following unaudited pro forma results of operations of the Company for the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2007 assume that the acquisition of the operating assets of the significant businesses acquired during 2007 had occurred on January 1, 2007. For the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2008, there were no significant businesses acquired. These unaudited pro forma results are not necessarily indicative of either the actual results of operations that would have been achieved had the companies been combined during these periods, or are they necessarily indicative of future results of operations. These unaudited pro forma results for the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2007, include an adjustment for the non-cash stock based compensation charge of \$2,603 resulting from the KBP acquisition.

	<b>Three Months Ended September 30, 2007</b>		<b>Nine Months Ended September 30, 2007</b>	
Revenues	\$	139,135	\$	391,712
Net loss	\$	(6,470)	\$	(22,787)
<b>Loss per common share:</b>				
Basic – net loss	\$	(0.25)	\$	(0.90)
Diluted – net loss	\$	(0.25)	\$	(0.90)

## 5. **Accrued and Other Liabilities**

At September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, accrued and other liabilities included amounts due to minority interest holders, for their share of profits, which will be distributed within the next twelve months of \$5,216 and \$7,916, respectively.

## 6. **Discontinued Operations**

Effective June 30, 2008, the Company sold its 60% equity interest in The Ito Partnership, a start-up operation formed in 2006. The sale resulted in a loss of approximately \$800, and has been included in discontinued operations. This entity had been previously included in the Company's Specialized Communication Services segment. The operating results for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007 were not material and accordingly have not been restated.

In March 2007, due to continued operating and client losses, the Company ceased operations of MFP and spun off a new operating business. As a result, the Company incurred a goodwill impairment charge of \$4,475 in the first quarter of 2007. In the fourth quarter of 2007, the Company received the 2008 projections of the new MFP operating business, and decided to cease its operations. As a result, the Company has classified these operations as discontinued. The results of operations of MFP and the new operating business during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, net of income tax benefits, was a loss of \$684 and \$6,099, respectively. The operating loss consists primarily of the accrual of lease abandonment costs and severance costs.

In December 2007, the Company ceased Banjo's operations due to Banjo's continued operating losses and the lack of new business wins. The results of operations of Banjo during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, net of income tax benefits, was a loss of \$29 and \$116, respectively.

MFP and Banjo had been previously included in the Company's Specialized Communication Services segment.

Included in discontinued operations in the Company's consolidated statements of operations for the three months and nine months ended September 30, were the following:

	<b>Three Months Ended September 30, 2007</b>		<b>Three Months Ended September 30, 2008</b>		<b>Nine Months Ended September 30, 2007</b>	
Revenue	\$	915	\$	158	\$	3,126
Impairment charge		—		—		4,475
Operating loss		(843)		(2,903)		(8,868)
Other expense		(238)		(937)		(546)
Income tax recovery		368		—		3,199
Net loss from discontinued operations	\$	(713)	\$	(3,840)	\$	(6,215)

7. **Comprehensive Loss**

Total comprehensive loss and its components were:

	<b>Three Months Ended September 30, 2008</b>		<b>Nine Months Ended September 30, 2007</b>	
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Net income (loss) for the period	\$ 3,250	\$ (6,773)	\$ (4,614)	\$ (18,170)
Foreign currency cumulative translation adjustment	(2,437)	2,574	(5,408)	5,481
Comprehensive income (loss) for the period	\$ 813	\$ (4,199)	\$ (10,022)	\$ (12,689)

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**8. Short-Term Debt, Long-Term Debt and Convertible Debentures**

Debt consists of:

	<b>September 30, 2008</b>	<b>December 31, 2007</b>
Revolving credit facility	\$ 10,302	\$ 1,901
8% convertible debentures	42,285	45,395
Term loans	111,500	111,500
Notes payable and other bank loans	2,789	3,285
	166,876	162,081
Obligations under capital leases	2,373	2,673
	169,249	164,754
Less:		
Current portions	1,599	1,796
Long term portion	\$ 167,650	\$ 162,958

**MDC Financing Agreement and Debentures*****Financing Agreement***

On June 18, 2007, the Company and its material subsidiaries entered into a \$185,000 senior secured financing agreement (the "Financing Agreement") with Fortress Credit, an affiliate of Fortress Investment Group, as collateral agent and Wells Fargo Bank, as administrative agent, and a syndicate of lenders. Proceeds from the Financing Agreement were used to repay in full the outstanding balances on the Company's prior credit facility, which was terminated.

The Financing Agreement consists of a \$55,000 revolving credit facility, a \$60,000 term loan and a \$70,000 delayed draw term loan. Borrowings under the Financing Agreement will bear interest as follows: (a) LIBOR Rate Loans bear interest at applicable interbank rates and Reference Rate Loans bear interest at the rate of interest publicly announced by the Reference Bank in New York, New York, plus (b) a percentage spread ranging from 0% to a maximum of 4.75% depending on the type of loan and the Company's Senior Leverage Ratio. In addition, the Company is required to pay a facility fee of 50 basis points. At September 30, 2008, the weighted average interest rate was 7.15%.

At September 30, 2008, \$58,305 remains available under the Financing Agreement to support the Company's future cash requirements. The Company's obligations under the Financing Agreement are guaranteed by the material subsidiaries of the Company. The Financing Agreement matures on June 17, 2012, and is subject to various covenants, including a senior leverage ratio, fixed charges ratio, limitations on debt incurrence, limitation on liens and limitation on dividends and other payments.

The Company is currently in compliance with all of the terms and conditions of its Financing Agreement, and management believes, based on its current financial projections, that the Company will be in compliance with all covenants under the Financing Agreement over the next twelve months.

### ***8% Convertible Unsecured Subordinated Debentures***

On June 28, 2005, the Company completed an offering in Canada of convertible unsecured subordinated debentures amounting to \$36,723 (C\$45,000) (the "Debentures"). The Debentures will mature on June 30, 2010. The Debentures bear interest at an annual rate of 8.00% payable semi-annually, in arrears, on June 30 and December 31 of each year. Unless an event of default has occurred and is continuing, the Company may elect, from time to time, subject to applicable regulatory approval, to issue and deliver Class A subordinate voting shares to the Debenture trustee in order to raise funds to satisfy all or any part of the Company's obligations to pay interest on the Debentures in accordance with the indenture in which holders of the Debentures will be entitled to receive a cash payment equal to the interest payable from the proceeds of the sale of such Class A subordinate voting shares by the Debenture trustee.

The Debentures are convertible at the holder's option into fully-paid, non-assessable and freely tradable Class A subordinate voting shares of the Company, at any time prior to maturity or redemption, subject to the restrictions on transfer, at a conversion price of \$13.16 (C\$14.00) per Class A subordinate voting share being a ratio of approximately 71.4286 Class A subordinate voting shares per \$940 (C\$1,000.00) principal amount of Debentures.

Prior to June 30, 2009, the Debentures may be redeemed, in whole or in part from time to time, at a price equal to the principal amount of the Debenture plus accrued and unpaid interest, provided that the volume weighted average trading price of the Class A subordinate voting shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange during a specified period is not less than 125% of the conversion price. From July 1, 2009 until the maturity of the Debentures, the Debentures may be redeemed by the Company at a price equal to the principal amount of the Debenture plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any. The Company may elect to satisfy the redemption consideration, in whole or in part, by issuing Class A subordinate voting shares of the Company to the holders, the number of which will be determined by dividing the principal amount of the Debenture by 95% of the current market price of the Class A subordinate voting shares on the redemption date. Upon the occurrence of a change of control on or after June 30, 2008, the Company shall be required to make an offer to purchase all of the then outstanding Debentures at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Debentures plus accrued and unpaid interest to the purchase date.

## **9. Shareholders' Equity**

During the nine months ended September 30, 2008, Class A share capital increased by \$5,105, as the Company issued 537,356 Class A shares related to vested shares of restricted stock. Additionally, during the nine months ended September 30, 2008, the Company issued 184,467 Class A shares, valued at \$1,573 in connection with acquisitions and deferred acquisition consideration. During the nine months ended September 30, 2008 "Additional paid-in capital" increased by \$1,605 primarily related to an increase of \$5,053 from stock-based compensation that was expensed during the same period and \$1,001 related to the profit interest granted in the Core Strategy Group and DMG acquisitions by the Zyman Group. These amounts were offset by vested shares of restricted stock of \$4,449 which was reclassified to share capital.

In March, June and August 2008, the Company purchased and retired 110,743 Class A shares for \$896 from employees in connection with the required tax withholding resulting from the vesting of shares of the restricted stock. In addition, the Company received and retired 12,346 Class A shares from the Company's CEO as partial payment of outstanding loans.

**10. Income Taxes and Other Income (Expense)**

- (a) During the nine months ended September 30, 2008, the Company increased income tax expense for continuing operations and the valuation allowance relating to net operating loss carry forwards by \$3,281.
- (b) Other income (expense)

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2008		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2007	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
Other income (expense)	\$ 5	\$ 522	\$ 1	\$ 409
Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	2,498	(3,629)	5,582	(7,070)
Gain (loss) on sale of assets	(111)	(12)	(113)	1,823
	\$ 2,392	\$ (3,119)	\$ 5,470	\$ (4,838)

## 11. Segmented Information

The Company reports in three segments plus corporate. The segments are as follows:

- The *Strategic Marketing Services* (“SMS”) segment consists of integrated marketing consulting services firms that offer a compliment of marketing consulting services including advertising and media, marketing communications including direct marketing, public relations, corporate communications, market research, corporate identity and branding, interactive marketing and sales promotion. Each of the entities within SMS share similar economic characteristics, specifically related to the nature of their respective services, the manner in which the services are provided and the similarity of their respective customers. Due to the similarities in these businesses, they exhibit similar long term financial performance and have been aggregated together.
- The *Customer Relationship Management* (“CRM”) segment provides marketing services that interface directly with the consumer of a client’s product or service. These services include the design, development and implementation of a complete customer service and direct marketing initiative intended to acquire, retain and develop a client’s customer base. This is accomplished using several domestic and two foreign-based customer contact facilities.
- The *Specialized Communication Services* (“SCS”) segment includes all of the Company’s other marketing services firms that are normally engaged to provide a single or a few specific marketing services to regional, national and global clients. These firms provide niche solutions by providing world class expertise in select marketing services.

During the fourth quarter of 2007, the Company reclassified certain costs from the corporate segment to each of the SMS, CRM and SCS segments. As a result, the 2007 segments have been restated for this reclassification.

The significant accounting policies of these segments are the same as those described in the summary of significant accounting policies included in the notes to the consolidated financial statements.

The SCS segment is an “Other” segment pursuant SFAS 131 “Disclosures about Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information”.



Summary financial information concerning the Company's operating segments is shown in the following tables:

**Three Months Ended September 30, 2008**

(thousands of United States dollars)

	Strategic Marketing Services	Customer Relationship Management	Specialized Communication Services	Corporate	Total
Revenue	\$ 82,006	\$ 32,673	\$ 28,749	\$ —	143,428
Cost of services sold	50,420	23,888	21,439	—	95,747
Office and general expenses	18,441	5,780	5,680	2,899	32,800
Depreciation and amortization	4,884	1,846	747	68	7,545
Operating Profit/(Loss)	8,261	1,159	883	(2,967)	7,336
<b>Other Income (Expense):</b>					
Other income					2,392
Interest expense, net					(3,439)
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>					
before income taxes, equity in affiliates and minority interests					6,289
Income tax expense					(1,824)
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>					
before equity in affiliates and minority interests					4,465
Equity in earnings of non-consolidated affiliates					69
Minority interests in income of consolidated subsidiaries	(1,164)	(60)	(60)	—	(1,284)
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>					
					3,250
<b>Net Income</b>					
				\$	3,250
Non cash stock based compensation	\$ 475	\$ 31	\$ 174	\$ 1,149	\$ 1,829
<b>Supplemental Segment Information:</b>					
Capital expenditures	\$ 1,569	\$ 302	\$ 189	\$ 23	\$ 2,083
Goodwill and intangibles	\$ 198,462	\$ 28,872	\$ 44,307	\$ —	\$ 271,641
Total assets	\$ 347,907	\$ 69,197	\$ 101,812	\$ 9,799	\$ 528,715



**Three Months Ended September 30, 2007**

(thousands of United States dollars)

	As Restated				
	Strategic Marketing Services	Customer Relationship Management	Specialized Communication Services	Corporate	Total
Revenue	\$ 79,110	\$ 29,885	\$ 30,140		\$ 139,135
Cost of services sold	47,237	21,841	21,391	—	90,469
Office and general expenses	18,953	5,303	5,840	5,952	36,048
Depreciation and amortization	7,359	1,680	643	28	9,710
Operating Profit/(Loss)	5,561	1,061	2,266	(5,980)	2,908
<b>Other Expense:</b>					
Other expense					(3,119)
Interest expense, net					(3,260)
Loss from continuing operations before income taxes, equity in affiliates and minority interests					(3,471)
Income tax recovery					2,450
Loss from continuing operations before equity in affiliates and minority interests					(1,021)
Equity in earnings of non-consolidated affiliates					124
Minority interests in income of consolidated subsidiaries	(4,172)	(42)	(949)	—	(5,163)
Loss from continuing operations					(6,060)
Loss from discontinued operations					(713)
Net Loss					\$ (6,773)
Non cash stock based compensation	\$ 546	\$ 22	\$ 114	\$ 1,191	\$ 1,873
<b>Supplemental Segment Information:</b>					
Capital expenditures	\$ 3,355	\$ 3,835	\$ 415	\$ 19	\$ 7,624
Goodwill and intangibles	\$ 187,823	\$ 29,385	\$ 42,633	-\$	\$ 259,841
Total assets	\$ 326,502	\$ 72,126	\$ 102,807	\$ 15,653	\$ 517,088



**Nine Months Ended September 30, 2008**

(thousands of United States dollars)

	<b>Strategic Marketing Services</b>	<b>Customer Relationship Management</b>	<b>Specialized Communication Services</b>	<b>Corporate</b>	<b>Total</b>
Revenue	\$ 248,772	\$ 104,179	\$ 91,442	\$ —	\$ 444,393
Cost of services sold	155,823	75,936	65,174	—	296,933
Office and general expense	57,828	18,011	17,906	12,127	105,872
Depreciation and amortization	18,119	5,550	2,454	204	26,327
Operating Profit/(Loss)	17,002	4,682	5,908	(12,331)	15,261
<b>Other Income (Expense):</b>					
Other income					5,470
Interest expense, net					(10,592)
Income from continuing operations before income taxes, equity in affiliates and minority interests					10,139
Income tax expense					(4,942)
Income from continuing operations before equity in affiliates and minority interests					5,197
Equity in earnings of non-consolidated affiliates					290
Minority interests in income of consolidated subsidiaries	(3,649)	(247)	(2,365)	—	(6,261)
Loss from continuing operations					(774)
Loss from discontinued operations					(3,840)
Net Loss					\$ (4,614)
Non cash stock based compensation	\$ 1,492	\$ 98	\$ 648	\$ 3,452	\$ 5,690
<b>Supplemental Segment Information:</b>					
Capital expenditures	\$ 7,106	\$ 2,415	\$ 1,141	\$ 60	\$ 10,722
Goodwill and intangibles	\$ 198,462	\$ 28,872	\$ 44,307	\$ —	\$ 271,641
Total assets	\$ 347,907	\$ 69,197	\$ 101,812	\$ 9,799	\$ 528,715

**Nine Months Ended September 30, 2007**

(thousands of United States dollars)

**As Restated**

	<b>Strategic Marketing Services</b>	<b>Customer Relationship Management</b>	<b>Specialized Communication Services</b>	<b>Corporate</b>	<b>Total</b>
Revenue	\$ 228,117	\$ 79,134	\$ 84,461	\$ —	\$ 391,712
Cost of services sold	136,259	57,712	59,346	—	253,317
Office and general expenses	56,604	14,664	16,429	16,774	104,471
Depreciation and amortization	15,002	4,759	1,509	167	21,437
Operating Profit/(Loss)	20,252	1,999	7,177	(16,941)	12,487
<b>Other Expense:</b>					
Other expense					(4,838)
Interest expense, net					(8,264)
Loss from continuing operations before income taxes, equity in affiliates and minority interests					(615)
Income tax recovery					3,398
Income from continuing operations before equity in affiliates and minority interests					2,783
Equity in earnings of non-consolidated affiliates					135
Minority interests in income of consolidated subsidiaries	(12,138)	(68)	(2,667)	—	(14,873)
Loss from continuing operations					(11,955)
Loss from discontinued operations					(6,215)
Net Loss					\$ (18,170)
Non cash stock based compensation	\$ 1,517	\$ 70	\$ 362	\$ 3,393	\$ 5,342
<b>Supplemental Segment Information:</b>					
Capital expenditures	\$ 6,841	\$ 6,350	\$ 1,592	\$ 187	\$ 14,970
Goodwill and intangibles	\$ 187,823	\$ 29,385	\$ 42,633	\$ —	\$ 259,841

Total assets	\$	326,502	\$	72,126	\$	102,807	\$	15,653	\$	517,088
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A summary of the Company's revenue by geographic area, based on the location in which the services originated, is set forth in the following table:

	United States	Canada	Other	Total
<b>Revenue</b>				
Three Months Ended September 30,				
2008	\$ 119,237	\$ 20,865	\$ 3,326	\$ 143,428
2007	\$ 111,313	\$ 24,520	\$ 3,302	\$ 139,135
Nine Months Ended September 30,				
2008	\$ 365,320	\$ 68,765	\$ 10,308	\$ 444,393
2007	\$ 316,634	\$ 66,327	\$ 8,751	\$ 391,712

## 12. Commitments, Contingencies and Guarantees

*Deferred Acquisition Consideration.* In addition to the consideration paid at closing by the Company with respect of certain of its acquisitions, additional consideration may be payable, or may be potentially payable based on the achievement of certain threshold levels of earnings. Should the current level of earnings be maintained by these acquired companies, no additional consideration, in excess of the deferred consideration reflected on the Company's balance sheet at September 30, 2008, would be expected to be owed.

*Put Options.* Owners of interests in certain subsidiaries have the right in certain circumstances to require the Company to acquire either a portion of or all of the remaining ownership interests held by them. The owners' ability to exercise any such "put option" right is subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, including conditions requiring notice in advance of exercise. In addition, these rights cannot be exercised prior to specified staggered exercise dates. The exercise of these rights at their earliest contractual date would result in obligations of the Company to fund the related amounts during the period 2008 to 2017. It is not determinable, at this time, if or when the owners of these rights will exercise all or a portion of these rights.

The amount payable by the Company in the event such rights are exercised is dependent on various valuation formulas and on future events, such as the average earnings of the relevant subsidiary through the date of exercise, the growth rate of the earnings of the relevant subsidiary during that period, and, in some cases, the currency exchange rate at the date of payment.

Management estimates, assuming that the subsidiaries owned by the Company at September 30, 2008, perform over the relevant future periods at their trailing twelve-months earnings levels, that these rights, if all exercised, could require the Company, in future periods, to pay an aggregate amount of approximately \$64,792 to the owners of such rights to acquire such ownership interests in the relevant subsidiaries. Of this amount, the Company is entitled, at its option, to fund approximately \$10,520 by the issuance of share capital. In addition, the Company is obligated under similar put option rights to pay an aggregate amount of approximately \$8,144 only upon termination of such owner's employment with the applicable subsidiary. The ultimate amount payable relating to these transactions will vary because it is dependent on the future results of operations of the subject businesses and the timing of when these rights are exercised.

*Natural Disasters.* Certain of the Company's operations are located in regions of the United States and Caribbean which typically are subject to hurricanes. During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007, these operations did not incur any costs related to damages resulting from hurricanes.



*Guarantees.* In connection with certain dispositions of assets and/or businesses in 2001 and 2003, the Company has provided customary representations and warranties whose terms range in duration and may not be explicitly defined. The Company has also retained certain liabilities for events occurring prior to sale, relating to tax, environmental, litigation and other matters. Generally, the Company has indemnified the purchasers in the event that a third party asserts a claim against the purchaser that relates to a liability retained by the Company. These types of indemnification guarantees typically extend for a number of years.

In connection with the sale of the Company's investment in CDI, the amounts of indemnification guarantees were limited to the total sale price of approximately \$84,000. For the remainder, the Company's potential liability for these indemnifications are not subject to a limit as the underlying agreements do not always specify a maximum amount and the amounts are dependent upon the outcome of future contingent events.

Historically, the Company has not made any significant indemnification payments under such agreements and no amount has been accrued in the accompanying consolidated financial statements with respect to these indemnification guarantees. The Company continues to monitor the conditions that are subject to guarantees and indemnifications to identify whether it is probable that a loss has occurred, and would recognize any such losses under any guarantees or indemnifications in the period when those losses are probable and estimable.

*Legal Proceedings.* The Company's operating entities are involved in legal proceedings of various types. While any litigation contains an element of uncertainty, the Company has no reason to believe that the outcome of such proceedings or claims will have a material adverse effect on the financial condition or results of operations of the Company.

*Commitments.* At September 30, 2008, the Company has issued \$4,893 of undrawn outstanding letters of credit.

### **13. New Accounting Pronouncements**

In September 2006, FASB issued SFAS No. 157, "Fair Value Measurements". This statement defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. This statement is effective for all fiscal year beginning after November 15, 2007 and interim periods within those fiscal years. Earlier application is encouraged. The adoption of this statement did not have a material effect on its financial statements.

In February 2007, FASB issued SFAS No. 159, "The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities" ("SFAS 159"). This statement permits entities to choose to measure many financial instruments and certain other items at fair value. This statement expands the use of fair value measurement and applies to entities that elect the fair value option. The fair value option established by this Statement permits all entities to choose to measure eligible items at fair value at specified election dates. SFAS 159 is effective as of the beginning of an entity's first fiscal year that begins after November 15, 2007. The adoption of this statement did not have a material effect on its financial statements.

In December 2007, FASB issued SFAS No. 141R "Business Combination" ("SFAS 141R"). This revised statement retains some fundamental concepts of the current standard, including the acquisition method of accounting (known as the "purchase method" in Statement 141) for all business combinations but SFAS 141R broadens the definitions of both businesses and business combinations, resulting in the acquisition method applying to more events and transactions. This statement also requires the acquirer to recognize the identifiable assets and liabilities, as well as the noncontrolling interest in the acquiree, at the full amounts of their fair values. SFAS 141R will require both acquisition-related costs and restructuring costs to be recognized separately from the acquisition and be expensed as incurred. In addition, acquirers will record contingent consideration at fair value on the acquisition date as either a liability or equity. Subsequent changes in fair value will be recognized in the income statement for any contingent consideration recorded as a liability. SFAS 141R is to be applied prospectively for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning on or after December 15, 2008. Early application is prohibited. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of this new statement on its financial statements.

In December 2007, FASB issued SFAS No. 160 "Non-controlling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements" (SFAS 160"). This statement amends ARB No. 51 Consolidated Financial Statements, to now require the classification of noncontrolling (minority) interests and dispositions of noncontrolling interests as equity within the consolidated financial statements. The income statement will now be required to show net income/loss with and without adjustments for noncontrolling interests. SFAS 160 is to be applied prospectively for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning on or after December 15, 2008 and interim periods within those years. However, this statement requires companies to apply the presentation and disclosure requirements retrospectively to comparative financial statements. Early application is prohibited. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of this new statement on its financial statements.

In March 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 161, "Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities, an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133" ("SFAS 161"), which requires enhanced disclosures for derivative and hedging activities. SFAS 161 will become effective beginning with our first quarter of 2009. Early adoption is permitted. We are currently evaluating the impact of this standard on our Consolidated Financial Statements.

### **14. Subsequent Events**

In November 2007, the Company acquired an additional 28% equity interest in Crispin Porter & Bogusky LLC ("CPB"), one of the Company's largest subsidiaries. Following this transaction, the Company owned a 77% equity interest in CPB. On November 10, 2008, the Company acquired an additional 17% equity interest in CPB, pursuant to a Membership Interest Purchase Agreement among the Company, Crispin & Porter Advertising, Inc. and certain

employee equity holders of such entity. The purchase price paid for this additional 17% equity interest consisted of a closing cash payment of \$6.4 million, plus the issuance of 105,000 newly-issued Class A shares of the Company, plus an additional deferred purchase price payment due in April 2010, to be calculated on terms consistent with CPB's underlying Limited Liability Company Agreement. In connection with the November 2007 acquisition, the employee equity holders agreed to extend the terms of their existing employment agreements until December 2010, and received grants of restricted stock of MDC Partners Inc. Following the closing of this transaction, the employee equity holders in CPB will continue to own 6% of the equity interests in CPB, which equity may be sold in December 2012. Separately, CPB has also negotiated five-year stay arrangements with the next four most senior employees of CPB.

**Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations**

Unless otherwise indicated, reference to the "Company" means MDC Partners Inc. and its subsidiaries, and reference to a fiscal year means the Company's year commencing on January 1 of that year and ending December 31 of that year (e.g., fiscal 2008 means the period beginning January 1, 2008, and ending December 31, 2008).

The Company reports its financial results in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") of the United States of America ("US GAAP"). However, the Company has included certain non-US GAAP financial measures and ratios, which it believes, provide useful information to both management and readers of this report in measuring the financial performance and financial condition of the Company. One such term is "organic revenue" which means growth in revenues from sources other than acquisitions or foreign exchange impacts. These measures do not have a standardized meaning prescribed by US GAAP and, therefore, may not be comparable to similarly titled measures presented by other publicly traded companies, nor should they be construed as an alternative to other titled measures determined in accordance with US GAAP.

The following discussion focuses on the operating performance of the Company for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007, and the financial condition of the Company as of September 30, 2008. This analysis should be read in conjunction with the interim condensed consolidated financial statements presented in this interim report and the annual audited consolidated financial statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis presented in the Annual Report to Shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2007 as reported on Form 10-K. All amounts are in U.S. dollars unless otherwise stated.

**Executive Summary**

The Company's objective is to create shareholder value by building market-leading subsidiaries and affiliates that deliver innovative, value-added marketing communications and strategic consulting services to their clients. Management believes that shareholder value is maximized with an operating philosophy of "Perpetual Partnership" with proven committed industry leaders in marketing communications.

We manage the business by monitoring several financial and non-financial performance indicators. The key indicators that we review focus on the areas of revenues and operating expenses and capital expenditures. Revenue growth is analyzed by reviewing the components and mix of the growth, including: growth by major geographic location; existing growth by major reportable segment (organic); growth from currency changes; and growth from acquisitions.

We conduct our businesses through the Marketing Communications Group. Within the Marketing Communications Group, there are three reportable operating segments: Strategic Marketing Services ("SMS"), Customer Relationship Management ("CRM") and Specialized Communication Services ("SCS"). In addition, MDC has a "Corporate Group" which provides certain administrative, accounting, financial and legal functions. Through our operating "partners", MDC provides advertising, consulting, customer relationship management, and specialized communication services to clients throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Europe, Jamaica and the Philippines.

The operating companies earn revenue from agency arrangements in the form of retainer fees or commissions; from short-term project arrangements in the form of fixed fees or per diem fees for services; and from incentives or bonuses. Additional information about revenue recognition appears in Note 2 of the Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

We measure operating expenses in two distinct cost categories: cost of services sold, and office and general expenses. Cost of services sold is primarily comprised of employee compensation related costs and direct costs related primarily to providing services. Office and general expenses are primarily comprised of rent and occupancy costs and administrative service costs including related employee compensation costs. Also included in operating expenses is

depreciation and amortization.

Because we are a service business, we monitor these costs on a percentage of revenue basis. The cost of services sold tends to fluctuate in conjunction with changes in revenues, whereas office and general expenses and depreciation and amortization, which are not directly related to servicing clients, tend to decrease as a percentage of revenue as revenues increase because a significant portion of these expenses are relatively fixed in nature.

We measure capital expenses as either maintenance or investment related. Maintenance capital expenses are primarily composed of general upkeep of our office facilities and equipment that are required to continue to operate our businesses. Investment capital expenses include expansion costs, the build out of new capabilities, technology or call centers, or other growth initiatives not related to the day to day upkeep of the existing operations. Growth capital expenses are measured and approved based on the expected return of the invested capital.

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## Certain Factors Affecting Our Business

*Acquisitions and Dispositions.* Our strategy includes acquiring ownership stakes in well-managed businesses with strong reputations in the industry. We engaged in a number of acquisition and disposal transactions during the 2007 to 2008 period, which affected revenues, expenses, operating income and net income. Additional information regarding material acquisitions is provided in Note 4 “Acquisitions” and information on dispositions is provided in Note 6 “Discontinued Operations” in the notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

*Foreign Exchange Fluctuations.* Our financial results and competitive position are affected by fluctuations in the exchange rate between the US dollar and non-US dollars, primarily the Canadian dollar. See also “Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk — Foreign Exchange.”

*Seasonality.* Historically, with some exceptions, we generate the highest quarterly revenues during the fourth quarter in each year. The fourth quarter has historically been the period in the year in which the highest volumes of media placements and retail related consumer marketing occur.

*Reclassifications.* During the fourth quarter of 2007, we reclassified certain costs from the corporate segment to each of the SMS, CRM and SCS segments. As a result, the 2007 segments have been restated for this reclassification.

### Results of Operations:

#### For the Three Months Ended September 30, 2008

(thousands of United States dollars)

	Strategic Marketing Services	Customer Relationship Management	Specialized Communication Services	Corporate	Total
Revenue	\$ 82,006	\$ 32,673	\$ 28,749	\$ —	\$ 143,428
Cost of services sold	50,420	23,888	21,439	—	95,747
Office and general expenses	18,441	5,780	5,680	2,899	32,800
Depreciation and amortization	4,884	1,846	747	68	7,545
Operating Profit/(Loss)	8,261	1,159	883	(2,967)	7,336
Other Income (Expense):					
Other income					2,392
Interest expense, net					(3,439)
Income from continuing operations before income taxes, equity in affiliates and minority interests					6,289
Income tax expense					(1,824)
Income from continuing operations before equity in affiliates and minority interests					4,465
					69

Equity in earnings of non-consolidated affiliates					
Minority interests in income of consolidated subsidiaries	(1,164)	(60)	(60)	—	(1,284)
Income from continuing operations					3,250
Net income				\$	3,250
Non cash stock based compensation.	\$ 475	\$ 31	\$ 174	\$ 1,149	\$ 1,829

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**Results of Operations:**  
**For the Three Months Ended September 30, 2007**  
(thousands of United States dollars)

	As Restated				
	Strategic Marketing Services	Customer Relationship Management	Specialized Communication Services	Corporate	Total
Revenue	\$ 79,110	\$ 29,885	\$ 30,140		\$ 139,135
Cost of services sold	47,237	21,841	21,391	—	90,469
Office and general expenses	18,953	5,303	5,840	5,952	36,048
Depreciation and amortization	7,359	1,680	643	28	9,710
Operating Profit/(Loss)	5,561	1,061	2,266	(5,980)	2,908
<b>Other Expense:</b>					
Other expense					(3,119)
Interest expense, net					(3,260)
Loss from continuing operations before income taxes, equity in affiliates and minority interests					(3,471)
Income tax recovery					2,450
Loss from continuing operations before equity in affiliates and minority interests					(1,021)
Equity in earnings of non-consolidated affiliates					124
Minority interests in income of consolidated subsidiaries	(4,172)	(42)	(949)	—	(5,163)
Loss from continuing operations					(6,060)
Loss from discontinued operations					(713)
Net loss					\$ (6,773)
Non cash stock based compensation	\$ 546	\$ 22	\$ 114	\$ 1,191	\$ 1,873



**Results of Operations:**  
**For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2008**

(thousands of United States dollars)

	Strategic Marketing Services	Customer Relationship Management	Specialized Communication Services	Corporate	Total
Revenue	\$ 248,772	\$ 104,179	\$ 91,442	\$ —	\$ 444,393
Cost of services sold	155,823	75,936	65,174	—	296,933
Office and general expenses	57,828	18,011	17,906	12,127	105,872
Depreciation and amortization	18,119	5,550	2,454	204	26,327
Operating Profit/(Loss)	17,002	4,682	5,908	(12,331)	15,261
Other Income (Expense):					
Other income					5,470
Interest expense, net					(10,592)
Income from continuing operations before income taxes, equity in affiliates and minority interests					
					10,139
Income tax expense					(4,942)
Income from continuing operations before equity in affiliates and minority interests					
					5,197
Equity in earnings of non-consolidated affiliates					290
Minority interests in income of consolidated subsidiaries	(3,649)	(247)	(2,365)	—	(6,261)
Loss from continuing operations					
					(774)
Loss from discontinued operations					(3,840)
Net Loss					
					\$ (4,614)
Non cash stock based compensation.	\$ 1,492	\$ 98	\$ 648	\$ 3,452	\$ 5,690

**Results of Operations:**  
**For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2007**

(thousands of United States dollars)

	As Restated				
	Strategic Marketing Services	Customer Relationship Management	Specialized Communication Services	Corporate	Total
Revenue	\$ 228,117	\$ 79,134	\$ 84,461	\$ —	391,712
Cost of services sold	136,259	57,712	59,346	—	253,317
Office and general expenses	56,604	14,664	16,429	16,774	104,471
Depreciation and amortization	15,002	4,759	1,509	167	21,437
Operating Profit/(Loss)	20,252	1,999	7,177	(16,941)	12,487
Other Expense:					
Other expense					(4,838)
Interest expense, net					(8,264)
Loss from continuing operations before income taxes, equity in affiliates and minority interests					(615)
Income tax recovery					3,398
Income from continuing operations before equity in affiliates and minority interests					2,783
Equity in earnings of non-consolidated affiliates					135
Minority interests in income of consolidated subsidiaries	(12,138)	(68)	(2,667)	—	(14,873)
Loss from continuing operations					(11,955)
Loss from discontinued operations					(6,215)
Net loss					\$ (18,170)
Non cash stock based compensation	\$ 1,517	\$ 70	\$ 362	\$ 3,393	\$ 5,342

**Three Months Ended September 30, 2008, Compared to Three Months Ended September 30, 2007**

Revenue was \$143.4 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2008, representing an increase of \$4.3 million, or 3.1%, compared to revenue of \$139.1 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2007. This revenue increase is attributable primarily to organic growth of \$5.0 million. In addition, a strengthening of the US Dollar, primarily versus the Canadian dollar during the quarter ended September 30, 2008, compared to the 2007 quarter, resulted in decreased revenues of \$0.1 million.

Operating profit for the third quarter of 2008 was \$7.3 million, compared to \$2.9 million for 2007. The increase in operating profit was primarily the result of an increase in operating profit of \$2.7 million and \$0.1 million within the Strategic Marketing Services (“SMS”) and Customer Relationship Management (“CRM”) segments, respectively, partially offset by a decrease in operating profits of \$1.4 million within the Specialized Communication Services (“SCS”) segment. In addition, Corporate operating expenses decreased by \$3.0 million.

Our income from continuing operations for the third quarter of 2008 was \$3.3 million, compared to a loss of \$6.1 million in 2007. This increase in income of \$9.4 million was due to an increase of \$6.1 million in unrealized gains on foreign currency transactions, increased operating profits of \$4.4 million, and a decrease in minority interest charges of \$3.9 million. These increases were offset in part by an increase in income tax expense of \$4.3 million, including the establishment of a deferred tax valuation allowance of \$0.5 million.

**Marketing Communications Group**

Revenues for the third quarter of 2008 attributable to the Marketing Communications Group, which consists of three reportable segments — SMS, CRM, and SCS, were \$143.4 million compared to \$139.1 million in 2007, representing a year-over-year increase of 3.1%.

The components of revenue growth for the third quarter of 2008 are shown in the following table:

	Revenue	
	\$000's	%
Three months ended September 30, 2007	\$ 139,135	—
Organic	4,987	3.6%
Acquisitions	—	—%
Foreign exchange impact and other	(694)	(0.5)%
Three months ended September 30, 2008	\$ 143,428	3.1%

The geographic mix in revenues was consistent between 2008 and 2007 and is demonstrated in the following table:

	Revenue	
	Three Months Ended September 30, 2008	Three Months Ended September 30, 2007
US	83%	80%
Canada	15%	18%
UK and other	2%	2%

Our operating profit of the Marketing Communications Group for the third quarter of 2008 was equal to \$10.3 million. Operating margins increased by 0.8% and were 7.2% for 2008 compared to 6.4% for the third quarter of 2007. The increase in operating margin is primarily attributable to a decrease in depreciation and amortization of \$2.2 million related primarily to prior acquisitions. However, total staff costs increased as a percentage of revenue from 46.5% in

2007 compared to 47.8% in 2008, and general and administrative costs decreased as a percentage of revenue from 21.6% in 2007 to 20.8% in 2008.

***Strategic Marketing Services (“SMS”)***

Revenues attributable to SMS in the third quarter of 2008 were \$82.0 million, compared to \$79.1 million in 2007. The year-over-year increase of \$2.9 million, or 3.7%, is attributable primarily to organic growth as a result of net new business wins.

Our operating profit of SMS for the third quarter of 2008 increased by approximately 48.6% to \$8.3 million in 2008 from \$5.6 million in 2007. Operating margins increased to 10.1% for the third quarter of 2008 from 7.0% for the third quarter of 2007. Operating profit and margins increased due primarily to decreased depreciation and amortization of \$2.5 million, which relates to the amortization of certain intangibles relating to prior acquisitions. Operating margins were also impacted by an increase in total staff costs as a percentage of revenues from 56.8% of revenue in 2007 to 58.3% of revenue in 2008. Reimbursed client related direct costs as a percentage of revenue decreased from 12.2% in 2007 to 10.9% in 2008. General and administrative costs also decreased as a percentage of revenue from 24.0% in the third quarter of 2007 to 22.5% in 2008 as a result of increased revenues and relatively fixed costs.

***Customer Relationship Management (“CRM”)***

Revenues in the CRM segment for the third quarter of 2008 were \$32.7 million, an increase of \$2.8 million or 9.3% compared to revenues of \$29.9 million in the third quarter of 2007. This growth was entirely organic and was a result of higher revenues from existing clients following the opening of a new customer care center in September 2007.

Operating profit earned by CRM increased by approximately \$0.1 million to \$1.2 million for the third quarter of 2008, from \$1.1 million for the third quarter of the previous year. Operating margins remained consistent at 3.6%. Margins remained consistent as total cost of services sold as a percentage of revenue also remained consistent at 73.1% and general and administrative costs as a percentage of revenue also remained consistent at 17.7%.

***Specialized Communication Services (“SCS”)***

SCS generated revenues of \$28.7 million for the third quarter of 2008, a decrease of \$1.4 million, or 4.6% lower than revenues of \$30.1 million in 2007. This year-over-year decrease was attributable primarily to organic declines of \$0.7 million as a result of client projects being either postponed or cancelled. A strengthening of the US dollar versus the Canadian dollar and British pound in 2008 compared to 2007 resulted in a \$0.1 million decrease in revenues from the division’s Canadian and UK-based operations.

The operating profit of SCS decreased by \$1.4 million to \$0.9 million in the third quarter of 2008, from an operating profit of \$2.3 million in the third quarter of 2007. SCS’s operating margins were 3.1% in the third quarter of 2008 compared to 7.5% in the prior year period. The decrease in operating margin in 2008 was due primarily to the timing of client projects’ commencement and completion. As a result of this delay in revenue, total staff costs increased as a percentage of revenue from 45.7% in 2007 to 47.0% in 2008, an increase in direct costs as a percentage of revenue from 32.8% in 2007 to 35.9% in 2008, an increase in depreciation and amortization as a percentage of revenue from 2.1% in 2007 to 2.6% in 2008, and an increase in general and administrative costs as a percentage of revenue from 19.4% in 2007 to 19.8% in 2008.

***Corporate***

Operating costs related to the Company’s Corporate operations totaled \$3.0 million in the third quarter of 2008, compared to \$6.0 million in the third quarter of 2007. This decrease of \$3.0 million is primarily due to the elimination of \$1.9 million of 2007 costs associated with the Company’s separation agreement with our former President and CFO and the hiring of a new CFO. In addition, reductions in 2008 of legal and other professional fees, business insurance costs, travel and entertainment costs, and the corporate bonus accrual, accounted for the remaining decrease in Corporate costs.

***Other Income/Expenses, Net***

The Company had other income of \$2.4 million in the third quarter of 2008, compared to expenses of \$3.1 million in the third quarter of 2007. This increase in other income is primarily comprised of a foreign exchange gain of \$2.5 million for 2008, compared to a loss of \$3.6 million recorded in 2007. This unrealized gain was due to the strengthening in the US dollar during 2008 compared to the Canadian dollar primarily on its US dollar denominated intercompany balances with our Canadian subsidiaries.

***Net Interest Expense***

Net interest expense for the third quarter of 2008 was \$3.4 million, an increase of \$0.1 million over the \$3.3 million net interest expense incurred during the third quarter of 2007. Interest expense slightly increased due to higher average outstanding debt in 2008, offset by lower interest rates. Interest income was \$0.1 million for 2008 compared to \$0.2

million in 2007.

***Income Taxes***

Income tax expense in the third quarter of 2008 was \$1.8 million compared to a recovery of \$2.5 million for the third quarter of 2007. The Company's effective tax rate was lower than the statutory rate in 2008 due to minority interest charges offset by non-deductible stock based compensation and an increase in the valuation allowance relating to net operating losses. The Company's effective tax rate was substantially higher than the statutory rate in 2007 due to the pre-tax loss and minority interest charges, offset by non-deductible stock based compensation.

The Company's US operating units are generally structured as limited liability companies, which are treated as partnerships for tax purposes. The Company is only taxed on its share of profits, while minority holders are responsible for taxes on their share of the profits.

***Equity in Affiliates***

Equity in affiliates represents the income attributable to equity-accounted affiliate operations. For the third quarter of 2008, income remained at \$0.1 million.

**Minority Interests**

Minority interest expense was \$1.3 million for the third quarter of 2008, down \$3.9 million from the \$5.2 million of minority interest expense incurred during the prior period. Such decrease was primarily due to our increased equity in ownership of CPB and KBP, offset in part by a decrease in profitability in the subsidiaries within the SCS operating segments.

**Discontinued Operations**

The loss of \$0.7 million, net of an income benefit of \$0.4 million, from discontinued operations for 2007 is comprised of the operating results of MFP and Banjo Strategic Entertainment, LLC (“Banjo”).

**Net Income (Loss)**

As a result of the foregoing, our net income for the third quarter of 2008 was \$3.3 million or income of \$0.12 per diluted share, compared to the net loss of \$6.8 million or (\$0.27) per diluted share reported for the third quarter of 2007.

**Nine Months Ended September 30, 2008, Compared to Nine Months Ended September 30, 2007**

Revenue was \$444.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008, representing an increase of \$52.7 million, or 13.4%, compared to revenue of \$391.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007. This revenue increase relates primarily to organic growth of \$42.5 million and \$5.4 million relating to acquisitions. In addition, a weakening of the US dollar, primarily versus the Canadian dollar during the nine months ended September 30, 2008, resulted in increased revenues of \$4.8 million.

Operating profit for the nine months of 2008 was \$15.3 million, compared to \$12.5 million for 2007. Our increase in operating profit was primarily the result of an increase in operating profit of \$2.7 million in the Customer Relationship Management (“CRM”) segment, partially offset by decreases in operating profits of \$3.3 million and \$1.3 million within the and Strategic Marketing Services (“SMS”) and Specialized Communication Services (“SCS”) segments, respectively. In addition, Corporate operating expenses decreased by \$4.6 million.

Our loss from continuing operations for the nine months ended 2008 was \$0.8 million, compared to \$12.0 million in 2007. This decrease in net loss of \$11.2 million was primarily the result of an increase in other income of \$10.3 million, which includes a \$12.7 million increase in unrealized gains on foreign currency transactions from 2007 offset by a gain on sale of assets of \$1.8 million in 2007. Increased operating profits of \$2.8 million and decreased minority interest charges of \$8.6 million also contributed to the increase in income from continuing operations. These amounts were partially offset by an increase in income tax expense of \$8.3 million, including the establishment of a deferred tax valuation allowance of \$3.3 million.

**Marketing Communications Group**

Revenues for the first nine months of 2008 attributable to the Marketing Communications Group, which consists of three reportable segments — SMS, CRM, and SCS, were \$444.4 million compared to \$391.7 million in the nine months ended 2007, representing a year-over-year increase of 13.4%.

The components of revenue growth for 2008 are shown in the following table:

	Revenue	
	\$000's	%
Nine months ended September 30, 2007	\$ 391,712	—

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Organic	42,491	10.8%
Acquisitions	5,417	1.4%
Foreign exchange impact	4,773	1.2%
Nine months ended September 30, 2008	\$ 444,393	13.4%

The geographic mix in revenues was consistent between 2008 and 2007 and is demonstrated in the following table:

	Revenue	
	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2008	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2007
US	82%	81%
Canada	16%	17%
UK and other	2%	2%

Our operating profit of the Marketing Communications Group for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 decreased by approximately 6.2% to \$27.6 million from \$29.4 million. Operating margins for the nine months of 2008 decreased by 1.3% and were 6.2% for 2008 compared to 7.5% in the nine months of 2007. Our decrease in operating profit and operating margin is primarily attributable to an increase in depreciation and amortization of \$4.9 million primarily related to the step acquisition of KBP in the fourth quarter of 2007. In addition, direct costs (excluding staff costs) increased as a percentage of revenues from 25.6% of revenue in 2007 to 27.4% of revenue in 2008 due to an increase in reimbursed client related direct costs. However, total staff costs as a percentage of revenues decreased from 47.2% in 2007 to 47.1% in 2008. Our general and administrative costs also decreased as a percentage of revenue from 22.4% in 2007 to 21.1% in 2008.



***Strategic Marketing Services (“SMS”)***

Revenues attributable to SMS in the nine months ended 2008 were \$248.8 million, compared to \$228.1 million for the nine months ended 2007. Our year-over-year increase of \$20.7 million or 9.1% was attributable primarily to organic growth of \$13.0 million as a result of net new business wins, and \$5.8 million of the revenue increase related to new acquisitions during 2007. A weakening of the US dollar versus the Canadian dollar in 2008 compared to 2007 resulted in a \$1.9 million increase in revenues from the division’s Canadian-based operations.

The operating profit of SMS decreased by approximately 16.1% to \$17.0 million in the nine months ended 2008 from \$20.3 million in the nine months ended 2007. Operating margins decreased to 6.8% for the nine months ended 2008 from 8.9% for the nine months ended 2007. Operating profit and margin decreased due primarily to increased depreciation and amortization of \$3.1 million, which relates to the amortization of certain intangibles resulting from the KBP step-up acquisition during the fourth quarter of 2007. Operating margins also declined due to an increase in direct costs (excluding staff costs) as a percentage of revenues from 12.0% of revenue in 2007 to 12.1% of revenue in 2008. In addition, total staff costs as a percentage of revenue increased from 56.5% in 2007 to 58.2% in 2008. However, general and administrative costs decreased as a percentage of revenue from 24.8% in 2007 to 23.2% in 2008 as a result of relatively fixed costs while revenue increased.

***Customer Relationship Management (“CRM”)***

Our revenues reported by the CRM segment for the nine months ended 2008 were \$104.2 million, an increase of \$25.0 million or 31.6% compared to the \$79.1 million reported for 2007. This growth was entirely organic and was a result of higher revenues from existing clients in part as a result of the opening of a new customer care center in September 2007.

Our operating profit earned by CRM increased by approximately \$2.7 million to \$4.7 million for the nine months ended 2008, from \$2.0 million for the previous year. Operating margins were 4.5% for the nine months ended 2008 as compared to 2.5% for the nine months ended 2007. The increase in margins is primarily due to a decrease in general and administrative costs as a percentage of revenue from 18.5% in 2007 to 17.3% in 2008 and a decrease in depreciation and amortization expense as a percentage of revenue from 6.0% in 2007 to 5.3% in 2008.

***Specialized Communication Services (“SCS”)***

SCS generated revenues of \$91.4 million for the nine months ended 2008, an increase of \$7.0 million, or 8.3% higher than revenues of \$84.5 million for the nine months ended 2007. The year-over-year increase was attributable primarily to organic growth of \$4.3 million as a result of net new business wins. A weakening of the US dollar versus the Canadian dollar and British pound in 2008 compared to 2007 resulted in a \$3.0 million increase in revenues from the division’s Canadian and UK-based operations.

The operating profit of SCS decreased by \$1.3 million to \$5.9 million for the nine months ended 2008, from an operating profit of \$7.2 million in 2007, with operating margins of 6.5% for the nine months ended 2008 compared to 8.5% in 2007. Our decrease in operating margin in 2008 was due primarily to the timing of when expected client projects will begin and be completed. As a result, total staff costs increased as a percentage of revenue from 46.8% in 2007, to 46.9% in 2008, our general and administrative costs as a percentage of revenue increased from 19.5% in 2007 to 19.6% in 2008 and depreciation and amortization expense as a percentage of revenue increased from 1.8% in 2007 to 2.7% in 2008.

***Corporate***

Operating costs related to the Company's Corporate operations totaled \$12.3 million for the nine months ended 2008 compared to \$16.9 million in the prior year period. This decrease of \$4.6 million is primarily due to the following costs incurred solely in 2007: \$1.9 million of costs associated with the company's separation agreement with our former President and CFO, the hiring of a new CFO, and the net \$0.6 million management services agreement non-renewal payment made in 2007. In addition, reductions in 2008 of legal and other professional fees, business insurance costs, travel and entertainment costs, and the Corporate bonus accrual accounted for the remaining decrease in Corporate costs.

***Other Income/Expenses, Net***

Other income increased to \$5.5 million for the nine months ended 2008 compared to expenses of \$4.8 million for the nine months ended 2007. The 2008 income is primarily comprised of a foreign exchange gain of \$5.6 million for 2008 compared to a loss of \$7.1 million recorded in 2007, and was due primarily to an unrealized gain due to the strengthening in the US dollar during 2008 compared to the Canadian dollar primarily on its US dollar denominated intercompany balances with its Canadian subsidiaries compared to December 31, 2007. At September 30, 2008, the exchange rate was 1.06 Canadian dollars to one US dollar, compared to 0.99 at the end of 2007. In 2007, there was a gain on sale of assets of \$1.8 million.

***Net Interest Expense***

Net interest expense for 2008 was \$10.6 million for the nine months ended, an increase of \$2.3 million over the \$8.3 million net interest expense incurred during 2007. Interest expense increased \$1.4 million in 2008 due to higher average outstanding debt in 2008, offset by lower interest rates. Interest income was \$0.5 million for the nine months ended 2008 compared to \$1.5 million in 2007, due to income recognized in 2007 from the acceleration of payments received related to the sale of SPI.

***Income Taxes***

Income tax expense recorded for the nine months ended 2008 was \$4.9 million compared to a recovery of \$3.4 million for 2007. The Company's effective tax rate was substantially higher than the statutory rate in 2008 due to minority interest charges offset by an increase in the valuation allowance relating to net operating losses and by non-deductible stock based compensation. The Company's effective tax rate was substantially higher than the statutory rate in 2007 due to minority interest charges, offset by non-deductible stock based compensation.

The Company's US operating units are generally structured as limited liability companies, which are treated as partnerships for tax purposes. The Company is only taxed on its share of profits, while minority holders are responsible for taxes on their share of the profits.

**Equity in Affiliates**

Equity in affiliates represents the income attributable to equity-accounted affiliate operations. For the first nine months of 2008, income of \$0.3 million compared to \$0.1 million in 2007.

**Minority Interests**

Minority interest expense was \$6.3 million for the nine months ended 2008, down \$8.6 million from the \$14.9 million minority interest expense incurred during the nine months ended 2007. Such decrease was primarily due to our step-up in ownership of CPB and KBP offset in part by the increase in profitability of the subsidiaries within the SCS operating segments that are not 100% owned by us.

**Discontinued Operations**

The loss of \$3.8 million from discontinued operations in the first nine months of 2008 results primarily from the loss on sale of a 60% owned subsidiary in 2008 of \$0.8 million and \$3.0 million relating to the first quarter 2008 accrual of the lease abandonment costs and severance costs relating to MFP.

The loss, net of an income tax benefit of \$3.2 million from discontinued operations for 2007 is comprised of the operating results of MFP and Banjo.

In March 2007, due to continued operating and client losses, the Company ceased MFP's current operations and spun off a new operating division, and as a result incurred a goodwill impairment charge of \$4.5 million. After reviewing the 2008 projections and operating losses of the new MFP operating division, the Company decided to cease the operations of the new MFP operating business as well.

**Net Income**

As a result of the foregoing, the net loss recorded for the nine months ended 2008 was \$4.6 million or a loss of \$(0.17) per diluted share, compared to the net loss of \$18.2 million or a loss of (\$0.74) per diluted share reported for the nine months ended 2007.

**Liquidity and Capital Resources:****Liquidity**

The following table provides summary information about the Company's liquidity position

	<b>As of and for the nine months ended September 30, 2008</b>	<b>As of and for the nine months ended September 30, 2007</b>	<b>As of and for the year ended December 31, 2007</b>
	(000's)	(000's)	(000's)
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 17,483	\$ 7,089	\$ 10,410
Working capital (deficit)	\$ (12,811)	\$ (6,843)	\$ (22,364)
Cash from operations	\$ 22,535	\$ (23,803)	\$ 4,132
Cash from investing	\$ (21,000)	\$ (19,545)	\$ (60,914)
Cash from financing	\$ 5,894	\$ 45,280	\$ 60,929
Long-term debt to shareholders' equity ratio	1.36	1.26	1.27
Fixed charge coverage ratio	1.66	N/A	1.36
Fixed charge coverage deficiency	N/A	\$ 615	N/A

As of September 30, 2008, and December 31, 2007, \$11.8 million and \$3.5 million, respectively, of the consolidated cash position was held by subsidiaries, which, although available for the subsidiaries' use, does not represent cash that is distributable as earnings to MDC Partners for use to reduce its indebtedness. It is the Company's intent through its cash management system to reduce outstanding borrowings under the Financing Agreement using available cash.

#### Working Capital

At September 30, 2008, the Company had a working capital deficit of \$12.8 million compared to a deficit of \$22.4 million at December 31, 2007. The increase in working capital is primarily due to seasonal shifts in the amounts collected from clients, and paid to suppliers, primarily media outlets. The Company includes amounts due to minority interest holders, for their share of profits, in accrued and other liabilities. At September 30, 2008, \$5.2 million remains outstanding to be distributed to minority interest holders over the next twelve months.

The Company intends to maintain sufficient availability of funds under its Financing Agreement at any particular time to adequately fund such working capital deficits should there be a need to do so from time to time.

## Cash Flows

### *Operating Activities*

Cash flow provided by continuing operations, including changes in non-cash working capital, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 was \$22.5 million. This was attributable primarily to depreciation and amortization and non-cash stock compensation of \$32.4 million and an increase in advance billings to clients of \$17.7 million. This generation of cash was partially offset by a net operating loss from continuing operations of \$0.8 million, a decrease in accounts payable and accrued liabilities of \$16.0, an increase in accounts receivable and expenditures billable to clients of \$7.6 million, and \$5.6 million in unrealized foreign exchange gains. Discontinued operations provided cash of \$0.2 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2008.

Cash flow used in operations, including changes in non-cash working capital, for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 was \$23.8 million. This was attributable primarily to a net operating loss of \$12.0 million, payments of accounts payable and accrued liabilities, which resulted in a cash use from operations of \$30.1 million, an increase in accounts receivable of \$24.8 million, a decrease in advanced billings of \$4.3 million and an increase in prepaid and other current assets of \$2.7 million. This use of cash was partially offset by depreciation and amortization, and non-cash stock compensation of \$28.2 million, a decrease in expenditures billable to clients of \$12.7 million, \$1.4 million in deferred income taxes, and \$8.2 million in unrealized foreign exchange losses. Discontinued operations provided cash of \$0.3 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2007.

### *Investing Activities*

Cash flows used in investing activities were \$21.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008, compared with \$19.5 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2007.

In the nine months ended September 30, 2008, capital expenditures totaled \$10.7 million, of which \$7.1 million was incurred by the SMS segment, \$2.4 million was incurred by the CRM segment and \$1.1 million was incurred by the SCS segment, which expenditures consisted primarily of costs associated with expanding our operations with additional leasehold improvements, computer equipment and furniture and fixtures. Expenditures for capital assets in the nine months ended September 30, 2007 were \$15.0 million. Of this amount, \$6.8 million was incurred by the SMS segment, \$6.4 million was incurred by the CRM segment and \$1.6 million was incurred by the SCS segment. These expenditures consisted primarily of computer equipment and leasehold improvements.

In the nine months ended September 30, 2008, cash flow used for acquisitions was \$10.7 million and related to the settlement of put options, earn-out payments and acquisitions net of cash acquired. Cash flow used in acquisitions was \$12.5 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2007 and primarily related to acquisitions net of cash acquired and a payment for a deferred acquisition consideration. The Company also received proceeds from the sale of assets of \$8.3 million in 2007.

### *Financing Activities*

During the nine months ended September 30, 2008, cash flows provided by financing activities amounted to \$5.9 million, and consisted primarily of borrowings under the Financing Agreement of \$8.4 million, repayments of long-term debt of \$1.6 million and the purchase of treasury shares relating to income tax withholding requirements of \$0.9 million. During the nine months ended September 30, 2007, cash flows provided by financing activities amounted to \$45.3 million, and primarily consisted of \$100.6 million of proceeds from the Financing Agreement, which was partially offset by a \$45 million repayment of the old Credit Facility, \$10.6 million of net repayments of long-term debt and bank borrowings, and the payment of \$3.9 million of deferred financing costs relating to the Financing Agreement.

*Total Debt*

On June 18, 2007, the Company and its material subsidiaries entered into a \$185 million Financing Agreement with Fortress Credit, an affiliate of Fortress Investment Group, as collateral agent and Wells Fargo Bank, as administrative agent, and a syndicate of lenders. This facility replaced the Company's existing \$96.5 million credit facility that was originally expected to mature on September 21, 2007. Proceeds from the Financing Agreement were used to repay in full the outstanding balances and terminate the Company's existing credit facility. The obligations repaid totaled approximately \$73.7 million.

This current Financing Agreement consists of a \$55 million revolving credit facility, a \$60 million term loan and a \$70 million delayed draw term loan. Borrowings under the Financing Agreement bear interest as follows: (a) LIBOR Rate Loans bear interest at applicable interbank rates and Reference Rate Loans bear interest at the rate of interest publicly announced by the Reference Bank in New York, New York, plus (b) a percentage spread ranging from 0% to a maximum of 4.75% depending on the type of loan and the Company's Senior Leverage Ratio. In addition, the Company is required to pay a facility fee of 50 basis points. The weighted average interest rate at September 30, 2008 was 7.2%.

The Financing Agreement is guaranteed by the material subsidiaries of the Company and matures on June 17, 2012. The Financing Agreement is subject to various covenants, including a senior leverage ratio, fixed charges ratio, limitations on debt incurrence, limitation on liens and limitation on dividends and other payments.

Debt as of September 30, 2008 was \$169.2 million, an increase of \$4.5 million compared with the \$164.8 million outstanding at December 31, 2007, primarily as a result of borrowings under the revolving credit facility to fund seasonal working capital requirements. At September 30, 2008, \$58.3 million is available under the Financing Agreement and \$5.7 million of cash is available to fund working capital requirements.

The Company is currently in compliance with all of the terms and conditions of its Financing Agreement, and management believes, based on its current financial projections, that the Company will be in compliance with covenants over the next twelve months.

If the Company loses all or a substantial portion of its lines of credit under the Financing Agreement, it will be required to seek other sources of liquidity. If the Company were unable to find these sources of liquidity, for example through an equity offering or access to the capital markets, the Company's ability to fund its working capital needs and any contingent obligations with respect to put options would be adversely affected.

Pursuant to the Financing Agreement, the Company must comply with certain financial covenants including, among other things, covenants for (i) total debt ratio, (ii) fixed charges ratio, (iii) minimum earnings before interest, taxes and depreciation and amortization, and (iv) limitations on capital expenditures, in each case as such term is specifically defined in the Financing Agreement. For the period ended September 30, 2008, the Company's calculation of each of these covenants, and the specific requirements under the Financing Agreement, respectively, were as follows:

	<b>September 30, 2008</b>	
Total Senior Leverage Ratio		2.06
Maximum per covenant		3.25
Fixed Charges Ratio		2.80
Minimum per covenant		1.20
Minimum earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization	\$	62.4 million
Minimum per covenant	\$	37.9 million

These ratios are not based on generally accepted accounting principles and are not presented as alternative measures of operating performance or liquidity. They are presented here to demonstrate compliance with the covenants in the Company's Financing Agreement, as non-compliance with such covenants could have a material adverse effect on the Company

#### *Deferred Acquisition Consideration (Earnouts)*

Acquisitions of businesses by the Company may include commitments to contingent deferred purchase consideration payable to the seller. These contingent purchase obligations are generally payable within a one to three-year period following the acquisition date, and are based on achievement of certain thresholds of future earnings and, in certain cases, also based on the rate of growth of those earnings. The contingent consideration is recorded as an obligation of the Company when the contingency is resolved and the amount is reasonably determinable. At September 30, 2008, there was \$2.4 million of deferred consideration included in the Company's balance sheet. Based on the various assumptions as to future operating results of the relevant entities, management estimates that approximately \$31.0 million of additional deferred purchase obligations could be triggered during 2008 or thereafter, including approximately \$7.8 million which may be paid in the form of issuance by the Company of its Class A shares. The actual amount that the Company pays in connection with the obligations may differ materially from this estimate.

#### *Off-Balance Sheet Commitments*

### Put Rights of Subsidiaries' Minority Shareholders

Owners of interests in certain subsidiaries have the right in certain circumstances to require the Company to acquire either a portion of or all of the remaining ownership interests held by them. The owners' ability to exercise any such "put option" right is subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, including conditions requiring notice in advance of exercise. In addition, these rights cannot be exercised prior to specified staggered exercise dates. The exercise of these rights at their earliest contractual date would result in obligations of the Company to fund the related amounts during the period of 2008 to 2017. It is not determinable, at this time, if or when the owners of these put option rights will exercise all or a portion of these rights.

The amount payable by the Company in the event such put option rights are exercised is dependent on various valuation formulas and on future events, such as the average earnings of the relevant subsidiary through that date of exercise, the growth rate of the earnings of the relevant subsidiary during that period, and, in some cases, the currency exchange rate at the date of payment.



Management estimates, assuming that the subsidiaries owned by the Company at September 30, 2008, perform over the relevant future periods at their trailing twelve-month earnings level, that these rights, if all exercised, could require the Company, in future periods, to pay an aggregate amount of approximately \$64.8 million to the owners of such rights to acquire such ownership interests in the relevant subsidiaries. Of this amount, the Company is entitled, at its option, to fund approximately \$10.5 million by the issuance of the Company's Class A subordinate voting shares. In addition, the Company is obligated under similar put option rights to pay an aggregate amount of approximately \$8.1 million only upon termination of such owner's employment with such applicable subsidiary. The Company intends to finance the cash portion of these contingent payment obligations using available cash from operations, borrowings under its Financing Agreement (and refinancings thereof) and, if necessary, through incurrence of additional debt. The ultimate amount payable and the incremental operating income in the future relating to these transactions will vary because it is dependent on the future results of operations of the subject businesses and the timing of when these rights are exercised. Approximately \$7.9 million of the estimated \$64.8 million that the Company would be required to pay subsidiaries minority shareholders' upon the exercise of outstanding put option rights, relates to rights exercisable within the next twelve months. Upon the settlement of the total amount of such put options, the Company estimates that it would receive incremental operating income before depreciation and amortization of \$12.7 million.

The following table summarizes the potential timing of the consideration and incremental operating income before depreciation and amortization based on assumptions as described above.

Consideration (4)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012 & Thereafter	Total
	(\$ Millions)					
Cash	\$ 7.6	\$ 1.8	\$ 27.9	\$ 1.9	\$ 15.1	\$ 54.3
Shares	0.3	0.8	6.0	1.2	2.2	10.5
	\$ 7.9	\$ 2.6	\$ 33.9	\$ 3.1	\$ 17.3	\$ 64.8(1)
Operating income before depreciation and amortization to be received(2)	\$ 2.4	\$ 0.6	\$ 3.7	\$ 1.7	\$ 4.3	\$ 12.7
Cumulative operating income before depreciation and amortization(3)	\$ 2.4	\$ 3.0	\$ 6.7	\$ 8.4	\$ 12.7	(5)

(1) Of this, approximately \$19.6 million has been recognized in Minority Interest on the Company's balance sheet in conjunction with the consolidation of CPB as a variable interest entity in 2004. As a result, the net off balance sheet commitment is \$45.2 million.

(2) This financial measure is presented because it is the basis of the calculation used in the underlying agreements relating to the put rights and is based on actual 2007 and third quarter 2008 operating results. This amount represents amounts to be received commencing in the year the put is exercised.

(3) Cumulative operating income before depreciation and amortization represents the cumulative amounts to be received by the company.

(4) The timing of consideration to be paid varies by contract and does not necessarily correspond to the date of the exercise of the put.

(5) Amounts are not presented as they would not be meaningful due to multiple periods included.

## **Critical Accounting Policies**

The following summary of accounting policies has been prepared to assist in better understanding the Company's consolidated financial statements and the related management discussion and analysis. Readers are encouraged to consider this information together with the Company's consolidated financial statements and the related notes to the consolidated financial statements as included in the Company's annual report on Form 10-K for a more complete understanding of accounting policies discussed below.

*Estimates.* The preparation of the Company's financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America, or "US GAAP", requires management to make estimates and assumptions. These estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities including goodwill, intangible assets, valuation allowances for receivables and deferred income tax assets, stock-based compensation, and the reporting of variable interest entities at the date of the financial statements. The statements are evaluated on an ongoing basis and estimates are based on historical experience, current conditions and various other assumptions believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results can differ from those estimates, and it is possible that the differences could be material.

*Revenue Recognition.* The Company's revenue recognition policies are in compliance with the SEC Staff Accounting Bulletin 104, "Revenue Recognition" ("SAB 104"), and accordingly, revenue is generally recognized when services are earned or upon delivery of the products when ownership and risk of loss has transferred to the customer, the selling price is fixed or determinable and collection of the resulting receivable is reasonably assured.

The Company earns revenue from agency arrangements in the form of retainer fees or commissions; from short-term project arrangements in the form of fixed fees or per diem fees for services; and from incentives or bonuses.

Non-refundable retainer fees are generally recognized on a straight-line basis over the term of the specific customer contract. Commission revenue is earned and recognized upon the placement of advertisements in various media when the Company has no further performance obligations. Fixed fees for services are recognized upon completion of the earnings process and acceptance by the client. Per diem fees are recognized upon the performance of the Company's services. In addition, for certain service transactions, which require delivery of a number of service acts, the Company uses the Proportional Performance model, which generally results in revenue being recognized based on the straight-line method due to the acts being non-similar and there being insufficient evidence of fair value for each service provided.

Fees billed to clients in excess of fees recognized as revenue are classified as advance billings.

A small portion of the Company's contractual arrangements with clients includes performance incentive provisions, which allow the Company to earn additional revenues as a result of its performance relative to both quantitative and qualitative goals. The Company recognizes the incentive portion of revenue under these arrangements when specific quantitative goals are achieved, or when the Company's clients determine performance against qualitative goals has been achieved. In all circumstances, revenue is only recognized when collection is reasonably assured.

The Company follows EITF No. 99-19, "Reporting Revenue Gross as a Principal versus Net as an Agent" ("EITF 99-19"). This Issue summarized the EITF's views on when revenue should be recorded at the gross amount billed because revenue has been earned from the sale of goods or services, or the net amount retained because a fee or commission has been earned. The Company's business at times acts as an agent and records revenue equal to the net amount retained, when the fee or commission is earned. The Company also follows EITF No. 01-14, "Income Statement Characterization of Reimbursements Received for Out-of-Pocket Expenses Incurred". This issue summarized the EITF's views that reimbursements received for out-of-pocket expenses incurred should be characterized in the income statement as revenue. Accordingly, the Company has included in revenue such reimbursed expenses

*Acquisitions, Goodwill and Other Intangibles.* A fair value approach is used in testing goodwill for impairment under SFAS 142 to determine if an other than temporary impairment has occurred. One approach utilized to determine fair values is a discounted cash flow methodology. When available and as appropriate, comparative market multiples are used. Numerous estimates and assumptions necessarily have to be made when completing a discounted cash flow valuation, including estimates and assumptions regarding interest rates, appropriate discount rates and capital structure. Additionally, estimates must be made regarding revenue growth, operating margins, tax rates, working capital requirements and capital expenditures. Estimates and assumptions also need to be made when determining the appropriate comparative market multiples to be used. Actual results of operations, cash flows and other factors used in a discounted cash flow valuation will likely differ from the estimates used and it is possible that differences and changes could be material.

The Company has historically made and expects to continue to make selective acquisitions of marketing communications businesses. In making acquisitions, the price paid is determined by various factors, including service offerings, competitive position, reputation and geographic coverage, as well as prior experience and judgment. Due to the nature of advertising, marketing and corporate communications services companies; the companies acquired frequently have significant identifiable intangible assets, which primarily consist of customer relationships. The

Company has determined that certain intangibles (trademarks) have an indefinite life, as there are no legal, regulatory, contractual, or economic factors that limit the useful life.

A summary of the Company's deferred acquisition consideration obligations, sometimes referred to as earnouts, and obligations under put rights of subsidiaries' minority shareholders to purchase additional interests in certain subsidiary and affiliate companies is set forth in the "Liquidity and Capital Resources" section of this report. The deferred acquisition consideration obligations and obligations to purchase additional interests in certain subsidiary and affiliate companies are primarily based on future performance. Contingent purchase price obligations are accrued, in accordance with GAAP, when the contingency is resolved and payment is determinable.

*Allowance for Doubtful Accounts.* Trade receivables are stated less allowance for doubtful accounts. The allowance represents estimated uncollectible receivables usually due to customers' potential insolvency. The allowance includes amounts for certain customers where risk of default has been specifically identified.

*Income Tax Valuation Allowance.* The Company records a valuation allowance against deferred income tax assets when management believes it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred income tax assets will not be realized. Management considers factors such as the reversal of deferred income tax liabilities, projected future taxable income, the character of the income tax asset, tax planning strategies, changes in tax laws and other factors. A change to these factors could impact the estimated valuation allowance and income tax expense.

*Stock-based Compensation.* The fair value method is applied to all awards granted, modified or settled on or after January 1, 2003. Under the fair value method, compensation cost is measured at fair value at the date of grant and is expensed over the service period, which is the award's vesting period. When awards are exercised, share capital is credited by the sum of the consideration paid together with the related portion previously credited to additional paid-in capital when compensation costs were charged against income or acquisition consideration. Stock-based awards that are settled in cash or may be settled in cash at the option of employees are recorded as liabilities. The measurement of the liability and compensation cost for these awards is based on the fair value of the award, and is recorded into operating income over the service period, that is the vesting period of the award. Changes in the Company's payment obligation are revalued each period and recorded as compensation cost over the service period in operating income.

Effective January 1, 2006, the Company adopted SFAS 123(R) and has opted to use the modified prospective application transition method. Under this method the Company will not restate its prior financial statements. Instead, the Company will apply SFAS 123(R) for new awards granted or modified after the adoption of SFAS 123(R), any portion of awards that were granted after December 15, 1994 and have not vested as of January 1, 2006, and any outstanding liability awards.

*Variable Interest Entities.* The Company evaluates its various investments in entities to determine whether the investee is a variable interest entity and if so whether MDC is the primary beneficiary. Such evaluation requires management to make estimates and judgments regarding the sufficiency of the equity at risk in the investee and the expected losses of the investee and may impact whether the investee is accounted for on a consolidated basis.

#### **New Accounting Pronouncements**

In February 2007, FASB issued SFAS No. 159, "The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities" ("SFAS 159"). This statement permits entities to choose to measure many financial instruments and certain other items at fair value. This statement expands the use of fair value measurement and applies to entities that elect the fair value option. The fair value option established by this Statement permits all entities to choose to measure eligible items at fair value at specified election dates. SFAS 159 is effective as of the beginning of an entity's first fiscal year that begins after November 15, 2007. The adoption of this statement did not have a material effect on our financial statements.

#### ***Effective in Future Periods***

In September 2006, FASB issued SFAS No. 157, "Fair Value Measurements". This statement defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. This statement is effective for all fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007 and interim periods within those fiscal years. Earlier application is encouraged. The adoption of this statement did not have a material effect on our financial statements.

In December 2007, FASB issued SFAS No. 141R "Business Combination" ("SFAS 141R"). This revised statement retains some fundamental concepts of the current standard, including the acquisition method of accounting (known as the "purchase method" in Statement 141) for all business combinations but SFAS 141R broadens the definitions of both businesses and business combinations, resulting in the acquisition method applying to more events and transactions. This statement also requires the acquirer to recognize the identifiable assets and liabilities, as well as the noncontrolling interest in the acquiree, at the full amounts of their fair values. SFAS 141R will require both acquisition-related costs and restructuring costs to be recognized separately from the acquisition and be expensed as incurred. In addition, acquirers will record contingent consideration at fair value on the acquisition date as either a liability or equity. Subsequent changes in fair value will be recognized in the income statement for any contingent consideration recorded as a liability. SFAS 141R is to be applied prospectively for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning on or after December 15, 2008. Early application is prohibited. The Company is currently

evaluating the impact of this new statement on its financial statements.

In December 2007, FASB issued SFAS No. 160 “Non-controlling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements” (SFAS 160”). This statement amends ARB No. 51 Consolidated Financial Statements, to now require the classification of noncontrolling (minority) interests and dispositions of noncontrolling interests as equity within the consolidated financial statements. The income statement will now be required to show net income/loss with and without adjustments for noncontrolling interests. SFAS 160 is to be applied prospectively for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning on or after December 15, 2008 and interim periods within those years. However, this statement requires companies to apply the presentation and disclosure requirements retrospectively to comparative financial statements. Early application is prohibited. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of this new statement on its financial statements.

In March 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 161, “Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities, an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133” (“SFAS 161”), which requires enhanced disclosures for derivative and hedging activities. SFAS 161 will become effective beginning with our first quarter of 2009. Early adoption is permitted. We are currently evaluating the impact of this standard on our Consolidated Financial Statements.

## Risks and Uncertainties

This document contains forward-looking statements. The Company's representatives may also make forward-looking statements orally from time to time. Statements in this document that are not historical facts, including statements about the Company's beliefs and expectations, recent business and economic trends, potential acquisitions, estimates of amounts for deferred acquisition consideration and "put" option rights, constitute forward-looking statements. These statements are based on current plans, estimates and projections, and are subject to change based on a number of factors, including those outlined in this section. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made, and the Company undertakes no obligation to update publicly any of them in light of new information or future events, if any.

Forward-looking statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties. A number of important factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements. Such risk factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- risks associated with effects of national and regional economic conditions;
- the Company's ability to attract new clients and retain existing clients;
- the financial success of the Company's clients;
- the Company's ability to retain and attract key employees;
- the Company's ability to remain in compliance with its debt agreements and the Company's ability to finance its contingent payment obligations when due and payable, including but not limited to those relating to "put" options rights and deferred acquisition consideration;
- the successful completion and integration of acquisitions which compliment and expand the Company's business capabilities; and
- foreign currency fluctuations.

The Company's business strategy includes ongoing efforts to engage in material acquisitions of ownership interests in entities in the marketing communications services industry. The Company intends to finance these acquisitions by using available cash from operations, from borrowings under its current Financing Agreement and through incurrence of bridge or other debt financing, either of which may increase the Company's leverage ratios, or by issuing equity, which may have a dilutive impact on existing shareholders proportionate ownership. At any given time, the Company may be engaged in a number of discussions that may result in one or more material acquisitions. These opportunities require confidentiality and may involve negotiations that require quick responses by the Company. 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 Company's securities.

Investors should carefully consider these risk factors, the risk factors specified in Item 1A of this Form 10-Q, and in the additional risk factors outlined in more detail in the Company's 2007 Annual Report on Form 10-K under the caption "Risk Factors" and in the Company's other SEC filings.

### **Item 3. *Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk***

The Company is exposed to market risk related to interest rates and foreign currencies.

**Debt Instruments:** At September 30, 2008, the Company's debt obligations consisted of amounts outstanding under its Financing Agreement. This facility bears interest at variable rates based upon the Eurodollar rate; US bank prime rate and, US base rate, at the Company's option. The Company's ability to obtain the required bank syndication commitments depends in part on conditions in the bank market at the time of syndication. Given the existing level of debt of \$121.8 million, as of September 30, 2008, a 1.0% increase or decrease in the weighted average interest rate, which was 7.2% at September 30, 2008, would have an interest impact of approximately \$1.2 million annually.

**Foreign Exchange:** The Company conducts business in five currencies, the US dollar, the Canadian dollar, the Jamaican dollar, the Mexican Peso and the British Pound. Our results of operations are subject to risk from the translation to the US dollar of the revenue and expenses of our non-US operations. The effects of currency exchange rate fluctuations on the translation of our results of operations are discussed in the "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Result of Operations" and in Note 2 of our consolidated financial statements. For the most part, our revenues and expenses incurred related to our non-US operations are denominated in their functional currency. This minimizes the impact that fluctuations in exchange rates will have on profit margins. The Company currently does not enter into foreign currency forward exchange contracts or other derivative financial instruments to hedge the effects of adverse fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates.

### **Item 4. *Controls and Procedures***

#### **Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

We maintain disclosure controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be included in our SEC reports is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the applicable time periods specified by the SEC's rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Financial Officer (CFO), who is our principal financial officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosures. There are inherent limitations to the effectiveness of any system of disclosure controls and procedures, including the possibility of human error and the circumvention or overriding of the controls and procedures. Accordingly, even effective disclosure controls and procedures can only provide reasonable assurance of achieving their control objectives. However, the Company's disclosure controls and procedures are designed to provide reasonable assurances of achieving the Company's control objectives.

We conducted an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our CEO, our CFO and our management Disclosure Committee, of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this report pursuant to Rule 13a-15(b) of the Exchange Act. Based on that evaluation, the Company has concluded that its disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of September 30, 2008.

#### **Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

There were no changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting identified in connection with the foregoing evaluation that occurred during the third quarter of 2008 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect the Company's internal control over financial reporting.



## **PART II. OTHER INFORMATION**

### **Item 1. *Legal Proceedings***

The Company's operating entities are involved in legal proceedings of various types. While any litigation contains an element of uncertainty, the Company has no reason to believe that the outcome of such proceedings or claims will have a material adverse effect on the financial condition or results of operations of the Company.

On August 4, 2006, the Company announced its self-initiated review of historical stock option grant activity. As subsequently reported by the Company on December 22, 2006, a Special Committee of disinterested and independent directors completed the review and made certain recommendations, all of which have been fully implemented by the Company. The Company adjusted all historical option grants for which the exercise price did not correspond to the market price on the date of the approval of the grant pursuant to the self-correcting provisions of the Company's option plan, as previously disclosed by the Company. Staff of the Ontario Securities Commission reviewed the process, findings and recommendations of the Special Committee and the Company's response thereto. OSC Staff recently informed the Company that it has concluded its review and, while warning the Company with respect to these matters, advised that, in light of the Company's corrective actions and cooperation in their review, no formal proceedings will be commenced against the Company or any of its officers or directors.

### **Item 1A. *Risk Factors***

There are no material changes in the risk factors set forth in Part I, Item 1A of the Company's 2007 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

### **Item 2. *Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds.***

None.

### **Item 4. *Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders***

None.

**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 thereunto duly authorized.

MDC PARTNERS INC.

/s/ Michael Sabatino  
Michael Sabatino  
*Chief Accounting Officer*

November 10, 2008

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**EXHIBIT INDEX**

<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
12	Statement of computation of ratio of earnings to fixed charges*
31.1	Certification by Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.*
31.2	Certification by the Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.*
32.1	Certification by Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 USC. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.*
32.2	Certification by the Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 USC. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.*
99.1	Schedule of ownership by operating subsidiary.*

\* Filed electronically herewith.

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