# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 FORM 10-Q 

## (Mark One)

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

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2010
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 0-23827

## PC CONNECTION, INC. <br> (Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)


(603) 683-2000
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

## Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report: $\mathbf{N} / \mathbf{A}$

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 $\checkmark$ NO
Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T ( $\$ 232.405$ of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

YESNO
Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," and "smaller reporting company" in Rule $12 b-2$ of the Exchange Act.
Large accelerated filer $\square$
Non-accelerated filer $\square$

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule $12 \mathrm{~b}-2$ of the Exchange Act).
YES $\square$ NO $\square$
The number of shares outstanding of the issuer's common stock as of November 1,2010 was $26,836,618$.

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## PC CONNECTION, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## PART I-FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1-Financial Statements

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS <br> (Unaudited) <br> (amounts in thousands)

|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { September } 30, \\ 2010 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { December 31, } \\ \quad 2009 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ASSETS |  |  |
| Current Assets: |  |  |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 40,535 | \$ 46,297 |
| Accounts receivable, net | 256,706 | 218,095 |
| Inventories | 81,426 | 67,391 |
| Deferred income taxes | 3,758 | 3,386 |
| Income taxes receivable | 904 | 935 |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | 4,248 | 2,750 |
| Total current assets | 387,577 | 338,854 |
| Property and equipment, net | 13,818 | 12,420 |
| Goodwill | 48,060 | 48,060 |
| Other intangibles, net | 1,821 | 1,279 |
| Other assets | 411 | 482 |
| Total Assets | \$451,687 | \$401,095 |
| LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY |  |  |
| Current Liabilities: |  |  |
| Current maturities of capital lease obligation to affiliate | \$ 847 | \$ 780 |
| Accounts payable | 152,749 | 125,120 |
| Accrued expenses and other liabilities | 25,076 | 20,441 |
| Accrued payroll | 12,453 | 8,843 |
| Total current liabilities | 191,125 | 155,184 |
| Deferred income taxes | 5,477 | 3,849 |
| Capital lease obligation to affiliate, less current maturities | 2,187 | 2,830 |
| Other liabilities | 3,397 | 3,966 |
| Total Liabilities | 202,186 | 165,829 |
| Stockholders' Equity: |  |  |
| Common stock | 274 | 274 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 97,612 | 97,213 |
| Retained earnings | 157,197 | 141,114 |
| Treasury stock at cost | $(5,582)$ | $(3,335)$ |
| Total Stockholders' Equity | 249,501 | 235,266 |
| Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity | \$451,687 | \$ 401,095 |

## PC CONNECTION, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## PART I-FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1-Financial Statements

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

(Unaudited)
(amounts in thousands, except per share data)

|  | Three Months Ended September 30, |  | Nine Months Ended September 30, |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2010 | 2009 | 2010 | 2009 |
| Net sales | \$532,827 | \$403,052 | \$1,418,635 | \$1,106,535 |
| Cost of sales | 470,856 | 356,708 | 1,252,031 | 974,238 |
| Gross profit | 61,971 | 46,344 | 166,604 | 132,297 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 47,640 | 41,263 | 139,615 | 126,670 |
| Special charges | - | - | - | 12,955 |
| Income (loss) from operations | 14,331 | 5,081 | 26,989 | $(7,328)$ |
| Interest expense | (111) | (99) | (305) | (385) |
| Other, net | 49 | 93 | 159 | 452 |
| Income (loss) before taxes | 14,269 | 5,075 | 26,843 | $(7,261)$ |
| Income tax (provision) benefit | $(5,643)$ | $(2,186)$ | $(10,760)$ | 2,072 |
| Net income (loss) | \$ 8,626 | \$ 2,889 | \$ 16,083 | $\underline{\text { \$ (5,189) }}$ |
| Earnings (loss) per common share: |  |  |  |  |
| Basic | \$ 0.32 | \$ 0.11 | \$ 0.59 | \$ (0.19) |
| Diluted | \$ 0.32 | \$ 0.11 | \$ 0.59 | $\underline{\text { \$ } \quad(0.19)}$ |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding: |  |  |  |  |
| Basic | 26,939 | 27,078 | 27,070 | 27,017 |
| Diluted | $\stackrel{\text { 26,977 }}{ }$ | $\underline{ }$ 27,095 | 27,108 | $\underline{\text { 27,017 }}$ |

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

## PC CONNECTION, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## PART I-FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1-Financial Statements

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Nine Months Ended September 30, 2010
(Unaudited)
(amounts in thousands)

|  | Common Stock |  | Additional <br> Paid-In Capital |  | Retained Earnings | Treasury Stock |  | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Shares | Amount |  |  | Shares | Amount |  |
| Balance-January 1, 2010 | 27,375 | \$ 274 | \$ | 97,213 |  | \$141,114 | (527) | \$(3,335) | \$235,266 |
| Stock-based compensation expense | - | - |  | 1,102 | - | - | - | 1,102 |
| Issuance of common stock under Employee Stock Purchase Plan | 23 | - |  | 135 | - | - | - | 135 |
| Nonvested stock awards | - | - |  | (820) | - | 128 | 820 | - |
| Tax shortfall from stock-based compensation | - | - |  | (18) | - | - | - | (18) |
| Repurchase of common stock for treasury | - | - |  | - | - | (455) | $(3,067)$ | $(3,067)$ |
| Net income and comprehensive income | - | - |  | - | 16,083 | - | - | 16,083 |
| Balance-September 30, 2010 | $\underline{\underline{27,398}}$ | \$ 274 | \$ | $\underline{97,612}$ | $\underline{\underline{\$ 157,197}}$ | (854) | $\underline{\text { (5,582) }}$ | $\underline{\mathbf{\$ 2 4 9 , 5 0 1}}$ |

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

## PC CONNECTION, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## PART I—FINANCIAL INFORMATION <br> Item 1-Financial Statements <br> CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS <br> (Unaudited) <br> (amounts in thousands)

|  | Nine Months Ended September 30, |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2010 | 2009 |
| Cash Flows from Operating Activities: |  |  |
| Net income (loss) | \$ 16,083 | \$ $(5,189)$ |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities: |  |  |
| Non-cash portion of special charges | - | 11,625 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 4,152 | 5,221 |
| Provision for doubtful accounts | 1,737 | 1,771 |
| Deferred income taxes | 1,256 | $(1,692)$ |
| Stock-based compensation expense | 1,102 | 952 |
| Income tax deficiency from stock-based compensation | (18) | (103) |
| Loss on disposal of fixed assets | 6 | 15 |
| Changes in assets and liabilities: |  |  |
| Accounts receivable | $(40,348)$ | 3,236 |
| Inventories | $(14,035)$ | 834 |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | $(1,467)$ | $(1,111)$ |
| Other non-current assets | 71 | (95) |
| Accounts payable | 24,675 | 7,243 |
| Accrued expenses and other liabilities | 7,676 | 1,656 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 890 | 24,363 |
| Cash Flows from Investing Activities: |  |  |
| Purchases of property and equipment | $(2,350)$ | $(5,012)$ |
| Purchase of an intangible asset | (800) | - |
| Proceeds from sale of property and equipment | 6 | 2 |
| Net cash used for investing activities | $(3,144)$ | $(5,010)$ |
| Cash Flows from Financing Activities: |  |  |
| Purchase of treasury shares | $(3,067)$ | (297) |
| Repayment of capital lease obligation to affiliate | (576) | (517) |
| Issuance of stock under Employee Stock Purchase Plan | 135 | 138 |
| Proceeds from short-term borrowings | - | 22,055 |
| Repayment of short-term borrowings | - | $(22,055)$ |
| Net cash used for financing activities | $(3,508)$ | (676) |
| (Decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents | $(5,762)$ | 18,677 |
| Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period | 46,297 | 47,003 |
| Cash and cash equivalents, end of period | \$40,535 | $\underline{\text { \$65,680 }}$ |
| Non-cash Investing and Financing Activities: |  |  |
| Accrued capital expenditures | \$ 3,117 | \$ 156 |
| Issuance of nonvested stock from treasury | 820 | 372 |

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

## PC CONNECTION, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## PART I-FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1-Financial Statements

## NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (amounts in thousands, except per share data)

## Note 1-Basis of Presentation

The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements of PC Connection, Inc. and its subsidiaries (the "Company," "we," "us," or "our") have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Such principles were applied on a basis consistent with the accounting policies described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the financial statements contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K.

In the opinion of management, the accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements contain all adjustments (consisting only of normal recurring adjustments) necessary for a fair presentation of the results of operations for the interim periods reported and of the Company's financial condition as of the date of the interim balance sheet. The Company considers events or transactions that occur after the balance sheet date but before the financial statements are issued to provide additional evidence relative to certain estimates or to identify matters that require additional disclosure. Subsequent events have been evaluated through the date of issuance of these financial statements. The operating results for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010 may not be indicative of the results expected for any succeeding quarter or the entire year ending December 31 , 2010.

## Use of Estimates in the Preparation of Financial Statements

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions. These estimates and assumptions affect the amounts reported in the accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

## Note 2-Earnings Per Share

Basic earnings (loss) per common share is computed using the weighted average number of shares outstanding. Diluted earnings per share is computed using the weighted average number of shares outstanding adjusted for the incremental shares attributed to options outstanding to purchase common stock, if dilutive. In the nine months ended September 30, 2009, dilutive securities are antidilutive in calculating diluted loss per share due to the operating loss realized in the period and therefore are not included in the calculation.

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted earnings (loss) per share:

|  | Three Months Ended |  |  | Nine Months Ended |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| September 30, |  | 2010 | 2009 | 2010 | 2009 |
| Numerator: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Net income (loss) |  | 8,626 | \$ 2,889 | \$16,083 | \$ (5,189) |
| Denominator: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Denominator for basic earnings (loss) per share |  | 26,939 | 27,078 | 27,070 | 27,017 |
| Dilutive effect of employee equity awards |  | 38 | 17 | 38 | - |
| Denominator for diluted earnings (loss) per share |  | 26,977 | $\underline{\text { 27,095 }}$ | 27,108 | 27,017 |
| Earnings (loss) per share: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Basic |  | \$ 0.32 | \$ 0.11 | \$ 0.59 | \$ (0.19) |
| Diluted |  | S 0.32 | \$ 0.11 | \$ 0.59 | \$ (0.19) |

## PC CONNECTION, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## PART I-FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1-Financial Statements

## NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS-(Continued) (amounts in thousands, except per share data)

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009, the following unexercised stock options and other common stock equivalents were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings (loss) per share because the effect would have been anti-dilutive:

|  | Three Months Ended |  | Nine Months Ended |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| September 30, | 2010 | 2009 | 2010 | 2009 |
| Anti-dilutive common stock equivalents | 751 | 813 | 751 | 934 |

## Note 3-Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

Goodwill and intangible assets with indefinite lives are not amortized but are subject to an annual impairment test; these assets are tested more frequently if events or circumstances occur that would indicate a potential decline in fair value. The goodwill impairment test, performed at a reporting unit level, is a two-step test that requires under the first test that we determine the fair value of our reporting units. We have identified five reporting units, consisting of our four operating segments and the Headquarters/Other group, which provides services in areas such as finance, human resources, information technology, and executive oversight functions (See Note 4). We determine the fair value of such reporting units using established income and market valuation approaches.

We completed our annual impairment test of goodwill and an indefinite lived trademark, which are both held by our Large Account reporting unit, on the first day of 2010 and did not identify any impairments. To determine the fair value of our Large Account reporting unit, we considered its operating results and future projections, as well as changes in the Company's overall market capitalization. The fair value of the reporting unit exceeded its carrying value as of January 1,2010 . To determine the fair value of the trademark, we calculated the undiscounted cash flows expected from the use of the asset and determined that the fair value was in excess of the carrying amount as of January 1,2010 . We did not identify any events or circumstances that would indicate that it is more likely than not that the carrying value of this reporting unit was in excess of its fair value during the nine months ended September 30 , 2010. Accordingly, we did not perform any interim tests for impairment.

|  | $\frac{\text { September 30, 2010 }}{}$ |
| :--- | ---: |
| Goodwill | $\$ 48,060$ |
| Trademark | 1,190 |

We purchased a licensing agreement for $\$ 800$ in the first quarter of 2010 , which we expect to amortize over the five-year license term. Intangible assets subject to amortization at September 30, 2010 consisted of the licensing agreement of \$631 (net of accumulated amortization of \$169). Intangible assets subject to amortization at December 31, 2009 consisted of customer lists of $\$ 89$ (net of accumulated amortization of $\$ 5,130$ ). For the three-month periods ended September 30, 2010 and 2009, we recorded amortization expense of $\$ 35$ and $\$ 268$, respectively. For the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2010 and 2009 , we recorded amortization expense of $\$ 258$ and $\$ 803$, respectively.

## PC CONNECTION, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES <br> PART I-FINANCIAL INFORMATION <br> Item 1-Financial Statements NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS-(Continued) (amounts in thousands, except per share data)

The estimated amortization expense for each of the five succeeding years and thereafter is as follows:

| For the Year Ending December 31, |  |
| :--- | :---: |
| 2010 | $\left.360^{*}\right)$ |
| 2011 | 140 |
| 2012 | 140 |
| 2013 | 140 |
| 2014 and thereafter | 175 |

$\left(^{*}\right)$ Represents estimated amortization expense for the three months ending December 31, 2010.

## Note 4-Segment and Related Disclosures

We are required to report profits and losses and certain other information about our "reportable operating segments" in our annual and interim financial statements. The internal reporting structure used by our chief operating decision maker ("CODM") to assess performance and allocate resources determines the basis for our reportable operating segments. Our CODM is our Chief Executive Officer, and she evaluates operations and allocates resources based on a measure of operating income.

In January 2010, we formed a new sales company, PC Connection Express, Inc., to focus on the consumer and small office/home office ("SOHO") customer. This new operating segment is comprised of inbound sales representatives, certain internet support staff, and management. Prior period sales and operating results relating to consumer and SOHO customers were reported primarily within our SMB segment. We have revised the reporting of operating segments to reflect the new basis for assessing performance and allocating resources. Under this revised reporting structure, the operating results related to our consumer and SOHO customers that were formerly reported within the SMB segment are now reported separately under the new Consumer/SOHO segment.

Our operations are organized under four reporting segments - the SMB segment, which primarily serves small- and medium-sized businesses; the Large Account segment, which primarily serves medium-to-large corporations; the Public Sector segment, which serves federal, state, and local government and educational institutions, and the Consumer/SOHO segment, which serves the consumer and SOHO markets. In addition, the Headquarters/Other group provides services in areas such as finance, human resources, information technology, legal, product management, communications, and marketing. Most of the operating costs associated with the Headquarters/Other group functions are charged to the operating segments based on their estimated usage of the underlying functions. We report these charges to the operating segments as "Allocations." Certain of the headquarters costs relating to executive oversight and other fiduciary functions that are not allocated to the operating segments are included under the heading of Headquarters/Other in the tables below.

## PC CONNECTION, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES <br> PART I-FINANCIAL INFORMATION <br> Item 1-Financial Statements NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS-(Continued) (amounts in thousands, except per share data)

Net sales represent net sales to external customers and exclude inter-segment product revenues. Segment information applicable to our reportable operating segments for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009 is shown below:

|  |  |  | Three Months Ended September 30, 2010 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

## PC CONNECTION, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES <br> PART I-FINANCIAL INFORMATION <br> Item 1-Financial Statements <br> NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS-(Continued) (amounts in thousands, except per share data)

|  | Ended September 30, 2009 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { SMB } \\ \text { Segment } \end{gathered}$ | Large Account Segment |  |  | blic Sector Segment | Consumer/SOHO Segment |  | Headquarters/ Other |  | Consolidated |  |
| Net sales | \$465,994 | \$ | 304,318 | \$ | 270,548 | \$ | 65,675 |  |  |  | 06,535 |
| Operating income (loss) before allocations | \$ 34,257 | \$ | 13,126 | \$ | 10,648 | \$ | 162 | \$ | $(65,521)$ | \$ | $(7,328)$ |
| Allocations | $(27,379)$ |  | $(2,519)$ |  | $(12,102)$ |  | $(3,825)$ |  | 45,825 |  | - |
| Operating income (loss) | \$ 6,878 | \$ | 10,607 | \$ | $(1,454)$ | \$ | $\underline{(3,663)}$ | \$ | $(19,696)$ | \$ | $(7,328)$ |
| Selected Operating Expenses: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Depreciation and amortization | \$ 164 | \$ | 988 | \$ | 91 | \$ | - | \$ | 3,978 | \$ | 5,221 |
| Special charges | 112 |  | 107 |  | 143 |  | - |  | 12,593 |  | 12,955 |

Our operating segments' assets presented above are primarily accounts receivables, intercompany receivables, goodwill, and other intangibles, net. Assets for the Headquarters/Other group are managed by corporate headquarters, including cash and cash equivalents, inventory, and property and equipment. Total assets for the Headquarters/Other group at September 30, 2010 are presented net of intercompany balances eliminations of $\$ 60,562$. Our capital expenditures are largely comprised of IT hardware and software purchased to maintain or upgrade our management information systems. These systems serve all of our subsidiaries, to varying degrees, and accordingly, our CODM does not evaluate capital expenditures on a segment basis.

Senior management also monitors net sales by product mix (Notebook and PDA; Desktop/Server; Video, Imaging, and Sound; Software; Printer and Printer Supplies; Net/Com Product; Storage Device; Memory and System Enhancement; and Accessories/Other).

Net sales by product mix is presented below:

| September 30, | Three Months Ended |  | Nine Months Ended |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2010 | 2009 | 2010 | 2009 |
| Notebook and PDA | \$ 92,451 | \$ 61,679 | \$ 244,929 | \$ 163,640 |
| Software | 82,748 | 55,582 | 198,529 | 157,031 |
| Desktop/Server | 82,222 | 56,714 | 216,391 | 150,053 |
| Net/Com Product | 54,606 | 42,930 | 140,555 | 114,380 |
| Video, Imaging and Sound | 50,840 | 53,672 | 158,406 | 144,315 |
| Printer and Printer Supplies | 40,379 | 35,188 | 117,907 | 97,454 |
| Storage Device | 35,986 | 31,762 | 107,872 | 91,879 |
| Memory and System Enhancement | 25,171 | 13,760 | 60,371 | 37,975 |
| Accessories/Other | 68,424 | 51,765 | 173,675 | 149,808 |
| Total | $\underline{\text { \$532,827 }}$ | \$403,052 | \$1,418,635 | $\underline{\text { 1,106,535 }}$ |

## Note 5-Commitments and Contingencies

We are subject to various legal proceedings and claims, which have arisen during the ordinary course of business. In the opinion of management, the outcome of such matters is not expected to have a material effect on our financial position, results of operations, and cash flows.

# PC CONNECTION, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES <br> PART I-FINANCIAL INFORMATION <br> Item 1-Financial Statements NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS-(Continued) (amounts in thousands, except per share data) 

We are subject to audits on sales and income taxes, unclaimed property, employee benefits, and other assessments. A comprehensive multi-state unclaimed property audit is currently in progress. While management believes that known and estimated liabilities have been adequately provided for, it is too early to determine the ultimate outcome of such audits. Additional liabilities could be assessed, and such outcome could have a material negative impact on our financial position, results of operations, and cash flows.

## Note 6-Bank Borrowing and Trade Credit Arrangements

We have a $\$ 50,000$ credit facility collateralized by substantially all of our assets. This facility can be increased, at our option, to $\$ 80,000$ for approved acquisitions or other uses authorized by the lender at substantially the same terms. Amounts outstanding under this facility bear interest at the prime rate $(3.25 \%$ at September 30,2010). The facility also gives us the option of obtaining Eurodollar Rate Loans in multiples of $\$ 1,000$ for various short-term durations. The credit facility includes various customary financial ratios and operating covenants, including minimum net worth and maximum funded debt ratio requirements, and restrictions on the payment of dividends to shareholders, repurchase of our common stock, and default acceleration provisions, none of which we believe significantly restricts our operations. Funded debt ratio is the ratio of average outstanding advances under the credit facility in the quarter to EBITDA (Earnings Before Interest Expense, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization). The maximum allowable funded debt ratio under the agreement is 2.0 to 1.0 ; this ratio did not limit potential borrowings at September 30, 2010. We did not have any borrowings under the credit facility in the third quarter of 2010 . Future decreases in our consolidated EBITDA could limit our potential borrowings under the credit facility.

No borrowings were outstanding under this credit facility at September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009, and accordingly the entire $\$ 50,000$ facility was available for borrowing at both dates. The credit facility matures on October 15, 2012, at which time amounts outstanding become due.

At September 30, 2010, we had security agreements with two financial institutions to facilitate the purchase of inventory from various suppliers under certain terms and conditions. The agreements allow a collateralized first position in certain branded products inventory financed by the financial institutions up to an aggregate amount of $\$ 45,000$. The cost of such financing under these agreements is borne by the suppliers by discounting their invoices to the financial institutions as an incentive for us to purchase their products. We do not pay any interest or discount fees on such inventory financing. At September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009, accounts payable included $\$ 13,451$ and $\$ 11,406$, respectively, owed to these financial institutions.

## Note 7-Treasury Stock Purchases

On March 28, 2001, our Board of Directors authorized the spending of up to $\$ 15,000$ to repurchase our common stock. Share purchases will be made in the open market from time to time depending on market conditions. However, our current bank line of credit limits repurchases made after June 2005 to $\$ 10,000$ without bank approval of higher amounts.

We repurchased 423 shares for $\$ 2,857$ in the nine months ended September 30, 2010, excluding net share settlements discussed below. As of September 30, 2010, we have repurchased an aggregate of 1,060 shares for $\$ 6,945$. The maximum approximate dollar value of shares that may yet be purchased under the program without further bank approval is $\$ 5,341$.

## PC CONNECTION, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

PART I—FINANCIAL INFORMATION
Item 1-Financial Statements

## NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS-(Continued) (amounts in thousands, except per share data)

We have permitted employees to surrender shares of stock to the Company to satisfy statutory withholding requirements due upon the vesting of such stock. Such net share settlements are reported as a purchase of treasury shares in our financial statements similar to our open market treasury purchases. Our employees surrendered 32 shares for $\$ 210$ in net share settlements during the nine months ended September 30, 2010. In the nine months ended September 30,2010, we issued 128 shares from treasury stock for restricted stock awards and reflected upon vesting the net remaining balance of treasury stock on the condensed consolidated balance sheet.

## Note 8-Fair Value

Our financial instruments consist primarily of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, and accounts payable. The carrying values of cash, accounts receivable, and accounts payable approximate their fair market values due to their short-term nature. We are required to measure fair value under a fair value hierarchy that maximizes the use of observable inputs and minimizes the use of unobservable inputs. Observable inputs are obtained from independent sources and can be validated by a third party, whereas unobservable inputs reflect assumptions regarding what a third party would use in pricing an asset or liability. A financial instrument's categorization within the fair value hierarchy is based upon the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Three levels of inputs may be used to measure fair value:

Level 1-Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.
Level 2-Include other inputs that are directly or indirectly observable in the marketplace.
Level 3-Unobservable inputs which are supported by little or no market activity.
We measure our cash equivalents at fair value and classify such assets within Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy. The classification has been determined based on the manner in which we value our cash equivalents, primarily using quoted market prices for identical assets. Assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis consisted of the following types of instruments and were reported as cash equivalents as of September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009:

|  | Fair Value Measurements at Reporting Date Using |  |  |  |  |  | Total Balance |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Prices in Markets dentical uments vel 1) | Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2) |  | Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) |  |  |  |
| Assets |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cash Equivalents: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Money market fund deposits at September 30, 2010 | \$ | 1,035 | \$ | - | \$ | - | \$ | 1,035 |
| Money market fund deposits at December 31, 2009 | \$ | 30,021 | \$ | - | \$ | - | \$ | 30,021 |

## PC CONNECTION, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

PART I-FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## Item 2-MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION

 AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS
#### Abstract

Our management's discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations include the identification of certain trends and other statements that may predict or anticipate future business or financial results that are subject to important factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those indicated. See Item 1 A"Risk Factors" of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.


## OVERVIEW

We are a leading direct marketer of a wide range of information technology, or IT, solutions. We help companies design, enable, manage, and service their IT environments. We provide products, including computer systems, software and peripheral equipment, networking communications, and other products and accessories that we purchase from manufacturers, distributors, and other suppliers. We also offer a growing range of design, installation, configuration, repair, and other services performed by our personnel and third-party providers. We operate through four sales segments: (a) small- to mediumsized businesses, or SMBs, through our PC Connection Sales subsidiary, (b) large enterprise customers, or Large Account, through our MoreDirect subsidiary, (c) federal, state, and local government and educational institutions, or Public Sector, through our GovConnection subsidiary, and (d) consumers and small office/home office customers, or Consumer/SOHO, through our PC Connection Express subsidiary.

We generate sales primarily through outbound telemarketing and field sales contacts by account managers focused on the business, education, and government markets, our websites, and inbound calls from customers responding to our catalogs and other advertising media. We seek to recruit, retain, and increase the productivity of our sales personnel through training, mentoring, financial incentives based on performance, and updating and streamlining our information systems to make our operations more efficient.

As a value added reseller in the IT supply chain, we do not manufacture IT hardware or software. We are dependent on our suppliers that consist of manufacturers and distributors that historically have sold only to resellers rather than directly to end users. Certain manufacturers have on multiple occasions attempted to sell directly to our customers, and in some cases have restricted our ability to sell their products directly to certain customers, thereby eliminating our role. We believe that the success of direct sales efforts by suppliers will depend on their ability to meet our customers' ongoing demands and provide objective, unbiased solutions to meet their needs. We believe more of our customers are seeking total IT solutions, rather than simply specific IT products. Our advantage is our ability to be product-neutral and provide a broader combination of products, services, and advice tailored to customer needs. By providing customers with customized solutions from a variety of manufacturers, we believe we can mitigate the negative impact of continued supplier direct sales initiatives. For example, through the formation of our services group, ProConnection, we are able to provide customers complete IT solutions, from identifying their needs, to designing, developing, and managing the integration of products and services to implement their IT projects. Such service offerings carry higher margins than traditional product sales. Additionally, the technical certifications of our service engineers permit us to offer higher-end, more complex products that generally carry higher gross margins. We expect these service offerings and technical certifications to continue to play a role in sales generation and improved gross margins in this competitive environment.

Market conditions and technology advances significantly affect the demand for our products and services. Virtual delivery of software products and advanced Internet technology providing customers enhanced functionality have substantially increased customer expectations, requiring us to invest more heavily in our own IT development to meet these new demands. As buying trends change and electronic commerce continues to grow, consumers have become more sophisticated due to the amount and quality of information available and the

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increased number of readily available choices. Customers are also better able to make price comparisons through the Internet, thereby necessitating more aggressive pricing strategies to remain competitive. The changing landscape of the consumer and business markets in which we operate could have a negative effect on our financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows. While it is not possible for us to estimate with any degree of accuracy the level of sales we may have lost or may lose in the future as a result of such increased buyer sophistication, our consolidated internet sales represented approximately $30 \%$ of total sales in the nine months ended September 30,2010 , which is consistent with prior year levels.

We have undertaken significant actions with respect to all of our internet websites in order to keep up with the improvements made by our competitors. We have historically increased the level of internet marketing expenditures on third-party "click fees" and affiliate charges, particularly with respect to consumer marketing, in order to increase visibility on third-party search engines. We have also launched various promotions, including selected free freight offers, in efforts to generate higher internet sales and increase brand awareness. All of these activities are costly, and such costs are expected to increase in future periods as we continue to expand our internet visibility and functionality. If we do not generate increased internet sales, our operating margins may be further impacted.

The primary challenges we continue to face in effectively managing our business are (1) increasing our revenues while at the same time, maintaining, if not improving, our gross margin in all four segments, (2) recruiting, retaining, and improving the productivity of our sales personnel, and (3) effectively controlling our selling, general and administrative, or SG\&A, expenses, while increasing investments in our IT systems. Competition may become even more intense in the future, which could put more pressure on margins.

## RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following table sets forth information derived from our statements of operations expressed as a percentage of net sales for the periods indicated:

| September 30, | Three Months Ended |  | Nine Months Ended |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2010 | 2009 | 2010 | 2009 |
| Net sales (in millions) | \$ 532.8 | \$403.1 | \$1,418.6 | \$1,106.5 |
| Net sales | 100.0\% | 100.0\% | 100.0\% | 100.0\% |
| Gross margin | 11.6 | 11.5 | 11.7 | 12.0 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 8.9 | 10.2 | 9.8 | 11.5 |
| Special charges | - | - | - | 1.2 |
| Income (loss) from operations | 2.7\% | 1.3\% | 1.9\% | (0.7)\% |

Net sales in the third quarter of 2010 increased by $\$ 129.8$ million, or $32.2 \%$, compared to the third quarter of 2009 . Net sales for our SMB, Large Account, and Public Sector segments increased in the third quarter of 2010 by $27.3 \%, 53.6 \%$, and $24.9 \%$, respectively, compared to the prior year quarter. We believe the increase in revenues is due to increased corporate profits, strong federal government spending, and fulfillment of delayed IT replacement needs. Gross margin (gross profit expressed as a percentage of net sales) increased to $11.6 \%$ in the third quarter of 2010 compared to $11.5 \%$ in the prior year third quarter. Higher agency revenues and product invoice margins in the SMB and Public Sector segments offset lower product invoice margins in the Large Account and Consumer/SOHO segments, resulting in the year-over-year increase in the overall gross margin. Operating income in the third quarter of 2010 increased to $\$ 14.3$ million compared to operating income of $\$ 5.1$ million in the prior year quarter, primarily due to the increase in net sales.

Net sales in the nine months ended September 30, 2010 increased by $\$ 312.1$ million, or $28.2 \%$, compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2009. Net sales for our SMB, Large Account, and Public Sector segments increased in the nine months ended September 30, 2010 by $26.2 \%, 43.0 \%$, and $27.7 \%$, respectively, compared to the prior year period and offset the decline in our Consumer/SOHO sales. Gross margin decreased to $11.7 \%$ in

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the nine months ended September 30, 2010 compared to $12.0 \%$ in the nine months ended September 30, 2009, primarily due to increased competitive pricing pressures. Operating income in the nine months ended September 30, 2010 increased to $\$ 27.0$ million compared to an operating loss of $\$ 7.3$ million in the comparable prior year period due to the increase in net sales, the cost savings implemented in 2009, and the absence of special charges in the nine months ended September 30, 2010.

## Net Sales Distribution

The following table sets forth our percentage of net sales by business segment and product mix:

| September 30, | Three Months Ended |  | Nine Months Ended |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2010 | 2009 | 2010 | 2009 |
| Business Segment |  |  |  |  |
| SMB | 39\% | 41\% | 41\% | 42\% |
| Large Account | 30 | 26 | 31 | 28 |
| Public Sector | 27 | 29 | 24 | 24 |
| Consumer/SOHO | 4 | 4 | 4 | 6 |
| Total | 100\% | 100\% | 100\% | 100\% |
| Product Mix |  |  |  |  |
| Notebook and PDA | 17\% | 15\% | 17\% | 15\% |
| Software | 15 | 14 | 15 | 14 |
| Desktop/Server | 15 | 14 | 15 | 14 |
| Net/Com Product | 10 | 11 | 10 | 10 |
| Video, Imaging and Sound | 10 | 13 | 11 | 13 |
| Printer and Printer Supplies | 8 | 9 | 8 | 9 |
| Storage Device | 7 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Memory and System Enhancement | 5 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Accessories/Other | 13 | 13 | 12 | 14 |
| Total | 100\% | 100\% | 100\% | 100\% |

## Gross margin

The following table summarizes our gross margin, as a percentage of net sales, over the periods indicated:

| September 30, | Three Months Ended |  | Nine Months Ended |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2010 | 2009 | 2010 | 2009 |
| Business Segment |  |  |  |  |
| SMB | 14.2\% | 13.8\% | 14.2\% | 14.3\% |
| Large Account | 10.1 | 10.6 | 10.4 | 10.5 |
| Public Sector | 10.2 | 9.0 | 9.8 | 9.7 |
| Consumer/SOHO | 7.4 | 11.7 | 8.7 | 11.0 |
| Total | 11.6\% | 11.5\% | 11.7\% | 12.0\% |

Consolidated gross profit dollars for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010 increased primarily due to higher net sales as compared to the prior year periods. Gross margin increased in the three months ended September 30, 2010 compared to the prior year period due to increased agency revenues and product invoice margins in the SMB and Public Sector segments, which offset lower product invoice margins in the Large Account segment. For the nine months ended September 30, 2010, gross margin decreased year over year due to increased competitive pricing pressures. Gross margin in 2010 was also adversely impacted by the year-over-year increase in large account sales, which generally have lower gross margin compared to sales by our SMB segment.

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## Cost of Sales and Certain Other Costs

Cost of sales includes the invoice cost of the product, direct costs of packaging, inbound and outbound freight, and provisions for inventory obsolescence, adjusted for discounts, rebates, and other vendor allowances. Direct operating expenses relating to our purchasing function and receiving, inspection, internal transfer, warehousing, packing and shipping, and other expenses of our distribution center are included in SG\&A expenses. Accordingly, our gross margin may not be comparable to those of other entities who include all or part of the costs related to their distribution network in cost of goods sold. Such costs, as a percentage of net sales for the periods reported, are as follows:

|  | Three Months Ended |  | Nine Months Ended |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| September 30, | 2010 | 2009 | 2010 | 2009 |
| Purchasing/Distribution Center | 0.56\% | 0.72\% | 0.63\% | 0.78\% |

## Operating Expenses

The following table breaks out our more significant operating expenses for the periods indicated (in millions of dollars):

| September 30, | Three Months Ended |  | Nine Months Ended |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2010 | 2009 | 2010 | 2009 |
| Personnel costs | \$ 33.4 | \$ 27.9 | \$ 97.5 | \$ 84.2 |
| Advertising, net | 4.4 | 3.9 | 12.6 | 12.3 |
| Professional fees | 2.0 | 1.4 | 6.2 | 5.5 |
| Facilities operations | 2.0 | 2.1 | 6.3 | 6.9 |
| Credit card fees | 1.9 | 1.6 | 5.1 | 5.0 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 1.3 | 1.7 | 4.2 | 5.2 |
| Other, net | 2.6 | 2.7 | 7.7 | 7.6 |
| Total | \$ 47.6 | \$ 41.3 | \$139.6 | \$126.7 |
| Percentage of net sales | 8.9\% | 10.2\% | 9.8\% | 11.5\% |

Personnel costs represent the majority of our operating expenses, with sales personnel representing the largest portion of these costs. Personnel costs increased year over year in the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010 due to incremental variable compensation associated with increased operating results. We also added technical support personnel in 2010 to increase our enterprise/networking revenues, which has contributed to the year-overyear increase in operating expenses. We expect to continue to add technical support personnel in the near future.

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## Year-Over-Year Comparisons

## Three Months Ended September 30, 2010 Compared to Three Months Ended September 30, 2009

Changes in net sales and gross profit by business segment are shown in the following table (dollars in millions)

|  | Three Months Ended September 30, |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2010 |  | 2009 |  | $\begin{gathered} \% \\ \text { Change } \end{gathered}$ |
|  | Amount | $\begin{gathered} \hline \% \text { of Net } \\ \text { Sales } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Amount | $\begin{gathered} \hline \% \text { of Net } \\ \text { Sales } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |
| Sales: |  |  |  |  |  |
| SMB | \$208.7 | 39.2\% | \$164.0 | 40.7\% | 27.3\% |
| Large Account | 159.7 | 30.0 | 103.9 | 25.8 | 53.6 |
| Public Sector | 145.6 | 27.3 | 116.6 | 28.9 | 24.9 |
| Consumer/SOHO | 18.8 | 3.5 | 18.6 | 4.6 | 1.4 |
| Total | $\underline{\$ 532.8}$ | $\underline{\text { 100.0 \% }}$ | $\underline{\$ 403.1}$ | $\underline{\text { 100.0 \% }}$ | 32.2\% |
| Gross Profit: |  |  |  |  |  |
| SMB | \$ 29.7 | 14.2\% | \$ 22.6 | 13.8\% | 31.1\% |
| Large Account | 16.1 | 10.1 | 11.0 | 10.6 | 46.0 |
| Public Sector | 14.8 | 10.2 | 10.5 | 9.0 | 40.8 |
| Consumer/SOHO | 1.4 | 7.4 | 2.2 | 11.7 | (35.5) |
| Total | \$ 62.0 | 11.6\% | \$ 46.3 | 11.5\% | 33.7\% |

Net sales increased in all segments in the third quarter of 2010 compared to the third quarter of 2009 , as explained below:

- Net sales for the SMB segment increased due to the improvement in corporate profits and the continued release of pent-up IT demand. The continuing popularity of Microsoft's Windows 7 operating system also contributed to an increasing number of companies upgrading their IT infrastructure. We believe that our SMB sales representatives have increased sales by acquiring a greater share of existing customers' IT purchases during the third quarter of 2010, as average order size for the SMB segment increased by $16.9 \%$ compared to the prior year period. This increase contributed to a $27.3 \%$ year-over-year increase in average annualized sales productivity in the third quarter of 2010 , consistent with the year-over-year increase in revenues. Sales representatives for our SMB segment totaled 358 at September 30, 2010, compared to 352 at September 30, 2009, and 344 at June 30, 2010.
- Net sales for the Large Account segment increased in the third quarter of 2010 due to the continued release of pent-up IT demand and increased investments made by large enterprises. Given the continued macro-economic uncertainty, we believe that these customers have elected to upgrade their IT systems to improve workforce productivity, rather than increase their workforce. New customer acquisitions also contributed to the year-over-year increase in net sales. Average annualized sales productivity in the third quarter of 2010 increased by $59.9 \%$ year over year. Sales representatives for our Large Account segment totaled 84 at September 30, 2010, compared to 90 at September 30, 2009 and 86 at June 30, 2010.
- Net sales for the Public Sector segment increased in the third quarter of 2010 due to the growth in contract sales entered into with both the federal government and higher educational institutions. Federal government sales increased $40.5 \%$ year over year in the third quarter of 2010 , while sales to state and local government and educational institutions increased $15.9 \%$ this quarter. Overall average annualized sales productivity increased by $30.0 \%$ year over year in the quarter, primarily due to the increase in net sales. Sales representatives for our Public Sector segment totaled 134 at September 30, 2010, compared to 139 at September 30, 2009 and 139 at June 30, 2010.


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- Net sales for the Consumer/SOHO segment increased slightly year over year in the third quarter of 2010. Customer migration to the new Consumer/SOHO website has taken longer than anticipated, and we continue to work towards increasing profitable sales growth in the Consumer/SOHO segment

Gross profit for the third quarter of 2010 increased year over year in dollars and as a percentage of net sales, as explained below:

- Gross profit and gross margin for the SMB segment increased year over year in the third quarter of 2010. Gross margin increased in the quarter due to increases in both product invoice margins and higher-margin software referral revenues.
- Gross profit increased for the Large Account segment in the third quarter of 2010 due to increased net sales. Gross margin was negatively impacted by a decrease in product invoice margin associated with increased competitive pricing.
- Gross profit and gross margin for the Public Sector segment increased in the third quarter of 2010. Gross margin increased due to increases in product invoice margin, agency revenues, and vendor consideration as a percentage of net sales in the quarter compared to the prior year period.
- Gross profit and gross margin for the Consumer/SOHO segment decreased year over year in the third quarter of 2010. Gross margin decreased due to increased promotional pricing initiatives, free freight, and other marketing programs designed to attract customers to our new website.

Selling, general and administrative expenses in the third quarter of 2010 increased in dollars but decreased as a percentage of net sales compared to the prior year quarter. The decrease in expense as a percentage of net sales resulted from the year-over-year increase in sales in the third quarter of 2010 generated by our three primary business segments and improved expense management.

As discussed in Note 4 to our Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements - Segment and Related Disclosures, we formed a new Consumer sales company in the first quarter of 2010 , and as a result, revised our reporting of operating segments. Prior period SG\&A expenses for the Consumer/SOHO business were reported within the SMB segment. Under this revised reporting structure, prior period SG\&A expenses for the SMB segment exclude Consumer/SOHO operating expenses. SG\&A expenses attributable to our four operating segments and the Headquarters/Other group are summarized below (dollars in millions):

|  | Three Months Ended September 30, |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2010 |  | 2009 |  | $\begin{gathered} \% \\ \text { Change } \end{gathered}$ |
|  | Amount | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { \% of Net } \\ & \text { Sales } \end{aligned}$ | Amount | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { \% of Net } \\ \text { Sales } \end{gathered}$ |  |
| SMB | $\overline{\$ 22.8}$ | 10.9\% | $\overline{\$ 18.6}$ | 11.4\% | 22.5\% |
| Large Account | 8.7 | 5.4 | 6.8 | 6.5 | 27.7 |
| Public Sector | 11.5 | 7.9 | 9.9 | 8.5 | 17.2 |
| Consumer/SOHO | 3.2 | 17.2 | 3.5 | 18.5 | (5.7) |
| Headquarters/Other | 1.4 |  | 2.5 |  | (46.7) |
| Total | \$ 47.6 | 8.9\% | \$ 41.3 | 10.2\% | 15.5\% |

- SG\&A expenses for the SMB segment increased year over year in dollars but decreased as a percentage of net sales in the third quarter of 2010 . Although we reassigned technical support personnel from the SMB segment to the Headquarters/Other group at the beginning of 2010 , personnel expense increased year over year in the quarter due to incremental variable compensation associated with the increase in gross profits during the same period. Additional usage of centralized headquarters services also contributed to the year-over-year dollar increase. SG\&A expense as a percentage of net sales decreased due to the leverage gained by the increase in net sales.


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- SG\&A expenses for the Large Account segment increased year over year in dollars but decreased as a percentage of net sales in the third quarter of 2010. The increase in personnel expense resulted from incremental variable compensation associated with the improvement in gross profits and the addition of sales support personnel. SG\&A expense as a percentage of net sales decreased due to the leverage gained by the increase in net sales.
- SG\&A expenses for the Public Sector segment increased year over year in dollars but decreased as a percentage of net sales in the third quarter of 2010. SG\&A expense increased in dollars due to increases in variable compensation and professional fees, as well as additional usage of centralized headquarters services. Variable compensation increased due to the higher gross profit in the third quarter of 2010. SG\&A expense as a percentage of net sales decreased due to the leverage gained by the increase in net sales.
- SG\&A expenses for the Consumer/SOHO group decreased in dollars and as a percentage of net sales in the third quarter of 2010 due to reduced internet advertising costs and catalogs circulated compared to the prior year quarter. A decrease in usage of centralized headquarters services also contributed to the year-over-year dollar decrease.
- Unallocated SG\&A expenses for the Headquarters/Other group decreased in dollars year over year as increased usage by the operating segments offset increased personnel expense compared to the prior year quarter. Personnel expense increased year over year in the third quarter of 2010 due to increased variable compensation associated with improved operating results and the reassignment into the Headquarters/Other group of technical support personnel from the SMB segment. The Headquarters/Other group provides services to the four reportable operating segments in areas such as finance, human resources, IT, product management, and marketing. Most of the operating costs associated with such corporate headquarters services are charged to the operating segments based on their estimated usage of the underlying services. The amounts shown above represent the remaining unallocated costs.

Income from operations for the third quarter of 2010 increased by $\$ 9.2$ million to $\$ 14.3$ million, compared to operating income of $\$ 5.1 \mathrm{million}$ for the third quarter of 2009. Income from operations as a percentage of net sales was $2.7 \%$ for the third quarter of 2010 compared to $1.3 \%$ of net sales for the third quarter of 2009. The increase in operating income in the third quarter of 2010 resulted primarily from the year-over-year increase in net sales.

Our effective tax rate was $39.5 \%$ for the third quarter of 2010 compared to the effective tax rate of $43.1 \%$ for the third quarter of 2009 . Our tax rate will continue to vary based on variations in state tax levels for certain subsidiaries, valuation reserves, and accounting for uncertain tax positions. We anticipate that our effective tax rate will be in the range of $40 \%$ to $42 \%$ in 2010 .

Net income for the third quarter of 2010 increased by $\$ 5.7$ million to $\$ 8.6$ million, compared to net income of $\$ 2.9$ million for the third quarter of 2009 , principally due to the higher sales volumes.

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## Nine Months Ended September 30, 2010 Compared to Nine Months Ended September 30, 2009

Changes in net sales and gross profit by business segment are shown in the following table (dollars in millions):

|  | Nine Months Ended September 30, |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2010 |  | 2009 |  | $\begin{gathered} \% \\ \text { Change } \end{gathered}$ |
|  | Amount | $\begin{gathered} \hline \% \text { of Net } \\ \text { Sales } \end{gathered}$ | Amount | $\begin{gathered} \hline \% \text { of Net } \\ \text { Sales } \end{gathered}$ |  |
| Sales: |  |  |  |  |  |
| SMB | \$ 588.2 | 41.4\% | \$ 466.0 | 42.1\% | 26.2\% |
| Large Account | 435.1 | 30.7 | 304.3 | 27.5 | 43.0 |
| Public Sector | 345.5 | 24.4 | 270.5 | 24.5 | 27.7 |
| Consumer/SOHO | 49.8 | 3.5 | 65.7 | 5.9 | (24.2) |
| Total | \$1,418.6 | $\underline{100.0} \%$ | \$1,106.5 | $\underline{100.0} \%$ | 28.2\% |
| Gross Profit: |  |  |  |  |  |
| SMB | \$ 83.2 | 14.2\% | \$ 66.7 | 14.3\% | 24.7\% |
| Large Account | 45.1 | 10.4 | 32.0 | 10.5 | 40.7 |
| Public Sector | 34.0 | 9.8 | 26.3 | 9.7 | 29.4 |
| Consumer/SOHO | 4.3 | 8.7 | 7.3 | 11.0 | (40.4) |
| Total | \$ 166.6 | 11.7\% | \$ 132.3 | 12.0\% | 25.9\% |

Net sales for the nine months ended September 30, 2010 increased compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2009, as explained below:

- Net sales for the SMB segment increased due to the improvement in corporate profits and the corresponding release of pent-up IT demand. The continuing popularity of Microsoft's Windows 7 operating system also contributed to an increasing number of companies upgrading their IT infrastructure. We believe that our SMB sales representatives have acquired a greater share of existing customers' IT purchases during the nine months ended September 30, 2010 compared to the prior year period.
- Net sales for the Large Account segment increased in the nine months ended September 30, 2010 due to the release of pent-up IT demand and increased investments made by large enterprises. Large account customers have continued to upgrade their IT systems through both virtualization and hardware purchases in order to improve workforce productivity. New customer acquisitions also contributed to the year-overyear increase in net sales.
- Net sales for the Public Sector segment increased in the nine months ended September 30, 2010 due to the growth in sales enabled by sales contracts entered into with both the federal government and higher educational institutions. Federal government sales increased $40.6 \%$ year over year in the nine months ended September 30, 2010, while sales to state and local government and educational institutions increased $21.0 \%$ year over year in the nine months ended September 30, 2010.
- Net sales for the Consumer/SOHO segment decreased year over year in the nine months ended September 30, 2010. Customer migration to its new website has taken longer than anticipated and contributed to the year-over-year decrease in net sales.

Gross profit for the nine months ended September 30, 2010 increased in dollars but gross margin decreased on a consolidated basis compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2009, as explained below:

- Gross profit for the SMB segment increased year over year in the nine months ended September 30, 2010 due to the increase in net sales. Gross margin decreased slightly in the same period as a decrease in vendor consideration offset lower inventory allowance expense compared to the prior year period.


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- Gross profit for the Large Account segment increased due to higher net sales, however, gross margin decreased slightly in the nine months ended September 30, 2010 compared to the prior year period. A decrease in product invoice margin, associated with increased competitive pricing pressures, more than offset increased levels of vendor consideration and higher margin agency fees as a percentage of net sales in the nine months ended September 30, 2010, compared to the prior year period.
- Gross profit for the Public Sector segment in the nine months ended September 30, 2010 increased primarily due to higher net sales. Gross margin increased slightly as an increase in higher margin agency referral fees were largely offset by lower product invoice margins associated with competitive pricing pressures compared to the prior year period.
- Gross profit for the Consumer/SOHO segment decreased year over year in the nine months ended September 30, 2010 due to decreases in net sales and gross margin. Gross margin decreased due to increased competitive pricing pressures, lower vendor consideration as a percentage of net sales, and reduced product pricing designed to attract customers to our new website.

Selling, general and administrative expenses in the nine months ended September 30, 2010 increased in dollars but decreased as a percentage of net sales on a consolidated basis compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2009.

SG\&A expenses attributable to our operating segments and the Headquarters/Other group are summarized below (dollars in millions):

|  | Nine Months Ended September 30, |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2010 |  | 2009 |  | $\begin{gathered} \% \\ \text { Change } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
|  | Amount | $\begin{gathered} \hline \% \text { of Net } \\ \text { Sales } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Amount | $\begin{gathered} \hline \% \text { of Net } \\ \text { Sales } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |
| SMB | \$ 65.7 | 11.2\% | \$ 59.8 | 12.8\% | 10.0\% |
| Large Account | 26.3 | 6.0 | 21.3 | 7.0 | 23.2 |
| Public Sector | 32.0 | 9.3 | 27.6 | 10.2 | 16.1 |
| Consumer/SOHO | 9.1 | 18.2 | 10.9 | 16.6 | (17.1) |
| Headquarters/Other | 6.5 |  | 7.1 |  | (7.8) |
| Total | $\underline{\$ 139.6}$ | 9.8\% | $\underline{\underline{\$ 126.7}}$ | 11.5\% | 10.2\% |

- SG\&A expenses for the SMB segment increased year over year in dollars, but decreased as a percentage of net sales in the nine months ended September 30, 2010. The dollar increase resulted from additional usage of centralized headquarters services and increased personnel expense. Although salary expense decreased due to the reassignment of technical support personnel from the SMB segment to the Headquarters/Other group in early 2010 , personnel expense increased year over year due to incremental variable compensation associated with the increase in gross profit during the same period. SG\&A expense as a percentage of net sales decreased due to the leverage gained by the increase in net sales.
- SG\&A expenses for the Large Account segment increased year over year in dollars, but decreased as a percentage of net sales in the nine months ended September 30, 2010. The increase in personnel expense resulted from higher variable compensation associated with the increase in gross profit, as well as incremental headcount hired in late 2009. SG\&A expense as a percentage of net sales decreased due to the leverage gained by the increase in net sales.
- SG\&A expenses for the Public Sector segment increased year over year in dollars, but decreased as a percentage of net sales in the nine months ended September 30, 2010. SG\&A expense increased in dollars due to increases in variable compensation, professional fees, and additional usage of centralized headquarters services. Variable compensation increased due to the year-over-year increase in gross profit in the nine months ended September 30, 2010. SG\&A expense as a percentage of net sales decreased due to the leverage gained by the increase in net sales.


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- SG\&A expenses for the Consumer/SOHO group decreased in the nine months ended September 30, 2010 due to reduced internet advertising costs and catalog circulation, as well as decreased usage of centralized headquarters services compared to the prior year period.
- Unallocated SG\&A expenses for the Headquarters/Other group decreased in dollars year over year as increased usage by the operating segments offset increased personnel expense compared to the prior year period. Personnel expense increased year over year in the nine months ended September 30, 2010 due to increased variable compensation associated with improved operating results and the reassignment into the group of technical sales specialists from the SMB segment. We have also added technical support specialists in 2010 to increase enterprise/networking sales. The amounts shown above represent the remaining unallocated costs.

Special Charges. We did not record any special charges in the nine months ended September 30, 2010. In the nine months ended September 30, 2009, we recorded special charges related to an asset write-off of $\$ 11.6$ million and $\$ 1.4$ million of workforce reduction and management restructuring charges.

Income from operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2010 increased by $\$ 34.3$ million to $\$ 27.0$ million, compared to an operating loss of $\$ 7.3$ million for the third quarter of 2009. Income from operations as a percentage of net sales was $1.9 \%$ for the nine months ended September 30, 2010, compared to a loss from operations of $0.7 \%$ as a percentage of net sales for the nine months ended September 30, 2009. Our operating income in the nine months ended September 30, 2010 resulted from increased year-over-year sales, prior year cost reductions, and the absence of special charges in the nine months ended September 30, 2010, compared to the prior year period in which special charges totaled $\$ 13.0$ million.

Our effective tax rate was $40.1 \%$ for the nine months ended September 30, 2010 compared to the effective tax benefit rate of $28.5 \%$ for the prior year period of 2009. Our tax rate for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 was affected by unrealized state tax loss benefits, which decrease the benefit rate in loss periods and increase the tax rate in profitable periods. Our tax rate will continue to vary based on variations in state tax levels for certain subsidiaries, valuation reserves, and accounting for uncertain tax positions.

Net income for the nine months ended September 30, 2010 increased by $\$ 21.3$ million to $\$ 16.1$ million, compared to a net loss of $\$ 5.2$ million for the nine months ended September 30, 2009, principally due to higher sales volumes and absence of special charges in the nine months ended September 30, 2010 compared to the prior year period.

## Liquidity and Capital Resources

Our primary sources of liquidity have historically been internally generated funds from operations and borrowings under our bank line of credit. We have used those funds to meet our capital requirements, which consist primarily of working capital for operational needs, capital expenditures for computer equipment and software used in our business, repurchases of common stock for treasury, and as opportunities arise, possible acquisitions of new businesses.

We believe that funds generated from operations, together with available credit under our bank line of credit and inventory trade credit agreements, will be sufficient to finance our working capital, capital expenditure, and other requirements for at least the next twelve months. We expect our capital needs for 2010 to consist primarily of capital expenditures, excluding any expenditures on new IT systems, of $\$ 5.0$ to $\$ 6.0$ million and payments on capital lease and other contractual obligations of approximately $\$ 3.8$ million. We are currently in the midst of a comprehensive review and assessment of our entire business software needs. That review and assessment includes the review of commercially available software that meets, or can be configured to meet, those needs better than our existing software. In the third quarter of 2010, we completed the first phase of this review and purchased a comprehensive database management system for $\$ 3.0$ million. Payment for that software was made in October 2010. While we have not yet finalized any decisions regarding whether or to what extent new software will be acquired and implemented, capital costs for the entire project, if fully implemented, would likely exceed $\$ 20$ million and could require up to five years to complete.

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We expect to meet our cash requirements for the next three-to-twelve months through a combination of cash on hand, cash generated from operations and, if necessary, borrowings on our bank line of credit, as follows:

- Cash on Hand. At September 30, 2010, we had approximately $\$ 40.5$ million in cash.
- Cash Generated from Operations. We expect to generate cash flows from operations in excess of operating cash needs by generating earnings and balancing net changes in inventories and receivables with compensating changes in payables to generate a positive cash flow. Historically, we have consistently generated positive cash flows from operations.
- Credit Facilities. As of September 30, 2010, our entire $\$ 50.0$ million bank line of credit was available for borrowing. This line of credit can be increased, at our option, to $\$ 80.0$ million for approved acquisitions or other uses authorized by the bank. Borrowings are limited, however, by certain minimum collateral and earnings requirements, as described more fully below.

Our ability to continue funding our operations, both internally and externally, is dependent upon our ability to generate sufficient cash flow from operations or to obtain additional funds through equity or debt financing, or from other sources of financing, as may be required. While we do not anticipate needing any additional sources of financing to fund our operations at this time, our cash flows from operations may be substantially affected if demand for information technology products declines. See also related risks listed below under Item 1A, "Risk Factors."

## Summary of Sources and Uses of Cash

The following table summarizes our sources and uses of cash over the periods indicated (in millions):

| September 30, | Nine Months Ended |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 2010 | 2009 |  |
| Net cash provided by operating activities |  | 0.9 |  | 24.4 |
| Net cash used for investing activities |  | (3.2) |  | (5.0) |
| Net cash used for financing activities |  | (3.5) |  | (0.7) |
| (Decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents |  | (5.8) |  | 18.7 |

Cash provided by operating activities decreased by $\$ 23.5$ million in the nine months ended September 30, 2010 compared to the prior year period. Operating cash flow in the nine months ended September 30, 2010 resulted primarily from net income before depreciation and amortization and an increase in payables, offset by increases in accounts receivable and inventory. During periods of increasing revenues, our working capital needs generally increase at a similar rate due to the increase in both accounts receivables and inventory. It is our goal to mitigate such working capital requirements through strong inventory management and receivables collection. Inventory increased by $\$ 14.0$ million from the prior year-end balance due to opportunistic purchases of inventory to meet future product demands. Inventory turns increased to 26 turns for the third quarter of 2010 compared to 24 turns for the prior year quarter. Accounts receivable increased by $\$ 38.6$ million from the prior year-end balance largely due to record monthly sales realized in September of this year. Days sales outstandings were 49 days at September 30, 2010, compared to 45 days at September 30, 2009 and 47 days December 31, 2009.

At September 30, 2010, we had $\$ 152.7$ million in outstanding accounts payable. Such accounts are generally paid within 30 days of incurrence, or earlier when favorable cash discounts are offered. This amount includes $\$ 13.5$ million payable to two financial institutions under inventory trade credit agreements we use to finance our purchase of certain inventory, secured by the inventory so financed. We believe we will be able to meet our obligations under our accounts payable with cash flows from operations and our existing line of credit.

Cash used for investing activities decreased by $\$ 1.8$ million in the nine months ended September 30, 2010 compared to the prior year period. These activities consist of capital expenditures in the periods presented, primarily for computer equipment and capitalized internally-developed software, offset by proceeds from the sale of disposed capital assets, and the purchase of an intangible asset in the nine months ended September 30, 2010.

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Cash used for financing activities in the nine months ended September 30, 2010 increased by $\$ 2.8$ million from the prior year period, and in both periods related to treasury stock purchases and repayments of a capital lease obligation to an affiliate. Our treasury stock purchases totaled $\$ 3.1$ million in the nine months ended September 30, 2010 compared to $\$ 0.3$ million in the comparable prior year period.

## Debt Instruments, Contractual Agreements, and Related Covenants

Below is a summary of certain provisions of our credit facilities and other contractual obligations. For more information about the restrictive covenants in our debt instruments and inventory financing agreements, see "Factors Affecting Sources of Liquidity" below. For more information about our obligations, commitments, and contingencies, see our condensed consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes included in this quarterly report

Bank Line of Credit. Our bank line of credit provides us with a borrowing capacity of up to $\$ 50.0$ million at the prime rate ( $3.25 \%$ at September 30 , 2010). In addition, we have the option to increase the facility by an additional $\$ 30.0$ million, based on sufficient levels of trade receivables to meet borrowing base requirements, and depending on meeting minimum EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization) and equity requirements, described below under "Factors Affecting Sources of Liquidity." The facility also gives us the option of obtaining Eurodollar Rate Loans in multiples of $\$ 1.0$ million for various short-term durations. Substantially all of our assets are collateralized as security for this facility, and all of our subsidiaries are guarantors under the line of credit. At September 30, 2010, the entire $\$ 50$ million facility was available for borrowing.

This facility, which matures in October 2012, operates under an automatic cash management program whereby disbursements in excess of available cash are added as borrowings at the time disbursement checks clear the bank, and available cash receipts are first applied against any outstanding borrowings and then invested in short-term qualified cash investments. Accordingly, borrowings under the line are classified as current.

Inventory Trade Credit Agreements. We have additional security agreements with two financial institutions to facilitate the purchase of inventory from various suppliers under certain terms and conditions. These agreements allow a collateralized first position in certain branded products inventory financed by these financial institutions. Although the agreements provide for up to $100 \%$ financing on the purchase price, up to an aggregate of $\$ 45.0$ million, any outstanding financing must be fully secured by available inventory. We do not pay any interest or discount fees on such inventory financing; such costs are borne by the suppliers as an incentive for us to purchase their products. Amounts outstanding under such facilities, equal to $\$ 13.5$ million as of September 30 , 2010 , are recorded in accounts payable, and the inventory financed is classified as inventory on the condensed consolidated balance sheet.

Capital Leases. We have a fifteen-year lease for our corporate headquarters with an affiliated company related through common ownership. In addition to the rent payable under the facility lease, we are required to pay real estate taxes, insurance, and common area maintenance charges. The initial term of the lease expires in 2013, and we have the option to renew the lease for two additional terms of five years each.

Operating Leases. We also lease facilities from our principal stockholders and facilities and equipment from third parties under non-cancelable operating leases. See "Contractual Obligations" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 for commitments under these leases.

Sports Marketing Commitments. We have entered into multi-year sponsorship agreements with the Boston Red Sox and the New England Patriots that extend through 2010 and 2013, respectively. These agreements, which grant us various marketing rights and seating arrangements, require annual payments aggregating from $\$ 0.3$ million to $\$ 0.9$ million per year.

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Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements. We do not have any other off-balance sheet arrangements that have or are reasonably likely to have, a current or future material effect on our financial condition, changes in financial condition, revenues or expenses, results of operations, liquidity, capital expenditures, or capital resources.

Contractual Obligations. The disclosures relating to our contractual obligations in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 have not materially changed since we filed that report.

## Factors Affecting Sources of Liquidity

Internally Generated Funds. The key factors affecting our internally generated funds are our ability to minimize costs and fully achieve our operating efficiencies, timely collection of our customer receivables, and management of our inventory levels.

Bank Line of Credit. Our credit facility contains certain financial ratios and operational covenants and other restrictions (including restrictions on additional debt, guarantees, stock repurchases, dividends and other distributions, investments, and liens) with which we and all of our subsidiaries must comply. Any failure to comply with these covenants would not only prevent us from borrowing additional funds under this line of credit, but would also constitute a default. This credit facility contains two financial tests:

- The funded debt ratio (defined as the average outstanding advances under the line for the quarter, divided by the consolidated EBITDA for the trailing four quarters, excluding non-cash special charges) must not exceed 2.0 to 1.0 . We did not have any outstanding borrowings under the credit facility in the third quarter of 2010, and accordingly, the funded debt ratio did not limit potential borrowings at September 30, 2010. Future decreases in our consolidated EBITDA, however, could limit our potential borrowings under the credit facility.
- Minimum Consolidated Net Worth must be at least $\$ 150.0$ million, plus $50 \%$ of consolidated net income for each quarter, beginning with the quarter ended March 31, 2007. Such amount was calculated at September 30, 2010 as $\$ 181.0$ million, whereas our actual consolidated stockholders' equity at this date was $\$ 249.5$ million.

The borrowing base under this facility is set at $80 \%$ of qualified commercial receivables, plus $50 \%$ of qualified government receivables. As of September 30, 2010, the entire $\$ 50.0$ million facility was available for borrowings.

Inventory Trade Credit Agreements. These agreements contain similar financial ratios and operational covenants and restrictions as those contained in our bank line of credit described above. Such agreements also contain cross-default provisions whereby a default under the bank agreement would also constitute a default under these agreements. Financing under these agreements is limited to the purchase of specific branded products from authorized suppliers, and amounts outstanding must be fully collateralized by inventories of those products on hand.

Capital Markets. Our ability to raise additional funds in the capital market depends upon, among other things, general economic conditions, the condition of the information technology industry, our financial performance and stock price, and the state of the capital markets.

## SUMMARY OF CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES

Our critical accounting policies have not materially changed from those disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009. These policies include revenue recognition, accounts receivable, vendor allowances, inventories, contingencies, value of goodwill and long-lived assets, including intangibles, stock-based compensation, and income taxes.

## INFLATION

We have historically offset any inflation in operating costs by a combination of increased productivity and price increases, where appropriate. We do not expect inflation to have a significant impact on our business in the foreseeable future.

## PC CONNECTION, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## PART I-FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## Item 3-QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

We invest cash balances in excess of operating requirements in short-term securities or non-interest bearing deposit accounts, generally with maturities of 90 days or less. In addition, our unsecured credit agreement provides for borrowings, which bear interest at variable rates based on the prime rate and Euro dollar rates. We had no borrowings outstanding pursuant to our credit agreement in the nine months ended September 30, 2010. We believe the effect, if any, of reasonably possible near-term changes in interest rates on our financial position, results of operations, and cash flows should not be material. Our credit agreement exposes earnings to changes in short-term interest rates since interest rates on the underlying obligations are variable. However, as noted above, we did not have any outstanding borrowings in the nine months ended September 30, 2010. Accordingly, the change in earnings resulting from a hypothetical $10 \%$ increase or decrease in interest rates would not be material.

## PC CONNECTION, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## PART I-FINANCIAL INFORMATION Item 4-CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Our management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures as of September 30, 2010. The term "disclosure controls and procedures," as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, means controls and other procedures of a company that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by a company in the reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized, and reported, within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms. Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by a company in the reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to the company's management, including its principal executive and principal financial officers, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. Management recognizes that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving their objectives and management necessarily applies its judgment in evaluating the cost-benefit relationship of possible controls and procedures. Our disclosure controls and procedures are designed to provide reasonable assurance of achieving their objectives as described above. Based on the evaluation of our disclosure controls and procedures, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that, as of September 30,2010, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at the reasonable assurance level.

No change in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act) occurred during the fiscal quarter ended September 30, 2010 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

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## Item 1A. Risk Factors

Statements contained or incorporated by reference in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q that are not based on historical fact are "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section $21 E$ of the Exchange Act. These forward-looking statements regarding future events and our future results are based on current expectations, estimates, forecasts, and projections and the beliefs and assumptions of management including, without limitation, our expectations with regard to the industry's rapid technological change and exposure to inventory obsolescence, availability and allocations of goods, reliance on vendor support and relationships, competitive risks, pricing risks, and the overall level of economic activity and the level of business investment in information technology products. Forward-looking statements may be identified by the use offorward-looking terminology such as "may," "could," "will," "expect," "estimate," "anticipate," "continue," or similar terms, variations of such terms or the negative of those terms.

We cannot assure investors that our assumptions and expectations will prove to have been correct. Important factors could cause our actual results to differ materially from those indicated or implied by forward-looking statements. Such factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include those factors discussed below. We undertake no intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise. If any of the following risks actually occur, our business, financial condition, or results of operations would likely suffer.

## The uncertainty in economic conditions and the financial markets may adversely affect our business and reduce our operating results.

Economic weakness and financial markets turmoil adversely impacted economic conditions in 2009, resulting in recessionary pressures and declines in consumer confidence and spending. Businesses in turn reacted to the decline in consumer spending by reducing staffing levels and delaying or deferring corporate spending, including their IT expenditures. Both our SMB and Large Account segments, which serve small, medium, and large businesses, experienced in 2009 significant declines in revenues and increased competitive pricing pressures, which adversely affected our operating results. The financial markets turmoil also resulted in a substantial tightening of the credit markets, which increased the cost of capital and reduced the availability of credit to our customers. Although businesses increased their IT spending in the nine months ended September 30, 2010, considerable uncertainty exists regarding the momentum of the recovery and expected economic conditions. Future delays or reductions in IT spending could have a material adverse affect on demand for our products and consequently on our financial results. In addition, customer insolvencies could impact our ability to collect receivables and negatively impact our operating results and liquidity.

It is difficult to predict how long the uncertainty in economic conditions and the financial markets will continue, the extent, if any, to which they may deteriorate, and to which our business may be adversely affected. However, if the current increase in IT spending should reverse, we are likely to experience an adverse impact, which may be material, on our business and our results of operations.

Should our financial performance not meet expectations and our stock price trade below current levels, we may be required to record an additional significant charge to earnings for impairment of goodwill and other intangibles.

We test goodwill for impairment on an annual basis, and more frequently if potential impairment indicators arise. We determined that the goodwill balances held by the SMB and Public Sector segments were fully impaired as of December 31, 2008, and accordingly the carrying values of those segments' goodwill were written off, resulting in a significant non-cash charge to earnings. Although we determined the fair value of our Large Account segment's goodwill substantially exceeded its carrying value at our annual impairment test on January 1, 2010, should this segment's financial performance not meet expectations due to the economy or otherwise, we would likely adjust downward expected future operating results and cash flows. Such adjustment

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may result in a determination that the carrying values for goodwill and other intangibles for that segment exceed their respective fair values. This determination may in turn require that we record a significant non-cash charge to earnings to reduce the $\$ 49.3$ million aggregate carrying amount of goodwill and other intangibles held by the Large Account operating segment, resulting in a negative effect on our results of operations.

## We have experienced variability in sales, and there is no assurance that we will be able to maintain profitable operations.

Several factors have caused our sales and results of operations to fluctuate and we expect these fluctuations to continue on a quarterly basis. Causes of these fluctuations include:

- shifts in customer demand for hardware and software products, including demand for total solutions;
- loss of customers to competitors;
- adverse weather conditions that affect response, distribution, or shipping;
- industry shipments of new products or upgrades;
- changes in vendor distribution of products; changes in our product offerings and in merchandise returns; the timing of new merchandise and catalog offerings;
- fluctuations in response rates; and
- fluctuations in shipping, printing, postage, and paper costs.

Our results also may vary based on our ability to manage personnel levels in response to fluctuations in revenue. We base personnel levels and other operating expenditures on sales forecasts. If our revenues do not meet anticipated levels in the future, we may not be able to reduce our staffing levels and operating expenses in a timely manner to avoid significant losses from operations.

## We face many competitive risks.

The direct marketing industry and the computer products retail business, in particular, are highly competitive. We compete with consumer electronics and computer retail stores, including superstores. We also compete with other direct marketers of hardware and software and computer related products, including CDW Corporation and Insight Enterprises, Inc., who are much larger than we are. Certain hardware and software vendors, such as Apple, Dell, Lenovo, and Hewlett-Packard ("HP"), who provide products to us, are also selling their products directly to end users through their own catalogs, stores, and via the Internet. We compete not only for customers, but also for advertising support from personal computer product manufacturers. Some of our competitors have larger catalog circulations and customer bases and greater financial, marketing, and other resources than we do. In addition, some of our competitors offer a wider range of products and services than we do and may be able to respond more quickly to new or changing opportunities, technologies, and customer requirements. Many current and potential competitors also have greater name recognition, engage in more extensive promotional activities, and adopt pricing policies that are more aggressive than ours. We expect competition to increase as retailers and direct marketers who have not traditionally sold computers and related products enter the industry.

In addition, product resellers and direct marketers are combining operations or acquiring or merging with other resellers and direct marketers to increase efficiency. Moreover, current and potential competitors have established or may establish cooperative relationships among themselves or with third parties to enhance their products and services. Accordingly, it is possible that new competitors or alliances among competitors may emerge and acquire significant market share.

We cannot provide assurance that we can continue to compete effectively against our current or future competitors. If we encounter new competition or fail to compete effectively against our competitors, our business may be harmed.

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## We face and will continue to face significant price competition.

Generally, pricing is very aggressive in the personal computer industry, particularly in this current economic environment, and we expect pricing pressures to escalate if economic conditions worsen. An increase in price competition could result in a reduction of our profit margins. There can be no assurance that we will be able to offset the effects of price reductions with an increase in the number of customers, higher sales, cost reductions, or otherwise. Also, our sales of personal computer hardware products are generally producing lower profit margins than those associated with software products. Such pricing pressures could result in an erosion of our market share, reduced sales, and reduced operating margins, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business.

## We may experience a reduction in the incentive programs offered to us by our vendors.

Some product manufacturers and distributors provide us with incentives such as supplier reimbursements, payment discounts, price protection, rebates, and other similar arrangements. The increasingly competitive computer hardware market has already resulted in the following:

- reduction or elimination of some of these incentive programs;
- more restrictive price protection and other terms; and
- reduced advertising allowances and incentives, in some cases.

Many product suppliers provide us with advertising allowances, and in exchange, we feature their products in our catalogs and other marketing vehicles. These vendor allowances, to the extent that they represent specific reimbursements of incremental and identifiable costs, are offset against SG\&A expenses. Advertising allowances that cannot be associated with a specific program funded by an individual vendor or that exceed the fair value of advertising expense associated with that program are classified as offsets to cost of sales or inventory. In the past, we have experienced a decrease in the level of vendor consideration available to us from certain manufacturers. The level of such consideration we receive from some manufacturers may decline in the future. Such a decline could decrease our gross profit and have a material adverse effect on our earnings and cash flows.

## The failure to comply with our public sector contracts could result in, among other things, fines or liabilities.

Revenues from the public sector segment are derived from sales to federal, state, and local government departments and agencies, as well as to educational institutions, through various contracts and open market sales. Government contracting is a highly regulated area. Noncompliance with government procurement regulations or contract provisions could result in civil, criminal, and administrative liability, including substantial monetary fines or damages, termination of government contracts, and suspension, debarment, or ineligibility from doing business with the government. Our current arrangements with these government agencies allow them to cancel orders with little or no notice and do not require them to purchase products from us in the future. The effect of any of these possible actions by any government department or agency could adversely affect our financial position, results of operations, and cash flows.

## We could experience system failures which would interfere with our ability to process orders.

We depend on the accuracy and proper use of our management information systems, including our telephone system. Many of our key functions depend on the quality and effective utilization of the information generated by our management information systems, including:

- our ability to purchase, sell, and ship products efficiently and on a timely basis;
- our ability to manage inventory and accounts receivable collection; and
- our ability to maintain operations.


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Our management information systems require continual upgrades to most effectively manage our operations and customer database. Although we maintain some redundant systems, with full data backup, our primary computer and telecommunications hardware is located in a single facility in New Hampshire, and a substantial interruption in our management information systems or in our telephone communication systems, including those resulting from extreme weather and natural disasters, as well as power loss, telecommunications failure, or similar events, would substantially hinder our ability to process customer orders and thus could have a material adverse effect on our business.

## We are exposed to inventory obsolescence due to the rapid technological changes occurring in the personal computer industry.

The market for personal computer products is characterized by rapid technological change and the frequent introduction of new products and product enhancements. Our success depends in large part on our ability to identify and market products that meet the needs of customers in that marketplace. In order to satisfy customer demand and to obtain favorable purchasing discounts, we have and may continue to carry increased inventory levels of certain products. By so doing, we are subject to the increased risk of inventory obsolescence. Also, in order to implement our business strategy, we intend to continue, among other things, placing larger than typical inventory stocking orders of selected products and increasing our participation in first-to-market purchase opportunities. We may also, from time to time, make large inventory purchases of certain end-of-life products, which would increase the risk of inventory obsolescence. In addition, we sometimes acquire special purchase products without return privileges. There can be no assurance that we will be able to avoid losses related to obsolete inventory. In addition, manufacturers have limited return rights and have taken steps to reduce their inventory exposure by supporting "configure-to-order" programs authorizing distributors and resellers to assemble computer hardware under the manufacturers' brands. These actions reduce the costs to manufacturers and shift the burden of inventory risk to resellers like us, which could negatively impact our business.

## We acquire products for resale from a limited number of vendors. The loss of any one of these vendors could have a material adverse effect on our business.

We acquire products for resale both directly from manufacturers and indirectly through distributors and other sources. The five vendors supplying the greatest amount of goods to us constituted $68 \%$ and $67 \%$ of our total product purchases in the nine months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009 , respectively. Among these five vendors, purchases from Ingram Micro represented $26 \%$ and $23 \%$ of our total product purchases in the nine months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009, respectively. Purchases from Tech Data Corporation comprised $14 \%$ and $17 \%$ of our total product purchases in the nine months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009, respectively. Purchases from Synnex Corporation comprised $12 \%$ and $11 \%$ of our total product purchases in the nine months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009, respectively. Purchases from HP represented $9 \%$ and $10 \%$ of our total product purchases in the nine months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009, respectively. No other vendor supplied more than $10 \%$ of our total product purchases in the nine months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009. If we were unable to acquire products from Ingram Micro, Tech Data, Synnex, or HP, we could experience a short-term disruption in the availability of products, and such disruption could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and cash flows.

Substantially all of our contracts and arrangements with our vendors that supply significant quantities of products are terminable by such vendors or us without notice or upon short notice. Most of our product vendors provide us with trade credit, of which the net amount outstanding at September 30 , 2010 was $\$ 152.7$ million. Termination, interruption, or contraction of relationships with our vendors, including a reduction in the level of trade credit provided to us, could have a material adverse effect on our financial position.

Some product manufacturers either do not permit us to sell the full line of their products or limit the number of product units available to direct marketers such as us. An element of our business strategy is to continue increasing our participation in first-to-market purchase opportunities. The availability of certain desired products,

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especially in the direct marketing channel, has been constrained in the past. We could experience a material adverse effect to our business if we are unable to source first-to-market purchase or similar opportunities, or if we face the reemergence of significant availability constraints.

## We are dependent on key personnel.

Our future performance will depend to a significant extent upon the efforts and abilities of our senior executives. The competition for qualified management personnel in the computer products industry is very intense, and the loss of service of one or more of these persons could have an adverse effect on our business. Our success and plans for future growth will also depend on our ability to hire, train, and retain skilled personnel in all areas of our business, including sales representatives and technical support personnel. There can be no assurance that we will be able to attract, train, and retain sufficient qualified personnel to achieve our business objectives.

## The methods of distributing personal computers and related products are changing, and such changes may negatively impact us and our business.

The manner in which personal computers and related products are distributed and sold is changing, and new methods of distribution and sale, such as online shopping services, have emerged. Hardware and software manufacturers have sold, and may intensify their efforts to sell, their products directly to end users. From time to time, certain manufacturers have instituted programs for the direct sales of large order quantities of hardware and software to certain major corporate accounts. These types of programs may continue to be developed and used by various manufacturers. Some of our vendors, including Apple, HP, and Lenovo, currently sell some of their products directly to end users and have stated their intentions to increase the level of such direct sales. In addition, manufacturers may attempt to increase the volume of software products distributed electronically to end users. An increase in the volume of products sold through or used by consumers of any of these competitive programs or distributed electronically to end users could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

## We depend heavily on third-party shippers to deliver our products to customers.

Many of our customers elect to have their purchases shipped by an interstate common carrier, such as United Parcel Service, Inc. ("UPS") or FedEx Corporation. A strike or other interruption in service by these shippers could adversely affect our ability to market or deliver products to customers on a timely basis.

## We may experience potential increases in shipping, paper, and postage costs, which may adversely affect our business if we are not able to pass such increases on to our customers.

Shipping costs are a significant expense in the operation of our business. Increases in postal or shipping rates and paper costs could significantly impact the cost of producing and mailing our catalogs and shipping customer orders. Postage prices and shipping rates increase periodically, and we have no control over future increases. We have a long-term contract with UPS, and believe that we have negotiated favorable shipping rates with our carriers. We generally invoice customers for shipping and handling charges. There can be no assurance that we will be able to pass on to our customers the full cost, including any future increases in the cost, of commercial delivery services.

We also incur substantial paper and postage costs related to our marketing activities, including producing and mailing our catalogs. Paper prices historically have been cyclical, and we have experienced substantial increases in the past. Significant increases in postal or shipping rates and paper costs could adversely impact our business, financial condition, and results of operations, particularly if we cannot pass on such increases to our customers or offset such increases by reducing other costs.

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## We rely on the continued development of electronic commerce and Internet infrastructure development.

We have had an increasing level of sales made via the Internet in part because of the growing use and acceptance of the Internet by end users. Sales of computer products via the Internet represent a significant and increasing portion of overall computer product sales. Growth of our Internet sales is dependent on potential customers using the Internet in addition to traditional means of commerce to purchase products. We cannot accurately predict the rate at which they will do so.

Our success in growing our Internet business will depend in large part upon our development of an increasingly sophisticated infrastructure for providing Internet access and services. If the number of Internet users or their use of Internet resources continues to grow rapidly, such growth may overwhelm our existing Internet infrastructure. Additionally, our ability to increase the speed with which we provide services to customers and to increase the scope of such services ultimately is limited by, and reliant upon, the sophistication, speed, reliability, and cost-effectiveness of the networks operated by third parties, and these networks may not continue to be developed or be available at prices consistent with our required business model.

## We face uncertainties relating to the collection of state sales and use tax by our Consumer/SOHO segment.

We collect and remit sales and use taxes in states in which we have either voluntarily registered or have a physical presence. Various states have sought to impose on direct marketers the burden of collecting state sales and use taxes on the sales of products shipped to their residents. In 1992, the United States Supreme Court affirmed its position that it is unconstitutional for a state to impose sales or use tax collection obligations on an out-of-state mail-order company whose only contacts with the state are limited to the distribution of catalogs and other advertising materials through the mail and the subsequent delivery of purchased goods by United States mail or by interstate common carrier. However, legislation that would expand the ability of states to impose sales and use tax collection obligations on direct marketers has been introduced in Congress on many occasions. Additionally, certain states have adopted rules that require companies and their affiliates to register in those states as a condition of doing business with those state agencies. Our SMB, Large Account, and Public Sector segments are registered in substantially all states. Our Consumer/SOHO segment is registered in only seven states.

Moreover, due to our presence on various forms of electronic media and other operational factors, our contacts with many states may exceed the limited contacts involved in the Supreme Court case. We cannot predict the level of contacts that is sufficient to permit a state to impose on us a sales or use tax collection obligation. If the Supreme Court changes its position, or if legislation is passed to overturn the Supreme Court's decision, or if a court were to determine that our contacts with a state exceed the constitutionally permitted contacts, the expansion of a sales or use tax collection obligation on our Consumer/SOHO segment in states to which it ships products would result in additional administrative expenses to us, could result in tax liability for past sales as well as price increases to our customers, and could reduce future sales.

## Privacy concerns with respect to list development and maintenance may materially adversely affect our business.

We mail catalogs and send electronic messages to names in our proprietary customer database and to potential customers whose names we obtain from rented or exchanged mailing lists. World-wide public concern regarding personal privacy has subjected the rental and use of customer mailing lists and other customer information to increased scrutiny. Any domestic or foreign legislation enacted limiting or prohibiting these practices could negatively affect our business.

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## We are controlled by two principal stockholders.

Patricia Gallup and David Hall, our two principal stockholders, beneficially own or control, in the aggregate, approximately $64 \%$ of the outstanding shares of our common stock. Because of their beneficial stock ownership, these stockholders can continue to elect the members of the Board of Directors and decide all matters requiring stockholder approval at a meeting or by a written consent in lieu of a meeting. Similarly, these stockholders can control decisions to adopt or amend our charter and our bylaws, or take other actions requiring the vote or consent of our stockholders and prevent a takeover of us by one or more third parties, or sell or otherwise transfer their stock to a third party, which could deprive our stockholders of a control premium that might otherwise be realized by them in connection with an acquisition of our Company. Such control may result in decisions that are not in the best interest of our public stockholders. In connection with our initial public offering, the principal stockholders placed substantially all shares of common stock beneficially owned by them into a voting trust, pursuant to which they are required to agree as to the manner of voting such shares in order for the shares to be voted. Such provisions could discourage bids for our common stock at a premium as well as have a negative impact on the market price of our common stock

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## Item 2—Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

The following table provides information about our purchases during the quarter ended September 30, 2010 of equity securities that we have registered pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act:

## ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

| Period | Total <br> Number of <br> Shares (or Units) <br> Purchased (1) | Average <br> Price Paid <br> per Share <br> (or Unit) |  | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs | Maximum Number (or Approximate Dollar Value) of Shares (or Units) that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plan or Programs (2) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\overline{07 / 01 / 10-07 / 31 / 10}$ | - |  | - | - | \$ | 9,610,502 |
| 08/01/10-08/31/10 | 150,715 |  | 6.68 | 133,455 | \$ | 8,716,534 |
| 09/01/10-09/30/10 | 95,955 |  | 6.89 | 95,955 | \$ | 8,055,184 |
| Total | 246,670 | \$ | 6.76 | 229,410 | \$ | 8,055,184 |

(1) In August 2010, our employees surrendered 17,260 shares from nonvested stock awards to satisfy statutory withholding requirements due upon the vesting of their awards.
(2) On March 28, 2001, our Board of Directors announced approval of a share repurchase program of our common stock having an aggregate value of up to $\$ 15.0$ million. However, our bank line of credit limits repurchases made after June 2005 to $\$ 10.0$ million without bank approval of higher amounts; the maximum approximate dollar value of shares that may yet be repurchased without further bank approval is $\$ 5.3$ million. Share purchases are made in open market transactions from time to time depending on market conditions. The Program does not have a fixed expiration date.

Item 6—Exhibits

Exhibit
Number
10.1
10.2 Amended and Restated Form of Restricted Stock Agreement for 2007 Amended and Restated Stock Incentive Plan.
31.1*
31.2* Certification of the Company's Executive Vice President, Treasurer, and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the SarbanesOxley Act of 2002.
32.1* Certification of the Company's Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.2* Certification of the Company's Executive Vice President, Treasurer, and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

* Filed herewith.


## 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.

## PC CONNECTION, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Date: November 10, 2010

Date: November 10, 2010

By: $\qquad$

By: $\qquad$
Jack Ferguson
Executive Vice President, Treasurer, and
Chief Financial Officer

## PC CONNECTION, INC.

Restricted Stock Unit Agreement
Granted Under the Amended and Restated 2007 Stock Incentive Plan
AGREEMENT made this [ ] day of [ ], between PC Connection, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), and [insert name of Recipient] (the "Recipient").

For valuable consideration, receipt of which is acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. Issuance of Restricted Stock Units.

In consideration of services rendered to the Company by the Recipient, the Company shall issue to the Recipient, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement and in the Company's Amended and Restated 2007 Stock Incentive Plan, as amended (the "Plan"), [insert number of units granted] restricted stock units (each an "RSU" and together the "RSUs"), each representing the right to receive one share (each a "Share" and together the "Shares") of common stock, $\$ 0.01$ par value, of the Company ("Common Stock") upon satisfaction of the vesting conditions set forth in Section 2. The Recipient agrees that the Shares shall be subject to the vesting and forfeiture provisions set forth in Section 2 of this Agreement and the restrictions on transfer set forth in Section 3 of this Agreement.

## 2. Vesting.

(a) The RSUs shall vest in accordance with the vesting schedule in Schedule A attached hereto. Any fractional Shares resulting from the application of the foregoing percentages shall be rounded down to the nearest whole number Shares. In the event that the Recipient ceases to be employed or engaged by the Company for any reason or no reason, with or without cause, prior to a vesting date, no further RSUs shall vest and the unvested RSUs shall be automatically and immediately forfeited to the Company, without the payment of any consideration to the Recipient, effective as of such termination of employment or engagement. The Recipient shall have no further rights with respect to any RSUs that are so forfeited.
(b) If the Recipient is employed or engaged by a subsidiary of the Company, any references in this Agreement to employment with or engagement by the Company shall instead be deemed to refer to employment with or engagement by such subsidiary.

## 3. Restrictions on Transfer.

(a) The Recipient shall not sell, assign, transfer, pledge, hypothecate or otherwise dispose of, by operation of law or otherwise (collectively "transfer") any RSUs, or any interest therein, until such RSUs have vested and any additional restrictions on the sale of such shares set forth in this agreement have expired or been released, except that the Recipient may transfer such RSUs: (a) to or for the benefit of any spouse, children, parents, uncles, aunts, siblings, grandchildren and any other relatives approved by the Compensation Committee (collectively, "Approved Relatives") or to a trust established solely for the benefit of the Recipient and/or Approved Relatives,
provided that such RSUs shall remain subject to this Agreement (including, without limitation, the vesting and forfeiture provisions set forth in Section 2 and the restrictions on transfer set forth in this Section 3) and such permitted transferee shall, as a condition to such transfer, deliver to the Company a written instrument confirming that such transferee shall be bound by all of the terms and conditions of this Agreement; or (b) as part of the sale of all or substantially all of the shares of capital stock of the Company (including pursuant to a merger or consolidation); provided that the securities or other property received by the Recipient in connection with such transaction shall remain subject to this Agreement.
(b) The Company shall not be required (i) to transfer on its books any of the RSUs which have been transferred in violation of any of the provisions set forth in this Agreement or (ii) to treat as owner of such RSUs any transferee to whom such RSUs have been transferred in violation of any of the provisions of this Agreement.

## 4. Distribution of Shares.

(a) Subject to Section 2 of this Agreement, the Company will distribute to the Recipient, as soon as administratively practical after the vesting date, the Shares represented by the RSUs that vested on such vesting date.
(b) The Company shall not be obligated to issue to the Recipient the Shares upon vesting of any RSU (or otherwise) unless the issuance and delivery of such Shares shall comply with all relevant provisions of law and other legal requirements including, without limitation, any applicable federal or state securities laws and the requirements of any stock exchange upon which shares of Common Stock may then be listed.
5. Provisions of the Plan.
(a) This Agreement is subject to the provisions of the Plan, a copy of which is furnished to the Recipient with this Agreement.
(b) As provided in the Plan, upon the occurrence of a Reorganization Event (as defined in the Plan) other than a liquidation or dissolution of the Company, the repurchase and other rights of the Company under each outstanding RSU shall inure to the benefit of the Company's successor and shall, unless the Board of Directors determines otherwise, apply to the cash, securities or other property which the Common Stock was converted into or exchanged for pursuant to such Reorganization Event in the same manner and to the same extent as they applied to the Common Stock subject to such RSU. If, in connection with a Reorganization Event, a portion of the cash, securities and/or other property received upon the conversion or exchange of the Company's Common Stock is to be placed into escrow to secure indemnification or similar obligations, the mix between the vested and unvested portion of such cash, securities and/or other property that is placed into escrow shall be the same as the mix between the vested and unvested portion of such cash, securities and/or other property that is not subject to escrow.

## 6. Withholding Taxes; No Section 83(b) Election.

(a) The Recipient acknowledges and agrees that the Company has the right to deduct from payments of any kind otherwise due to the Recipient any federal, state or local taxes of
any kind required by law to be withheld with respect to the grant of the RSUs, the issuance of the Shares to the Recipient upon vesting of the RSUs or otherwise with respect to this Award. On each date on which unvested RSUs vest pursuant to this Agreement, the Company shall deliver written notice to the Recipient of the amount of withholding taxes due with respect to the vesting of those unvested RSUs that vest on such date; provided, however, that the total tax withholding cannot exceed the Company's minimum statutory withholding obligations (based on minimum statutory withholding rates for federal, state, local or foreign tax purposes, including payroll and social taxes, that are applicable to such supplemental taxable income). The Recipient shall satisfy such tax withholding obligations by the Company retaining, on each date on which unvested RSUs vest under this Agreement, such number of Shares that are issuable with respect to such RSUs as have a fair market value (calculated using the last reported sale price of the Common Stock of the Company on the NASDAQ Global Select Market on such vesting date, or if such vesting date is not a NASDAQ Global Select Market trading day, then on the trading day immediately preceding such vesting date) equal to the amount of the Company's statutory minimum tax withholding obligation in connection with the vesting of such unvested RSUs. The retention of Shares by the Company shall happen automatically, without any action required on the part of the Recipient, and the Company is hereby authorized to take such actions as are necessary to effect such retention.
(b) The Recipient has reviewed with the Recipient's own tax advisors the federal, state, local and foreign tax consequences of this investment and the transactions contemplated by this Agreement. The Recipient is relying solely on such advisors and not on any statements or representations of the Company or any of its agents. The Recipient understands that the Recipient (and not the Company) shall be responsible for the Recipient's own tax liability that may arise as a result of this investment or the transactions contemplated by this Agreement. The Recipient understands an election under Section 83(b) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code is not available with respect to the RSUs.

## 7. Miscellaneous.

(a) No Rights to Employment or Engagement. The Recipient acknowledges and agrees that the vesting of the RSUs pursuant to Section 2 hereof is earned only by continuing service at the will of the Company (not through the act of being hired or being issued RSUs hereunder). The Recipient further acknowledges and agrees that the transactions contemplated hereunder and the vesting schedule set forth herein do not constitute an express or implied promise of continued engagement as an employee or consultant or otherwise for the vesting period, for any period, or at all.
(b) Severability. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this Agreement shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision of this Agreement, and each other provision of this Agreement shall be severable and enforceable to the extent permitted by law.
(c) Waiver. Any provision for the benefit of the Company contained in this Agreement may be waived, either generally or in any particular instance, by the Board of Directors of the Company.
(d) Binding Effect. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Company and the Recipient and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors and assigns, subject to the restrictions on transfer set forth in Section 3 of this Agreement.
(e) Notice. All notices required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and deemed effectively given upon personal delivery or five days after deposit in the United States Post Office, by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the other party hereto at the address shown beneath his or its respective signature to this Agreement, or at such other address or addresses as either party shall designate to the other in accordance with this Section 7(e).
(f) Pronouns. Whenever the context may require, any pronouns used in this Agreement shall include the corresponding masculine, feminine or neuter forms, and the singular form of nouns and pronouns shall include the plural, and vice versa.
(g) Entire Agreement. This Agreement and the Plan constitute the entire agreement between the parties, and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, relating to the subject matter of this Agreement.
(h) Amendment. This Agreement may be amended or modified only by a written instrument executed by both the Company and the Recipient.
(i) Governing Law. This Agreement shall be construed, interpreted and enforced in accordance with the internal laws of the State of Delaware without regard to any applicable conflicts of laws.
(j) Recipient's Acknowledgments. The Recipient acknowledges that he or she: (i) has read this Agreement; (ii) has been represented in the preparation, negotiation, and execution of this Agreement by legal counsel of the Recipient's own choice or has voluntarily declined to seek such counsel; (iii) understands the terms and consequences of this Agreement; and (iv) is fully aware of the legal and binding effect of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the day and year first above written.

## PC CONNECTION, INC

By:
[insert name and title]
Accepted and Agreed
[insert name of recipient]

## Schedule A

PC Connection, Inc.
Restricted Stock Agreement
The terms and conditions of the award of shares of restricted common stock of the Company (the "Restricted Shares") made to the Recipient, as set forth on the cover page of this Agreement, are as follows:

1. Issuance of Restricted Shares.
(a) The Restricted Shares are issued to the Recipient, effective as of the Grant Date (as set forth on the cover page of this Agreement), in consideration of employment services rendered and to be rendered by the Recipient to the Company.
(b) As promptly as practicable following the Grant Date, the Company shall issue one or more certificates in the name of the Recipient for the Restricted Shares. Such certificate(s) shall initially be held on behalf of the Recipient by the Secretary of the Company. Following the vesting of any Restricted Shares pursuant to Section 2 below, the Secretary shall, if requested by the Recipient, deliver to the Recipient a certificate representing the vested Restricted Shares. The Recipient agrees that the Restricted Shares shall be subject to the forfeiture provisions set forth in Section 3 of this Agreement and the restrictions on transfer set forth in Section 4 of this Agreement.
2. Vesting Schedule. Unless otherwise provided in this Agreement or the Plan, the Restricted Shares shall vest in accordance with the vesting schedule set forth on Schedule A attached hereto. Any fractional number of Restricted Shares resulting from the application of the foregoing percentages shall be rounded down to the nearest whole number of Restricted Shares.

## 3. Forfeiture of Unvested Restricted Shares and any Accrued Dividends Upon Employment Termination.

In the event that the Recipient ceases to be employed by the Company for any reason or no reason, with or without cause, all of the Restricted Shares, as well as any Accrued Dividends (as defined below) declared by the Company with respect to such unvested Restricted Shares, that are unvested as of the time of such employment termination shall be forfeited immediately and automatically to the Company, without the payment of any consideration to the Recipient, effective as of such termination of employment. The Recipient hereby authorizes the Company to take any actions necessary or appropriate to cancel any certificate(s) representing forfeited Restricted Shares and transfer ownership of such forfeited Restricted Shares to the Company; and if the Company or its transfer agent requires an executed stock power or similar confirmatory instrument in connection with such cancellation and transfer, the Recipient shall promptly execute and deliver the same to the Company. The Recipient shall have no further rights with respect to any Restricted Shares or Accrued Dividends that are so forfeited. If the Recipient is employed by a subsidiary of the Company, any references in this Agreement to employment with the Company shall instead be deemed to refer to employment with such subsidiary.

## 4. Restrictions on Transfer.

The Recipient shall not sell, assign, transfer, pledge, hypothecate or otherwise dispose of, by operation of law or otherwise (collectively "transfer") any Restricted Shares or any Accrued Dividends with respect thereto, or any interest therein, until such Restricted Shares and associated Accrued Dividends, if any have vested, except that the Recipient may transfer such Restricted Shares and associated Accrued Dividends, if any,: (a) to or for the benefit of any spouse, children, parents, uncles, aunts, siblings, grandchildren and any other relatives approved by the Compensation Committee (collectively, "Approved Relatives") or to a trust established solely for the benefit of the Recipient and/or Approved Relatives, provided that such Restricted Shares and associated Accrued Dividends, if any, shall remain subject to this Agreement (including without limitation the forfeiture provisions set forth in Section 3 and the restrictions on transfer set forth in this Section 4) and such permitted transferee shall, as a condition to such transfer, deliver to the Company a written instrument confirming that such transferee shall be bound by all of the terms and conditions of this Agreement; or (b) as part of the sale of all or substantially all of the shares of capital stock of the Company (including pursuant to a merger or consolidation); provided that the cash, securities or other property received by the Participant in connection with such transaction shall remain subject to this Agreement. The Company shall not be required (i) to transfer on its books any of the Restricted Shares which have been transferred in violation of any of the provisions of this Agreement or (ii) to treat as owner of such Restricted Shares or to pay dividends to any transferee to whom such Restricted Shares have been transferred in violation of any of the provisions of this Agreement.

## 5. Restrictive Legends.

All certificates representing Restricted Shares shall have affixed thereto a legend in substantially the following form, in addition to any other legends that may be required under applicable law:
"These shares of stock are subject to forfeiture provisions and restrictions on transfer set forth in a certain Restricted Stock Agreement between the corporation and the registered owner of these shares (or his or her predecessor in interest), and such Agreement is available for inspection without charge at the office of the Secretary of the corporation."

## 6. Rights as a Shareholder.

Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, for so long as the Recipient is the registered owner of the Restricted Shares, the Recipient shall have all rights as a shareholder with respect to the Restricted Shares, whether vested or unvested, including, without limitation, any rights to receive dividends and distributions with respect to the Restricted Shares and to vote the Restricted Shares and act in respect of the Restricted Shares at any meeting of shareholders. If any such dividends or distributions are paid in shares, or consist of a dividend or distribution to holders of common stock other than a ordinary cash dividend, the shares, cash or other property will be subject to the same restrictions on transferability and forfeitability as the Restricted Shares with respect to which they were paid. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any ordinary cash dividends declared and paid by the Company with respect to unvested Restricted Shares ("Accrued Dividends") shall be paid to the Recipient, without interest, only if and when such Restricted Shares vest and then within 30 days of such vesting.

## 7. Provisions of the Plan.

This Agreement is subject to the provisions of the Plan, a copy of which is furnished to the Recipient with this Agreement.

## 8. Tax Matters.

(a) Acknowledgments; Section 83(b) Election. The Recipient acknowledges that he or she is responsible for obtaining the advice of the Recipient's own tax advisors with respect to the acquisition of the Restricted Shares and the Recipient is relying solely on such advisors and not on any statements or representations of the Company or any of its agents with respect to the tax consequences relating to the Restricted Shares and any Accrued Dividends. The Recipient understands that the Recipient (and not the Company) shall be responsible for the Recipient's tax liability that may arise in connection with the acquisition, vesting and/or disposition of the Restricted Shares and with respect to any Accrued Dividends. The Recipient acknowledges that he or she has been informed of the availability of making an election under Section 83(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, with respect to the issuance of the Restricted Shares and that the Recipient has decided not to file a Section 83(b) election.
(b) Withholding. The Recipient acknowledges and agrees that the Company has the right to deduct from payments of any kind otherwise due to the Recipient any federal, state, local or other taxes of any kind required by law to be withheld with respect to the vesting of the Restricted Shares and the payment of any Accrued Dividends. On each date on which Restricted Shares vest, the Company shall deliver written notice to the Recipient of the amount of withholding taxes due, if any, with respect to the vesting of the Restricted Shares that vest on such date (and the payment of any Accrued Dividends on such date); provided, however, that the total tax withholding cannot exceed the Company's minimum statutory withholding obligations (based on minimum statutory withholding rates for federal and state tax purposes, including payroll taxes, that are applicable to such supplemental taxable income). The Recipient shall satisfy such tax withholding obligations by the Company retaining, on each date on which Restricted Shares vest under this Agreement, such number of shares of common stock that are issuable with respect to such Restricted Shares as have a fair market value (calculated using the last reported sale price of the common stock of the Company on the NASDAQ Global Select Market on such vesting date, or if such vesting date is not a NASDAQ Global Select Market trading day, then on the trading day immediately preceding such vesting date) equal to the amount of the Company's statutory minimum tax withholding obligation in connection with the vesting of such Restricted Shares. The retention of common stock by the Company shall happen automatically, without any action required on the part of the Recipient, and the Company is hereby authorized to take such actions as are necessary to effect such retention.

## 9. Miscellaneous.

(a) No Right to Continued Employment. The Recipient acknowledges and agrees that, notwithstanding the fact of the vesting of the Restricted Shares and Accrued Dividends, if any, is contingent upon his or her continued employment by the Company this Agreement does not constitute an express or implied promise of continued employment or confer upon the Recipient any rights with respect to continued employment by the Company.
(b) Governing Law. This Agreement shall be construed, interpreted and enforced in accordance with the internal laws of the State Delaware without regard to any applicable conflicts of laws provisions.
(c) Recipient's Acknowledgments. The Recipient acknowledges that he or she has read this Agreement, has received and read the Plan, and understands the terms and conditions of this Agreement and the Plan.

PC Connection, Inc.
Restricted Stock Agreement
Name of Recipient:
Number of shares of restricted common stock awarded:

## Grant Date:

PC Connection, Inc. (the "Company") has selected you to receive the restricted stock award described above, which is subject to the provisions of the Company's Amended and Restated 2007 Stock Incentive Plan (the "Plan") and the terms and conditions contained in this Restricted Stock Agreement. Please confirm your acceptance of this restricted stock award and of the terms and conditions of this Agreement by signing a copy of this Agreement where indicated below.

PC Connection, Inc.

By: $\qquad$
[insert name and title]
Accepted and Agreed:
[insert name of recipient]

## Schedule A

## CERTIFICATIONS

## I, Patricia Gallup, certify that:

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

Date: November 10, 2010
/s/ PATRICIA GALLUP
Patricia Gallup
Chief Executive Officer

## CERTIFICATIONS

## I, Jack Ferguson, certify that:

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

Date: November 10, 2010
/s/ JACK FERGUSON
Jack Ferguson
Executive Vice President, Treasurer, and Chief Financial Officer

## CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,

AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO

## SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

In connection with the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of PC Connection, Inc. (the "Company") for the period ended September 30, 2010 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), the undersigned, Patricia Gallup, Chief Executive Officer of the Company, hereby certifies, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, that:
(1) the Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
(2) the information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.
/s/ PATRICIA GALLUP
Patricia Gallup
Chief Executive Officer

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002
In connection with the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of PC Connection, Inc. (the "Company") for the period ended September 30, 2010 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), the undersigned, Jack Ferguson, Executive Vice President, Treasurer, and Chief Financial Officer of the Company, hereby certifies, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, that:
(1) the Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
(2) the information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.
/s/ JACK FERGUSON
Jack Ferguson
Executive Vice President, Treasurer, and Chief Financial Officer

