

TETRA TECH INC
Form 10-Q
January 30, 2009
Table of Contents

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

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

For the quarterly period ended December 28, 2008

OR

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number 0-19655

TETRA TECH, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

95-4148514
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

Edgar Filing: TETRA TECH INC - Form 10-Q

3475 East Foothill Boulevard, Pasadena, California 91107

(Address of principal executive office and zip code)

(626) 351-4664

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter periods that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes No

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

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Small reporting company

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

Yes No

As of January 26, 2009, 60,176,612 shares of the registrant's common stock were outstanding.

Table of Contents

TETRA TECH, INC.

INDEX

		PAGE NO.
<u>PART I.</u>	<u>FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u>	
<u>Item 1.</u>	<u>Financial Statements</u>	
	<u>Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets</u>	3
	<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income</u>	4
	<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows</u>	5
	<u>Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	6
<u>Item 2.</u>	<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	15
<u>Item 3.</u>	<u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	27
<u>Item 4.</u>	<u>Controls and Procedures</u>	27
<u>PART II</u>	<u>OTHER INFORMATION</u>	28
<u>Item 1.</u>	<u>Legal Proceedings</u>	28
<u>Item 1A.</u>	<u>Risk Factors</u>	29
<u>Item 6.</u>	<u>Exhibits</u>	40
<u>SIGNATURES</u>		41

Table of Contents**PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION****Item 1. Financial Statements****Tetra Tech, Inc.****Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets****(unaudited in thousands, except par value)**

	December 28, 2008	September 28, 2008
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 29,124	\$ 50,902
Accounts receivable net	646,368	625,786
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	32,538	36,774
Income taxes receivable	2,323	4,275
Deferred income taxes	3,136	2,316
Total current assets	713,489	720,053
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT:		
Land and buildings	7,601	7,588
Equipment, furniture and fixtures	113,228	112,780
Leasehold improvements	10,991	10,804
Total	131,820	131,172
Accumulated depreciation and amortization	(71,009)	(69,784)
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT NET	60,811	61,388
DEFERRED INCOME TAXES	2,338	6,498
INCOME TAXES RECEIVABLE	15,092	14,953
GOODWILL	225,833	221,545
INTANGIBLE ASSETS NET	14,540	14,609
OTHER ASSETS	14,426	15,081
NON-CURRENT ASSETS OF DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS	2,418	2,418
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,048,947	\$ 1,056,545
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY		
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable	\$ 209,808	\$ 223,304
Accrued compensation	59,237	101,699
Billings in excess of costs on uncompleted contracts	117,977	100,336
Current portion of long-term obligations	3,882	3,926
Other current liabilities	54,439	58,634
Total current liabilities	445,343	487,899

Edgar Filing: TETRA TECH INC - Form 10-Q

LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS	69,048	53,292
OTHER LONG-TERM LIABILITIES	4,648	3,840
COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES		
STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY:		
Preferred stock authorized, 2,000 shares of \$0.01 par value; no shares issued and outstanding as of December 28, 2008 and September 28, 2008		
Common stock authorized, 85,000 shares of \$0.01 par value; issued and outstanding, 59,960 and 59,875 shares as of December 28, 2008 and September 28, 2008, respectively	600	599
Additional paid-in capital	316,995	314,860
Accumulated other comprehensive (loss) income	(35)	15
Retained earnings	212,348	196,040
TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY	529,908	511,514
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY	\$ 1,048,947	\$ 1,056,545

See accompanying Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Table of Contents**Tetra Tech, Inc.****Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income****(unaudited in thousands, except per share data)**

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2008	December 30, 2007
Revenue	\$ 638,683	\$ 470,387
Subcontractor costs	(308,657)	(193,226)
Revenue, net of subcontractor costs	330,026	277,161
Other contract costs	(265,685)	(220,912)
Gross profit	64,341	56,249
Selling, general and administrative expenses	(35,725)	(33,538)
Income from operations	28,616	22,711
Interest expense net	(916)	(660)
Income before income tax expense	27,700	22,051
Income tax expense	(11,392)	(9,151)
Net income	\$ 16,308	\$ 12,900
Earnings per share:		
Basic	\$ 0.27	\$ 0.22
Diluted	\$ 0.27	\$ 0.22
Weighted-average common shares outstanding:		
Basic	59,736	58,313
Diluted	60,275	59,163

See accompanying Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Table of Contents

Tetra Tech, Inc.

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

(unaudited in thousands)

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2008	December 30, 2007
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net income	\$ 16,308	\$ 12,900
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash used in operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	5,581	4,327
Stock-based compensation	2,036	1,710
Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation	(20)	(208)
Deferred income taxes	3,201	5,175
Provision for losses on contracts and related receivables	6,301	2,407
Gain on disposal of property and equipment	(1)	(1,032)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities, net of effects of acquisitions:		
Accounts receivable	(20,048)	(2,218)
Prepaid expenses and other assets	4,238	(1,686)
Accounts payable	(13,506)	(9,367)
Accrued compensation	(42,462)	(28,522)
Billings in excess of costs on uncompleted contracts	17,641	13,289
Other liabilities	(8,891)	(1,522)
Income taxes receivable/payable	1,945	(13,361)
Net cash used in operating activities	(27,677)	(18,108)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Capital expenditures	(3,235)	(4,314)
Payments for business acquisitions, net of cash acquired	(7,352)	(34,179)
Proceeds from sale of discontinued operations		1,005
Proceeds from sale of property and equipment	75	1,386
Net cash used in investing activities	(10,512)	(36,102)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Payments on long-term obligations	(20,180)	(6,108)
Proceeds from borrowings under long-term obligations	36,000	
Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation	20	208
Net proceeds from issuance of common stock	571	1,529
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	16,411	(4,371)
NET DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(21,778)	(58,581)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF PERIOD	50,902	76,741
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF PERIOD	\$ 29,124	\$ 18,160
SUPPLEMENTAL CASH FLOW INFORMATION:		
Cash paid during the period for:		
Interest	\$ 637	\$ 1,378
Income taxes, net of refunds received	\$ 6,253	\$ 12,676

Edgar Filing: TETRA TECH INC - Form 10-Q

See accompanying Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Table of Contents**TETRA TECH, INC.****Notes To Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements****1. Basis of Presentation**

The accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheet as of December 28, 2008, the condensed consolidated statements of income for the three months ended December 28, 2008 and December 30, 2007, and the condensed consolidated statements of cash flows for the three months ended December 28, 2008 and December 30, 2007 of Tetra Tech, Inc. (we, us or our) are unaudited, and, in the opinion of management, include all adjustments necessary for a fair statement of the financial position, the results of operations and cash flows for the periods presented. The condensed consolidated balance sheet as of September 28, 2008 has been derived from the audited financial statements at that date but does not include all the information and footnotes required by U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) for complete financial statements.

The condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 28, 2008. The results of operations for the three months ended December 28, 2008 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the fiscal year ending September 27, 2009. Certain prior year amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation. In the first quarter of fiscal 2009, we began reporting under four reportable segments with reclassification of prior year results to conform to the new basis of presentation. Refer to Note 7, Reportable Segments for additional information.

2. Accounts Receivable Net

Net accounts receivable consisted of the following:

	December 28, 2008	September 28, 2008
	(in thousands)	
Billed	\$ 397,264	\$ 379,948
Unbilled	245,510	246,715
Contract retentions	27,471	20,649
Total accounts receivable gross	670,245	647,312
Allowance for doubtful accounts	(23,877)	(21,526)
Total accounts receivable net	\$ 646,368	\$ 625,786
Billings in excess of costs on uncompleted contracts	\$ 117,977	\$ 100,336

Edgar Filing: TETRA TECH INC - Form 10-Q

Billed accounts receivable represent amounts billed to clients that have not been collected. Unbilled accounts receivable represent revenue recognized but not yet billed pursuant to contract terms or billed after the period end date. Substantially all unbilled receivables as of December 28, 2008 are expected to be billed and collected within 12 months. Contract retentions represent amounts withheld by clients until certain conditions are met or the project is completed, which may be several months or years. The allowance for doubtful accounts was determined based on a review of customer-specific accounts, bankruptcy filings by clients, and contract issues due to current events and circumstances.

Billed accounts receivable related to federal government contracts were \$123.3 million and \$100.2 million as of December 28, 2008 and September 28, 2008, respectively. The federal government unbilled receivables, net of progress payments, were \$56.6 million and \$88.6 million as of December 28, 2008 and September 28, 2008, respectively. The federal government and one commercial client each accounted for more than 10% of our accounts receivable as of December 28, 2008 and September 28, 2008.

3. **Goodwill and Intangibles**

At the beginning of the first quarter of fiscal 2008, we acquired all of the outstanding shares of capital stock of ARD, Inc. (ARD), which provides applied research, planning, design and implementation services focused on a

Table of Contents

range of water, energy, environmental and institutional issues. ARD manages large, complex international development projects for its clients, predominantly the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). This acquisition continues our international expansion as it increases our professional workforce in new geographic areas and technical specialties around the world. ARD is part of our technical support services segment. The purchase price consisted of \$41.5 million in cash payments. In the first quarter of fiscal 2009, we made one acquisition that offers complementary technical expertise to enhance our USAID service offerings in the technical support services segment. No pro forma results are presented for the respective interim periods as these acquisitions were not considered material to our consolidated financial statements.

The changes in the carrying value of goodwill by segment for the three months ended December 28, 2008 were as follows:

	September 28, 2008	Goodwill Addition (in thousands)	Goodwill Adjustments	December 28, 2008
Environmental consulting services	\$ 99,096	\$	\$ 638	\$ 99,734
Technical support services	53,552	3,650		57,202
Engineering and architecture services	14,854			14,854
Remediation and construction management	54,043			54,043
Total	\$ 221,545	\$ 3,650	\$ 638	\$ 225,833

The increase in goodwill is attributable to the acquisition described above, and earn-out payments associated with prior acquisitions.

The gross amount and accumulated amortization of our acquired identifiable intangible assets with finite useful lives as of December 28, 2008 and September 28, 2008, included in intangible assets net on the condensed consolidated balance sheets, were as follows:

	December 28, 2008		September 28, 2008	
	Gross Amount	Accumulated Amortization (in thousands)	Gross Amount	Accumulated Amortization
Non-compete agreements	\$ 1,522	\$ (468)	\$ 1,472	\$ (368)
Customer relations	5,846	(1,233)	5,746	(897)
Backlog	20,811	(11,938)	19,310	(10,654)
Total	\$ 28,179	\$ (13,639)	\$ 26,528	\$ (11,919)

For the three months ended December 28, 2008, \$0.1 million, \$0.1 million and \$1.5 million were assigned to non-compete agreements, customer relations and backlog, respectively, related to the acquisition described above. For the first quarters of fiscal 2009 and 2008, amortization expense for acquired identifiable intangible assets with finite useful lives was \$1.7 million and \$1.4 million, respectively. Estimated amortization expense for the remainder of fiscal 2009 and the succeeding years is as follows:

	Amount (in thousands)
2009	\$ 4,636

Edgar Filing: TETRA TECH INC - Form 10-Q

2010	4,511
2011	3,682
2012	1,391
2013	290
2014	30

Table of Contents

Subsequent Events. In January 2009, we acquired Wardrop Engineering, Inc. (Wardrop), a Canadian firm that specializes in resource management, energy and infrastructure design. For its fiscal year ended September 30, 2008, Wardrop reported in excess of \$120 million of revenue. This acquisition significantly expands our worldwide presence, adding 13 offices throughout Canada together with offices in the United Kingdom and India. We also acquired a nuclear science and engineering firm that expands our service offerings to the federal government and commercial clients in the energy market. Both of these acquisitions are part of our environmental consulting services segment. The initial purchase price for these acquisitions, which is subject to adjustment, was financed with available cash resources and approximately \$80 million of borrowings under our revolving credit facility.

4. Stockholders Equity and Stock Compensation Plans

We account for stock-based compensation in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 123(R) (SFAS 123R), *Share-Based Payment (revised 2004)*. Under the fair value recognition provisions of this statement, stock-based compensation cost is measured at the grant date based on the value of the award granted, and recognized over the period in which the award vests. Stock-based compensation expense for the first quarters of fiscal 2009 and 2008 was \$2.0 million and \$1.7 million, respectively. These amounts were primarily included in selling, general and administrative (SG&A) expenses in our condensed consolidated statements of income. In the first quarter of fiscal 2009, we granted 983,200 stock options with an exercise price of \$16.98 and an estimated weighted-average fair value of \$6.10.

5. Earnings Per Share (EPS)

Basic EPS is computed by dividing net income available to common stockholders by the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding, less unvested restricted stock for the period. Diluted EPS is computed by dividing net income by the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding and dilutive potential common shares for the period. Potential common shares include the weighted-average dilutive effects of outstanding stock options and unvested restricted stock using the treasury stock method.

The following table sets forth the number of weighted-average shares used to compute basic and diluted EPS:

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2008	December 30, 2007
	(in thousands, except per share data)	
Numerator:		
Net income	\$ 16,308	\$ 12,900
Denominator for basic earnings per share	59,736	58,313
Denominator for diluted earnings per share:		
Denominator for basic earnings per share	59,736	58,313
Potential common shares stock options	539	850

Edgar Filing: TETRA TECH INC - Form 10-Q

Denominator for diluted earnings per share		60,275		59,163
Earnings per share:				
Basic	\$	0.27	\$	0.22
Diluted	\$	0.27	\$	0.22

For the first quarters of fiscal 2009 and 2008, 2.9 million and 2.5 million stock options were excluded from the calculation of dilutive potential common shares, respectively. These options were not included in the computation of dilutive potential common shares because the assumed proceeds per share exceeded the average market price per share for that period. Therefore, their inclusion would have been anti-dilutive.

6. **Income Taxes**

We are currently under examination by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for fiscal years 1997 through 2004 and the California Franchise Tax Board (FTB) for fiscal years 2001 through 2003 related to research and experimentation credits (R&E Credits). In addition, during fiscal 2002, the IRS approved our request to change

Table of Contents

the accounting method for revenue recognition for income tax purposes for some of our businesses. In 2002, we filed amended tax returns for fiscal years 1997 through 2000 to claim R&E Credits and to claim refunds due under the newly approved accounting method. At the time the refund claims were filed, we were under examination by the IRS for those years. The claimed refunds are being held pending completion of the IRS examination. The estimated realizable refunds have been classified as non-current income taxes receivable on our condensed consolidated balance sheets. We have initiated an analysis for the tax years subsequent to the periods under audit to determine if we are entitled to claim R&E Credits for these years. Accordingly, we may, in subsequent periods, file amended tax returns and reflect the estimated realizable R&E Credits in our consolidated financial statements.

We are currently in the IRS appeals process for fiscal years 1997 through 2004. During the third quarter of fiscal 2008, we received a Notice of Proposed Assessment (NOPA) from the FTB related to fiscal 2001 through 2003. We have protested the position in the NOPA. Management believes that it is reasonably possible we will reach a resolution of the issues for fiscal years 1997 through 2001 under appeal with the IRS in the next 12 months. If the resolution is favorable, the change in unrecognized tax benefits could be significant and we could receive a significant cash refund. However, if the resolution is unfavorable, there may be a material adverse effect on our financial results as a result of an increase in income tax expense, but no material impact on our cash flow in future periods. At this time, we cannot predict the outcome of the NOPA. With a few exceptions, we are no longer subject to U.S. federal, state and local, or non-U.S. income tax examinations for fiscal years before 1997.

7. Reportable Segments

Prior to fiscal 2009, we managed our business in three reportable segments: resource management, infrastructure and communications. In fiscal 2006, we developed and began implementing a plan to consolidate our operating units and re-align our management structure. In the first quarter of fiscal 2009, we completed the implementation and began reporting under four new reportable segments with reclassification of the prior year results to conform to the new basis of presentation.

Each of the new reportable segments is comprised of similar activities that focus on the services it provides, the markets it serves, the distribution method of its services, its contracting mechanisms, the organization and execution of its projects, the education and discipline of its workforce, and the metrics by which its client projects and staff are measured. In addition, each of the operating groups, which are also our reportable segments is managed by its own president, each of whom has direct responsibility for the segment s respective units and directly reports to our Chief Executive Officer, who is our chief operating decision maker (CODM). The CODM regularly reviews the four reportable segments, allocates resources to these segments and assesses the individual segment performance. The reportable segments are as follows:

Environmental Consulting Services (ECS). ECS provides front-end science and consulting services and project management skills in the areas of water resources, groundwater services, watershed management, mining and geotechnical sciences, environmental management, and information technology and modeling consulting.

Technical Support Services (TSS). TSS advises clients, studies, designs and implements projects, and conducts research in the areas of remedial and developmental planning, regulatory consulting, climate change and carbon management services, disaster management, systems test and support services, and program management for complex federal government and international development projects.

Edgar Filing: TETRA TECH INC - Form 10-Q

Engineering and Architecture Services (EAS). EAS provides engineering, architecture, interior and exterior design, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), and program administration services for projects that include water and wastewater conveyance and treatment, building construction, land development and transportation services.

Remediation and Construction Management (RCM). RCM provides a wide array of services, including program management, engineering, procurement and construction, construction management, and operations and maintenance projects focused on federal construction, communications development and construction, environmental remediation including unexploded ordnance (UXO) and wetland restoration, and energy projects including nuclear engineering as well as wind and other alternative energies.

Management evaluates the performance of these reportable segments based upon their respective income from operations before the effect of amortization expense related to acquisitions and other unallocated corporate

Table of Contents

expenses. We account for inter-segment sales and transfers as if the sales and transfers were to third parties; that is, by applying a negotiated fee onto the cost of the services performed. All inter-company balances and transactions are eliminated in consolidation.

The following tables set forth summarized financial information concerning our reportable segments (for and as of the periods noted below):

Reportable Segments:

	ECS		TSS		EAS (in thousands)		RCM		Total	
Three months ended December 28, 2008:										
Revenue	\$	129,256	\$	125,877	\$	84,656	\$	317,215	\$	657,004
Revenue, net of subcontractor costs		87,750		76,490		64,295		101,491		330,026
Gross profit		15,619		14,930		12,866		20,926		64,341
Segment income from operations		8,727		8,706		4,301		9,514		31,248
Depreciation expense		660		175		550		1,847		3,232
Three months ended December 30, 2007:										
Revenue	\$	110,207	\$	99,816	\$	74,758	\$	199,613	\$	484,394
Revenue, net of subcontractor costs		76,271		63,870		61,972		75,048		277,161
Gross profit		14,835		11,410		12,438		17,566		56,249
Segment income from operations		8,176		6,478		4,210		6,194		25,058
Depreciation expense		486		246		523		1,288		2,543

Total assets by segment were as follows:

	December 28, 2008		September 28, 2008	
	(in thousands)			
Environmental consulting services	\$	313,424	\$	314,331
Technical support services		207,313		205,981
Engineering and architecture services		96,123		92,886
Remediation and construction management		378,876		368,452
Total assets	\$	995,736	\$	981,650

Table of Contents*Reconciliations:*

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2008	December 30, 2007
	(in thousands)	
Revenue		
Revenue from reportable segments	\$ 657,004	\$ 484,394
Elimination of inter-segment revenue	(18,321)	(14,007)
Total consolidated revenue	\$ 638,683	\$ 470,387
Income from operations		
Segment income from operations	\$ 31,248	\$ 25,058
Other expense (1)	(913)	(995)
Amortization of intangibles	(1,719)	(1,352)
Total consolidated income from operations	\$ 28,616	\$ 22,711

	December 28, 2008	September 28, 2008
	(in thousands)	
Assets		
Total assets of reportable segments	\$ 995,736	\$ 981,650
Total assets not allocated to segments and eliminations	50,793	72,477
Total assets from discontinued operations	2,418	2,418
Total assets	\$ 1,048,947	\$ 1,056,545

(1) Other expense includes corporate costs not allocable to segments.

Major Clients:

Other than the federal government, we had no single client that accounted for more than 10% of our revenue. All of our segments generated revenue from all client sectors.

The following table presents revenue by client sector:

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2008	December 30, 2007
	(in thousands)	
Client Sector		
Federal government	\$ 284,327	\$ 264,205

Edgar Filing: TETRA TECH INC - Form 10-Q

State and local government	71,062	82,568
Commercial	276,062	121,631
International (1)	7,232	1,983
Total	\$ 638,683	\$ 470,387

(1) Includes revenue generated from our international clients. Revenue related to projects performed in foreign countries for U.S. government and commercial clients was reported as part of our federal government and commercial client sectors, respectively.

8. Comprehensive Income

We include two components in comprehensive income: net income during a period and other comprehensive income. Other comprehensive income consists of translation gains and losses from subsidiaries with functional currencies different than our reporting currency.

Comprehensive income was \$16.3 million and \$12.9 million for the first quarters of fiscal 2009 and 2008, respectively. For the same periods, we realized an insignificant net translation loss and gain, respectively.

Table of Contents

9. Commitments and Contingencies

We are subject to certain claims and lawsuits typically filed against the engineering, consulting and construction profession, alleging primarily professional errors or omissions. We carry professional liability insurance, subject to certain deductibles and policy limits, against such claims. However, in some actions, parties are seeking damages that exceed our insurance coverage or for which we are not insured. While management does not believe that the resolution of these claims will have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows, management acknowledges the uncertainty surrounding the ultimate resolution of these matters.

In May 2003, Innovative Technologies Corporation (ITC) filed a lawsuit in Montgomery County, Ohio against Advanced Management Technology, Inc. (AMT) and other defendants for misappropriation of trade secrets, among other claims. In June 2004, we purchased all the outstanding shares of AMT. As part of the purchase agreement, the former owners of AMT agreed to indemnify us for all costs and damages related to this lawsuit. In December 2007, the case went to trial and the jury awarded \$5.8 million in compensatory damages against AMT. In addition, the jury awarded \$17 million in punitive damages against AMT plus reasonable attorneys fees. The court entered the judgment in January 2008. It also required AMT to post a \$1 million bond which has been done. In July 2008, the Common Pleas Court of Montgomery County issued a decision in response to AMT's post-trial motions. AMT's motion for judgment notwithstanding the verdict was denied and AMT's motion for a new trial was conditionally denied. AMT's motion for remittitur was conditionally granted. The court remitted the verdict to \$2.0 million in compensatory damages and \$5.8 million in punitive damages. If ITC chose not to accept the remittitur, the court would grant AMT's motion for new trial on damages. ITC filed a notice that it accepted the remittitur, and AMT timely filed a notice of appeal. The trial court has not ruled on ITC's motion for prejudgment interest or attorneys fees. Because the trial court made its post-trial decision a final appealable order, yet did not dispose of ITC's motion for attorneys fees or prejudgment interest, it does not appear that the court of appeals has jurisdiction. The parties filed motions with the court of appeals for clarification. In the meantime, the appeals court has remanded the case back to the trial court to review prejudgment interest and attorney fees. We believe that a reasonably possible range of exposure is from \$0 to approximately \$13 million. As of December 28, 2008, we have recorded a liability representing our best estimate of a probable loss. Further, for the same amount, we have recorded a receivable from the former owners of AMT as we believe it is probable they will fully honor the terms of their indemnification agreement with us for any and all costs and damages related to this lawsuit pursuant to the terms of the purchase agreement.

On July 25, 2008, a domestic real estate investment trust (the REIT) that owns and rents apartments filed suit against us and a former employee in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia (the Court). Subsequently, an amended complaint was filed. The suit alleges that employees at one of our operating divisions in Colorado participated in a scheme to defraud the REIT in connection with contracts for environmental clean-up work between us and the REIT. The suit seeks as much as \$21 million in damages (comprised of \$7 million in damages, as well as Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) damages) plus interest and legal fees. Based on the information gathered to date and on the advice of legal counsel, we believe we have defenses and potential counter-claims to the allegations raised by the REIT, and we intend to defend ourselves vigorously. On October 23, 2008, we filed cross and counter-claims against the REIT and our former employee and third-party claims against another entity and that entity's principal. Our claims allege that we were defrauded in connection with work we performed for the REIT and seek as much as \$7.2 million in damages. We have been advised by counsel that based on their review to date, there are significant legal and factual defenses to the claim that we are liable for treble damages under the RICO statute. This matter has been stayed by the Court until other related cases are resolved. We have accrued as of December 28, 2008 our best estimate of a liability related to this matter. We do not expect the ultimate outcome to have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

10. Recent Accounting Pronouncements

Edgar Filing: TETRA TECH INC - Form 10-Q

In September 2006, the Financial Accounting Standard Board (FASB) issued SFAS No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements* (SFAS 157), which defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. This statement is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007, and interim periods within those fiscal years. In February 2008, FASB Staff Position (FSP) No. FAS 157-2, *Effective Dates of FASB Statement No. 157* was issued, which deferred the effective date of SFAS 157 for all nonrecurring fair value measurements of nonfinancial assets and liabilities until

Table of Contents

fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2008. In October 2008, the FASB also issued FSP No. FAS 157-3, *Determining the Fair Value of a Financial Asset When the Market for That Asset Is Not Active*, which clarifies the application of SFAS 157 in a market that is not active and provides an example to illustrate key considerations in determining the fair value of a financial asset when the market of that financial asset is not active. The FSP observes that revisions resulting from a change in valuation technique or its application should be accounted for as a change in accounting estimate, and any effects on fair-value measurement would be recognized in the period of adoption. Our adoption of SFAS 157 on September 29, 2008 was limited to financial assets and liabilities and had no impact on our consolidated financial statements in the first quarter of fiscal 2009. We are currently evaluating the anticipated effect of this statement on the non-financial assets and non-financial liabilities in our consolidated financial statements.

In February 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 159, *The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities – Including an Amendment of FASB Statement No. 115* (SFAS 159). SFAS 159 provides companies with an option to measure, at specified election dates, many financial instruments and certain other items at fair value that are not currently measured at fair value. A company that adopts SFAS 159 will report unrealized gains and losses on items for which the fair value option has been elected in earnings at each subsequent reporting date. SFAS 159 also establishes presentation and disclosure requirements designed to facilitate comparisons between entities that choose different measurement attributes for similar types of assets and liabilities. SFAS 159 became effective for us as of the beginning of our fiscal year 2009. We did not elect the fair value option for any financial assets or liabilities during the first quarter of fiscal 2009.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 141 (revised 2007), *Business Combinations* (SFAS 141R). SFAS 141R establishes the principles and requirements for how an acquirer (i) recognizes and measures in its financial statements the identifiable assets acquired, the liabilities assumed, and any noncontrolling interest in the acquiree; (ii) recognizes and measures the goodwill acquired in the business combination or a gain from a bargain purchase; and (iii) determines what information to disclose to enable users of the financial statements to evaluate the nature and financial effects of the business combination. SFAS 141R makes significant changes to existing accounting practices for acquisitions, including the requirement to expense transaction costs and to reflect the fair value of contingent purchase price adjustments at the date of acquisition. SFAS 141R is to be applied prospectively to business combinations consummated on or after the beginning of the first annual reporting period on or after December 15, 2008. We will implement the new standard effective in fiscal 2010. For any acquisitions completed after our fiscal 2009, we expect SFAS 141R will have an impact on our consolidated financial statements, however; the nature and magnitude of the specific effects will depend upon the nature, terms and size of the acquisitions we consummate.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 160, *Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements – an Amendment of ARB No. 51* (SFAS 160). SFAS 160 establishes accounting and reporting standards that require (i) noncontrolling interests to be reported as a component of equity; (ii) changes in a parent's ownership interest while the parent retains its controlling interest to be accounted for as equity transactions; and (iii) any retained noncontrolling equity investment upon the deconsolidation of a subsidiary to be initially measured at fair value. We do not currently have any less than wholly-owned consolidated subsidiaries. SFAS 160 is to be applied prospectively at the beginning of the first annual reporting period on or after December 15, 2008. We will implement the new standard effective in fiscal 2010. We do not believe that the adoption of SFAS 160 will have a material effect on our consolidated financial statements.

In December 2007, Emerging Issues Task Force (EITF) 07-01, *Accounting for Collaborative Arrangements* (EITF 07-01), was issued to prescribe the accounting for collaborations. It requires certain transactions between collaborators to be recorded in the income statement on either a gross or net basis when certain characteristics exist in the collaboration relationship. EITF 07-01 is effective in fiscal 2010 for all of our collaborations. We do not believe that the adoption of EITF 07-01 will have a material effect on our consolidated financial statements.

In April 2008, the FASB issued FSP 142-3, *Determination of the Useful Life of Intangible Assets* (FSP 142-3). FSP 142-3 amends the factors that should be considered in developing renewal or extension assumptions used to determine the useful life of a recognized intangible asset under SFAS No. 142, *Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets*. FSP 142-3 will be effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2008

Edgar Filing: TETRA TECH INC - Form 10-Q

(fiscal 2010 for us). We are currently assessing the effect of FSP 142-3 on our consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

In May 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 162, *The Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* (SFAS 162), which identifies the sources of accounting principles and provides a framework, or hierarchy, for selecting the principles to be used in preparing U.S. GAAP financial statements for nongovernmental entities. SFAS 162, effective November 15, 2008, makes the hierarchy explicitly and directly applicable to preparers of financial statements. This recognizes the preparers' responsibilities for selecting the accounting principles for their financial statements. The adoption of SFAS 162 did not have a material effect on our consolidated financial statements.

In June 2008, the FASB issued FSP No. EITF 03-6-1, *Determining Whether Instruments Granted in Share-Based Payment Transactions Are Participating Securities* (FSP EITF 03-6-1). FSP EITF 03-6-1 states that unvested share-based payment awards that contain non-forfeitable rights to dividends or dividend equivalents (whether paid or unpaid) are participating securities and shall be included in the computation of earnings per share pursuant to the two-class method. FSP EITF 03-6-1, which is applied retrospectively, is effective for us in fiscal 2010. We are currently assessing the effect of FSP EITF 03-6-1 on our consolidated financial statements.

In November 2008, the FASB ratified EITF 08-6, *Equity Method Investment Accounting Considerations* (EITF 08-6). EITF 08-6 clarifies the accounting for certain transactions and impairment considerations involving equity method investments. EITF 08-6 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2008, with early adoption prohibited. We do not believe the adoption of EITF 08-6 will have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

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

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, including Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, contains forward-looking statements regarding future events and our future results that are subject to the safe harbor provisions created under the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These statements are based on current expectations, estimates, forecasts and projections about the industries in which we operate and the beliefs and assumptions of our management. Words such as expects, anticipates, targets, goals, projects, intends, plans, believes, seeks, estimates, continues, may, variations of such words, and similar expressions to identify such forward-looking statements. In addition, any statements that refer to projections of our future financial performance, our anticipated growth and trends in our businesses, and other characterizations of future events or circumstances are forward-looking statements. Readers are cautioned that these forward-looking statements are only predictions and are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are difficult to predict, including those identified below, as well as under the heading Risk Factors, and elsewhere herein. Therefore, actual results may differ materially and adversely from those expressed in any forward-looking statements. We undertake no obligation to revise or update any forward-looking statements for any reason.

OVERVIEW

We are a leading provider of consulting, engineering, program management, construction and technical services focusing on resource management, infrastructure and the environment. We serve our clients by providing cost-effective and innovative solutions to fundamental needs for water, environmental and energy services. We typically begin at the earliest stage of a project by applying science to problems and developing solutions tailored to our clients' needs and resources. Our solutions may span the entire life cycle of the project and include applied science, research and technology, engineering, design, construction management, construction, operations and maintenance, and information technology.

Since our initial public offering in December 1991, we have increased the size and scope of our business, expanded our service offerings, and diversified our client base and the markets we serve through internal growth and strategic acquisitions. Today we are a full-service company with a global reach in the areas of water programs, environmental management and remediation, energy and supporting infrastructure. We continue to focus on organic and acquisitive growth to expand our geographic reach and increase the breadth and depth of our service offerings to address existing and emerging markets. As of January 2009, we had approximately 10,000 employees worldwide, located primarily in North America.

We derive revenue from fees for professional, technical, project management and construction services. As primarily a service-based company, we are labor-intensive rather than capital-intensive. Our revenue is driven by our ability to attract and retain qualified and productive employees, identify business opportunities, secure new and renew existing client contracts, provide outstanding services to our clients and execute projects successfully.

We provide services to a diverse base of federal and state and local government agencies, as well as commercial and international clients. The following table presents the approximate percentage of our revenue, net of subcontractor costs, by client sector:

Client Sector	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2008	December 30, 2007
Federal government	42.9%	45.8%
State and local government	15.3	20.2
Commercial	40.0	33.4
International	1.8	0.6
	100.0%	100.0%

Prior to fiscal 2009, we managed our business in three reportable segments: resource management, infrastructure and communications. In fiscal 2006, we developed and began implementing a plan to consolidate our operating units and re-align our management structure. In the first quarter of fiscal 2009, we completed the

Table of Contents

implementation and began reporting under four new reportable segments with reclassification of the prior year results to conform to the new basis of presentation.

Each of the new reportable segments is comprised of similar activities that focus on the services it provides, the markets it serves, the distribution method of its services, its contracting mechanisms, the organization and execution of its projects, the education and discipline of its workforce, and the metrics by which its client projects and staff are measured. In addition, each of the operating groups, which are also our reportable segments is managed by its own president, each of whom has direct responsibility for the segment's respective units and directly reports to our Chief Executive Officer, who is our CODM. The CODM regularly reviews the four reportable segments, allocates resources to these segments and assesses the individual segment performance. The reportable segments are as follows:

Environmental Consulting Services. ECS provides front-end science and consulting services and project management skills in the areas of water resources, groundwater services, watershed management, mining and geotechnical sciences, environmental management, and information technology and modeling consulting.

Technical Support Services. TSS advises clients, studies, designs and implements projects, and conducts research in the areas of remedial and developmental planning, regulatory consulting, climate change and carbon management services, disaster management, systems test and support services, and program management for complex federal government and international development projects.

Engineering and Architecture Services. EAS provides engineering, architecture, interior and exterior design, LEED, and program administration services for projects that include water and wastewater conveyance and treatment, building construction, land development and transportation services.

Remediation and Construction Management. RCM provides a wide array of services, including program management, engineering, procurement and construction, construction management, and operations and maintenance projects focused on federal construction, communications development and construction, environmental remediation including UXO and wetland restoration, and energy projects including nuclear engineering as well as wind and other alternative energies.

The following table represents the approximate percentage of our revenue, net of subcontractor costs, by reportable segment:

Reportable Segment	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2008	December 30, 2007
Environmental consulting services	26.6%	27.5%

Edgar Filing: TETRA TECH INC - Form 10-Q

Technical support services	23.1	23.0
Engineering and architecture services	19.5	22.4
Remediation and construction management	30.8	27.1
	100.0%	100.0%

Our services are provided under three principal types of contracts: fixed-price, time-and-materials and cost-plus. The following table presents the approximate percentage of our revenue, net of subcontractor costs, by contract type:

Contract Type	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2008	December 30, 2007
Fixed-price	38.4%	36.8%
Time-and-materials	41.4	41.8
Cost-plus	20.2	21.4
	100.0%	100.0%

Contract revenue and contract costs are recorded primarily using the percentage-of-completion (cost-to-cost) method. Under this method, revenue is recognized in the ratio that contract costs incurred bear to total

Table of Contents

estimated costs. Revenue and profit on these contracts are subject to revision throughout the duration of the contracts and any required adjustments are made in the period in which the revisions become known. Losses on contracts are recorded in full as they are identified.

In the course of providing our services, we routinely subcontract services and, under certain USAID programs, issue grants. Generally, these subcontractor costs and grants are passed through to our clients and, in accordance with industry practice and GAAP, are included in our revenue when it is our responsibility to procure and manage these activities under a contract. The grants are reported as part of our subcontractor costs on our condensed consolidated statements of income. Because subcontractor services can change significantly from project to project and period to period, changes in revenue may not be indicative of our business trends. Accordingly, we also report revenue less the cost of subcontractor services, and our discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations uses revenue, net of subcontractor costs, as a point of reference.

For analytical purposes only, we categorize our revenue into two types: acquisitive and organic. Acquisitive revenue consists of revenue derived from newly acquired companies that are reported individually as separate operating units during the first twelve months following their respective acquisition dates. Organic revenue consists of our total revenue less any acquisitive revenue.

Our other contract costs include professional compensation and related benefits, together with certain direct and indirect overhead costs such as rents, utilities and travel. Professional compensation represents a large portion of these costs. Our SG&A expenses are comprised primarily of marketing and bid and proposal costs, and our corporate headquarters costs related to the executive offices, finance, accounting, administration and information technology. In addition, we include a large portion of stock-based compensation, depreciation of property and equipment, as well as a full amount of amortization of identifiable intangible assets, in SG&A expenses. Most of these costs are unrelated to a specific client or project and can vary as expenses are incurred to support corporate activities and initiatives.

Our revenue, expenses and operating results may fluctuate significantly from quarter to quarter as a result of numerous factors, including:

- General economic or political conditions;

- Unanticipated changes in contract performance that may affect profitability, particularly with contracts that are fixed-price or have funding limits;

- Seasonality of the spending cycle of our public sector clients, notably the federal government, the spending patterns of our commercial sector clients, and weather conditions;

- Budget constraints experienced by our federal, state and local government clients;

- Acquisitions or integration of acquired companies;
- Divestiture or discontinuance of operating units;
- Employee hiring, utilization and turnover rates;
- The number and significance of client contracts commenced and completed during a quarter;
- Creditworthiness and solvency of clients;
- The ability of our clients to terminate contracts without penalties;
- Delays incurred in connection with a contract;
- The size, scope and payment terms of contracts;
- Contract negotiations on change orders and collections of related accounts receivable;

Table of Contents

- The timing of expenses incurred for corporate initiatives;
- Reductions in the prices of services offered by our competitors;
- Threatened or pending litigation;
- The impairment of goodwill or identifiable intangible assets; and
- Changes in accounting rules.

We experience seasonal trends in our business. Our revenue is typically lower in the first half of the fiscal year, primarily due to the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays. Many of our clients' employees, as well as our own employees, take vacations during these holiday periods. Further, seasonal inclement weather conditions occasionally cause some of our offices to close temporarily or may hamper our project field work. These occurrences result in fewer billable hours worked on projects and, correspondingly, less revenue recognized. Our revenue is typically higher in the second half of the fiscal year, due to favorable weather conditions during spring and summer months that result in higher billable hours. In addition, our revenue is typically higher in the fourth fiscal quarter due to the federal government's fiscal year-end spending.

BUSINESS TREND ANALYSIS

General. Overall, we continued to deliver strong financial results in the first quarter of fiscal 2009, which reflected improvement compared to the same quarter last year. Our performance was driven by our continuing focus on long-term value creation through the execution of our growth strategy. We invested in business development activities to grow our business organically and made strategic acquisitions to enhance our service offerings and further expand our geographical presence. In addition, we continued to implement and enforce project management policies and programs that focus on contract execution and risk management controls. We also focused on cost control and the strategic management of our portfolio of businesses.

We anticipate that our business will grow at a moderate rate as we continue to emphasize organic growth and pursue complementary acquisitions that expand our geographic reach and increase the breadth of our services to address existing and emerging markets. In addition, we expect that the various government stimulus plans aimed at jump-starting the economy and loosening the credit markets should be successful. However, because the timing and magnitude of any potential benefit to our business from a stimulus plan remains uncertain, contributions from such plan have not been factored into our outlook or our guidance. Furthermore, we expect a period of considerable weakness in the economy even if government intervention succeeds. As such, we recognize that the current economic forces that have severely impacted both the

domestic and international economies could affect our future work for the U.S. federal government, state and local governments, and commercial businesses, which constituted approximately 45%, 11% and 44% of our revenue in the first quarter of fiscal 2009, respectively.

Federal Government. In the first quarter of fiscal 2009, our federal government business experienced revenue growth of 7.6% compared to the same quarter last year. This growth was driven primarily by our USAID projects and domestic projects for the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). However, the wind-down of our Iraq-related projects for the DoD partially offset this growth. During periods of economic volatility, our federal government business has historically been the most stable and predictable. Accordingly, we anticipate that our federal government business will experience modest growth in fiscal 2009 compared to last fiscal year due primarily to our increased work with USAID, increased Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) spending, and water resource and infrastructure projects with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and other federal clients. However, due to the DoD s current funding practices on projects in Iraq as well as the changing geopolitical landscape in Iraq and the United States, we believe our revenue from Iraq-related projects will continue to decrease during the remainder of fiscal 2009. While it has not occurred, some of our anticipated projects could be delayed or cancelled due to the diversion of federal government resources to the financial markets.

State and Local Government. In the first quarter of fiscal 2009, our state and local government business experienced a revenue decline of 13.9% compared to the same quarter last year due primarily to the economic conditions described below. The decline also resulted from the wind-down of a large construction management contract and the conclusion of a fiber-to-the-premises contract in the second quarter of fiscal 2008. Many state and local government agencies are facing increasingly challenging economic conditions including budget deficits,

Table of Contents

declining tax revenues and difficult cost-cutting decisions. Simultaneously, states are facing major long-term infrastructure needs, including the maintenance, repair and upgrading of existing critical infrastructure and the need to build new facilities. The funding risks associated with our state and local government programs are partially mitigated by the regulatory requirements driving these programs, such as regulatory-mandated consent decrees, as well as demographic shifts and increasing demand for water and wastewater services. As a result, some programs will generally occur despite budget pressures, and we anticipate that infrastructure projects, especially those focused on the need for demand-driven water resource requirements, will be initiated and funded in fiscal 2009. However, we expect that our state and local government business will continue to decline for the remainder of fiscal 2009. We will remain vigilant in monitoring and evaluating state and local government budgets and will continue to assess any potential impact on our state and local government business, including the potential uncertainty of our clients ability to sell their infrastructure bonds and/or fund their ongoing operating requirements.

Commercial. In the first quarter of fiscal 2009, our commercial business experienced robust growth of 127.0% compared to the same quarter last year. This growth was driven by increased demand for our wind and other alternative energy services, as well as water programs. To a lesser extent, our growth was attributable to environmental engineering and development projects. We anticipate that our commercial business will experience growth in fiscal 2009 compared to fiscal 2008 due to existing backlog for wind and other alternative energy services, as well as water programs. We also anticipate some growth in the transmission requirements for renewable energy sources. Further, we expect our international commercial business to increase as a result of our recent acquisition. However, we may experience lower revenue than anticipated if planned alternative energy projects are delayed or cancelled due to declining energy prices or other reasons. Additionally, due to the current economic conditions, we may experience project delays and reduced workload from commercial clients for the remainder of fiscal 2009.

ACQUISITIONS AND DIVESTITURES

Acquisitions. We continuously evaluate the marketplace for strategic acquisition opportunities. Due to our reputation, size, financial resources, geographic presence and range of services, we have numerous opportunities to acquire both privately held companies and subsidiaries of publicly held companies. During our evaluation, we examine the effect an acquisition may have on our long-range business strategy and results of operations. Generally, we proceed with an acquisition if we believe that it would have a positive effect on future operations and could strategically expand our service offerings. As successful integration and implementation are essential to achieving favorable results, no assurance can be given that all acquisitions will provide accretive results. Our strategy is to position ourselves to address existing and emerging markets. We view acquisitions as a key component of our growth strategy, and we intend to use both cash and securities, as we deem appropriate, to fund acquisitions. We may acquire other businesses that we believe are synergistic and will ultimately increase our revenue and net income, strengthen our ability to achieve our strategic goals, provide critical mass with existing clients and further expand our lines of service. As a result, we typically consummate a deal to acquire another business with a purchase price that results in the recognition of goodwill and other identifiable intangible assets.

In the first quarter of fiscal 2009, we made one acquisition that offers complementary technical expertise to enhance our USAID service offerings in the TSS segment. In January 2009, we acquired Wardrop, a Canadian firm that specializes in resource management, energy and infrastructure design. For its fiscal year ended September 30, 2008, Wardrop reported in excess of \$120 million of revenue. This acquisition significantly expands our worldwide presence, adding 13 offices throughout Canada together with offices in the United Kingdom and India. We also acquired a nuclear science and engineering firm that expands our service offerings to the federal government and commercial clients in the

Edgar Filing: TETRA TECH INC - Form 10-Q

energy market. Both of these acquisitions are part of our ECS segment. The initial purchase price for these acquisitions, which is subject to adjustment, was financed with available cash resources and approximately \$80 million of borrowings under our revolving credit facility.

Divestitures. To complement our acquisition strategy and our focus on internal growth, we regularly review and evaluate our existing operations to determine whether our business model should change through the divestiture of certain businesses. Accordingly, from time to time, we may continue to divest certain non-core businesses and reallocate our resources to businesses that better align with our long-term strategic direction. We had no divestitures in the first quarters of fiscal 2008 and 2009.

Table of Contents**RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

Overall, our results for the first quarter of fiscal 2009 improved compared to the same quarter last year due to our focus on organic growth and the strategic pursuit of acquisitions that enhance our service offerings and expand our geographical presence. We continued to experience revenue growth across all segments, particularly from wind energy and water programs. To a lesser extent, international development, environmental remediation and environmental engineering and development projects contributed to our growth. However, reduced activity on reconstruction and UXO projects in Iraq partially offset this growth.

CONSOLIDATED RESULTS

	December 28, 2008	Three Months Ended December 30, 2007 (\$ in thousands)	Change \$	%
Revenue	\$ 638,683	\$ 470,387	\$ 168,296	35.8%
Subcontractor costs	(308,657)	(193,226)	(115,431)	(59.7)
Revenue, net of subcontractor costs	330,026	277,161	52,865	19.1
Other contract costs	(265,685)	(220,912)	(44,773)	(20.3)
Gross profit	64,341	56,249	8,092	14.4
Selling, general and administrative expenses	(35,725)	(33,538)	(2,187)	(6.5)
Income from operations	28,616	22,711	5,905	26.0
Interest expense net	(916)	(660)	(256)	(38.8)
Income before income tax expense	27,700	22,051	5,649	25.6
Income tax expense	(11,392)	(9,151)	(2,241)	(24.5)
Net income	\$ 16,308	\$ 12,900	\$ 3,408	26.4%

The following table presents the percentage relationship of certain items to revenue, net of subcontractor costs:

	December 28, 2008	Three Months Ended December 30, 2007
Revenue, net of subcontractor costs	100.0%	100.0%
Other contract costs	(80.5)	(79.7)
Gross profit	19.5	20.3
Selling, general and administrative expenses	(10.8)	(12.1)
Income from operations	8.7	8.2
Interest expense net	(0.3)	(0.2)
Income before income tax expense	8.4	8.0

Edgar Filing: TETRA TECH INC - Form 10-Q

Income tax expense	(3.5)	(3.3)
Net income	4.9%	4.7%

Revenue increased \$168.3 million, or 35.8%, in the first quarter of fiscal 2009 compared to the same quarter last year. We experienced growth across all segments primarily from organic revenue. Our federal government business continued to grow principally due to increased activity on international development projects for USAID and domestic projects for the DoD, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) and other federal agencies. This growth, in large part, was offset by the wind-down of our Iraq-related projects for the DoD. Our commercial business continued to experience strong growth driven by demand for

Table of Contents

our wind, water, and environmental engineering and development services. This growth was partially offset by a revenue decline from our state and local government clients.

Revenue, net of subcontractor costs, increased \$52.9 million, or 19.1%, in the first quarter of fiscal 2009 compared to the same quarter last year, for the reasons described above. The growth rate did not keep pace with our revenue growth due, in large part, to higher subcontracting activities on our wind energy programs and certain federal government work related to our DoD and USAID projects. Further, our program management activities on federal government contracts typically result in higher levels of subcontracting activities that are partially driven by government-mandated small business set-aside requirements.

Other contract costs increased \$44.8 million, or 20.3%, in the first quarter of fiscal 2009 compared to the same quarter last year. The increase resulted primarily from additional costs incurred to support revenue growth. As a percentage of revenue, net of subcontractor costs, other contract costs were 80.5% and 79.7% for the first quarters of fiscal 2009 and 2008, respectively. The slight percentage increase was due to increased costs related to inclement weather, regulatory and project delays, subcontractor issues and project start-up costs.

Gross profit increased \$8.1 million, or 14.4%, in the first quarter of fiscal 2009 compared to the same quarter last year for the reasons described above. As a percentage of revenue, net of subcontractor costs, gross profit was 19.5% and 20.3% for the first quarters of fiscal 2009 and 2008, respectively. The percentage decrease resulted from the cost increases noted above, partially mitigated by favorable claim settlements and higher profit margins on certain wind energy, water, telecommunications and international development projects.

SG&A expenses increased \$2.2 million, or 6.5%, in the first quarter of fiscal 2009 compared to the same quarter last year. The increase resulted from our business growth, partially offset by contained spending. As a percentage of revenue, net of subcontractor costs, SG&A expenses were 10.8% and 12.1% for the first quarters of fiscal 2009 and 2008, respectively.

Net interest expense increased \$0.3 million, or 38.8%, in the first quarter of fiscal 2009 compared to the same quarter last year. The increase resulted from lower interest income from short-term cash investments due to lower interest rates, but was partially mitigated by lower interest expense on our borrowings also due to lower interest rates.

Income tax expense increased \$2.2 million, or 24.5%, in the first quarter of fiscal 2009 compared to the same quarter last year due to higher income. Our effective tax rate was 41.1% and 41.5% in the first quarters of fiscal 2009 and 2008, respectively.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BY REPORTABLE SEGMENT

Environmental Consulting Services

Edgar Filing: TETRA TECH INC - Form 10-Q

	December 28, 2008	Three Months Ended December 30, 2007 (\$ in thousands)	\$	Change	%
Revenue, net of subcontractor costs	\$ 87,750	\$ 76,271	\$ 11,479		15.1%
Other contract costs	(72,131)	(61,436)	(10,695)		(17.4)
Gross profit	\$ 15,619	\$ 14,835	\$ 784		5.3%

The following table presents the percentage relationship of certain items to revenue, net of subcontractor costs:

Table of Contents

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2008	December 30, 2007
Revenue, net of subcontractor costs	100.0%	100.0%
Other contract costs	(82.2)	(80.5)
Gross profit	17.8%	19.5%

Revenue, net of subcontractor costs, increased \$11.5 million, or 15.1%, in the first quarter of fiscal 2009 compared to the same quarter last year. Approximately half of this growth was contributed by our strategic acquisitions. Our commercial business, particularly a large environmental engineering and development project, and, to a lesser extent, our state and local government business, contributed the balance. Our federal government business experienced a slight decline due to the wind-down of certain large projects with the DoD, which was partially offset by increased activity on FAA projects.

Other contract costs increased \$10.7 million, or 17.4%, in the first quarter of fiscal 2009 compared to the same quarter last year. The cost increase largely corresponded to the increase in revenue, net of subcontractor costs. As a percentage of revenue, net of subcontractor costs, other contract costs were 82.2% and 80.5% for the first quarters of fiscal 2009 and 2008, respectively. The percentage increase resulted from increased costs on certain fixed-price projects caused by inclement weather, regulatory delays and subcontractor issues.

Gross profit increased \$0.8 million, or 5.3%, in the first quarter of fiscal 2009 compared to the same quarter last year for the reasons described above. As a percentage of revenue, net of subcontractor costs, gross profit was 17.8% and 19.5% for the first quarters of fiscal 2009 and 2008, respectively.

Technical Support Services

	December 28, 2008	Three Months Ended		Change	%
		December 30, 2007	\$		
Revenue, net of subcontractor costs	\$ 76,490	\$ 63,870	\$ 12,620		19.8%
Other contract costs	(61,560)	(52,460)	(9,100)		(17.3)
Gross profit	\$ 14,930	\$ 11,410	\$ 3,520		30.9%

The following table presents the percentage relationship of certain items to revenue, net of subcontractor costs:

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2008	December 30, 2007
Revenue, net of subcontractor costs	100.0%	100.0%
Other contract costs	(80.5)	(82.1)
Gross profit	19.5%	17.9%

Edgar Filing: TETRA TECH INC - Form 10-Q

Revenue, net of subcontractor costs, increased \$12.6 million, or 19.8%, in the first quarter of fiscal 2009 compared to the same quarter last year. Approximately half of this growth was contributed by our strategic acquisitions. Our federal government work, which comprises three-quarters of TSS business, contributed the balance. We experienced increased demand for our international development services for USAID, one of our largest clients.

Other contract costs increased \$9.1 million, or 17.3%, in the first quarter of fiscal 2009 compared to the same quarter last year. The increase resulted primarily from additional costs incurred to support revenue, net of subcontractor costs. However, in the first quarter of fiscal 2009, as a percentage of revenue, net of subcontractor costs, other contract costs decreased to 80.5% from 82.1% for the same period last year, due to improved project performance.

Gross profit increased \$3.5 million, or 30.9%, in the first quarter of fiscal 2009 compared to the same quarter last year. The dollar increase was driven primarily by revenue growth. As a percentage of revenue, net of

Table of Contents

subcontractor costs, gross profit was 19.5% and 17.9% for the first quarters of fiscal 2009 and 2008, respectively, due to higher-margin international development projects.

Engineering and Architecture Services

	December 28, 2008	Three Months Ended December 30, 2007 (\$ in thousands)	Change \$	%
Revenue, net of subcontractor costs	\$ 64,295	\$ 61,972	\$ 2,323	3.7%
Other contract costs	(51,429)	(49,534)	(1,895)	(3.8)
Gross profit	\$ 12,866	\$ 12,438	\$ 428	3.4%

The following table presents the percentage relationship of certain items to revenue, net of subcontractor costs:

	December 28, 2008	Three Months Ended December 30, 2007
Revenue, net of subcontractor costs	100.0%	100.0%
Other contract costs	(80.0)	(79.9)
Gross profit	20.0%	20.1%

Revenue, net of subcontractor costs, increased \$2.3 million, or 3.7%, in the first quarter of fiscal 2009 compared to the same quarter last year. The increase was driven by our strategic acquisitions and demand for our engineering design services overseas. The increase was partially offset by a decline in both our commercial business due to the slowdown in the real estate market and our state and local government business resulting from budget deficits.

Other contract costs increased \$1.9 million, or 3.8%, in the first quarter of fiscal 2009 compared to the same quarter last year. The cost increase tracked our increase in revenue, net of subcontractor costs. The increase was partially mitigated by reduced labor and overhead costs, which corresponded to revenue declines in our commercial, and state and local government businesses. As a percentage of revenue, net of subcontractor costs, other contract costs were 80.0% and 79.9% for the first quarters of fiscal 2009 and 2008, respectively.

Gross profit increased \$0.4 million, or 3.4%, in the first quarter of fiscal 2009 compared to the same quarter last year for the reasons described above. As a percentage of revenue, net of subcontractor costs, gross profit was 20.0% and 20.1% for the first quarters of fiscal 2009 and 2008, respectively.

Remediation and Construction Management

Edgar Filing: TETRA TECH INC - Form 10-Q

	December 28, 2008	Three Months Ended December 30, 2007 (\$ in thousands)	\$	Change	%
Revenue, net of subcontractor costs	\$ 101,491	\$ 75,048	\$	26,443	35.2%
Other contract costs	(80,565)	(57,482)		(23,083)	(40.2)
Gross profit	\$ 20,926	\$ 17,566	\$	3,360	19.1%

The following table presents the percentage relationship of certain items to revenue, net of subcontractor costs:

Table of Contents

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2008	December 30, 2007
Revenue, net of subcontractor costs	100.0%	100.0%
Other contract costs	(79.4)	(76.6)
Gross profit	20.6%	23.4%

Revenue, net of subcontractor costs, increased \$26.4 million, or 35.2%, in the first quarter of fiscal 2009 compared to the same quarter last year. The growth was driven by demand in our commercial business in this segment for wind energy and water programs. Our commercial business more than doubled compared to the same period last year. This growth was partially offset by a decline in our state and local government business due to budget deficits and the conclusion of a fiber-to-the-premises contract in the second quarter of fiscal 2008. Further, our federal government business experienced a slight decline due to reduced workload on Iraq-related projects, which was offset by domestic projects with the DoD.

Other contract costs increased \$23.1 million, or 40.2%, in the first quarter of fiscal 2009 compared to the same quarter last year. The dollar increase largely supported the growth in revenue, net of subcontractor costs. We also recognized additional contract costs caused by inclement weather, subcontractor issues, scheduling delays and project start-up costs. Further, in the first quarter of fiscal 2008, we recognized a gain related to project equipment disposals following the close-out of a few contracts. As a result, other contract costs, as a percentage of revenue, net of subcontractor costs, increased to 79.4% from 76.6% for the same quarter last year.

Gross profit increased \$3.4 million, or 19.1%, in the first quarter of fiscal 2009 compared to the same quarter last year for the reasons described above. As a percentage of revenue, net of subcontractor costs, gross profit was 20.6% and 23.4% for the first quarters of fiscal 2009 and 2008, respectively. The percentage decrease resulted from the cost increases noted above, partially mitigated by a favorable claim settlement on our Iraq-related projects and our higher margins on certain commercial wind energy, water and telecommunications projects.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

The following discussion generally reflects the impact of both continuing and discontinued operations unless otherwise noted.

Capital Requirements. Our capital requirements are to fund working capital needs, capital expenditures, and debt services requirements, as well as to fund acquisitions. We expect our operating activities to use cash in the first fiscal quarter due to annual payments for year-end employee compensation and a slowdown in cash collections on accounts receivable during the holiday season. It is anticipated that operating cash flow, together with available borrowings under the credit agreement described below, will be sufficient to meet our capital requirements for the next 12 months.

Working Capital. As of December 28, 2008, our working capital increased \$36.0 million, or 15.5%, compared to last fiscal year-end. The increase was driven by a decline in our current liabilities due to payments related to year-end

employee compensation and subcontractor accruals, partially offset by advance payments received on contract work. Our current assets slightly declined because of a decrease in our cash and cash equivalents, primarily offset by an increase in accounts receivable caused by milestone billing requirements on certain large fixed-price contracts. As of December 28, 2008, our cash and cash equivalents decreased \$21.8 million, or 42.8%, compared to last fiscal year-end.

Operating Activities. For the first quarter of fiscal 2009, our net cash used in operating activities was \$27.7 million, an increase of \$9.6 million, or 52.8%, compared to the same quarter last year. The increase in cash outflows resulted largely from increased payments for year-end employee compensation and an increase in accounts receivable due to milestone billing requirements on certain large fixed-price contracts. This increase was partially offset by lower estimated income tax payments.

Investing Activities. For the first quarter of fiscal 2009, our net cash used in investing activities was \$10.5 million, a decrease of \$25.6 million, or 70.9%, compared to the same quarter last year. The decrease was due to

Table of Contents

payments for our ARD acquisition in fiscal 2008. Our capital expenditures were \$3.2 million, a decrease of \$1.1 million, or 25%, compared to the same quarter last year. The decrease resulted from the timing of the replacement of obsolete equipment and requirements of new equipment for project execution.

Financing Activities. For the first quarter of fiscal 2009, our net cash provided by financing activities was \$16.4 million, an increase of \$20.8 million, or 475.4%, compared to \$4.4 million in net cash used in financing activities for the same quarter last year. Our borrowings, net of payments, were approximately \$20 million higher in the first quarter of fiscal 2009 compared to the same period last year due to business growth. In January 2009, we borrowed approximately \$80 million for our recent acquisitions.

Debt Financing. In March 2007, we entered into an Amended and Restated Credit Agreement (*Credit Agreement*). Under the Credit Agreement, our revolving credit facility (*Facility*) was increased from \$150.0 million to \$300.0 million, and the term of the agreement was extended for five years through March 30, 2012. As part of the Facility, we may request financial letters of credit up to an aggregate sum of \$50.0 million and standby letters of credit up to the full amount of the Facility. Other than the increased capacity under the Facility and improved pricing rate structure, the terms and conditions relating to the Facility are substantially similar to those of the prior Facility. In May 2008 and January 2009, we entered into amendments to the Credit Agreement solely to provide additional flexibility and to clarify certain administrative matters with respect to potential future acquisitions. There was no change to the overall size of the Facility. As of December 28, 2008, we had \$61.0 million in outstanding borrowings, \$32.8 million in standby letters of credit and \$206.2 million in availability under the Facility.

The Credit Agreement requires us to comply with various financial and operating covenants. Specifically, (i) the maximum consolidated leverage ratio (defined as the ratio of funded debt to rolling four-quarter adjusted earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (*EBITDA*)) is 2.50x for each quarter, and (ii) the minimum fixed charge coverage ratio (defined as the ratio of rolling four-quarter EBITDA minus capital expenditures to interest expense plus taxes and principal payments) is 1.25x for each quarter. As of December 28, 2008, our consolidated leverage ratio was 0.79x, and our fixed charge coverage ratio was 3.16x. Further, the Credit Agreement contains other restrictions, including but not limited to, the creation of liens and the payment of dividends on our capital stock (other than stock dividends). Borrowings under the Credit Agreement are collateralized by our accounts receivable, the stock of our significant subsidiaries and our cash, deposit accounts, investment property and financial assets. As of December 28, 2008, we met all compliance requirements, and we expect to be in compliance over the next 12 months.

Inflation. We believe our operations have not been, and, in the foreseeable future, are not expected to be, materially adversely affected by inflation or changing prices due to the average duration of our projects and our ability to negotiate prices as contracts end and new contracts begin. However, the current weak general economic conditions may impact our client base, our clients' creditworthiness and our ability to collect cash to meet our operating needs.

Tax Claims. We are currently under examination by the IRS for fiscal years 1997 through 2004 and the FTB for fiscal years 2001 through 2003 related to R&E Credits. In addition, during fiscal 2002, the IRS approved our request to change the accounting method for revenue recognition for income tax purposes for some of our businesses. In 2002,

we filed amended tax returns for fiscal years 1997 through 2000 to claim R&E Credits and to claim refunds due under the newly approved accounting method. At the time the refund claims were filed, we were under examination by the IRS for those years. The claimed refunds are being held pending completion of the IRS examination. The estimated realizable refunds have been classified as non-current income taxes receivable on our condensed consolidated balance sheets. We are currently in the IRS appeals process related to the R&E Credit and the accounting method for revenue recognition for fiscal years 1997 through 2004. During the third quarter of fiscal 2008, we received a NOPA from the FTB related to R&E Credits for fiscal 2001 through 2003. We have protested the position in the NOPA. If both the R&E Credits and change in accounting method matters are decided unfavorably, there may be a material adverse effect on our financial results but no material impact on our cash flow in future periods. However, if the resolution is favorable, the change in unrecognized tax benefits could be significant, and we could receive a significant cash refund.

Table of Contents

Critical Accounting Policies

Our critical accounting policies are disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 28, 2008. To date, there have been no material changes in our critical accounting policies as reported in our 2008 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

New Accounting Pronouncements

For information regarding recent accounting pronouncements, see Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements included in Part I, Item 1 of this Quarterly Report.

Financial Market Risks

We currently utilize no derivative financial instruments that expose us to significant market risk. We are exposed to interest rate risk under our Credit Agreement. We may borrow on our Facility, at our option, at either (a) a base rate (the greater of the U.S. federal funds rate plus 0.50% per annum or the bank's reference rate) plus a margin which ranges from 0.0% to 1.25% per annum, or (b) a Eurodollar rate plus a margin that ranges from 1.0% to 2.25% per annum. Borrowings at the base rate have no designated term and may be repaid without penalty any time prior to the Facility's maturity date. Borrowings at a Eurodollar rate have a term no less than 30 days and no greater than 90 days. Typically, at the end of such term, such borrowings may be rolled over at our discretion into either a borrowing at the base rate or a borrowing at a Eurodollar rate with similar terms, not to exceed the maturity date of the Facility. The Facility matures on March 30, 2012 or earlier at our discretion upon payment in full of loans and other obligations.

We anticipate repaying \$3.9 million of our outstanding indebtedness in the next 12 months, of which \$2.3 million relates to the guaranteed earn-out payment associated with the DGI acquisition and \$1.6 million relates to other debt. Assuming we do repay the remaining \$1.6 million ratably during the next 12 months and hold \$61.0 million in borrowing under the Facility for the next 12 months, our annual interest expense would increase or decrease by \$0.6 million when our average interest rate increases or decreases by 1% per annum. There can be no assurance that we will, or will be able to, repay our debt in the prescribed manner. In addition, we could incur additional debt under the Facility to meet our operating needs or to finance future acquisitions.

Table of Contents

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Please refer to the information we have included under the heading "Financial Market Risks" in Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Evaluation of disclosure controls and procedures and changes in internal control over financial reporting. As of December 28, 2008, we carried out an evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures. Based on our management's evaluation (with the participation of our principal executive officer and principal financial officer), our principal executive officer and principal financial officer have concluded that, as of the end of the period covered by this Report, our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act), were effective.

Changes in internal control over financial reporting. There was no change in our internal control over financial reporting during our first quarter of fiscal 2009 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Table of Contents

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

We are subject to certain claims and lawsuits typically filed against the engineering, consulting and construction profession, alleging primarily professional errors or omissions. We carry professional liability insurance, subject to certain deductibles and policy limits, against such claims. However, in some actions, parties are seeking damages that exceed our insurance coverage or for which we are not insured. While management does not believe that the resolution of these claims will have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows, management acknowledges the uncertainty surrounding the ultimate resolution of these matters.

In May 2003, ITC filed a lawsuit in Montgomery County, Ohio against AMT and other defendants for misappropriation of trade secrets, among other claims. In June 2004, we purchased all the outstanding shares of AMT. As part of the purchase agreement, the former owners of AMT agreed to indemnify us for all costs and damages related to this lawsuit. In December 2007, the case went to trial and the jury awarded \$5.8 million in compensatory damages against AMT. In addition, the jury awarded \$17 million in punitive damages against AMT plus reasonable attorneys fees. The court entered the judgment in January 2008. It also required AMT to post a \$1 million bond which has been done. In July 2008, the Common Pleas Court of Montgomery County issued a decision in response to AMT's post-trial motions. AMT's motion for judgment notwithstanding the verdict was denied and AMT's motion for a new trial was conditionally denied. AMT's motion for remittitur was conditionally granted. The court remitted the verdict to \$2.0 million in compensatory damages and \$5.8 million in punitive damages. If ITC chose not to accept the remittitur, the court would grant AMT's motion for new trial on damages. ITC filed a notice that it accepted the remittitur, and AMT timely filed a notice of appeal. The trial court has not ruled on ITC's motion for prejudgment interest or attorneys fees. Because the trial court made its post-trial decision a final appealable order, yet did not dispose of ITC's motion for attorneys fees or prejudgment interest, it does not appear that the court of appeals has jurisdiction. The parties filed motions with the court of appeals for clarification. In the meantime, the appeals court has remanded the case back to the trial court to review prejudgment interest and attorney fees. We believe that a reasonably possible range of exposure is from \$0 to approximately \$13 million. As of December 28, 2008, we have recorded a liability representing our best estimate of a probable loss. Further, for the same amount, we have recorded a receivable from the former owners of AMT as we believe it is probable they will fully honor the terms of their indemnification agreement with us for any and all costs and damages related to this lawsuit pursuant to the terms of the purchase agreement.

On July 25, 2008, a REIT that owns and rents apartments filed suit against us and a former employee in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia (the Court). Subsequently, an amended complaint was filed. The suit alleges that employees at one of our operating divisions in Colorado participated in a scheme to defraud the REIT in connection with contracts for environmental clean-up work between us and the REIT. The suit seeks as much as \$21 million in damages (comprised of \$7 million in damages, as well as RICO damages) plus interest and legal fees. Based on the information gathered to date and on the advice of legal counsel, we believe we have defenses and potential counter-claims to the allegations raised by the REIT, and we intend to defend ourselves vigorously. On October 23, 2008, we filed cross and counter-claims against the REIT and our former employee and third-party claims against another entity and that entity's principal. Our claims allege that we were defrauded in connection with work we performed for the REIT and seek as much as \$7.2 million in damages. We have been advised by counsel that based on their review to date, there are significant legal and factual defenses to the claim that we are liable for treble damages under the RICO statute. This matter has been stayed by the Court until other related cases are resolved. We have accrued as of December 28, 2008, our best estimate of a liability related to this matter. We do not expect the ultimate outcome to have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

Table of Contents

Item 1A. Risk Factors

Set forth below and elsewhere in this report and in other documents we file with the SEC are descriptions of the risks and uncertainties that could cause our actual results to differ materially from the results contemplated by the forward-looking statements contained in this report.

Our operating results may be adversely impacted by worldwide political and economic uncertainties and specific conditions in the markets we address

General worldwide economic conditions have recently experienced a downturn due to the lack of available credit, slower economic activity, concerns about inflation and deflation, increased energy costs, decreased consumer confidence, reduced corporate profits and capital spending, and adverse business conditions. These conditions make it extremely difficult for our customers, our vendors and us to accurately forecast and plan future business activities and could cause businesses to slow spending on services. We cannot predict the timing, strength or duration of any economic slowdown or subsequent economic recovery worldwide or in our industry. If the economy or markets in which we operate do not continue at the level experienced in fiscal 2008, our business, financial condition and results of operations may be materially and adversely affected.

Our annual revenue, expenses and operating results may fluctuate significantly

Our annual revenue, expenses and operating results may fluctuate significantly because of numerous factors, including:

- General economic or political conditions;

- Unanticipated changes in contract performance that may affect profitability, particularly with contracts that are fixed-price or have funding limits;

- Seasonality of the spending cycle of our public sector clients, notably the U.S. government, the spending patterns of our commercial sector clients, and weather conditions;

- Budget constraints experienced by our federal, state and local government clients;

Edgar Filing: TETRA TECH INC - Form 10-Q

- Acquisitions or the integration of acquired companies;
- Divestiture or discontinuance of operating units;
- Employee hiring, utilization and turnover rates;
- The number and significance of client contracts commenced and completed during the period;
- Creditworthiness and solvency of clients;
- The ability of our clients to terminate contracts without penalties;
- Delays incurred in connection with a contract;
- The size, scope and payment terms of contracts;
- Contract negotiations on change orders and collections of related accounts receivable;
- The timing of expenses incurred for corporate initiatives;
- Reductions in the prices of services offered by our competitors;
- Threatened or pending litigation;
- The impairment of goodwill or identifiable intangible assets; and
- Changes in accounting rules.

Variations in any of these factors could cause significant fluctuations in our operating results from period to period, result in a net loss, and could have a negative effect on our stock price.

Table of Contents

Demand for our state and local government services is cyclical and vulnerable to economic downturns; if the economy weakens, then our revenues, profits and our financial condition may deteriorate

Demand for our state and local government services is cyclical and vulnerable to economic downturns, which may result in clients delaying, curtailing or canceling proposed and existing projects. Our business traditionally lags the overall recovery in the economy; therefore, our business may not recover immediately when the economy improves. If the economy weakens, then our revenues, profits and overall financial condition may deteriorate. Our state and local government clients may face budget deficits that prohibit them from funding new or existing projects. In addition, our existing and potential clients may either postpone entering into new contracts or request price concessions. Difficult financing and economic conditions may cause some of our clients to demand better pricing terms or delay payments for services we perform, thereby increasing the average number of days our receivables are outstanding. Further, these conditions may result in the inability of some of our clients to pay us for services that we have already performed. If we are not able to reduce our costs quickly enough to respond to the revenue decline from these clients, our operating results may be adversely affected. Accordingly, these factors affect our ability to forecast our future revenues and earnings from business areas that may be adversely impacted by market conditions.

We derive a majority of our revenue from government agencies, and any disruption in government funding or in our relationship with those agencies could adversely affect our business

In the first quarter of fiscal 2009, we generated 58.2% of our revenue, net of subcontractor costs, from contracts with federal, state and local government agencies. U.S. federal government agencies are among our most significant clients. We generated 42.9% of our revenue, net of subcontractor costs, in the first quarter of 2009 from the following agencies: 24.0% from the DoD, 9.2% from USAID and 9.7% from other U.S. federal agencies. A significant amount of this revenue is derived under multi-year contracts, many of which are appropriated on an annual basis. As a result, at the beginning of a project, the related contract may be only partially funded, and additional funding is normally committed only as appropriations are made in each subsequent year. These appropriations, and the timing of payment of appropriated amounts, may be influenced by numerous factors as noted below. Our backlog includes only the projects that have funding appropriated.

The demand for our government-related services is generally driven by the level of government program funding. Accordingly, the success and further development of our business depends, in large part, upon the continued funding of these government programs, and upon our ability to obtain contracts and perform well under these programs. There are several factors that could materially affect our government contracting business, including the following:

- Changes in and delays or cancellations of government programs, requirements or appropriations;
- Budget constraints or policy changes resulting in delay or curtailment of expenditures related to the services we provide;

- Re-competes of government contracts;
- The timing and amount of tax revenue received by federal, state and local governments, and the overall level of government expenditures;
- Curtailment of the use of government contracting firms;
- Delays associated with a lack of a sufficient number of government staff to oversee contracts;
- The increasing preference by government agencies for contracting with small and disadvantaged businesses;
- Competing political priorities and changes in the political climate with regard to the funding or operation of the services we provide;
- The adoption of new laws or regulations affecting our contracting relationships with the federal, state or local governments;
- Unsatisfactory performance on government contracts by us or one of our subcontractors, negative government audits, or other events that may impair our relationship with the federal, state or local governments;
- A dispute with or improper activity by any of our subcontractors; and

Table of Contents

- General economic or political conditions.

These and other factors could cause government agencies to delay or cancel programs, to reduce their orders under existing contracts, to exercise their rights to terminate contracts or not to exercise contract options for renewals or extensions. Any of these actions could have a material adverse effect on our revenue or timing of contract payments from these agencies.

A significant shift in U.S. defense spending could harm our operations and significantly reduce our future revenues

Revenue under contracts with the DoD represented 24.0% of our revenue, net of subcontractor costs, in the first quarter of fiscal 2009. In the first quarter of fiscal 2009, we experienced a revenue decline for project management reconstruction and UXO services in Iraq compared to the same period last year. While spending authorization for defense-related programs has increased significantly in recent years due to greater homeland security and foreign military commitments, as well as the trend to outsource U.S. federal government jobs to the private sector, these spending levels may not be sustainable, particularly with the Iraq-related work. For example, the DoD budget declined in the late 1980s and the early 1990s, resulting in DoD program delays and cancellations. Future levels of expenditures and authorizations for these programs may decrease, remain constant or shift to other programs in areas in which we do not currently provide service. As a result, a general decline in U.S. defense spending or a change in budgetary priorities could harm our operations and significantly reduce our future revenues.

A delay in the completion of the budget process of the U.S. government could delay procurement of our services and have an adverse effect on our future revenues

When the U.S. government does not complete its budget process before its fiscal year-end on September 30, government operations are typically funded by means of a continuing resolution that authorizes agencies of the U.S. government to continue to operate, but does not authorize new spending initiatives. When the U.S. government operates under a continuing resolution, government agencies may delay the procurement of services, which could reduce our future revenues.

As a government contractor, we are subject to a number of procurement laws, regulations and government audits; a violation of any such laws and regulations could result in sanctions, contract termination, forfeiture of profit, harm to our reputation or loss of our status as an eligible government contractor

We must comply with and are affected by federal, state, local and foreign laws and regulations relating to the formation, administration and performance of government contracts. For example, we must comply with Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR), the Truth in Negotiations Act, Cost Accounting Standards (CAS) and DoD security regulations, as well as many other rules and regulations. These laws and regulations affect how we do business with our clients and, in some instances, impose additional costs on our business operations. Although we take precautions to prevent and deter fraud, misconduct and non-compliance, we face the risk that our employees or outside partners may engage in misconduct, fraud or other improper activities. Government agencies, such as the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA), routinely audit and investigate government contractors. These government agencies review and audit a government contractor's performance under its contracts and cost structure, and compliance with applicable laws, regulations and standards. In addition, during the course of its audits, the DCAA may question our incurred project costs. If the DCAA believes we have accounted for such costs in a manner inconsistent with the requirements for FAR or CAS, the DCAA auditor may recommend our U.S. government corporate administrative contracting officer to disallow such costs.

Edgar Filing: TETRA TECH INC - Form 10-Q

Historically, we have not experienced significant disallowed costs as a result of government audits. However, we can provide no assurance that the DCAA or other government audits will not result in material disallowance for incurred costs in the future. Government contract violations could result in the imposition of civil and criminal penalties or sanctions, contract termination, forfeiture of profit and/or suspension of payment, any of which could make us lose our status as an eligible government contractor. We could also suffer serious harm to our reputation.

Because we depend on federal, state and local governments for a significant portion of our revenue, our inability to win or renew government contracts during regulated procurement processes could harm our operations and significantly reduce or eliminate our profits

Table of Contents

Government contracts are awarded through a regulated procurement process. The U.S. federal government has increasingly relied upon multi-year contracts with pre-established terms and conditions, such as indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contracts, which generally require those contractors who have previously been awarded the IDIQ to engage in an additional competitive bidding process before a task order is issued. The increased competition, in turn, may require us to make sustained efforts to reduce costs in order to realize revenues and profits under government contracts. If we are not successful in reducing the amount of costs we incur, our profitability on government contracts will be negatively impacted. Moreover, even if we are qualified to work on a government contract, we may not be awarded the contract because of existing government policies designed to protect small businesses and underrepresented minority contractors. Our inability to win or renew government contracts during regulated procurement processes could harm our operations and significantly reduce or eliminate our profits.

Our government contracts may give the government the right to modify, delay, curtail or terminate our contracts at its convenience at any time prior to their completion and, if we do not replace these contracts, we may suffer a decline in revenues

Government projects in which we participate as a contractor or subcontractor may extend for several years. Generally, government contracts include the right to modify, delay, curtail or terminate contracts and subcontracts at the government's convenience any time prior to their completion. Any decision by a government client to modify, delay, curtail or terminate our contracts at their convenience may result in a decline in revenues.

Our failure to properly manage projects may result in additional costs or claims

Our engagements often involve large-scale, complex projects. The quality of our performance on such projects depends in large part upon our ability to manage the relationship with our clients and our ability to effectively manage the project and deploy appropriate resources, including third-party contractors and our own personnel, in a timely manner. If we miscalculate the resources or time we need to complete a project with capped or fixed fees, or the resources or time we need to meet contractual milestones, our operating results could be adversely affected. Further, any defects or errors, or failures to meet our clients' expectations, could result in claims for damages against us. Our contracts generally limit our liability for damages that arise from negligent acts, errors, mistakes or omissions in rendering services to our clients. However, we cannot be sure that these contractual provisions will protect us from liability for damages in the event we are sued. Prior to fiscal 2006, we experienced significant project cost overruns on the performance of fixed-price construction work, other than that associated with our U.S. federal government projects. Although we have implemented procedures intended to address these issues, no assurance can be given that we will not experience project management issues in the future.

The loss of key personnel or our inability to attract and retain qualified personnel could significantly disrupt our business

As primarily a professional and technical services company, we are labor-intensive and therefore our ability to attract, retain and expand our senior management and our professional and technical staff is an important factor in determining our future success. With limited exceptions, we do not have employment agreements with any of these individuals. The loss of the services of any of these key personnel could adversely affect our business. Although we have obtained non-compete agreements from certain principals and stockholders of companies we have acquired, we generally do not have non-compete or employment agreements with key employees who were once equity holders of these companies. Further, many of our non-compete agreements have expired. We do not maintain key-man life insurance policies on any of our executive officers or senior managers.

Edgar Filing: TETRA TECH INC - Form 10-Q

The market for the qualified scientists and engineers is competitive and we may not be able to attract and retain such professionals. In addition, it may be difficult to attract and retain qualified individuals with the expertise and in the timeframe demanded by our clients. For example, some of our government contracts may require us to employ only individuals who have particular government security clearance levels. In an effort to attract key employees, we often grant them stock options, and a reduction in our stock price could impact our ability to retain these professionals.

Our actual results could differ from the estimates and assumptions that we use to prepare our financial statements, which may significantly reduce or eliminate our profits

Table of Contents

To prepare financial statements in conformity with GAAP, management is required to make estimates and assumptions as of the date of the financial statements. These estimates and assumptions affect the reported values of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses, as well as disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities. Areas requiring significant estimates by our management include:

- The application of the percentage-of-completion method of accounting and revenue recognition on contracts, changes orders and contract claims;

- Provisions for uncollectible receivables and customer claims and recoveries of costs from subcontractors, vendors and others;

- Provisions for income taxes and related valuation allowances;

- Value of goodwill and recoverability of other intangible assets;

- Valuations of assets acquired and liabilities assumed in connection with business combinations;

- Valuation of employee benefit plans;

- Valuation of stock-based compensation expense; and

- Accruals for estimated liabilities, including litigation and insurance reserves.

Our actual results could differ from those estimates, which may significantly reduce or eliminate our profits.

Our use of the percentage-of-completion method of accounting could result in reduction or reversal of previously recorded revenue and profits

We account for most of our contracts on the percentage-of-completion method of accounting. Generally, our use of this method results in recognition of revenue and profit ratably over the life of the contract, based on the proportion of costs incurred to date to total costs expected to be incurred for the entire project. The effect of revisions to revenue and estimated costs, including the achievement of award and other fees, is recorded when the amounts are known and can be reasonably estimated. Such revisions could occur in any period and their effects could be material. The uncertainties inherent in the estimating process make it possible for actual costs to vary materially from estimates, including reductions or reversals of previously recorded revenue and profit.

Our business and operating results could be adversely affected by our inability to accurately estimate the overall risks, revenue or costs on a contract

We generally enter into three principal types of contracts with our clients: fixed-price, time-and-materials and cost-plus. Under our fixed-price contracts, we receive a fixed price irrespective of the actual costs we incur and, consequently, we are exposed to a number of risks. These risks include underestimation of costs, problems with new technologies, unforeseen costs or difficulties, delays beyond our control, price increases for materials, and economic and other changes that may occur during the contract period. Under our time-and-materials contracts, we are paid for labor at negotiated hourly billing rates and for other expenses. Profitability on these contracts is driven by billable headcount and cost control. Many of our time-and-materials contracts are subject to maximum contract values and, accordingly, revenue relating to these contracts is recognized as if these contracts were fixed-price contracts. Under our cost-plus contracts, some of which are subject to contract ceiling amounts, we are reimbursed for allowable costs and fees, which may be fixed or performance-based. If our costs exceed the contract ceiling or are not allowable under the provisions of the contract or any applicable regulations, we may not be able to obtain reimbursement for all such costs.

Accounting for a contract requires judgments relative to assessing the contract's estimated risks, revenue, costs and other technical issues. Due to the size and nature of many of our contracts, the estimation of overall risk, revenue and cost at completion is complicated and subject to many variables. Changes in underlying assumptions, circumstances or estimates may also adversely affect future period financial performance. If we are unable to

Table of Contents

accurately estimate the overall revenue or costs on a contract, then we may experience a lower profit or incur a loss on the contract.

Our failure to win new contracts and renew existing contracts with private and public sector clients could adversely affect our profitability

Our business depends on our ability to win new contracts and renew existing contracts with private and public sector clients. Contract proposals and negotiations are complex and frequently involve a lengthy bidding and selection process that is affected by a number of factors. These factors include market conditions, financing arrangements and required governmental approvals. For example, a client may require us to provide a bond or letter of credit to protect the client should we fail to perform under the terms of the contract. If negative market conditions arise, or if we fail to secure adequate financial arrangements or the required governmental approval, we may not be able to pursue particular projects, which could adversely affect our profitability.

There are risks associated with our acquisition strategy that could adversely impact our business and operating results

A key part of our growth strategy is to acquire other companies that complement our lines of business or that broaden our technical capabilities and geographic presence. We expect to continue to acquire companies as an element of our growth strategy; however, our ability to make acquisitions is restricted under our credit agreement. Acquisitions involve certain known and unknown risks that could cause our actual growth or operating results to differ from our expectations or the expectations of securities analysts. For example:

- We may not be able to identify suitable acquisition candidates or to acquire additional companies on acceptable terms;
- We are pursuing international acquisitions, which inherently pose more risk than domestic acquisitions;
- We compete with others to acquire companies which may result in decreased availability of, or increased price for, suitable acquisition candidates;
- We may not be able to obtain the necessary financing, on favorable terms or at all, to finance any of our potential acquisitions;
- We may ultimately fail to consummate an acquisition even if we announce that we plan to acquire a company;

- We may not be able to retain key employees of an acquired company which could negatively impact that company's future performance;
- We may fail to successfully integrate or manage these acquired companies due to differences in business backgrounds or corporate cultures;
- If we fail to successfully integrate any acquired company, our reputation could be damaged. This could make it more difficult to market our services or to acquire additional companies in the future; and
- Acquired companies may not perform as we expect and we may fail to realize anticipated revenue and profits.

In addition, our acquisition strategy may divert management's attention away from our existing businesses, result in the loss of key clients or key employees, and expose us to unanticipated problems or legal liabilities, including responsibility as a successor-in-interest for undisclosed or contingent liabilities of acquired businesses or assets.

Further, acquisitions may also cause us to:

- Issue common stock that would dilute our current stockholders' ownership percentage;
- Assume liabilities, including environmental liabilities, for which we do not have indemnification from the former owners. Further, indemnification obligations may be subject to dispute or concerns regarding the creditworthiness of the former owners;
- Record goodwill that will be subject to impairment testing and potential impairment charges;

Table of Contents

- Incur amortization expenses related to certain intangible assets;
- Lose existing or potential contracts as a result of conflict of interest issues;
- Incur large and immediate write-offs; or
- Become subject to litigation.

Finally, acquired companies that derive a significant portion of their revenue from the U.S. federal government and that do not follow the same cost accounting policies and billing practices that we follow may be subject to larger cost disallowances for greater periods than we typically encounter. If we fail to determine the existence of unallowable costs and do not establish appropriate reserves in advance of an acquisition, we may be exposed to material unanticipated liabilities, which could have a material adverse effect on our business.

If our goodwill or other intangible assets become impaired, then our profits may be significantly reduced

Because we have historically acquired a significant number of companies, goodwill and other intangible assets have represented a substantial portion of our assets. As of December 28, 2008, our goodwill was \$225.8 million and other intangible assets were \$14.5 million. We are required to perform a goodwill and intangible asset impairment test for potential impairment at least on an annual basis. This process requires us to make significant judgments and estimates, including assumptions about our strategic plans with regard to our operations, as well as the interpretation of current economic indicators and market valuations. To the extent economic conditions that would impact the future operations of our reporting units change, our goodwill may be deemed to be impaired and an impairment charge could result in a material adverse effect on our financial position or results of operations.

If we are not able to successfully manage our growth strategy, our business and results of operations may be adversely affected

Our expected future growth presents numerous managerial, administrative, operational and other challenges. Our ability to manage the growth of our operations will require us to continue to improve our management information systems and our other internal systems and controls. In addition, our growth will increase our need to attract, develop, motivate and retain both our management and professional employees. The inability of our management to effectively manage our growth or the inability of our employees to achieve anticipated performance could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Adverse resolution of an IRS or other tax authority examination process may harm our financial results

We are currently in the IRS appeals process for fiscal years 1997 through 2004, related to R&E Credits and the accounting method for revenue recognition. We are also currently under examination by the FTB for fiscal years 2001 through 2003. During the third quarter of fiscal 2008, we received a NOPA from the FTB related to R&E Credits for fiscal 2001 through 2003. We have protested the position in the NOPA. One significant matter raised by the IRS and FTB relates to the R&E Credit that we claimed during the years under examination. The amount of credits recognized for financial statement purposes represents the amount that we estimate will be ultimately realizable. Should the IRS and/or the FTB determine that the amount of R&E Credits to which we are entitled is more or less than the amount recognized, we will recognize an adjustment to the income tax accounts on the consolidated financial statements in the period in which the determination is made. This may have a material adverse effect on our financial results but no material impact on our cash flow. Another matter raised by the IRS relates to our tax accounting method for revenue recognition. While resolution of this matter may shift the timing of tax payments, as this is a temporary difference, there should be no material adverse impact on our financial results upon resolution of this issue.

Our backlog is subject to cancellation and unexpected adjustments, and is an uncertain indicator of future operating results

Our backlog as of December 28, 2008 was \$1.8 billion. We include in backlog only those contracts for which funding has been provided and work authorizations have been received. We cannot guarantee that the revenue projected in our backlog will be realized or, if realized, will result in profits. In addition, project cancellations or scope adjustments may occur, from time to time, with respect to contracts reflected in our backlog. For example, certain of our contracts with the U.S. federal government and other clients are terminable at the

Table of Contents

discretion of the client with or without cause. These types of backlog reductions could adversely affect our revenue and margins. Accordingly, our backlog as of any particular date is an uncertain indicator of our future earnings.

Our international operations expose us to risks such as different business cultures, laws and regulations

During the first quarter of fiscal 2009, we generated 1.8% of our revenue, net of subcontractor costs, from international clients. The different business cultures associated with international operations may not be fully appreciated before we sign an agreement, and thereby expose us to risk. Likewise, prior to signing a contract, we need to understand international laws and regulations, such as foreign tax and labor laws, and U.S. laws and regulations applicable to companies engaging in business outside of the United States, such as the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. For these reasons, pricing and executing international contracts is more difficult and carries more risk than pricing and executing domestic contracts. Our experience has also shown that it is typically more difficult to collect on international work that has been performed and billed.

If our business partners fail to perform their contractual obligations on a project, we could be exposed to legal liability, loss of reputation and profit reduction or loss on the project

We routinely enter into subcontracts and, occasionally, teaming arrangements and other contractual arrangements so that we can jointly bid and perform on a particular project. Success under these arrangements depends in large part on whether our business partners fulfill their contractual obligations satisfactorily. If any of our business partners fail to satisfactorily perform their contractual obligations as a result of financial or other difficulties, we may be required to incur additional costs and provide additional services in order to make up for our business partners shortfall. If we are unable to adequately address our business partners performance issues, then our client could terminate the joint project, exposing us to legal liability, loss of reputation and reduced profit or loss on the project.

In conducting our business, we depend on other contractors and subcontractors. If these parties fail to satisfy their obligations to us or other parties, or if we are unable to maintain these relationships, our revenue, profitability and growth prospects could be adversely affected

We depend on contractors and subcontractors in conducting our business. There is a risk that we may have disputes with our subcontractors arising from, among other things, the quality and timeliness of work performed by the subcontractor, customer concerns about the subcontractor, or our failure to extend existing task orders or issue new task orders under a subcontract. In addition, if any of our subcontractors fail to deliver on a timely basis the agreed-upon supplies and/or perform the agreed-upon services, our ability to fulfill our obligations as a prime contractor may be jeopardized.

We also rely on relationships with other contractors when we act as their subcontractor or joint venture partner. The absence of qualified subcontractors with whom we have a satisfactory relationship could adversely affect the quality of our service and our ability to perform under some of our contracts. Our future revenue and growth prospects could be adversely affected if other contractors eliminate or reduce their subcontracts or teaming arrangement relationships with us, or if a government agency terminates or reduces these other contractors programs, does not award them new contracts or refuses to pay under a contract.

Changes in existing environmental laws, regulations and programs could reduce demand for our environmental services, which could cause our revenue to decline

A significant amount of our resource management business is generated either directly or indirectly as a result of existing U.S. federal and state laws, regulations and programs related to pollution and environmental protection. Accordingly, a relaxation or repeal of these laws and regulations, or changes in governmental policies regarding the funding, implementation or enforcement of these programs, could result in a decline in demand for environmental services that may have a material adverse effect on our revenue.

Our revenue from commercial clients is significant, and the credit risks associated with certain of these clients could adversely affect our operating results

In the first quarter of fiscal 2009, we generated 40.0% of our revenue, net of subcontractor costs, from commercial clients. We rely upon the financial stability and creditworthiness of these clients. To the extent the credit

Table of Contents

quality of these clients deteriorates or these clients seek bankruptcy protection, our ability to collect our receivables, and ultimately our operating results, may be adversely affected. Periodically, we have experienced bad debt losses.

Changes in capital markets could adversely affect our access to capital and negatively impact our business

Our results could be adversely affected by a reduction in the volume of debt securities issued in domestic and/or global capital markets or an inability to access our \$300 million revolving credit facility. Unfavorable financial or economic conditions that either reduce investor demand for debt securities or reduce issuers' willingness or ability to issue such securities could reduce the number and dollar volume of debt issuance as well as impact certain issuers' willingness or ability to fund our revolving credit facility. In addition, increases in interest rates or credit spreads, volatility in financial markets or the interest rate environment, significant political or economic events, defaults of significant issuers and other market and economic factors may negatively impact the general level of debt issuance, the debt issuance plans of certain categories of borrowers, the types of credit-sensitive products being offered, and/or a sustained period of market decline or weakness could have a material adverse effect on us. Our results could also be adversely affected because of public statements or actions by market participants, government officials and others who may be advocates of increased regulation, regulatory scrutiny or litigation.

Restrictive covenants in our credit agreement may restrict our ability to pursue certain business strategies

Our credit agreement restricts our ability to, among other things:

- Incur additional indebtedness;
- Create liens securing debt or other encumbrances on our assets;
- Make loans or advances;
- Pay dividends or make distributions to our stockholders;
- Purchase or redeem our stock;
- Repay indebtedness that is junior to indebtedness under our credit agreement;

- Acquire the assets of, or merge or consolidate with, other companies; and
- Sell, lease or otherwise dispose of assets.

Our credit agreement also requires that we maintain certain financial ratios, which we may not be able to achieve.

Our industry is highly competitive and we may be unable to compete effectively

Our industry is highly fragmented and intensely competitive. Our competitors are numerous, ranging from small private firms to multi-billion-dollar public companies. In addition, the technical and professional aspects of our services generally do not require large upfront capital expenditures and provide limited barriers against new competitors. Some of our competitors have achieved greater market penetration in some of the markets in which we compete, and some have substantially more financial resources and/or financial flexibility than we do. As a result of the number of competitors in our industry, our clients may select one of our competitors on a project due to competitive pricing or a specific skill set. These competitive forces could force us to make price concessions or otherwise reduce prices for our services, thereby causing a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

The value of our common stock could be volatile

Edgar Filing: TETRA TECH INC - Form 10-Q

Our common stock has previously experienced substantial price volatility. In addition, the stock market has experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations that have affected the market price of many companies and that have often been unrelated to the operating performance of these companies. The overall market and the price of our common stock may fluctuate greatly. The trading price of our common stock may be significantly affected by various factors, including:

Table of Contents

- Quarter-to-quarter variations in our financial results, including revenue, profits, days sales outstanding, backlog, and other measures of financial performance or financial condition;
- Our announcements or our competitors' announcements of significant events, including acquisitions;
- Resolution of threatened or pending litigation;
- Changes in investors' and analysts' perceptions of our business or any of our competitors' businesses;
- Investors' and analysts' assessments of reports prepared or conclusions reached by third parties;
- Changes in environmental legislation;
- Investors' perceptions of our performance of services in countries in which the U.S. military is engaged, including Iraq and Afghanistan;
- Broader market fluctuations; and
- General economic or political conditions.

Additionally, volatility or a lack of positive performance in our stock price may adversely affect our ability to retain key employees, many of whom are granted stock options and shares of restricted stock, the value of which is dependent on the performance of our stock price.

Our services expose us to significant risks of liability and it may be difficult to obtain or maintain adequate insurance coverage

Our services involve significant risks of professional and other liabilities that may substantially exceed the fees we derive from our services. Our business activities could expose us to potential liability under various environmental laws and under workplace health and safety regulations. In addition, we sometimes assume liability by contract under indemnification agreements. We cannot predict the magnitude of such potential liabilities.

We obtain insurance from third parties to cover our potential risks and liabilities. It is possible that we may not be able to obtain adequate insurance to meet our needs, may have to pay an excessive amount for the insurance coverage we want, or may not be able to acquire any insurance for certain types of business risks.

Our liability for damages due to legal proceedings may harm our operating results or financial condition

We are a party to lawsuits in the normal course of business. Various legal proceedings are currently pending against us and certain of our subsidiaries alleging, among other things, breach of contract or tort in connection with the performance of professional services. We cannot predict the outcome of these proceedings with certainty. In some actions, parties are seeking damages that exceed our insurance coverage or for which we are not insured. If we sustain damages that exceed our insurance coverage or that are not covered by insurance, there could be a material adverse effect on our business, operating results or financial condition.

Our inability to obtain adequate bonding could have a material adverse effect on our future revenues and business prospects

Many of our clients require bid bonds and performance and payment bonds. These bonds indemnify the client should we fail to perform our obligations under a contract. If a bond is required for a particular project and we are unable to obtain an appropriate bond, we cannot pursue that project. In some instances, we are required to co-venture with a small or disadvantaged business to pursue certain U.S. federal or state contracts. In connection with these ventures, we are sometimes required to utilize our bonding capacity to cover all of the payment and performance obligations under the contract with the client. We have a bonding facility but, as is typically the case, the issuance of bonds under that facility is at the surety's sole discretion. Moreover, due to events that can negatively affect the insurance and bonding markets, bonding may be more difficult to obtain or may only be available at significant additional cost. There can be no assurance that bonds will continue to be available to us on reasonable terms. Our inability to obtain adequate bonding and, as a result, to bid on new work could have a material adverse effect on our future revenues and business prospects.

Table of Contents

Our business activities may require our employees to travel to and work in countries where there are high security risks, which may result in employee death or injury, repatriation costs or other unforeseen costs

Certain of our contracts may require our employees travel to and work in high-risk countries that are undergoing political, social and economic upheavals resulting in war, civil unrest, criminal activity or acts of terrorism. For example, we currently have employees working in Afghanistan and Iraq. As a result, we may be subject to costs related to employee death or injury, repatriation or other unforeseen circumstances.

Our failure to implement and comply with our safety program could adversely affect our operating results or financial condition

Our safety program is a fundamental element of our overall approach to risk management, and the implementation of the safety program is a significant issue in our dealings with our clients. We maintain an enterprise-wide group of health and safety professionals to help ensure that the services we provide are delivered safely and in accordance with standard work processes. Unsafe job sites and office environments have the potential to increase employee turnover, increase the cost of a project to our clients, expose us to types and levels of risk that are fundamentally unacceptable, and raise our operating costs. The implementation of our safety processes and procedures are monitored by various agencies and rating bureaus, and may be evaluated by certain clients in cases in which safety requirements have been established in our contracts. If we fail to meet these requirements or do not properly implement and comply with our safety program, there could be a material adverse effect on our business, operating results or financial condition.

We may be precluded from providing certain services due to conflict of interest issues

Many of our clients are concerned about potential or actual conflicts of interest in retaining management consultants. U.S. federal government agencies have formal policies against continuing or awarding contracts that would create actual or potential conflicts of interest with other activities of a contractor. These policies, among other things, may prevent us from bidding for or performing government contracts resulting from or relating to certain work we have performed. In addition, services performed for a commercial or government client may create a conflict of interest that precludes or limits our ability to obtain work from other public or private organizations. We have, on occasion, declined to bid on projects due to conflict of interest issues.

Force majeure events, including natural disasters and terrorists' actions could negatively impact the economies in which we operate or disrupt our operations, which may affect our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows

Force majeure events, including natural disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina that affected the Gulf Coast in August 2005, and terrorist attacks, such as those that occurred in New York and Washington D.C. on September 11, 2001, could negatively impact the economies in which we operate by causing the closure of offices, interrupting active client projects and forcing the relocation of employees. Further, despite our implementation of network security measures, our servers are vulnerable to computer viruses, break-ins and similar disruptions from unauthorized tampering with our computer systems. We typically remain obligated to perform our services after a terrorist action or natural disaster unless the contract contains a force majeure clause that relieves us of our contractual obligations in such an extraordinary event. If we are not able to react quickly to force majeure, our operations may be affected significantly, which would have a negative impact on our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

We have only a limited ability to protect our intellectual property rights, and our failure to protect our intellectual property rights could adversely affect our competitive position

Our success depends, in part, upon our ability to protect our proprietary information and other intellectual property. We rely principally on trade secrets to protect much of our intellectual property where we do not believe that patent or copyright protection is appropriate or obtainable. However, trade secrets are difficult to protect. Although our employees are subject to confidentiality obligations, this protection may be inadequate to deter or prevent misappropriation of our confidential information. In addition, we may be unable to detect unauthorized use of our intellectual property or otherwise take appropriate steps to enforce our rights. Failure to obtain or maintain trade secret protection would adversely affect our competitive business position. In addition, if we are unable to prevent third parties from infringing or misappropriating our trademarks or other proprietary information, our competitive position could be adversely affected.

Table of Contents

If we do not successfully complete the implementation of our enterprise resource planning (ERP) system, our cash flows may be impaired and we may incur further costs to integrate or upgrade our systems; any sudden loss, disruption or unexpected costs to maintain our ERP system or other third-party software could significantly increase our operational expense and disrupt the management of our business operations

In fiscal 2004, we began implementation of a new company-wide ERP system, principally for accounting and project management. In the first quarter of fiscal 2009, we converted a few operating units to our ERP system, and we plan to complete the conversion process in fiscal 2011. In the event we do not complete the project successfully, we may experience difficulty in reporting certain revenue and costs data in an accurate and timely manner. During the ERP implementation process, we have experienced reduced cash flows due to temporary delays in issuing invoices to our clients, which have adversely affected the timely collection of cash. Further, it is possible that the cost of completing this project could exceed our current projections and negatively impact future operating results.

In addition, we rely on third-party software vendors to provide long-term software maintenance support for our information systems. Software vendors may decide to discontinue further development, integration or long-term software maintenance support for our information systems, which may increase our operational expense as well as disrupt the management of our business operation.

Item 6. Exhibits

The following documents are filed as Exhibits to this Report:

- 10.1 Amendment No. 2 to Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement dated as of January 20, 2009 among the Registrant and the lenders party thereto
- 31.1 Chief Executive Officer Certification pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a)
- 31.2 Chief Financial Officer Certification pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a)
- 32.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 1350
- 32.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 1350

Table of Contents

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.

Dated: January 30, 2009

TETRA TECH, INC.

By: */s/ Dan L. Batrack*
Dan L. Batrack
Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President
(Principal Executive Officer)

By: */s/ David W. King*
David W. King
Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
(Principal Financial Officer)