

AeroVironment Inc  
Form 10-Q  
December 09, 2009  
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**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

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**FORM 10-Q**

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

**For the quarterly period ended October 31, 2009**

**OR**

o

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

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

**Commission File Number: 001-33261**

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**AEROVIRONMENT, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

**95-2705790**  
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**181 W. Huntington Drive, Suite 202**  
**Monrovia, California**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**91016**  
(Zip Code)

**(626) 357-9983**

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(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

N/A

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). 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  
(Do not check if smaller reporting company)                       Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes  No

As of November 27, 2009, the number of shares outstanding of the registrant's common stock, \$0.0001 par value, was 21,535,822.

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**AeroVironment, Inc.**

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Table of Contents**PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION****ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****AeroVironment, Inc.****Consolidated Balance Sheets****(In thousands except share and per share data)**

	<b>October 31, 2009 (Unaudited)</b>	<b>April 30, 2009</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 98,176	\$ 116,501
Short-term investments	26,497	21,523
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$270 at October 31, 2009 and \$291 at April 30, 2009	32,279	42,551
Unbilled receivables and retentions	19,916	20,070
Inventories, net	25,106	11,602
Income tax receivable	4,355	3,415
Deferred income taxes	4,155	3,994
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	2,063	1,718
Total current assets	212,547	221,374
Long-term investments	6,817	7,156
Property and equipment, net	19,767	18,218
Deferred income taxes	6,412	6,313
Other assets	103	120
Total assets	\$ 245,646	\$ 253,181
<b>Liabilities and Stockholders Equity</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 15,756	\$ 23,990
Wages and related accruals	9,967	10,231
Other current liabilities	4,356	3,686
Liability for uncertain tax positions	730	730
Total current liabilities	30,809	38,637
Deferred rent	1,419	1,463
Liability for uncertain tax positions	5,717	5,654
Commitments and contingencies		
Stockholders equity:		
Preferred stock, \$0.0001 par value:		
Authorized shares 10,000,000		
None issued or outstanding		
Common stock, \$0.0001 par value:		
Authorized shares 100,000,000		
Issued and outstanding shares 21,531,600 at October 31, 2009 and 21,470,481 at April 30, 2009	2	2

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Additional paid-in capital	111,816	110,102
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(606)	(537)
Retained earnings	96,489	97,860
Total stockholders' equity	207,701	207,427
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 245,646	\$ 253,181

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements (unaudited).

Table of Contents**AeroVironment, Inc.****Consolidated Statements of Operations (Unaudited)****(In thousands except share and per share data)**

	<b>Three Months Ended</b>		<b>Six Months Ended</b>	
	<b>October 31, 2009</b>	<b>November 1, 2008</b>	<b>October 31, 2009</b>	<b>November 1, 2008</b>
<b>Revenue:</b>				
Product sales	\$ 19,134	\$ 37,259	\$ 27,363	\$ 62,586
Contract services	32,233	28,520	61,944	56,806
	51,367	65,779	89,307	119,392
<b>Cost of sales:</b>				
Product sales	11,083	22,445	16,640	36,803
Contract services	20,635	18,347	42,303	37,019
	31,718	40,792	58,943	73,822
Gross margin	19,649	24,987	30,364	45,570
Selling, general and administrative	10,500	7,855	20,995	15,950
Research and development	5,776	4,896	11,449	10,156
Income (loss) from operations	3,373	12,236	(2,080)	19,464
<b>Other income:</b>				
Interest income	50	369	109	910
Income (loss) before income taxes	3,423	12,605	(1,971)	20,374
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	1,207	3,546	(600)	6,506
Net income (loss)	\$ 2,216	\$ 9,059	\$ (1,371)	\$ 13,868
<b>Earnings (loss) per share data:</b>				
Basic	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.43	\$ (0.06)	\$ 0.67
Diluted	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.41	\$ (0.06)	\$ 0.64
<b>Weighted average shares outstanding:</b>				
Basic	21,348,325	20,959,731	21,332,379	20,833,682
Diluted	21,937,784	21,869,417	21,332,379	21,808,061

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements (unaudited).

Table of Contents**AeroVironment, Inc.****Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (Unaudited)****(In thousands)**

	<b>Six Months Ended</b>	
	<b>October 31,</b>	<b>November 1,</b>
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Operating activities</b>		
Net (loss) income	\$ (1,371)	\$ 13,868
Adjustments to reconcile net (loss) income to net cash and cash equivalents (used in) provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	4,156	2,183
Provision for doubtful accounts	21	80
Deferred income taxes	(215)	(162)
Stock-based compensation	845	404
Tax benefit from exercise of stock options	347	8,806
Excess tax benefit from stock-based compensation	(38)	(77)
Gain (loss) on sale of property and equipment	3	(5)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	10,251	68
Unbilled receivables and retentions	154	(5,866)
Inventories	(13,504)	(3,078)
Income tax receivable	(902)	(3,713)
Other assets	(328)	566
Accounts payable	(8,234)	(332)
Other liabilities	425	(1,454)
Net cash and cash equivalents (used in) provided by operating activities	(8,390)	11,288
<b>Investing activities</b>		
Acquisitions of property and equipment	(5,708)	(5,675)
Net purchases of held-to-maturity investments	(4,974)	
Net sales of available-for-sale investments	225	5,325
Net cash and cash equivalents used in investing activities	(10,457)	(350)
<b>Financing activities</b>		
Excess tax benefit from stock-based compensation	38	77
Exercise of stock options	484	567
Net cash and cash equivalents provided by financing activities	522	644
Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	(18,325)	11,582
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	116,501	105,064
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 98,176	\$ 116,646
<b>Supplemental disclosure:</b>		
Unrealized losses on long-term investments recorded in other comprehensive income, net of deferred tax benefit of \$45	\$ 69	\$

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements (unaudited).





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**AeroVironment, Inc.**

**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)**

**1. Organization and Significant Accounting Policies**

*Organization*

AeroVironment, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the Company), is engaged in the design, development, production and support of unmanned aircraft systems and efficient energy systems for various industries and governmental agencies.

*Basis of Presentation*

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America for interim financial information and with the instructions of Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management, all adjustments, consisting only of normal recurring adjustments necessary for a fair presentation with respect to the interim financial statements have been included. The results of operations for the three and six months ended October 31, 2009 are not necessarily indicative of the results for the full year ending April 30, 2010. For further information, refer to the consolidated financial statements and footnotes thereto for the year ended April 30, 2009, included in AeroVironment, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions, including estimates of anticipated contract costs and revenue utilized in the revenue recognition process, that affect the reported amounts in the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Certain prior year amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation.

The Company's consolidated financial statements include the assets, liabilities and operating results of wholly-owned subsidiaries. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated.

In preparing these financial statements, the Company has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through December 8, 2009, the date the financial statements were issued.

*Segments*

The Company's products are sold and divided among two reportable segments to reflect the Company's strategic goals. Operating segments are defined as components of an enterprise from which separate financial information is available that is evaluated regularly by the Chief Operating Decision Maker ( CODM ) in deciding how to allocate resources and in assessing performance. The Company's CODM is the Chief Executive Officer, who reviews the revenue and gross margin results for each of these segments in order to make resource allocation decisions, including the focus of research and development, or R&D, activities and assessing performance. The Company's reportable segments are business units that offer different products and services and are managed separately.

### ***Investments***

The Company's investments are accounted for as held-to-maturity and available-for-sale and reported at amortized cost and fair value, respectively.

### ***Fair Values of Financial Instruments***

Fair values of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, unbilled receivables, retentions and accounts payable approximate cost due to the short period of time to maturity.

### ***Government Contracts***

Payments to the Company on government cost reimbursable contracts are based on provisional, or estimated indirect rates, which are subject to an annual audit by the Defense Contract Audit Agency ( DCAA ). The cost audits result in the negotiation and determination of the final indirect cost rates that the Company may use for the period(s) audited. The final rates, if different from the provisional rates, may create an additional receivable or liability for the Company.

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**AeroVironment, Inc.**

**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)**

For example, during the course of its audits, the DCAA may question the Company's incurred project costs, and if the DCAA believes the Company has accounted for such costs in a manner inconsistent with the requirements under Federal Acquisition Regulations, the DCAA auditor may recommend to the Company's administrative contracting officer to disallow such costs. The Company can provide no assurance that the DCAA or other government audits will not result in material disallowances for incurred costs in the future.

***Earnings (Loss) Per Share***

Basic earnings (loss) per share is computed using the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding, excluding shares of unvested restricted stock. The dilutive effect of potential common shares outstanding is included in diluted earnings per share and excludes any anti-dilutive effects of options and shares of unvested restricted stock.

The reconciliation of diluted to basic shares is as follows:

	Three Months Ended		Six Months Ended	
	October 31, 2009	November 1, 2008	October 31, 2009	November 1, 2008
Denominator for basic earnings per share:				
Weighted average common shares outstanding, excluding unvested restricted stock	21,348,325	20,959,731	21,332,379	20,833,682
Dilutive effect of employee stock options and unvested restricted stock	589,459	909,686		974,379
Denominator for diluted earnings per share	21,937,784	21,869,417	21,332,379	21,808,061

Due to the net loss for the six months ended October 31, 2009, no shares reserved for issuance upon exercise of stock options or shares of unvested restricted stock were included in the computation of diluted loss per share as their inclusion would have been anti-dilutive. During the three months ended October 31, 2009 and the three and six months ended November 1, 2008 certain options and shares of unvested restricted stock were not included in the computation of diluted earnings per share because their inclusion would have been anti-dilutive. The number of options and shares of unvested restricted stock which met this anti-dilutive criterion was approximately 900 for the three months ended October 31, 2009. The number of options and shares of unvested restricted stock which met this anti-dilutive criterion was approximately 16,000 and 21,000 for the three and six months ended November 1, 2008.

***Recently Issued Accounting Standards***

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In August 2009, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ( FASB ) issued amended standards for the fair value measurement of liabilities. These amended standards clarify that in circumstances in which a quoted price in an active market for the identical liability is not available, the Company is required to use the quoted price of the identical liability when traded as an asset, quoted prices for similar liabilities, or quoted prices for similar liabilities when traded as assets. If these quoted prices are not available, the Company is required to use another valuation technique, such as an income approach or a market approach. These amended standards were effective for the Company on November 1, 2009, and did not have a significant impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In October 2009, the FASB issued new standards for revenue recognition for arrangements with multiple deliverables. These new standards impact the determination of when the individual deliverables included in a multiple-element arrangement may be treated as separate units of accounting. Additionally, these new standards modify the manner in which the transaction consideration is allocated across the separately identified deliverables by no longer permitting the residual method of allocating arrangement consideration. These new standards are effective for the Company beginning on May 1, 2011, however, early adoption is permitted. The Company does not expect these new standards to significantly impact its consolidated financial statements.

In October 2009, the FASB issued new standards for the accounting for certain revenue arrangements that include software elements. These new standards amend the scope of pre-existing software revenue guidance by removing from the guidance non-software components of tangible products and certain software components of tangible products. These new standards are effective for the Company beginning on May 1, 2011, however, early adoption is permitted. The Company does not expect these new standards to significantly impact its consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**AeroVironment, Inc.****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)****2. Investments**

Investments consist of the following:

	October 31, 2009	April 30, 2009
	(In thousands)	
Short-term investments:		
Held-to-maturity securities:		
Pre-refunded municipal bond	\$ 2,003	\$ 2,029
U.S. Treasury bills	24,494	19,494
Total short-term investments	\$ 26,497	\$ 21,523
Long-term investments:		
Available-for-sale securities:		
Auction rate securities	\$ 6,817	\$ 7,156
Total long-term investments	\$ 6,817	\$ 7,156

**Held-To-Maturity Securities**

At October 31, 2009, the balance of held-to-maturity securities consisted of one pre-refunded municipal bond and U.S. Treasury bills. Pre-refunded municipal bonds are created when municipalities issue new debt to refinance debt issued when interest rates were higher. Once the refinancing is completed, the issuer uses the proceeds to purchase U.S. Treasury securities or state and local government securities and places these securities in an escrow account. These proceeds are then used to pay interest and principal on the original debt until the bond is called. Interest earned from these investments is recorded in interest income.

The amortized cost, gross unrealized gains, gross unrealized losses, and estimated fair value of the held-to-maturity investments as of October 31, 2009, were as follows (in thousands):

	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
Pre-refunded municipal bond	\$ 2,003	\$	(1)	\$ 2,002
U.S. Treasury bills	24,494	4		24,498
Total held-to-maturity investments	\$ 26,497	\$ 4	\$ (1)	\$ 26,500

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The amortized cost, gross unrealized gains, gross unrealized losses, and estimated fair value of the held-to-maturity investments as of April 30, 2009, were as follows (in thousands):

	<b>Amortized Cost</b>		<b>Gross Unrealized Gains</b>		<b>Gross Unrealized Losses</b>		<b>Fair Value</b>
Pre-refunded municipal bond	\$ 2,029	\$	5	\$	\$	\$	2,034
U.S. Treasury bills	19,494		5				19,499
<b>Total held-to-maturity investments</b>	<b>\$ 21,523</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>21,533</b>

The amortized cost and fair value of the Company's held-to-maturity securities by contractual maturity at October 31, 2009, were as follows:

	<b>Cost</b>		<b>Fair Value</b>
	<b>(In thousands)</b>		
Due within one year	\$ 26,497	\$	\$ 26,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 26,497</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$ 26,500</b>

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**AeroVironment, Inc.**

**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)**

**Available-For-Sale Securities**

As of October 31, 2009, the entire balance of available-for-sale securities consisted of four investment grade auction rate municipal bonds with maturities ranging from 9 to 25 years. These investments have characteristics similar to short-term investments, because at pre-determined intervals, generally ranging from 30 to 35 days, there is a new auction process at which the interest rates for these securities are reset to current interest rates. At the end of such period, the Company chooses to roll-over its holdings or redeem the investments for cash. A market maker facilitates the redemption of the securities and the underlying issuers are not required to redeem the investment within 365 days. Interest earned from these investments is recorded in interest income.

During the fourth quarter of the fiscal year ended April 30, 2008, the Company began experiencing failed auctions on some of its auction rate securities. A failed auction occurs when a buyer for the securities cannot be obtained and the market maker does not buy the security for its own account. The Company continues to earn interest on the investments that failed to settle at auction at the maximum contractual rate until the next auction occurs. In the event the Company needs to access funds invested in these auction rate securities, the Company may not be able to liquidate these securities at the fair value recorded on October 31, 2009, until a future auction of these securities is successful or a buyer is found outside of the auction process.

As a result of the failed auctions, the fair values of these securities are estimated utilizing a discounted cash flow analysis as of October 31, 2009. The analysis considers, among other items, the collateralization underlying the security investments, the creditworthiness of the counterparty, the timing of expected future cash flows, and the estimated date upon which the security is expected to have a successful auction.

Based on the Company's ability to access its cash and cash equivalents, expected operating cash flows, and other sources of cash, the Company does not anticipate the current lack of liquidity on these investments will affect its ability to operate the business in the ordinary course. The Company believes the current lack of liquidity of these investments is temporary and expects that the securities will be redeemed or refinanced at some point in the future. The Company will continue to monitor the value of its auction rate securities at each reporting period for a possible other-than-temporary impairment. The auction rate securities have been in an unrealized loss position for more than 12 months. The Company has the ability and the intent to hold these investments until a recovery of fair value, which may be at maturity, and as of October 31, 2009, it did not consider these investments to be other-than-temporarily impaired.

The amortized cost, gross unrealized gains, gross unrealized losses, and estimated fair value of the available-for-sale investments as of October 31, 2009, were as follows (in thousands):

	<b>Amortized Cost</b>		<b>Gross Unrealized Gains</b>		<b>Gross Unrealized Losses</b>		<b>Fair Value</b>
Auction rate securities	\$ 7,825	\$		\$	(1,008)	\$	6,817

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Total available-for-sale investments	\$	7,825	\$	\$	(1,008)	\$	6,817
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The amortized cost, gross unrealized gains, gross unrealized losses, and estimated fair value of the available-for-sale investments as of April 30, 2009, were as follows (in thousands):

	<b>Amortized Cost</b>	<b>Gross Unrealized Gains</b>	<b>Gross Unrealized Losses</b>	<b>Fair Value</b>
Auction rate securities	\$ 8,050	\$	\$ (894)	\$ 7,156
Total available-for-sale investments	\$ 8,050	\$	\$ (894)	\$ 7,156

The amortized cost and fair value of the Company's auction rate securities by contractual maturity at October 31, 2009, were as follows:

	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Fair Value</b>
	<b>(In thousands)</b>	
Due after five through 10 years	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,362
Due after 10 years	6,325	5,455
Total	\$ 7,825	\$ 6,817



Table of Contents**AeroVironment, Inc.****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)****3. Inventories, net**

Inventories consist of the following (in thousands):

	<b>October 31, 2009</b>	<b>April 30, 2009</b>
Raw materials	\$ 9,635	\$ 6,055
Work in process	6,261	2,351
Finished goods	10,575	4,585
Inventories, gross	26,471	12,991
Reserve for inventory obsolescence	(1,365)	(1,389)
Inventories, net	\$ 25,106	\$ 11,602

**4. Fair Value Measurements**

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. The fair value hierarchy contains three levels as follows:

- Level 1 Inputs to the valuation based upon quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that are accessible as of the measurement date.
- Level 2 Inputs to the valuation include quoted prices in either markets that are not active, or in active markets for similar assets or liabilities, inputs other than quoted prices that are observable, and inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data.
- Level 3 Inputs to the valuation that are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

The Company's financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis at October 31, 2009, were as follows (in thousands):

Description	Fair Value Measurement Using Significant			Total
	Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1)	other observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)	

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Cash and cash equivalents	\$	98,176	\$	\$	\$	98,176
Auction rate securities					6,817	6,817
<b>Total</b>	\$	98,176	\$	\$	6,817	\$ 104,993

Table of Contents**AeroVironment, Inc.****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)**

Due to the auction failures of the Company's auction rate securities that began in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2008, there are still no quoted prices in active markets for identical assets as of October 31, 2009. Therefore, the Company has classified its auction rate securities as Level 3 financial assets. The following table provides a reconciliation between the beginning and ending balances of items measured at fair value on a recurring basis in the table above that used significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) (in thousands):

<b>Description</b>	<b>Fair Value Measurements Using Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) Auction Rate Securities</b>
Balance at April 30, 2009	\$ 7,156
Transfers to Level 3	
Total losses (realized or unrealized) Included in earnings	
Included in other comprehensive income	(114)
Purchases, issuances and settlements, net	(225)
Balance at October 31, 2009	\$ 6,817
The amount of total gains or (losses) for the period included in earnings (or change in net assets) attributable to the change in unrealized gains or losses relating to assets still held at October 31, 2009	\$

The auction rate securities are valued using a discounted cash flow model. The analysis considers, among other items, the collateralization underlying the security investments, the creditworthiness of the counterparty, the timing of expected future cash flows, and the estimated date upon which the security is expected to have a successful auction.

Based on the Company's ability to access its cash and cash equivalents, expected operating cash flows, and other sources of cash, the Company does not anticipate the current lack of liquidity on these investments will affect its ability to operate the business in the ordinary course. The Company believes the current lack of liquidity of these investments is temporary and expects that the securities will be redeemed or refinanced at some point in the future, allowing the Company to recover the original cost of \$7.8 million. The Company will continue to monitor the value of its auction rate securities at each reporting period for a possible other-than-temporary impairment.

**5. Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)**

The components of comprehensive income (loss) are as follows (in thousands):

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	Three Months Ended		Six Months Ended	
	October 31, 2009	November 1, 2008	October 31, 2009	November 1, 2008
Net income (loss)	\$ 2,216	\$ 9,059	\$ (1,371)	\$ 13,868
Other comprehensive loss, net of tax:				
Unrealized losses on long-term investments	(37)		(69)	
Comprehensive income (loss)	\$ 2,179	\$ 9,059	\$ (1,440)	\$ 13,868

Table of Contents**AeroVironment, Inc.****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)****6. Warranty Reserves**

The Company accrues an estimate of its exposure to warranty claims based upon both current and historical product sales data and warranty costs incurred. The warranty reserve is included in other current liabilities. The related expense is included in cost of sales. Warranty reserve activity is summarized as follows for the three and six months ended October 31, 2009 and November 1, 2008 (in thousands):

	<b>Three Months Ended</b>		<b>Six Months Ended</b>	
	<b>October 31,</b>	<b>November 1,</b>	<b>October 31,</b>	<b>November 1,</b>
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Beginning balance	\$ 579	\$ 283	\$ 523	\$ 344
Warranty expense	409	291	701	477
Warranty costs incurred	(402)	(175)	(638)	(422)
Ending balance	\$ 586	\$ 399	\$ 586	\$ 399

**7. Customer-Funded Research & Development**

Customer-funded R&D costs are incurred pursuant to contracts (revenue arrangements) to perform R&D activities according to customer specifications. These costs are direct contract costs and are expensed to cost of sales when the corresponding revenue is recognized, which is generally as the R&D services are performed. Revenue from customer-funded R&D was approximately \$23,328,000 and \$47,781,000 for the three and six months ended October 31, 2009, respectively. Revenue from customer-funded R&D was approximately \$16,061,000 and \$29,072,000 for the three and six months ended November 1, 2008, respectively.

**8. Income Taxes**

For the three and six months ended October 31, 2009, the Company recorded a provision (benefit) for income taxes of \$1,207,000 and (\$600,000), respectively, yielding an effective tax rate of 35.3% and 30.4%, respectively. The variance from statutory rates is primarily due to R&D tax credits. For the three and six months ended November 1, 2008, the Company recorded a provision for income taxes of \$3,546,000 and \$6,506,000, respectively, yielding an effective tax rate of 28.1% and 31.9%, respectively. The variance from statutory rates is primarily due to R&D tax credits.

**9. Segment Data**

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The Company's product segments are as follows:

- Unmanned Aircraft Systems ( UAS ) The UAS segment consists primarily of the design, development, production and support of unmanned aircraft systems solutions.
- Efficient Energy Systems ( EES ) The EES segment consists primarily of the design, development, production and support of system solutions for the clean transportation and clean energy markets.

The accounting policies of the segments are the same as those described in Note 1, Organization and Significant Accounting Policies. The operating segments do not make sales to each other. Depreciation and amortization related to the manufacturing of goods is included in gross margin for the segments. The Company does not discretely allocate assets to its operating segments, nor does the CODM evaluate operating segments using discrete asset information. Consequently, the Company operates its financial systems as a single segment for accounting and control purposes, maintains a single indirect rate structure across all segments, has no inter-segment sales or corporate elimination transactions, and maintains limited financial statement information by segment.

Table of Contents**AeroVironment, Inc.****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)**

The segment results are as follows (in thousands):

	<b>Three Months Ended</b>		<b>Six Months Ended</b>	
	<b>October 31,</b>	<b>November 1,</b>	<b>October 31,</b>	<b>November 1,</b>
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Revenue:</b>				
UAS	\$ 43,690	\$ 56,456	\$ 77,000	\$ 102,532
EES	7,677	9,323	12,307	16,860
Total	51,367	65,779	89,307	119,392
<b>Gross margin:</b>				
UAS	15,822	19,946	24,801	36,589
EES	3,827	5,041	5,563	8,981
Total	19,649	24,987	30,364	45,570
Selling, general and administrative	10,500	7,855	20,995	15,950
Research and development	5,776	4,896	11,449	10,156
Income (loss) from operations	3,373	12,236	(2,080)	19,464
Interest income	50	369	109	910
Income (loss) before income taxes	\$ 3,423	\$ 12,605	\$ (1,971)	\$ 20,374

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**ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

This section and other parts of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q contain forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. In some cases, forward-looking statements can be identified by words such as anticipates, believes, could, estimates, expects, intends, may, potential, predicts, projects, should, will, would or similar expressions. Such forward-looking statements are based on current expectations, estimates and projections about our industry, our management's beliefs and assumptions made by our management. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and our actual results may differ significantly from the results discussed in the forward-looking statements. Factors that might cause such differences include, but are not limited to, those discussed in Part II, Item 1A, Risk Factors.

Unless required by law, we expressly disclaim any obligation to update publicly any forward-looking statements, whether as result of new information, future events or otherwise.

**Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates**

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations discusses our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. When we prepare these consolidated financial statements, we are required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Some of our accounting policies require that we make subjective judgments, including estimates that involve matters that are inherently uncertain. Our most critical estimates include those related to revenue recognition, inventories and reserves for excess and obsolescence, long-term investments, self-insured liabilities, accounting for stock-based awards, and income taxes. We base our estimates and judgments on historical experience and on various other factors that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for our judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Our actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions.

There have been no material changes made to the critical accounting estimates during the periods presented in the consolidated financial statements from those disclosed in the Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2009.

**Fiscal Periods**

Due to our fixed year end date of April 30, our first and fourth quarters each consist of approximately 13 weeks. The second and third quarters each consist of exactly 13 weeks. Our first three quarters end on a Saturday. Our 2010 fiscal year ends on April 30, 2010 and our fiscal quarters end on August 1, 2009, October 31, 2009 and January 30, 2010.

**Results of Operations**



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Our operating segments are Unmanned Aircraft Systems, or UAS, and Efficient Energy Systems, or EES. The accounting policies for each of these segments are the same. In addition, a significant portion of our research and development, or R&D, selling, general and administrative, or SG&A, and general overhead resources are shared across our segments.

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The following table sets forth our revenue and gross margin generated by each operating segment for the periods indicated (in thousands):

*Three Months Ended October 31, 2009 Compared to Three Months Ended November 1, 2008*

	Three Months Ended	
	October 31, 2009	November 1, 2008
Revenue:		
UAS	\$ 43,690	\$ 56,456
EES	7,677	9,323
Total	51,367	65,779
Gross margin:		
UAS	15,822	19,946
EES	3,827	5,041
Total	19,649	24,987
Selling, general and administrative	10,500	7,855
Research and development	5,776	4,896
Income from operations	3,373	12,236
Interest income	50	369
Income before income taxes	\$ 3,423	\$ 12,605

**Revenue.** Revenue for the three months ended October 31, 2009 was \$51.4 million, as compared to \$65.8 million for the three months ended November 1, 2008, representing a decrease of \$14.4 million, or 22%. UAS revenue decreased \$12.8 million, or 23%, to \$43.7 million for the three months ended October 31, 2009, primarily due to lower UAS product deliveries of \$16.1 million and lower service revenue of \$3.4 million, partially offset by higher customer-funded R&D of \$6.7 million. The decrease in UAS product deliveries and service revenue was primarily due to a reduction in our analog Raven B production and services as we began production and retrofit of Raven B systems with our Digital Data Link technology. The increase in UAS customer-funded R&D revenue was primarily due to increased activity on the Global Observer program. EES revenue decreased by \$1.6 million, or 18%, to \$7.7 million for the three months ended October 31, 2009. The decrease in EES revenue was primarily due to lower product deliveries of electric vehicle test systems and industrial charging systems.

**Cost of Sales.** Cost of sales for the three months ended October 31, 2009 was \$31.7 million, as compared to \$40.8 million for the three months ended November 1, 2008, representing a decrease of \$9.1 million, or 22%. The decrease in cost of sales was caused primarily by lower UAS cost of sales of \$8.7 million and EES cost of sales of \$0.4 million.

**Gross Margin.** Gross margin for the three months ended October 31, 2009 was \$19.6 million, as compared to \$25.0 million for the three months ended November 1, 2008, representing a decrease of \$5.3 million, or 21%. UAS gross margin decreased \$4.1 million, or 21%, to \$15.8 million for the three months ended October 31, 2009. As a percentage of revenue, gross margin for UAS increased from 35% to 36%. EES gross margin decreased \$1.2 million, or 24%, to \$3.8 million for the three months ended October 31, 2009. As a percentage of revenue, EES gross margin decreased from 54% to 50% primarily due to product mix.

**Selling, General and Administrative.** SG&A expense for the three months ended October 31, 2009 was \$10.5 million, or 20% of revenue, compared to SG&A expense of \$7.9 million, or 12% of revenue, for the three months ended November 1, 2008. SG&A expense increased \$2.6

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million primarily due to higher selling and business development costs, increased bid and proposal activity and higher administrative infrastructure costs.

**Interest Income.** Interest income for the three months ended October 31, 2009 was \$0.1 million, as compared to interest income of \$0.4 million for the three months ended November 1, 2008, representing a decrease of \$0.3 million, or 86%. Interest income decreased primarily due to lower yields on investment grade securities.

**Research and Development.** R&D expense for the three months ended October 31, 2009 was \$5.8 million, or 11% of revenue, which was higher than R&D expense of \$4.9 million, or 7% of revenue, for the three months ended November 1, 2008. R&D expense increased \$0.9 million primarily due to increased investment in various development initiatives.

**Income Tax Expense.** Our effective income tax rate was 35.3% for the three months ended October 31, 2009, as compared to 28.1% for the three months ended November 1, 2008. The increase was primarily due to lower federal R&D tax credits.

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	Six Months Ended	
	October 31, 2009	November 1, 2008
<b>Revenue:</b>		
UAS	\$ 77,000	\$ 102,532
EES	12,307	16,860
Total	89,307	119,392
<b>Gross margin:</b>		
UAS	24,801	36,589
EES	5,563	8,981
Total	30,364	45,570
Selling, general and administrative	20,995	15,950
Research and development	11,449	10,156
(Loss) income from operations	(2,080)	19,464
Interest income	109	910
(Loss) income before income taxes	\$ (1,971)	\$ 20,374

**Revenue.** Revenue for the six months ended October 31, 2009 was \$89.3 million, as compared to \$119.4 million for the six months ended November 1, 2008, representing a decrease of \$30.1 million, or 25%. UAS revenue decreased \$25.5 million, or 25%, to \$77.0 million for the six months ended October 31, 2009, primarily due to lower UAS product deliveries of \$30.2 million and lower service revenue of \$13.2 million, partially offset by higher customer-funded R&D of \$17.9 million. The decrease in UAS product deliveries and service revenue was primarily due to a reduction in our analog Raven B production and services as we began production and retrofit of Raven B systems with our Digital Data Link technology. The increase in UAS customer-funded R&D revenue was primarily due to increased activity on the Global Observer program. EES revenue decreased by \$4.6 million, or 27%, to \$12.3 million for the six months ended October 31, 2009. The decrease in EES revenue was primarily due to lower product deliveries of electric vehicle test systems and industrial charging systems.

**Cost of Sales.** Cost of sales for the six months ended October 31, 2009 was \$58.9 million, as compared to \$73.8 million for the six months ended November 1, 2008, representing a decrease of \$14.9 million, or 20%. The decrease in cost of sales was caused primarily by lower UAS cost of sales of \$13.8 million and EES cost of sales of \$1.1 million.

**Gross Margin.** Gross margin for the six months ended October 31, 2009 was \$30.4 million, as compared to \$45.6 million for the six months ended November 1, 2008, representing a decrease of \$15.2 million, or 33%. UAS gross margin decreased \$11.8 million, or 32%, to \$24.8 million for the six months ended October 31, 2009. As a percentage of revenue, gross margin for UAS decreased from 36% to 32% primarily due to lower production and service volume resulting in higher unabsorbed manufacturing and engineering overhead support costs. EES gross margin decreased \$3.4 million, or 38%, to \$5.6 million for the six months ended October 31, 2009. As a percentage of revenue, EES gross margin decreased from 53% to 45%, primarily due to lower product deliveries resulting in higher unabsorbed manufacturing and engineering overhead support costs.

**Selling, General and Administrative.** SG&A expense for the six months ended October 31, 2009 was \$21.0 million, or 24% of revenue, compared to SG&A expense of \$15.9 million, or 13% of revenue, for the six months ended November 1, 2008. SG&A expense increased \$5.1 million primarily due to higher selling and business development costs, increased bid and proposal activity and higher administrative infrastructure costs.

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**Research and Development.** R&D expense for the six months ended October 31, 2009 was \$11.4 million, or 13% of revenue, which was higher than R&D expense of \$10.2 million, or 9% of revenue, for the six months ended November 1, 2008. R&D expense increased \$1.3 million primarily due to increased investment in various development initiatives.

**Interest Income.** Interest income for the six months ended October 31, 2009 was \$0.1 million, as compared to interest income of \$0.9 million for the six months ended November 1, 2008, representing a decrease of \$0.8 million, or 88%. Interest income decreased primarily due to lower yields on investment grade securities.

**Income Tax Expense.** Our effective income tax rate was 30.4% for the six months ended October 31, 2009, as compared to 31.9% for the six months ended November 1, 2008.

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**Backlog.** We define funded backlog as unfilled firm orders for products and services for which funding currently is appropriated to us under the contract by the customer. As of October 31, 2009 and April 30, 2009, our funded backlog was approximately \$107.1 million and \$114.8 million, respectively.

In addition to our funded backlog, we also had unfunded backlog of \$303.5 million and \$510.6 million as of October 31, 2009 and April 30, 2009, respectively. We define unfunded backlog as the total remaining potential order amounts under cost reimbursable and fixed price contracts with multiple one-year options, and indefinite delivery indefinite quantity, or IDIQ, contracts. The decline in unfunded backlog from April 30, 2009 to October 31, 2009 resulted primarily from the expiration of an IDIQ-type contract that had been established in 2004. Unfunded backlog does not obligate the U.S. government to purchase goods or services. There can be no assurance that unfunded backlog will result in any orders in any particular period, if at all. Management believes that unfunded backlog does not provide a reliable measure of future estimated revenue under our contracts.

Because of possible future changes in delivery schedules and/or cancellations of orders, backlog at any particular date is not necessarily representative of actual sales to be expected for any succeeding period, and actual sales for the year may not meet or exceed the backlog represented. Our backlog is typically subject to large variations from quarter to quarter as existing contracts expire or are renewed, or new contracts are awarded. A majority of our contracts, specifically our IDIQ contracts, do not currently obligate the U.S. government to purchase any goods or services. Additionally, all U.S. government contracts included in backlog, whether or not funded, may be terminated at the convenience of the U.S. government.

**Liquidity and Capital Resources**

We currently have no material cash commitments, except for normal recurring trade payables, accrued expenses and ongoing research and development costs, all of which we anticipate funding through our existing working capital and funds provided by operating activities. The majority of our purchase obligations are pursuant to funded contractual arrangements with our customers. In addition, we do not currently anticipate significant investment in property, plant and equipment, and we believe that our existing cash, cash equivalents, cash provided by operating activities and other financing sources will be sufficient to meet our anticipated working capital, capital expenditure and debt service requirements, if any, during the next twelve months. There can be no assurance, however, that our business will continue to generate cash flow at current levels. If we are unable to generate sufficient cash flow from operations, then we may be required to sell assets, reduce capital expenditures or obtain additional financing. The global credit crisis has imposed exceptional levels of volatility and disruption in the capital markets, severely diminished liquidity and credit availability, and increased counterparty risk. Nevertheless, we anticipate that existing sources of liquidity and cash flows from operations will be sufficient to satisfy our cash needs for the foreseeable future.

Our primary liquidity needs are for financing working capital, investing in capital expenditures, supporting product development efforts, introducing new products and enhancing existing products and services, and marketing acceptance and adoption of our products and services. Our future capital requirements, to a certain extent, are also subject to general conditions in or affecting the defense industry and are subject to general economic, political, financial, competitive, legislative and regulatory factors that are beyond our control. Moreover, to the extent that existing cash, cash equivalents, cash from operations, and cash from short-term borrowing are insufficient to fund our future activities, we may need to raise additional funds through public or private equity or debt financing. To the extent we require additional funding, we cannot be certain that such funding will be available to us on acceptable terms, or at all. Although we are currently not a party to any agreement or letter of intent with respect to potential investment in, or acquisitions of, businesses, services or technologies, we may enter into these types of arrangements in the future, which could also require us to seek additional equity or debt financing.

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Recent global market and economic conditions have been unprecedented and challenging with tighter credit conditions and recession in most major economies. As a result of these market conditions, the cost and availability of credit has been and may continue to be adversely affected by illiquid credit markets and wider credit spreads. Concern about the stability of the markets generally and the strength of counterparties specifically has led many lenders and institutional investors to reduce, and in some cases, cease to provide credit to businesses and consumers. These factors have led to a decrease in spending by businesses and consumers alike, and a corresponding decrease in global infrastructure spending. Continued turbulence in the U.S. and international markets and economies and prolonged declines in business and consumer spending may adversely affect our liquidity and financial condition, and the liquidity and financial condition of our customers, including our ability to access the capital markets to meet liquidity needs. In addition, we maintain significant amounts of cash and cash equivalents at one or more financial institutions that are in excess of federally insured limits. Given the current instability of financial institutions, we cannot be assured that we will not experience losses on these deposits.

Our working capital requirements vary by contract type. On cost-plus-fee programs, we typically bill our incurred costs and fees monthly as work progresses, and therefore working capital investment is minimal. On fixed-price contracts, we typically are paid as we deliver products, and working capital is needed to fund labor and expenses incurred during the lead time from contract award until contract deliveries begin.

Table of Contents**Cash Flows**

The following table provides our cash flow data for the six months ended October 31, 2009 and November 1, 2008 (in thousands):

	<b>Six Months Ended</b>	
	<b>October 31, 2009</b>	<b>November 1, 2008</b>
	<b>(Unaudited)</b>	
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	\$ (8,390)	\$ 11,288
Net cash used in investing activities	\$ (10,457)	\$ (350)
Net cash provided by financing activities	\$ 522	\$ 644

**Cash Used in Operating Activities.** Net cash used in operating activities for the six months ended October 31, 2009 increased by \$19.7 million to \$8.4 million, compared to net cash provided by operating activities of \$11.3 million for the six months ended November 1, 2008. This increase in net cash used in operating activities was primarily due to lower income of \$15.2 million and a reduction in tax benefits from stock-based compensation of \$8.4 million, partially offset by higher depreciation of \$2.0 million and lower working capital needs of \$1.6 million.

**Cash Used in Investing Activities.** Net cash used in investing activities increased by \$10.1 million to \$10.5 million for the six months ended October 31, 2009, compared to net cash used in investing activities of \$0.4 million for the six months ended November 1, 2008. The increase in net cash used in investing activities was primarily due to increased net purchases of short-term investments of \$10.3 million, partially offset by redemptions of long-term investments of \$0.2 million.

**Cash Provided by Financing Activities.** Net cash provided by financing activities decreased by \$0.1 million to \$0.5 million for the six months ended October 31, 2009, compared to net cash provided by financing activities of \$0.6 million for the six months ended November 1, 2008. During the six months ended October 31, 2009, we received proceeds from stock option exercises of \$0.5 million.

**Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements**

During the second quarter, there were no material changes in our off balance sheet arrangements or contractual obligations and commercial commitments from those disclosed in the Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2009.

**Inflation**

Our operations have not been, and we do not expect them to be, materially affected by inflation. Historically, we have been successful in adjusting prices to our customers to reflect changes in our material and labor costs.



**New Accounting Standards**

Please refer to Note 1 Organization and Significant Accounting Policies to our unaudited consolidated financial statements in Part I, Item 1 of this quarterly report for a discussion of new accounting pronouncements.

**ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK**

In the ordinary course of business, we are exposed to various market risk factors, including fluctuations in interest rates, changes in general economic conditions, domestic and foreign competition, and foreign currency exchange rates. Please refer to Item 7A, Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk, contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2009, for further discussion on quantitative and qualitative disclosures about market risk.

*Interest Rate Risk*

It is our policy not to enter into interest rate derivative financial instruments. We do not currently have any significant interest rate exposure.

*Foreign Currency Exchange Rate Risk*

Since a significant part of our sales and expenses are denominated in U.S. dollars, we have not experienced significant foreign exchange gains or losses to date, and do not expect to incur significant foreign exchange gains or losses in the future. We occasionally

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engage in forward contracts in foreign currencies to limit our exposure on non-U.S. dollar transactions.

**ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

*Controls and Procedures*

We maintain disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in our Exchange Act reports is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow for timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

In designing and evaluating the disclosure controls and procedures, management recognizes that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving the desired control objectives, and management is required to apply its judgment in evaluating the cost-benefit relationship of possible controls and procedures.

As required by Rule 13a-15(b) under the Exchange Act, we carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures.

Based on the foregoing, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that, as of the end of the period covered by this report, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective and were operating at a reasonable assurance level.

*Internal Control over Financial Reporting*

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting or in other factors identified in connection with the evaluation required by paragraph (d) of Exchange Act Rules 13a-15 or 15d-15 that occurred during the quarter ended October 31, 2009, that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

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**PART II. OTHER INFORMATION**

**ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

We are not currently a party to any material legal proceedings. We are, however, subject to lawsuits from time to time in the ordinary course of business.

**ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS**

There have been no material changes to the risk factors disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2009.

**ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS**

None.

**ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES**

None.

**ITEM 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS**

On September 23, 2009, we held our 2009 annual meeting of stockholders. As of the date of the meeting, there were 21,509,200 shares of common stock entitled to vote. There were 20,362,033 shares (94.7% of the shares entitled to vote) represented at the meeting in person or by proxy. Immediately prior to and following the meeting, our board of directors was comprised Joseph F. Alibrandi, Kenneth R. Baker, Timothy E. Conner, Arnold L. Fishman, Murray Gell-Mann and Charles R. Holland. The following summarizes vote results for those matters submitted to our stockholders for action at the annual meeting:

1. Proposal No. 1 to elect Timothy E. Conner and Arnold L. Fishman, who currently serve as directors and were previously appointed by our board of directors, each as a Class III director for a three year term:

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Director	For	Withheld
Timothy E. Conver	20,089,087	272,946
Arnold L. Fishman	19,982,652	379,381

2. Proposal No. 2 to ratify the selection of the accounting firm of Ernst & Young LLP to serve as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2010.

For	Against	Abstain
20,053,074	277,280	31,678

### ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

### ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

Exhibit Number	Description
31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) and Rule 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.
31.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) and Rule 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.
32	Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

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**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.

Date: December 9, 2009

AEROVIRONMENT, INC.

By: /s/ Timothy E. Conver  
Timothy E. Conver  
Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President  
(Principal Executive Officer)

/s/ Stephen C. Wright  
Stephen C. Wright  
Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)