

Cheniere Energy Partners, L.P.  
Form 10-Q  
May 07, 2010

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

FORM 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2010

OR

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

For the transition period from            to

Commission File No. 001-33366

Cheniere Energy Partners, L.P.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware  
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or  
organization)

20-5913059  
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

700 Milam Street, Suite 800  
Houston, Texas  
(Address of principal executive offices)

77002  
(Zip Code)

(713) 375-5000  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

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a smaller reporting company. See definition of “large accelerated filer,” “accelerated filer” and “smaller reporting company” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  S  
Non-accelerated filer  Smaller reporting company   
(Do not check if a 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

The issuer had 26,416,357 common units and 135,383,831 subordinated units outstanding as of May 3, 2010.

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CHENIERE ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.  
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## PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## Item 1. Consolidated Financial Statements

## CHENIERE ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.

## CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(in thousands, except unit data)

	March 31, 2010 (unaudited)	December 31, 2009
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$118,405	\$117,542
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	54,929	13,732
Accounts and interest receivable	678	5,037
Accounts receivable—affiliate	684	3,586
Advances to affiliate	1,241	5,358
Advances to affiliate—LNG inventory	783	1,319
LNG inventory	216	1,521
Prepaid expenses and other	8,733	4,836
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>185,669</b>	<b>152,931</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT RESTRICTED CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>82,394</b>	<b>82,394</b>
<b>PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, NET</b>	<b>1,579,286</b>	<b>1,588,557</b>
<b>DEBT ISSUANCE COSTS, NET</b>	<b>25,846</b>	<b>26,953</b>
<b>ADVANCES UNDER LONG-TERM CONTRACTS</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,021</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>10,023</b>	<b>7,617</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,883,218</b>	<b>\$1,859,473</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' DEFICIT</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable	\$94	\$39
Accounts payable—affiliate	78	306
Accrued liabilities	56,563	22,181
Accrued liabilities—affiliate	1,329	3,095
Deferred revenue	26,439	26,456
Deferred revenue—affiliate	63,523	63,507
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>148,026</b>	<b>115,584</b>
<b>LONG-TERM DEBT, NET OF DISCOUNT</b>	<b>2,110,708</b>	<b>2,110,101</b>
<b>LONG-TERM DEBT—RELATED PARTY, NET OF DISCOUNT</b>	<b>73,495</b>	<b>72,928</b>
<b>DEFERRED REVENUE</b>	<b>32,500</b>	<b>33,500</b>
<b>DEFERRED REVENUE—AFFILIATE</b>	<b>9,813</b>	<b>7,360</b>
<b>OTHER NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>327</b>
<b>COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>PARTNERS' DEFICIT</b>		

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Common unitholders (26,416,357 units issued and outstanding at March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009)	(43,308 )	(41,494 )
Subordinated unitholders (135,383,831 units issued and outstanding at March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009)	(436,329 )	(427,026 )
General partner interest (2% interest with 3,302,045 units issued and outstanding at March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009)	(12,034 )	(11,807 )
<b>TOTAL PARTNERS' DEFICIT</b>	<b>(491,671 )</b>	<b>(480,327 )</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' DEFICIT</b>	<b>\$1,883,218</b>	<b>\$1,859,473</b>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

## CHENIERE ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

(in thousands, except per unit data)

(unaudited)

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Revenues	\$66,827	\$—
Revenues—affiliate	63,951	62,549
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>130,778</b>	<b>62,549</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Operating and maintenance expense	8,074	3,947
Operating and maintenance expense—affiliate	3,065	2,610
Depreciation expense	10,563	6,649
Development expense	206	—
Development expense—affiliate	120	—
General and administrative expense	1,740	737
General and administrative expense—affiliate	5,273	5,210
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>29,041</b>	<b>19,153</b>
<b>INCOME FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>101,737</b>	<b>43,396</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE)</b>		
Interest income	59	560
Interest expense, net	(43,477 )	(32,929 )
Interest expense, net—affiliate	—	(13 )
Derivative gain, net	505	2,562
Other	—	12
<b>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSE</b>	<b>(42,913 )</b>	<b>(29,808 )</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$58,824</b>	<b>\$13,588</b>
Allocation of net income:		
Limited partners' interest	57,648	13,316
General partner's interest	1,176	272
Net income for partners	\$58,824	\$13,588
<b>Basic and diluted net income per limited partner unit</b>	<b>\$0.36</b>	<b>\$0.08</b>
Weighted average number of limited partner units outstanding used for basic and diluted net income per unit calculation:		
Common units	26,416	26,416
Subordinated units	135,384	135,384
	161,800	161,800

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

CHENIERE ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PARTNERS' CAPITAL (DEFICIT)

(in thousands)

(unaudited)

	Common Units	Subordinated Units	General Partner Units	Total
Balance at December 31, 2009	\$ (41,494 )	\$ (427,026 )	\$ (11,807 )	\$ (480,327 )
Net income	9,413	48,235	1,176	58,824
Distributions	(11,227 )	(57,538 )	(1,403 )	(70,168 )
Balance at March 31, 2010	\$ (43,308 )	\$ (436,329 )	\$ (12,034 )	\$ (491,671 )

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

## CHENIERE ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(in thousands)

(unaudited)

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Net income	\$58,824	\$13,588
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Depreciation	10,563	6,649
Non-cash derivative (gain) loss	84	(270 )
Amortization of debt issuance costs	1,107	954
Amortization of debt discount	1,174	1,174
Interest income on restricted cash and cash equivalents	—	(23 )
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts and interest receivable	242	(182 )
Accounts receivable—affiliate	2,901	(1,218 )
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	34,434	27,487
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities—affiliate	(1,756 )	853
Advances to affiliate	4,117	(1,593 )
Deferred revenue	(1,017 )	10,258
Deferred revenue—affiliate	16	(193 )
Other	(2,090 )	(1,168 )
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>108,599</b>	<b>56,316</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Use of (investment in) restricted cash and cash equivalents	(41,197 )	148,468
LNG terminal construction-in-process, net	3,663	(25,664 )
Advances under long-term contracts	(34 )	(57 )
Advances to affiliate—LNG held for commissioning, net of amounts transferred to LNG receiving terminal construction-in-process	—	(12,800 )
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(37,568 )</b>	<b>109,947</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Distribution to unitholders	(70,168 )	(70,169 )
Borrowings from long-term debt—affiliate	—	114
Repayment of long-term debt—affiliate	—	(2,467 )
Affiliate payable	—	(23 )
Use of restricted cash and cash equivalents	—	76,218
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(70,168 )</b>	<b>3,673</b>
<b>NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>169,936</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS—beginning of period</b>	<b>117,542</b>	<b>7</b>

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS—end of period	\$ 118,405	\$ 169,943
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See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

CHENIERE ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(unaudited)

NOTE 1—Basis of Presentation

The accompanying unaudited Financial Statements of Cheniere Energy Partners, L.P. have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States (“GAAP”) for interim financial information and Rule 10-01 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by GAAP for complete financial statements. As used in these Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, the terms “Cheniere Partners”, “we”, “us” and “our” refer to Cheniere Energy Partners, L.P. and its consolidated subsidiaries, unless otherwise stated or indicated by context.

Results of operations for the three-month period ended March 31, 2010 are not necessarily indicative of the results of operations that will be realized for the year ended December 31, 2010.

With the exception of our wholly-owned subsidiary, Sabine Pass LNG-GP, Inc. (“Sabine Pass GP”), we are not subject to either federal or state income tax, as the partners are taxed individually on their proportionate share of our earnings. Sabine Pass GP is a corporation and is subject to both federal and state income tax. However, since Sabine Pass GP’s inception, its activities have been strictly limited to holding a non-income or loss bearing general partner interest in our wholly-owned subsidiary, Sabine Pass LNG, L.P. (“Sabine Pass LNG”) and, thus, this entity has not realized any taxable net income to date and is not expected to realize any taxable net income in the future.

Certain reclassifications have been made to prior period information to conform to the current presentation. The reclassifications had no effect on our overall consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

For further information, refer to the consolidated financial statements and footnotes included in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009.

NOTE 2—LNG Inventory and Advances to Affiliate—LNG Inventory

Liquified natural gas (“LNG”) inventory and advances to affiliate—LNG inventory are recorded at cost and are subject to lower of cost or market (“LCM”) adjustments at the end of each period. Inventory cost is determined using the average cost method. Recoveries of losses resulting from interim period LCM adjustments are made due to market price recoveries on the same inventory in the same fiscal year and are recognized as gains in later interim periods with such gains not exceeding previously recognized losses. At March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, we had \$0.2 million and \$1.5 million, respectively, of LNG inventory on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. At March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, we had \$0.8 million and \$1.3 million, respectively, advances to affiliate—LNG inventory on our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

NOTE 3—Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents

Restricted cash and cash equivalents are comprised of cash that has been contractually restricted as to usage or withdrawal, as follows:

Sabine Pass LNG has consummated private offerings of an aggregate principal amount of \$2,215.5 million of Senior Notes (See Note 6—“Long-Term Debt (including related party)”). Under the indenture governing the Senior Notes (the “Sabine Pass Indenture”), except for permitted tax distributions, Sabine Pass LNG may not make distributions until certain conditions are satisfied: there must be on deposit in an interest payment account an amount equal to one-sixth

of the semi-annual interest payment multiplied by the number of elapsed months since the last semi-annual interest payment, and there must be on deposit in a permanent debt service reserve fund an amount equal to one semi-annual interest payment of approximately \$82.4 million. Distributions are permitted only after satisfying the foregoing funding requirements, a fixed charge coverage ratio test of 2:1 and other conditions specified in the Sabine Pass Indenture.

CHENIERE ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—CONTINUED  
(unaudited)

As of March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, we classified \$54.9 million and \$13.7 million, respectively, as current restricted cash and cash equivalents for the payment of interest due within twelve months. As of March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, we classified the permanent debt service reserve fund of \$82.4 million as non-current restricted cash and cash equivalents. These cash accounts are controlled by a collateral trustee, and therefore, are shown as restricted cash and cash equivalents on our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

NOTE 4—Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment consist of LNG terminal costs, LNG site and related costs and fixed assets, as follows (in thousands):

	March 31, 2010	December 31, 2009
<b>LNG TERMINAL COSTS</b>		
LNG receiving terminal	\$1,627,957	\$1,627,564
LNG receiving terminal construction-in-process	866	—
LNG site and related costs, net	175	176
Accumulated depreciation	(50,394 )	(39,975 )
Total LNG receiving terminal costs	1,578,604	1,587,765
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Computer and office equipment	282	259
Vehicles	421	421
Machinery and equipment	934	931
Other	426	419
Accumulated depreciation	(1,381 )	(1,238 )
Total fixed assets, net	682	792
<b>PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, NET</b>	<b>\$1,579,286</b>	<b>\$1,588,557</b>

As of December 31, 2009, all costs associated with the construction of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal had been placed into service. We began depreciating equipment and facilities associated with the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal when costs were ready for use. Depreciation expense related to the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal totaled \$10.5 million and \$6.6 million for the three-month periods ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

NOTE 5—Accrued Liabilities

As of March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, accrued liabilities consisted of the following (in thousands):

	March 31, 2010	December 31, 2009
Interest and related debt fees	\$55,349	\$14,152
LNG terminal construction and operating costs	1,010	7,850
Affiliate	1,329	3,095

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Other	204	179
Total accrued liabilities	\$57,892	\$25,276

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CHENIERE ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—CONTINUED  
(unaudited)

## NOTE 6—Long-Term Debt (including related party)

As of March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, our long-term debt consisted of the following (in thousands):

	March 31, 2010	December 31, 2009
Senior Notes, net of discount	\$2,110,708	\$2,110,101
Senior Notes, net of discount—related party	73,495	72,928
Total long-term debt, net of discount	\$2,184,203	\$2,183,029

In November 2006, Sabine Pass LNG issued an aggregate principal amount of \$2,032.0 million of Senior Notes, consisting of \$550.0 million of 7¼% Senior Secured Notes due 2013 (the “2013 Notes”) and \$1,482.0 million of 7½% Senior Secured Notes due 2016 (the “2016 Notes” and collectively with the 2013 Notes, the “Senior Notes”). In September 2008, Sabine Pass LNG issued an additional \$183.5 million, before discount, of 2016 Notes whose terms were identical to the previously outstanding 2016 Notes. The net proceeds received from the additional issuance of 2016 Notes were \$145.0 million. The additional issuance and the previously outstanding 2016 Notes are treated as a single series of notes under Sabine Pass Indenture.

Interest on the Senior Notes is payable semi-annually in arrears on May 30 and November 30 of each year. The Senior Notes are secured on a first-priority basis by a security interest in all of Sabine Pass LNG’s equity interests and substantially all of its operating assets. Under the Sabine Pass Indenture, except for permitted tax distributions, Sabine Pass LNG may not make distributions until certain conditions are satisfied: there must be on deposit in an interest payment account an amount equal to one-sixth of the semi-annual interest payment multiplied by the number of elapsed months since the last semi-annual interest payment, and there must be on deposit in a permanent debt service reserve fund an amount equal to one semi-annual interest payment of approximately \$82.4 million. Distributions are permitted only after satisfying the foregoing funding requirements, a fixed charge coverage ratio test of 2:1 and other conditions specified in the Sabine Pass Indenture. During the three-month periods ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, Sabine Pass LNG made distributions of \$106.7 million and \$76.3 million, respectively, to us after satisfying all of the applicable conditions in the Sabine Pass Indenture.

## NOTE 7—Description of Equity Interests

The common units and subordinated units represent limited partner interests in us. The holders of the units are entitled to participate in partnership distributions and exercise the rights and privileges available to limited partners under our partnership agreement. On May 31, 2007, Cheniere LNG Holdings, LLC contributed all of its 135,383,831 subordinated units to Cheniere Subsidiary Holdings, LLC.

The common units and general partner units have the right to receive minimum quarterly distributions of \$0.425 and \$0.069 per unit, respectively, plus any arrearages thereon, before any distribution is made to the holders of the subordinated units. Subordinated units will convert into common units on a one-for-one basis when the subordination period ends. The subordination period will end when we meet financial tests specified in the partnership agreement.

The general partner interest is entitled to at least 2% of all distributions made by us. In addition, the general partner holds incentive distribution rights, which allow the general partner to receive a higher percentage of quarterly

distributions of available cash from operating surplus after the minimum distributions have been achieved and as additional target levels are met. The higher percentages range from 15% up to 50%.

NOTE 8—Financial Instruments

Derivative Instruments

On our behalf, Cheniere Marketing, LLC (“Cheniere Marketing”) has entered into financial derivatives to hedge the exposure to variability in expected future cash flows attributable to the future sale of LNG inventory. Changes in the fair value of our derivatives are reported in earnings because they do not meet the criteria to be designated as a hedging instrument that is required to qualify for cash flow hedge accounting.

The estimated fair value of financial instruments is the amount at which the instrument could be exchanged currently

CHENIERE ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—CONTINUED  
(unaudited)

between willing parties. The fair value of our commodity futures contracts are based on inputs that are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities, resulting in Level 1 categorization of such measurements. The following table (in thousands) sets forth, by level within the fair value hierarchy, the fair value of our derivative instruments at March 31, 2010:

	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Instruments (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total Carrying Value at March 31, 2010
Derivatives asset	\$ 39	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 39

Derivatives asset reflects the derivative positions held by Cheniere Marketing on our behalf related to natural gas swaps entered into to mitigate the price risk from sales of LNG inventory.

#### Other Financial Instruments

The estimated fair value of financial instruments, including those financial instruments for which the fair value option was not elected are set forth in the table below. The carrying amounts reported on our Consolidated Balance Sheets for restricted cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, interest receivables and accounts payable approximate fair value due to their short-term nature.

#### Financial Instruments (in thousands):

	March 31, 2010		December 31, 2009	
	Carrying Amount	Estimated Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Estimated Fair Value
2013 Notes (1)	\$550,000	\$517,000	\$550,000	\$503,250
2016 Notes, net of discount (1)	1,634,203	1,442,184	1,633,029	1,371,744

(1) The fair value of the Senior Notes was based on quotations obtained from broker-dealers who made markets in these and similar instruments as of March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, as applicable.

#### NOTE 9—Related Party Transactions

As of March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, we had \$1.2 million and \$5.4 million of advances to affiliates, respectively. In addition, we have entered into the following related party transactions:

##### TUA Agreement

Cheniere Marketing has reserved approximately 2.0 billion cubic feet per day (“Bcf/d”) of regasification capacity under a firm commitment terminal use agreement (“TUA”) and is required to make capacity reservation fee payments

aggregating approximately \$250 million per year for the period from January 1, 2009, through at least September 30, 2028. Cheniere has guaranteed Cheniere Marketing's obligations under its TUA.

#### LNG Lease Agreement

In September 2008, Sabine Pass LNG entered into an agreement in the form of a lease with Cheniere Marketing that enabled Sabine Pass LNG to hedge the exposure to variability in expected future cash flows of its commissioning cargoes. The agreement permitted Cheniere Marketing to deliver LNG to the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal and to receive regasified LNG for redelivery as natural gas in exchange for the use of the properties of the LNG to cool down the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal. Under the terms of the agreement, Sabine Pass LNG paid Cheniere Marketing a fixed fee based on the delivered quantity of LNG in each LNG cargo. Sabine Pass LNG assumed full price risk of the purchase and sale of the LNG and also financed all activities relating to the LNG. Cheniere Marketing held title to the LNG at all times and sold all redelivered LNG and remitted the net proceeds from such sales back to Sabine Pass LNG.

Advances to affiliate—LNG inventory is recorded at cost and is subject to lower of cost or market adjustments at the end of each period. Inventory cost is determined using the average cost method. Recoveries of losses resulting from interim

CHENIERE ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—CONTINUED  
(unaudited)

period LCM adjustments are made due to market price recoveries on the same inventory in the same fiscal year and are recognized as gains in later interim periods with such gains not exceeding previously recognized losses. At March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, we had \$0.8 million and \$1.3 million, respectively, advances to affiliate—LNG inventory on our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

During the three-month periods ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, Sabine Pass LNG incurred fixed fees from Cheniere Marketing of zero and \$0.3 million, respectively, which we capitalized as property, plant and equipment on our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

#### Service Agreements

In February 2005, Sabine Pass LNG entered into a 20-year operation and maintenance agreement with a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cheniere pursuant to which we receive all necessary services required to construct, operate and maintain the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal. Prior to substantial completion of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal, as defined in Sabine Pass LNG's engineering, procurement and construction ("EPC") contract with Bechtel Corporation ("Bechtel"), Sabine Pass LNG was required to pay a fixed monthly fee of \$95,000 (indexed for inflation) under the agreement. The fixed monthly fee increased to \$130,000 (indexed for inflation) upon the achievement of substantial completion of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal in March 2009, and the counterparty is entitled to a bonus equal to 50% of the salary component of labor costs in certain circumstances to be agreed upon between Sabine Pass LNG and the counterparty at the beginning of each operating year. In addition, Sabine Pass LNG is required to reimburse the counterparty for its operating expenses, which consist primarily of labor expenses.

In February 2005, Sabine Pass LNG entered into a 20-year management services agreement with its general partner, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of us, pursuant to which its general partner was appointed to manage the construction and operation of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal, excluding those matters provided for under the operation and maintenance agreement described in the paragraph above. In August 2008, the general partner of Sabine Pass LNG assigned all of its rights and obligations under the management services agreement to Cheniere LNG Terminals, Inc. ("Cheniere Terminals"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cheniere. Prior to substantial completion of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal, as defined in Sabine Pass LNG's EPC contract with Bechtel, Sabine Pass LNG was required to pay Cheniere Terminals a monthly fixed fee of \$340,000 (indexed for inflation). With the achievement of substantial completion of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal in March 2009, the monthly fixed fee increased to \$520,000 (indexed for inflation).

In March 2007, we entered into a services agreement with Cheniere Terminals pursuant to which we pay Cheniere Terminals an annual administrative fee of \$10.0 million (adjusted for inflation) for the provision of various general and administrative services for our benefit following the closing of our initial public offering. Payments under this services agreement commenced January 1, 2009. In addition, we reimburse Cheniere Terminals for its services in an amount equal to the sum of all out-of-pocket costs and expenses incurred by Cheniere Terminals that are directly related to our business or activities.

During the three-month periods ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, we paid an aggregate of \$4.6 million and \$5.0 million, respectively, under the foregoing service agreements.

Agreement to Fund Sabine Pass LNG's Cooperative Endeavor Agreements

In July 2007, Sabine Pass LNG executed Cooperative Endeavor Agreements ("CEAs") with various Cameron Parish, Louisiana taxing authorities that allow them to collect certain annual property tax payments from Sabine Pass LNG in 2007 through 2016. This ten-year initiative represents an aggregate \$25.0 million commitment and will make resources available to the Cameron Parish taxing authorities on an accelerated basis in order to aid in their reconstruction efforts following Hurricane Rita. In exchange for Sabine Pass LNG's payments of annual ad valorem taxes, Cameron Parish will grant Sabine Pass LNG a dollar for dollar credit against future ad valorem taxes to be levied against the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal starting in 2019. In September 2007, Sabine Pass LNG modified its TUA with Cheniere Marketing, pursuant to which Cheniere Marketing will pay Sabine Pass LNG additional TUA revenues equal to any and all amounts payable under the CEAs in exchange for a similar amount of credits against future TUA payments it would owe Sabine Pass LNG under its TUA starting in 2019. These TUA payments were recorded to other assets, and payments from Cheniere Marketing that Sabine Pass LNG utilized to make the ad valorem tax payments were recorded as deferred revenue. As of March 31, 2010

CHENIERE ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—CONTINUED  
(unaudited)

and December 31, 2009, we had \$9.8 million and \$7.4 million of other assets and deferred revenue resulting from Sabine Pass LNG's ad valorem tax payments and the advance TUA payments received from Cheniere Marketing, respectively.

Contracts for Sale and Purchase of Natural Gas

In 2007, Sabine Pass LNG entered into a number of related party agreements for the purchase and sale of natural gas with Cheniere Marketing. During the three-month periods ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, Sabine Pass LNG did not sell or purchase any natural gas under its purchase and sale agreements with Cheniere Marketing.

NOTE 10—Supplemental Cash Flow Information and Disclosures of Non-cash Transactions

The following table provides supplemental disclosure of cash flow information (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
Cash paid for interest, net of amounts capitalized	\$—	\$—
Construction-in-process and debt issuance additions funded with accrued liabilities	28	60,504

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

INFORMATION REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This quarterly report contains certain statements that are, or may be deemed to be, "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). All statements, other than statements of historical fact, included herein are "forward-looking statements." Included among "forward-looking statements" are, among other things:

- statements regarding our ability to pay distributions to our unitholders;
- our expected receipt of cash distributions from Sabine Pass LNG, L.P. ("Sabine Pass LNG");

• statements regarding future levels of domestic natural gas production, supply or consumption; future levels of liquefied natural gas ("LNG") imports into North America; sales of natural gas in North America; and the transportation, other infrastructure or prices related to natural gas, LNG or other energy sources;

• statements regarding any financing transactions or arrangements, or ability to enter into such transactions or arrangements;

• statements regarding any terminal use agreement ("TUA") or other agreements to be entered into or performed substantially in the future, including any cash distributions and revenues anticipated to be received and the anticipated timing thereof, and statements regarding the amounts of total LNG regasification or storage capacity that are, or may become, subject to TUAs or other contracts;

- statements regarding counterparties to our TUAs, construction contracts and other contracts;

• statements regarding any business strategy, any business plans or any other plans, forecasts, projections or objectives, any or all of which are subject to change;

• statements regarding legislative, governmental, regulatory, administrative or other public body actions, requirements, permits, investigations, proceedings or decisions; and

- any other statements that relate to non-historical or future information.

These forward-looking statements are often identified by the use of terms such as "achieve," "anticipate," "believe," "estimate," "expect," "forecast," "plan," "potential," "project," "propose," "strategy" and similar terms. Although we believe the expectations reflected in these forward-looking statements are reasonable, they involve assumptions, risks and uncertainties, and these expectations may prove to be incorrect. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this quarterly report.

As used herein, the terms "Cheniere Partners," "we," "our" and "us" refer to Cheniere Energy Partners, L.P. and its wholly-owned subsidiaries effective March 26, 2007 upon the closing of its initial public offering, and to certain entities under common control prior to March 26, 2007, unless otherwise stated or indicated by context.

Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements as a result of a variety of factors, including those discussed under "Risk Factors" in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009. All forward-looking statements attributable to us or persons acting on our behalf are expressly

qualified in their entirety by these risk factors. Other than as required under the securities laws, we assume no obligation to update or revise these forward-looking statements or provide reasons why actual results may differ.

## Introduction

The following discussion and analysis presents management's view of our business, financial condition and overall performance and should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes. This information is intended to provide investors with an understanding of our past performance, current financial condition and outlook for the future. Our discussion and analysis includes the following subjects:

- Overview of Business
- Liquidity and Capital Resources
- Results of Operations
- Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements
- Summary of Critical Accounting Policies
- Recent Accounting Standards

## Overview of Business

We are a Delaware limited partnership formed by Cheniere Energy, Inc. ("Cheniere"). Through our wholly-owned subsidiary, Sabine Pass LNG, we own and operate the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal located in western Cameron Parish, Louisiana on the Sabine Pass Channel.

Following the achievement of commercial operability of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal in September 2008, Sabine Pass LNG began receiving capacity reservation fee payments from Cheniere Marketing, LLC ("Cheniere Marketing"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cheniere, under its TUA. In December 2008, Cheniere Marketing began paying Sabine Pass LNG its monthly capacity reservation fee payment on a quarterly basis. Sabine Pass LNG also began receiving monthly capacity reservation fee payments from Total Gas and Power North America, Inc. (formerly known as Total LNG USA, Inc.) ("Total") and Chevron U.S.A., Inc. ("Chevron") under their TUAs in March 2009 and June 2009, respectively.

## LNG Receiving Terminal Business

The Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal has regasification capacity of approximately 4.0 billion cubic feet per day ("Bcf/d") and five LNG storage tanks with an aggregate LNG storage capacity of approximately 16.9 Bcf along with two unloading docks capable of handling the largest LNG carriers currently being operated or built. Construction of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal commenced in March 2005. We achieved full operability with total sendout capacity of approximately 4.0 Bcf/d and storage capacity of approximately 16.9 Bcf during the third quarter of 2009.

## Liquidity and Capital Resources

### Cash and Cash Equivalents

As of March 31, 2010, we had \$118.4 million of cash and cash equivalents and \$137.3 million of restricted cash and cash equivalents. Of this amount, \$85.4 million of cash and cash equivalents was held in our subsidiary, Sabine Pass LNG. The restricted cash and cash equivalents of \$137.3 million was held by Sabine Pass LNG to pay interest on the Senior Notes described below.

The foregoing funds are anticipated to be sufficient to fund the remaining accrued liabilities related to construction, operating expenditures and interest requirements. Regardless whether Sabine Pass LNG receives revenues from Cheniere Marketing (or Cheniere, as guarantor), Sabine Pass LNG expects to have sufficient cash flow from payments made under its Total and Chevron TUAs to allow it to meet its future operating expenditures and interest payment requirements until maturity of the 2013 Notes. In order for us to fund our operations and make distributions to our unitholders, we are dependent on the ability of Sabine Pass LNG to make distributions to us. Sabine Pass LNG must satisfy certain restrictions under the indenture governing the Sabine Pass Notes (the “Sabine Pass Indenture”) before being able to make distributions to us, which will require that Cheniere Marketing make a substantial portion of its TUA payments to Sabine Pass LNG. As described below, Cheniere Marketing has a limited operating history, limited capital and no credit. If Sabine Pass LNG is unable to make restricted cash distributions to us, then we will likely be unable to make our anticipated future quarterly cash

distributions on our units. Under such circumstances and absent additional external funding, Cheniere Marketing and Cheniere would likely be unable to meet their ongoing TUA and guarantee obligations to Sabine Pass LNG.

#### TUA Revenues

The entire approximately 4.0 Bcf/d of regasification capacity at the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal has been fully reserved under two 20-year, firm commitment TUAs with unaffiliated third parties, and a third TUA with Cheniere Marketing. Each of the three customers at the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal must make the full contracted amount of capacity reservation fee payments under its TUA whether or not it uses any of its reserved capacity. Capacity reservation fee TUA payments are made by the Sabine Pass LNG third-party customers as follows:

• Total has reserved approximately 1.0 Bcf/d of regasification capacity and has agreed to make monthly capacity payments to Sabine Pass LNG aggregating approximately \$125 million per year for 20 years that commenced on April 1, 2009. Total, S.A. has guaranteed Total's obligations under its TUA up to \$2.5 billion, subject to certain exceptions; and

• Chevron has reserved approximately 1.0 Bcf/d of regasification capacity and has agreed to make monthly capacity payments to Sabine Pass LNG aggregating approximately \$125 million per year for 20 years that commenced on July 1, 2009. Chevron Corporation has guaranteed Chevron's obligations under its TUA up to 80% of the fees payable by Chevron.

In addition, Cheniere Marketing has reserved the remaining 2.0 Bcf/d of regasification capacity and is entitled to use any capacity not utilized by Total and Chevron. Cheniere Marketing began making its TUA capacity reservation fee payments in the fourth quarter of 2008. Cheniere Marketing is required to make monthly capacity payments aggregating approximately \$250 million per year for the period from January 1, 2009 through at least September 30, 2028.

Cheniere Marketing continues to develop its business, has a limited operating history, limited capital and lacks a credit rating. Cheniere, which has guaranteed the obligations of Cheniere Marketing under its TUA, has a non-investment grade corporate rating. In March 2010, Cheniere Marketing entered into an arrangement with JPMorgan LNG Co., an indirect subsidiary of JPMorgan Chase & Co., providing Cheniere Marketing with financial support to source more cargoes of LNG than it could on a stand-alone basis. The arrangement will not materially impact our or Sabine Pass LNG's financial position, results of operations or cash flows. If Cheniere and its subsidiaries do not have sufficient liquidity to pay their obligations, including payments to us required under the Cheniere Marketing TUA, then Sabine Pass LNG will likely be unable to make restricted cash distributions to our partners under the Sabine Pass Indenture. If Sabine Pass LNG is unable to make such restricted cash distributions, then we will likely be unable to make our anticipated future quarterly cash distributions on our units. Under such circumstances and absent funding of a TUA reserve account, Cheniere Marketing and Cheniere would likely be unable to meet their TUA and guarantee obligations to Sabine Pass LNG.

Under each of these TUAs, Sabine Pass LNG is also entitled to retain 2% of the LNG delivered for the customer's account, which Sabine Pass LNG will use primarily as fuel for revaporization and self-generated power at the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal.

Each of Total and Chevron previously paid Sabine Pass LNG \$20.0 million in nonrefundable advance capacity reservation fees, which are being amortized over a 10-year period as a reduction of each customer's regasification capacity reservation fees payable under its respective TUA.



## Sources and Uses of Cash

The following table summarizes (in thousands) the sources and uses of our cash and cash equivalents for the three-month periods ended March 31, 2010 and 2009. The table presents capital expenditures on a cash basis; therefore, these amounts differ from the amounts of capital expenditures, including accruals, that are referred to elsewhere in this report. Additional discussion of these items follows the table:

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
<b>SOURCES OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		
Operating cash flow	\$ 108,599	\$ 56,316
Use of restricted cash and cash equivalents	—	224,686
LNG receiving terminal construction-in-process, net	3,663	—
Borrowings under long-term note—affiliate	—	114
Other	—	—
Total sources of cash and cash equivalents	112,262	281,116
<b>USES OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		
Distributions to owners	(70,168 )	(70,169 )
Investment in restricted cash and cash equivalents	(41,197 )	—
LNG receiving terminal construction-in-process, net	—	(25,664 )
Advances to affiliate—LNG held for commissioning, net of amounts transferred to LNG receiving terminal construction-in-process	—	(12,800 )
Repayment of long-term debt—affiliate	—	(2,467 )
Other	(34 )	(80 )
Total uses of cash and cash equivalents	(111,399 )	(111,180 )
<b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>169,936</b>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS—beginning of period	117,542	7
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS—end of period	\$ 118,405	\$ 169,943

## Operating cash flow

Operating cash flow increased \$52.3 million for the three month period ended March 31, 2010 as compared to the same period in 2009. The increase in operating cash flow is a result of obtaining full TUA reservation fee payments from all three TUA customers in the first quarter of 2010 compared to receiving payments from only Cheniere Marketing and Total in the first quarter of 2009. The increase in operating cash flows as a result of increased TUA payments from Sabine Pass LNG's customers were slightly offset by operating and maintenance costs.

## Use of (investment in) restricted cash and cash equivalents

For the three-month period ended March 31, 2010, we invested \$41.2 million of cash and cash equivalents as a result of restrictions imposed by the Sabine Pass Indenture to fund an interest payment account with an amount equal to one-sixth of the semi-annual interest payment multiplied by the number of elapsed months since the last semi-annual interest payment. Under the Sabine Pass Indenture, a portion of the proceeds from the Senior Notes was initially required to be used for scheduled interest payments through May 2009 and to fund the cost to complete construction of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal. Due to these restrictions imposed by the Sabine Pass Indenture, the proceeds are not presented as cash and cash equivalents, and therefore, when proceeds from the Senior Notes are used,

they are presented as a source of cash and cash equivalents.

For the three-month period ended March 31, 2009, \$224.7 million of restricted cash and cash equivalents was used to fund construction activities at the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal and to fund distributions to unitholders, net of investments to fund an interest payment account.

The decreased use of restricted cash and cash equivalents during the three-month period ended March 31, 2010 primarily resulted from the substantial completion of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal's construction activities during the third quarter of 2009.

#### LNG receiving terminal construction-in-process, net

For the three-month period ended March 2010, we received cash flow from rebates related to the construction of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal.

For the three-month period ended March 2009, our capital expenditures for the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal were \$25.7 million.

Our capital expenditures decreased in the three-month period ended March 31, 2010 as a result of the substantial completion of the construction of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal in the third quarter of 2009.

#### Distributions to owners

During each of the three-month periods ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, we made \$70.2 million of distributions to our common and subordinated unitholders and to our general partner.

Advances to affiliate—LNG held for commissioning, net of amounts transferred to LNG receiving terminal construction-in-process

During the three-month periods ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, we advanced zero and \$12.8 million, respectively, for LNG commissioning cargoes, net of amounts transferred to LNG receiving terminal construction-in-process.

#### Cash Distributions to Unitholders

Our partnership agreement requires that, within 45 days after the end of each quarter, we distribute all of our available cash (as defined in our partnership agreement). Our available cash is our cash on hand at the end of a quarter less the amount of any reserves established. All distributions paid to date have been made from operating surplus. The following provides a summary of distributions paid by us during the three-month period ended March 31, 2010:

Date Paid	Period Covered by Distribution	Distribution Per Unit	Total Distribution (in thousands)	
			Common and General Partner Units	Subordinated Units
February 12, 2010	October 1 – December 31, 2009	\$0.425	\$12,630	\$57,538

Pursuant to our partnership agreement, all of the subordinated units will convert into common units on a one-for-one basis on the first business day following the distribution of available cash to partners in respect of any quarter ending on or after June 30, 2010, when certain conditions that are defined in our partnership agreement are met. Based on our current projections, the earliest we anticipate that our subordination period may end would be no sooner than the first business day after the distribution is made in respect of the quarter ending March 31, 2012.

#### Debt Agreements

##### Senior Notes

Sabine Pass LNG has issued an aggregate principal amount of \$2,215.5 million of Senior Notes consisting of \$550.0 million of 7¼% Senior Secured Notes due 2013 and \$1,665.5 million of 7½% Senior Secured Notes due 2016. Interest

on the Senior Notes is payable semi-annually in arrears on May 30 and November 30 of each year. The Senior Notes are secured on a first-priority basis by a security interest in all of Sabine Pass LNG's equity interests and substantially all of its operating assets. Under the Sabine Pass Indenture governing the Senior Notes, except for permitted tax distributions, Sabine Pass LNG may not make distributions until certain conditions are satisfied: there must be on deposit in an interest payment account an amount equal to one-sixth of the semi-annual interest payment multiplied by the number of elapsed months since the last semi-annual interest payment, and there must be on deposit in a permanent debt service reserve fund an amount equal to one semi-annual interest payment of approximately \$82.4 million. Distributions are permitted only after satisfying the foregoing funding requirements, a fixed charge coverage ratio test of 2:1 and other conditions specified in the Sabine Pass Indenture. During the three-month periods ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, Sabine Pass LNG made distributions of \$106.7 million and \$76.3 million, respectively, to us after satisfying all the applicable conditions in the Sabine Pass Indenture.

## Services Agreements

In February 2005, Sabine Pass LNG entered into a 20-year operation and maintenance agreement with a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cheniere pursuant to which we receive all necessary services required to construct, operate and maintain the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal. Prior to substantial completion of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal, as defined in Sabine Pass LNG's engineering, procurement and construction ("EPC") contract with Bechtel Corporation ("Bechtel"), Sabine Pass LNG was required to pay a fixed monthly fee of \$95,000 (indexed for inflation) under the agreement. The fixed monthly fee increased to \$130,000 (indexed for inflation) upon the achievement of substantial completion of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal in March 2009, and the counterparty is entitled to a bonus equal to 50% of the salary component of labor costs in certain circumstances to be agreed upon between Sabine Pass LNG and the counterparty at the beginning of each operating year. In addition, Sabine Pass LNG is required to reimburse the counterparty for its operating expenses, which consist primarily of labor expenses.

In February 2005, Sabine Pass LNG entered into a 20-year management services agreement with its general partner, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of us, pursuant to which its general partner was appointed to manage the construction and operation of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal, excluding those matters provided for under the operation and maintenance agreement described in the paragraph above. In August 2008, the general partner of Sabine Pass LNG assigned all of its rights and obligations under the management services agreement to Cheniere LNG Terminals, Inc. ("Cheniere Terminals"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cheniere. Prior to substantial completion of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal, as defined in Sabine Pass LNG's EPC contract with Bechtel, Sabine Pass LNG was required to pay Cheniere Terminals a monthly fixed fee of \$340,000 (indexed for inflation). With the achievement of substantial completion of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal in March 2009, the monthly fixed fee increased to \$520,000 (indexed for inflation).

In March 2007, we entered into a services agreement with Cheniere Terminals pursuant to which we pay Cheniere Terminals an annual administrative fee of \$10.0 million (adjusted for inflation) for the provision of various general and administrative services for our benefit following the closing of our initial public offering. Payments under this services agreement commenced January 1, 2009. In addition, we reimburse Cheniere Terminals for its services in an amount equal to the sum of all out-of-pocket costs and expenses incurred by Cheniere Terminals that are directly related to our business or activities.

During the three-month periods ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, we paid an aggregate of \$4.6 million and \$5.0 million, respectively, under the foregoing service agreements.

## State Tax Sharing Agreement

In November 2006, Sabine Pass LNG entered into a state tax sharing agreement with Cheniere effective for tax returns first due on or after January 1, 2008. Under this agreement, Cheniere has agreed to prepare and file all Texas franchise tax returns which it and Sabine Pass LNG are required to file on a combined basis and to timely pay the combined tax liability. If Cheniere, in its sole discretion, demands payment, Sabine Pass LNG will pay to Cheniere an amount equal to the Texas franchise tax that Sabine Pass LNG would be required to pay if its Texas franchise tax liability were computed on a separate company basis. This agreement contains similar provisions for other state and local taxes that Cheniere and Sabine Pass LNG are required to file on a combined, consolidated or unitary basis.



## Results of Operations

Three-Month Period Ended March 31, 2010 vs. Three-Month Period Ended March 31, 2009

### Overall Operations

Our consolidated net income increased \$45.2 million, from \$13.6 million in the three-month period ended March 31, 2009 to \$58.8 million in the three-month period ended March 31, 2010. This increase in net income primarily resulted from the commencement of revenues under the Total TUA beginning on April 1, 2009 and the Chevron TUA beginning on July 1, 2009.

### Revenues

Revenues increased \$68.3 million, from \$62.5 million in the three-month period ended March 31, 2009 to \$130.8 million in the three-month period ended March 31, 2010. This increase was primarily related to the commencement of revenues under the Total TUA beginning on April 1, 2009 and the Chevron TUA beginning on July 1, 2009.

### Operating and Maintenance Expense (including Affiliate Expense)

Operating and maintenance expense (including affiliate expense) increased \$4.5 million, from \$6.6 million in the three-month period ended March 31, 2009 to \$11.1 million in the three-month period ended March 31, 2010. This increase was primarily related to an increase in operating expense as a result of the achievement of full operability of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal with approximately 4.0 Bcf/d of total sendout capacity and five LNG storage tanks with approximately 16.9 Bcf of aggregate storage capacity in the third quarter of 2009.

### Depreciation Expense

Depreciation expense increased \$4.0 million, from \$6.6 million in the three-month period ended March 31, 2009 to \$10.6 million in the three-month period ended March 31, 2010. This increase in depreciation expense was related to beginning depreciation on the costs associated with the achievement of full operability of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal in the third quarter of 2009.

### Interest Expense, net

Interest expense, net of amounts capitalized, increased \$10.6 million, from \$32.9 million in the three-month period ended March 31, 2009 to \$43.5 million in the three-month period ended March 31, 2010. This increase was related to the achievement of full operability of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal in the third quarter of 2009 that reduced the amount of interest expense that could be capitalized.

### Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

As of March 31, 2010, we had no “off-balance sheet arrangements” that may have a current or future material effect on our consolidated financial position or results of operations.

### Summary of Critical Accounting Policies

The selection and application of accounting policies is an important process that has developed as our business activities have evolved and as the accounting rules have developed. Accounting rules generally do not involve a selection among alternatives but involve an implementation and interpretation of existing rules, and the use of

judgment, to apply the accounting rules to the specific set of circumstances existing in our business. In preparing our consolidated combined financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”), we endeavor to comply properly with all applicable rules on or before their adoption, and we believe that the proper implementation and consistent application of the accounting rules are critical. However, not all situations are specifically addressed in the accounting literature. In these cases, we must use our best judgment to adopt a policy for accounting for these situations. We accomplish this by analogizing to similar situations and the accounting guidance governing them.

### Accounting for LNG Activities

Generally, expenditures for direct construction activities, major renewals and betterments are capitalized, while expenditures for maintenance and repairs and general and administrative activities are charged to expense as incurred.

We capitalized interest and other related debt costs during the construction period of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal. Upon commencement of operations, capitalized interest, as a component of the total cost, has been amortized over the estimated useful life of the asset.

### Revenue Recognition

LNG regasification capacity reservation fees are recognized as revenue over the term of the respective TUAs. Advance capacity reservation fees are initially deferred and amortized over a 10-year period as a reduction of a customer's regasification capacity reservation fees payable under its TUA. The retained 2% of LNG delivered for each customer's account at the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal is recognized as revenues as Sabine Pass LNG performs the services set forth in each customer's TUA.

### Use of Estimates

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

Items subject to estimates and assumptions include, but are not limited to, the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment. Actual results could differ significantly from those estimates.

### Recent Accounting Standards

In January 2010, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued authoritative guidance which requires additional disclosures and clarifies certain existing disclosure requirements regarding fair value measurements. This guidance is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2009. We adopted this guidance effective January 1, 2010. However, none of the specific additional disclosure requirements were applicable to us at the time of filing this report. See Note 8—"Financial Instruments" for our fair value measurement disclosures.

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

#### Cash Investments

We have cash investments that we manage based on internal investment guidelines that emphasize liquidity and preservation of capital. Such cash investments are stated at historical cost, which approximates fair market value on our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

#### Marketing and Trading Commodity Price Risk

On behalf of Sabine Pass LNG, Cheniere Marketing has entered into exchange cleared NYMEX natural gas swaps to hedge the exposure to variability in expected future cash flows related to commissioning cargoes purchased by Cheniere Marketing that were or are expected to be sold as part of the testing phase of the commissioning process and

operations. We use value at risk (“VaR”) and other methodologies for market risk measurement and control purposes. The VaR is calculated using the Monte Carlo simulation method. At March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, the one-day VaR with a 95% confidence interval on our derivative positions was less than \$0.1 million.

As of March 31, 2010, Cheniere Marketing, on behalf of Sabine Pass LNG, had entered into a total of 247,032 million British thermal units (“MMBtu”) of NYMEX natural gas swaps through May 2010, for which we will receive fixed prices of \$3.925 to \$5.374 per MMBtu. At March 31, 2010, the value of the derivatives was an asset of less than \$0.1 million.

Item 4.

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

We maintain a set of disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in the reports filed by us under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms. As of the end of the period covered by this report, we evaluated, under the supervision and with the participation of our general partner's management, including our general partner's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures pursuant to Rule 13a-15 of the Exchange Act. Based on that evaluation, our general partner's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are effective.

During the most recent fiscal quarter, there have been no changes in our internal control over financial reporting that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

In the future, we may be involved as a party to various legal proceedings, which are incidental to the ordinary course of business. We regularly analyze current information and, as necessary, provide accruals for probable liabilities on the eventual disposition of these matters. In the opinion of management of our general partner and legal counsel, as of March 31, 2010, there were no known threatened or pending legal matters that could reasonably be expected to have a material adverse impact on our consolidated results of operations, financial position or cash flows.

Item 6. Exhibits

(a) Each of the following exhibits is filed herewith:

- 10.1 Surrender of Capacity Rights Agreement, dated March 26, 2010, by and between Cheniere Marketing, LLC and Sabine Pass LNG, L.P. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Cheniere Energy, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K (SEC File No. 001-16383), filed on March 31, 2010)
- 10.2 Capacity Rights Agreement, dated March 26, 2010, by and between Sabine Pass LNG, L.P. and JPMorgan LNG Co. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to Cheniere Energy, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K (SEC File No. 001-16383), filed on March 31, 2010)
- 10.3 Tri-Party Agreement, dated March 26, 2010, by and among Cheniere Marketing, LLC, Sabine Pass LNG, L.P. and JPMorgan LNG Co. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to Cheniere Energy, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K (SEC File No. 001-16383), filed on March 31, 2010)
- 10.4 LNG Services Agreement, dated March 26, 2010, by and between Cheniere Marketing, LLC and JPMorgan LNG Co. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to Cheniere Energy, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K (SEC File No. 001-16383), filed on March 31, 2010)
- 31.1 Certification by Chief Executive Officer required by Rule 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) under the Exchange Act
- 31.2 Certification by Chief Financial Officer required by Rule 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) under the Exchange Act
- 32.1 Certification by Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
- 32.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002



SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

CHENIERE ENERGY  
PARTNERS, L.P.

By: Cheniere Energy Partners  
GP, LLC,  
its general partner

By: /s/ Jerry D. Smith  
Jerry D. Smith  
Chief Accounting Officer  
(on behalf of the  
registrant and as principal  
accounting officer)

Date: May 6, 2010

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