

SUNTRON CORP  
Form 10-Q  
May 17, 2005

**Table of Contents**

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20549**

**FORM 10-Q**

**þ** **Quarterly report pursuant to section 13 or 15 (d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**  
For the fiscal quarter ended **April 3, 2005**, or

**o** **Transition report pursuant section 13 or 15 (d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**  
For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission file number **0-49651**

**SUNTRON CORPORATION**

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

**Delaware**

**86-1038668**

(State of Incorporation)

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**2401 West Grandview Road, Phoenix, Arizona**

**85023**

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

(Zip Code)

**(602) 789-6600**

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

**Not Applicable**

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

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 if the Registrant is an accelerated filer (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 12b-2). Yes  No

As of **April 30, 2005**, there were outstanding **27,415,221** shares of the registrant's Common Stock, \$0.01 par value.

**SUNTRON CORPORATION**

**FORM 10-Q**

**INDEX**

	<b>Page Number(s)</b>
<b>PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Item 1. Unaudited Financial Statements</b>	
<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets- December 31, 2004 and April 3, 2005</u>	3-4
<u>Consolidated Statements of Operations- For the Quarters Ended March 28, 2004 and April 3, 2005</u>	5
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows- For the Quarters Ended March 28, 2004 and April 3, 2005</u>	6
<u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	7-12
<b><u>Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u></b>	
<u>Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements Overview</u>	13
<u>Information About Our Business</u>	13-15
<u>Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates</u>	15-16
<u>Overview of Statement of Operations</u>	16-19
<u>Results of Operations</u>	19
<u>Liquidity and Capital Resources</u>	20-22
<u>Factors That May Affect Future Results</u>	22-27
<b><u>Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk</u></b>	37
<b><u>Item 4. Controls and Procedures</u></b>	37
<b>PART II. OTHER INFORMATION</b>	
<b><u>Item 1. Legal Proceedings</u></b>	38
<b><u>Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u></b>	38
<b><u>Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities</u></b>	38
<b><u>Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders</u></b>	38
<b><u>Item 5. Other Information</u></b>	38
<b><u>Item 6. Exhibits</u></b>	38
<b>SIGNATURES</b>	39
<u>EXHIBIT 10.10</u>	
<u>EXHIBIT 31.1</u>	
<u>EXHIBIT 31.2</u>	
<u>EXHIBIT 32.1</u>	
<u>EXHIBIT 32.2</u>	

**Table of Contents****SUNTRON CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**  
**December 31, 2004 and April 3, 2005**  
**(In Thousands, Except Per Share Amounts)**

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets:</b>		
Cash and equivalents	\$ 14	\$ 23
Trade receivables, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$1,411 and \$893, respectively	50,435	46,929
Inventories	79,202	69,082
Equipment held for sale, net of accumulated depreciation of \$5,413		1,613
Prepaid expenses and other	1,122	832
Total Current Assets	130,773	118,479
<b>Property, Plant and Equipment, at cost:</b>		
Land, including land held for sale of \$2,398	4,748	4,748
Leasehold improvements	6,958	7,063
Buildings and improvements	18,456	18,472
Manufacturing machinery and equipment	55,989	48,324
Furniture, computer equipment and software	34,094	34,187
Total	120,245	112,794
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(84,857)	(80,613)
Net Property, Plant and Equipment	35,388	32,181
<b>Intangible and Other Assets:</b>		
Goodwill	10,915	10,918
Debt issuance costs, net	1,932	1,904
Identifiable intangible assets, net of accumulated amortization of \$1,780 and \$1,175, respectively	875	825
Deposits and other	226	212
Total Intangible and Other Assets	13,948	13,859
	\$ 180,109	\$ 164,519

The Accompanying Notes Are an Integral Part of These Consolidated Financial Statements.



**Table of Contents****SUNTRON CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES  
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS, Continued****December 31, 2004 and April 3, 2005****(In Thousands, Except Per Share Amounts)**

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 35,757	\$ 30,179
Outstanding checks in excess of cash balances	4,294	3,700
Borrowings under revolving credit agreement	59,128	54,861
Accrued compensation and benefits	6,667	8,395
Payable for acquisition of business	1,408	28
Accrued property taxes	1,202	432
Customer deposits and deferred profit	878	2,978
Current portion of accrued exit costs related to facility closures	537	396
Accrued interest expense	775	777
Payable to affiliates	218	221
Other accrued liabilities	2,756	2,314
Total Current Liabilities	113,620	104,281
<b>Long-term Liabilities:</b>		
Accrued exit costs related to facility closures	130	156
Other	545	395
Total Liabilities	114,295	104,832
<b>Commitments and Contingencies (Notes 5 and 7)</b>		
<b>Stockholders Equity:</b>		
Preferred stock, \$.01 par value. Authorized 10,000 shares, none issued		
Common stock, \$.01 par value. Authorized 50,000 shares; issued and outstanding 27,415 shares	274	274
Additional paid-in capital	380,637	380,637
Deferred stock compensation	(265)	(203)
Accumulated deficit	(314,832)	(321,021)
Total Stockholders Equity	65,814	59,687
	\$ 180,109	\$ 164,519

The Accompanying Notes Are an Integral Part of These Consolidated Financial Statements.

**Table of Contents****SUNTRON CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS**  
**For The Quarters Ended March 28, 2004 And April 3, 2005**  
**(In Thousands, Except Per Share Amounts)**

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Net Sales</b>	\$ 100,671	\$ 82,736
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>	97,698	82,264
Gross profit	2,973	472
<b>Operating Costs and Expenses:</b>		
Selling, general and administrative expenses	5,609	5,618
Severance, retention, and lease exit costs	632	26
Related party expenses- management fees	188	188
Total operating costs and expenses	6,429	5,832
Operating loss	(3,456)	(5,360)
<b>Other Income (Expense):</b>		
Interest expense	(849)	(1,090)
Gain (loss) on sale of assets	(9)	241
Unrealized loss on marketable equity securities		(144)
Interest and other income	35	164
Net loss	\$ (4,279)	\$ (6,189)
<b>Loss Per Share (Basic and Diluted):</b>	\$ (0.16)	\$ (0.23)
<b>Number of Shares Used for Computation:</b>		
<b>Basic and Diluted</b>	27,410	27,415

The Accompanying Notes Are an Integral Part of These Consolidated Financial Statements.



**Table of Contents****SUNTRON CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**  
**For The Quarters Ended March 28, 2004 And April 3, 2005**  
(In Thousands)

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities:</b>		
Net loss	\$ (4,279)	\$ (6,189)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash provided (used) by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	3,808	2,116
Amortization of debt issuance costs	238	209
Change in accrued severance, retention and lease exit costs	41	(199)
Loss (gain) on sale of assets	9	(241)
Stock-based compensation and services expense	85	62
Unrealized loss on marketable equity securities		144
Changes in operating assets and liabilities, net of effects of purchase of businesses:		
Decrease (increase) in:		
Trade receivables, net	(16,159)	3,506
Inventories	(14,595)	10,120
Prepaid expenses and other	1,714	160
Increase (decrease) in:		
Accounts payable	17,890	(5,320)
Accrued compensation and benefits	(1,666)	1,812
Other accrued liabilities	(413)	(761)
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	(13,327)	5,419
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities:</b>		
Proceeds from sale of assets	12	1,891
Payments for acquisition of businesses	(2,456)	(1,383)
Capital expenditures	(404)	(852)
Net cash used by investing activities	(2,848)	(344)
<b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities:</b>		
Proceeds from borrowings under revolving credit agreement	94,148	87,484
Principal payments under debt agreements	(81,424)	(91,884)
Payments for debt issuance costs	(183)	(72)
Increase (decrease) in outstanding checks in excess of cash balances	3,628	(594)
Net cash provided (used) by financing activities	16,169	(5,066)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and equivalents	(6)	9
<b>Cash and Equivalents:</b>		
Beginning of period	26	14
End of period	\$ 20	\$ 23

**Supplemental Disclosure of Cash Flow Information:**

Cash paid for interest	\$	534	\$	879
Cash paid for income taxes	\$		\$	

The Accompanying Notes Are an Integral Part of These Consolidated Financial Statements .

**Table of Contents**

**SUNTRON CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**(In Thousands, Except Per Share Amounts)**

***1. Basis of Presentation***

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with U. S. generally accepted accounting principles for interim financial information and in conformity with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by U. S. generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management, all adjustments (consisting of normal recurring accruals) considered necessary for a fair presentation have been included. Operating results for the fiscal quarter ended April 3, 2005 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 2005. The unaudited consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in Suntron's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004.

***2. Loss Per Share***

Basic loss per share excludes dilution for potential common shares and is computed by dividing net loss by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Diluted loss per share reflects the potential dilution that could occur if securities or other contracts to issue common stock were exercised or converted into common stock. Basic and diluted loss per share are the same for the quarters ended March 28, 2004 and April 3, 2005, as all potential common shares were antidilutive. For the quarter ended March 28, 2004, common stock options that were excluded from the calculation of loss per share amounted to an aggregate of 2,107 shares at exercise prices ranging from \$0.01 to \$57.24 per share. For the quarter ended April 3, 2005, common stock options that were excluded from the calculation of earnings per share amounted to an aggregate of 2,008 shares at exercise prices ranging from \$0.01 to \$57.24 per share.

***3. Stock-Based Compensation***

The Company accounts for stock-based compensation issued to employees using the intrinsic value method. Accordingly, compensation cost for stock options granted to employees is measured as the excess, if any, of the quoted market price of the Company's common stock at the measurement date (generally, the date of grant) over the amount an employee must pay to acquire the stock. For fixed awards of stock options with pro rata vesting, the Company utilizes the attribution method described in FASB Interpretation No. 28.

If compensation cost had been determined for all options granted to employees under the fair value method using an option pricing model, the Company's pro forma net loss and net loss per share (EPS) for the quarters ended March 28, 2004 and April 3, 2005, would have been as follows:

**Table of Contents**

**SUNTRON CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
(In Thousands, Except Per Share Amounts)

	<b>Quarter Ended:</b>			
	<b>March 28, 2004</b>		<b>April 3, 2005</b>	
	<b>Net</b>		<b>Net</b>	
	<b>Loss</b>	<b>EPS</b>	<b>Loss</b>	<b>EPS</b>
Amounts reported	\$ (4,279)	\$ (0.16)	\$ (6,189)	\$ (0.23)
Add stock-based employee compensation recorded under the intrinsic value method	85		62	
Less stock-based employee compensation recorded under the fair value method	(409)		(303)	
Pro forma under fair value method	\$ (4,603)	\$ (0.17)	\$ (6,430)	\$ (0.23)

**4. Inventories**

Inventories at December 31, 2004 and April 3, 2005 are summarized as follows:

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Purchased parts and completed sub-assemblies	\$ 53,015	\$ 43,768
Work-in-process	12,895	11,221
Finished goods	13,292	14,093
Total	\$ 79,202	\$ 69,082

For the quarters ended March 28, 2004 and April 3, 2005, the Company recognized write-downs of excess and obsolete inventories of \$353 and \$1,944, respectively.

**5. Debt Financing**

At December 31, 2004 and April 3, 2005, the Company has a \$75,000 revolving credit facility. The outstanding principal balance under this credit facility amounted to \$59,128 at December 31, 2004 and \$54,861 as of April 3, 2005. The Company can periodically elect to use either the Base Rate or LIBOR Rate in connection with borrowings under the revolving line of credit. In addition, the Company is obligated to pay a commitment fee of 0.5% per annum for the unused portion of the credit facility. The credit agreement limits or prohibits the Company from paying dividends, incurring additional debt, selling significant assets, acquiring other businesses, or merging with other entities without the consent of the lenders. The credit agreement requires compliance with certain financial and non-financial covenants, including quarterly and monthly requirements related to earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization ( EBITDA ), as defined in the agreement.

On July 7, 2004, the credit agreement was amended whereby Congress Financial Corporation joined Citibank as a party to the amended credit agreement. The maturity date was extended until July 7, 2008 and the amendment included less stringent covenants for EBITDA for 2004. Prior to July 7, 2004, the interest rate was the prime rate plus 2.50% for Base Rate borrowings and the LIBOR rate plus 3.75% for LIBOR Rate borrowings. Under the amended credit agreement, the interest rates were reduced from previous levels by 1.75% for Base Rate borrowings and 1.00% for LIBOR Rate borrowings. As of December 31, 2004, the interest rate for Base Rate borrowings was 6.0% and the effective rate for LIBOR Rate borrowings was 4.8%.

**Table of Contents**

**SUNTRON CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(In Thousands, Except Per Share Amounts)**

Due to the termination of the Company's relationship with Applied Materials, Inc. as discussed in Note 7, the Company's lenders determined in January 2005 that inventories related to Applied Materials will be ineligible in future calculations of the borrowing base. This action, along with changes in the advance rates for real estate and equipment, contributed to the reduction in borrowing availability from \$14,502 at December 31, 2004 to \$9,589 as of April 3, 2005. Furthermore, due to these reductions in borrowing availability, the amended credit agreement required a more stringent EBITDA covenant beginning in January 2005.

The Company would have violated this more stringent EBITDA covenant by the end of the first quarter of 2005. However, effective March 29, 2005, the lenders agreed to amend the EBITDA covenant for the remainder of the year ending December 31, 2005. Under the March 29, 2005 amendment, the Applicable Margin for Base Rate borrowings increased by 1.00% on March 29, 2005, with subsequent quarterly increases of 0.25% on July 1, 2005, October 1, 2005 and January 1, 2006. The Applicable Margin for LIBOR Rate borrowings increased by 0.50% on March 29, 2005, with subsequent quarterly increases of 0.25% on July 1, 2005, October 1, 2005 and January 1, 2006. As of April 3, 2005, the interest rate for Base Rate borrowings was 7.5% and the effective rate for LIBOR Rate borrowings was 5.4%.

Substantially all of the Company's assets are pledged as collateral for outstanding borrowings. Total borrowings are subject to limitation based on a percentage of eligible accounts receivable, inventories, real estate, and equipment. As of April 3, 2005, the borrowing base calculation permitted total borrowings of \$64,538, and the Company was in compliance with all of the covenants under the amended credit agreement. After deducting the outstanding principal balance and an outstanding letter of credit for \$88, the Company had borrowing availability of \$9,589 as of April 3, 2005. For the first quarter of 2005, the Company incurred debt issuance costs of \$181 related to the March 29, 2005 amendment to the credit agreement.

The credit agreement includes a lockbox arrangement that requires the Company to direct its customers to remit payments to restricted bank accounts, whereby all available funds are used to pay down the outstanding principal balance under the amended credit agreement. Accordingly, the entire outstanding principal balance is classified as a current liability in the consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2004 and April 3, 2005.

Under the Company's credit agreement and banking arrangements, the Company is not required to fund amounts for outstanding checks until the checks are presented to the bank for payment. Accordingly, the Company is not required to maintain cash balances in anticipation of funding requirements for outstanding checks. This results in a current liability for outstanding checks in excess of cash balances. Changes in the amount of outstanding checks in excess of cash balances are reflected as a financing activity in the accompanying statements of cash flows.

**Table of Contents**

**SUNTRON CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
(In Thousands, Except Per Share Amounts)

**6. Restructuring Activities**

The Company periodically takes actions to increase capacity utilization through the closure of facilities and the sale of assets. The results of operations related to these activities for the quarters ended March 28, 2004 and April 3, 2005, are summarized as follows:

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Amounts related to manufacturing activities and included in cost of goods sold:</b>		
Severance and retention costs	\$ 13	\$ 239
Lease exit costs	20	142
Moving and relocation costs	54	
Total included in cost of goods sold	87	381
<b>Amounts unrelated to manufacturing activities and included in operating costs and expenses:</b>		
Severance and retention costs	244	7
Lease exit costs	388	12
Moving, relocation and other costs		7
Total severance, retention and lease exit costs	632	26
Total Expense	\$ 719	\$ 407

Presented below is a description of the activities that resulted in the charges shown in the table above:

In June 2003, the Company initiated actions to consolidate its Phoenix manufacturing operations and corporate headquarters into a single facility with the objective of subleasing up to one-third of the existing leased space in Phoenix. In the first quarter of 2004, the Company completed the move of its corporate headquarters and the consolidation into a single building was complete. During the first quarter of 2004, the Company recognized lease exit costs of \$408 primarily related to the vacated portion of the building devoted to corporate headquarters and incurred severance costs of \$257, primarily related to the termination of executive officers of the Company.

In the first quarter of 2005, the Company exited a warehouse in Austin, Texas. The Company entered into an agreement with the landlord of the Austin warehouse whereby the Company paid \$160 as consideration for the early termination of the lease. In the first quarter of 2005, the Company also incurred severance costs of \$246, primarily related to reductions in the manufacturing workforce.





**Table of Contents**

**SUNTRON CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
(In Thousands, Except Per Share Amounts)

**Summary of Restructuring Liabilities.** Presented below is a summary of changes in liabilities for lease exit costs and severance and retention obligations for the quarter ended April 3, 2005:

	<b>Accrued Lease Exit Costs</b>	<b>Accrued Severance &amp; Retention</b>
Balance, December 31, 2004	\$ 667	\$ 127
Accrued expense for restructuring activities	154	246
Cash receipts under subleases	54	
Cash payments	(327)	(330)
Accretion of interest	9	
Reclassification of non-level rent liability	4	
Expense due to change in previous estimates	(9)	
 Balance, April 3, 2005	 \$ 552	 \$ 43

Accrued lease exit costs are expected to be paid through July 2007. As shown in the accompanying consolidated balance sheet as of April 3, 2005, \$396 of this obligation is included in current liabilities and \$156 is included in long-term liabilities. The obligation for accrued severance and retention is included in accrued compensation and benefits in the Company's consolidated balance sheets and is expected to be paid in the second quarter of 2005.

**7. Legal Proceedings**

Applied Materials, Inc. ( Applied ) has been a customer of the Company and its predecessors for over ten years. The parties have entered into multiple agreements that set forth Applied's responsibility for inventories that are purchased or manufactured based on orders and forecasts received from Applied, as well as other related costs that Applied is responsible for. During 2003 and 2004, the Company intensified its efforts to enforce the contractual provisions of these agreements to recover costs incurred for excess and obsolete inventories. In October 2004, Applied notified the Company that it intended to transition substantially all of its business to alternative contract manufacturers and by January 2005 the business relationship with Applied had substantially terminated.

In December 2004, the Company initiated litigation in Fort Bend County, Texas, seeking monetary damages against Applied for costs relating to raw materials, inventory, and capital and human resources that the Company claims it expended in reliance upon Applied's representations. On January 14, 2005, Applied filed a Complaint for Declaratory Relief in the Superior Court of the State of California. This Complaint seeks to establish that the dispute should be resolved in California. Applied seeks recovery of its attorneys' fees but is not seeking any other claim for damages. In February 2005, the Company responded to Applied's Complaint with a Cross-Complaint that sets forth the Company's claim for reimbursement of amounts that management believes Applied is contractually obligated to pay under the agreements, including amounts due for excess and obsolete inventories of \$18,300 as of January 2005, plus punitive damages, interest and legal fees.



**Table of Contents**

**SUNTRON CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(In Thousands, Except Per Share Amounts)**

This dispute involves a potential loss contingency if the outcome of the litigation does not result in a settlement that is adequate to recover the net carrying value of the Company's inventories. Management believes that Applied is responsible for the net carrying value of inventories that were purchased on behalf of Applied and the Company intends to vigorously prosecute all of its claims against Applied. No assurances can be made as to the final timing or outcome of this litigation.

The Company is subject to other litigation, claims and assessments that may arise in the ordinary course of its business activities. Such matters include contractual matters, employment-related issues and regulatory proceedings. Although occasional adverse decisions or settlements may occur, the Company believes that the final disposition of such matters will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position, results of operations or liquidity.

**Table of Contents**

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

*The following discussion of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and the related notes, and the other financial information included in this report, as well as the information in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004.*

**Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements**

*This report on Form 10-Q contains forward-looking statements regarding future events or our future financial and operational performance. Forward-looking statements include statements regarding markets for our products; trends in net sales, gross profits, and estimated expense levels; liquidity and anticipated cash needs and availability; and any statement that contains the words anticipate, believe, plan, estimate, expect, seek, and other similar expressions. The forward-looking statements included in this report reflect our current expectations and beliefs, and we do not undertake publicly to update or revise these statements, even if experience or future changes make it clear that any projected results expressed in this report, annual or quarterly reports to stockholders, press releases, or company statements will not be realized. In addition, the inclusion of any statement in this report does not constitute an admission by us that the events or circumstances described in such statement are material. Furthermore, we wish to caution and advise readers that these statements are based on assumptions that may not materialize and may involve risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond our control, that could cause actual events or performance to differ materially from those contained or implied in these forward-looking statements. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, risks related to the realization of anticipated revenue, profitability, and synergies of the recent business combinations; the ability to meet cost estimates and achieve the expected benefits associated with recent restructuring activities; trends affecting our growth; and the business and economic risks described herein under Factors That May Affect Future Results.*

**Overview**

During the first quarter of 2005, our net sales were 17.8% lower than the first quarter of 2004 and 28.5% lower than the fourth quarter of 2004. Our operating loss was \$5.4 million in the first quarter of 2005 compared to operating losses of \$3.5 million in the first quarter of 2004 and \$0.4 million in the fourth quarter of 2004. From 2001 through 2003, we experienced a severe contraction in our business where quarterly net sales declined from \$197.9 million in the first quarter of 2001 to \$78.6 million in the fourth quarter of 2003. We responded to the economic downturn by closing five of our manufacturing facilities, which resulted in significant restructuring charges and we incurred significant net losses during each of those three fiscal years. These plant closures combined with other restructuring and cost containment initiatives resulted in a much lower cost structure as we entered 2004.

For each of the fiscal quarters in 2004, we experienced significant increases in our net sales in relation to the comparable fiscal quarters in 2003, and we were able to achieve profitable operations in the second and third fiscal quarters of 2004. The primary driver in achieving improved financial results in 2004 was the significantly higher level of net sales which resulted in improved utilization of plant capacity and other fixed costs. However, based on our net loss for the first quarter of 2005 and our belief that net sales will not increase in the second quarter of 2005, we do not expect to achieve profitable operations in 2005. We are currently evaluating our long term business prospects at each facility to determine the timing and extent of any further actions that may improve operating results and accelerate a return to profitability.

**Table of Contents**

In October 2004, Applied Materials notified us that it intended to transition substantially all of its business to alternative contract manufacturers. Applied accounted for \$26.2 million of our net sales for the first quarter of 2004 and only \$1.4 million for the first quarter of 2005 as the business relationship with Applied had substantially terminated by January 2005. In December 2004 and February 2005, we filed lawsuits in Texas and California that seek, through the enforcement of contractual provisions or based upon tort theories, to recover approximately \$18.3 million of costs incurred for excess and obsolete inventories; additional charges for carrying costs, warehousing costs, cancellation charges, and employee termination costs; plus punitive damages, interest and legal fees. We believe that Applied is responsible for the net carrying value of these inventories and we intend to vigorously prosecute all of our claims against Applied. No assurances can be given as to the final timing or outcome of the litigation. To the extent we are not successful in our claims against Applied, we may incur a significant write-down related to the inventory held for Applied.

During the first quarter of 2005, we completed some restructuring actions to reduce costs in anticipation of sequentially lower net sales for the first two quarters of 2005. In addition to the loss of Applied as a major customer, we have experienced relatively flat demand in most of our other targeted market sectors for the first quarter of 2005 compared to the first quarter of 2004.

Despite our \$6.2 million net loss in the first quarter of 2005, we generated \$5.4 million of operating cash flow, primarily due to lower working capital requirements necessary to support the lower net sales in 2005. Our positive operating cash flows enabled the net repayment of \$4.4 million of debt, which resulted in outstanding borrowings under our revolving line of credit of \$54.9 million at the end of the first quarter of 2005. Even though we generated positive operating cash flow in the first quarter of 2005, our unused borrowing availability decreased from \$14.5 million at the beginning of the first quarter to \$9.6 million at the end of the first quarter. The termination of our relationship with Applied was partially responsible for the decrease in borrowing availability since our lenders determined that all inventories related to Applied are ineligible in future calculations of the borrowing base.

Due to the reduction in borrowing availability, a more stringent EBITDA covenant became effective in January 2005. The Company would have violated this more stringent EBITDA covenant by the end of the first quarter of 2005. However, effective March 29, 2005, the lenders agreed to amend the EBITDA covenant for the remainder of the year ending December 31, 2005. We believe that our borrowing availability will be sufficient to fund planned operations in 2005.

**Table of Contents**

Following is an overview of the information included under each section of Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations:

<b>Caption</b>	<b>Overview</b>
<b>Information About Our Business</b>	Under this section we provide information to help understand our industry conditions and information unique to our business and customer relationships.
<b>Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates</b>	This section provides details about some of the critical estimates and accounting policies that must be applied in the preparation of our financial statements. It is important to understand the nature of key uncertainties and estimates that may not be apparent solely from reading our financial statements and the related footnotes.
<b>Overview of Statement of Operations</b>	This section includes a description of the types of transactions that are included in each significant category included in our statement of operations.
<b>Results of Operations</b>	This section includes a discussion and analysis of our operating results for the first quarter of 2004 compared to the first quarter of 2005.
<b>Liquidity and Capital Resources</b>	There are several sub-captions under this section, including a discussion of our cash flows for the first quarter of 2005 and other liquidity measures that we consider important to our business. Under the sub-caption for Contractual Obligations, we discuss on- and off-balance-sheet obligations and the expected impact on our liquidity. Under the sub-caption for Capital Resources, we have included a discussion of our credit facility, including details about interest rates charged, calculation of the borrowing base and unused availability, compliance with the EBITDA covenant, and alternatives if current capital resources are inadequate.
<b>Factors That May Affect Future Results</b>	This section includes an in-depth discussion of many of the risks and uncertainties that affect our business and industry, as well as risks that should be considered before investing in our common stock. Our future financial results are dependent upon effectively managing and responding to these risks.

**Information About Our Business**

Suntron delivers complete manufacturing services and solutions to support the entire life cycle of complex products in the semiconductor capital equipment, aerospace and defense, industrial, and medical equipment market sectors of the electronic manufacturing services ( EMS ) industry. Our manufacturing services include printed circuit board assembly, cable and harness production, engineering services, quick-turn manufacturing services and full systems integration, testing, and after-market repair and warranty services. We believe our success in attracting and retaining customers is a direct result of our ability to provide unique solutions tailored to match each of our customer's specific requirements, while meeting the highest quality standards in the industry.

Our largest single expenditure is for the purchase of electronic components and our expertise in electronics manufacturing techniques is critical to our ability to provide competitive, quality services. However, in order to fully comprehend our business, it is also important to understand that our customers are engaged in semiconductor capital equipment, aerospace and defense, medical products, and many other industries. While our ability to compete with other companies in the EMS industry is important to our long-term success, short-term fluctuations in the demand for our manufacturing services are primarily affected by the economic conditions in the market sectors served by our customers. Since more than half of our customers have been



## **Table of Contents**

concentrated in two market sectors, the quarterly fluctuations in our net sales can be extremely volatile when these sectors are experiencing either rapid growth or contraction.

As an EMS company, many of our customers are original equipment manufacturers, or OEMs, that have designed their own products. Our customers request proposals that include key terms such as quality, delivery, and the price to purchase the materials and perform the manufacturing services to make one or more components or assemblies. Generally, the component or assembly that we manufacture is delivered to the customer where it is then integrated into their final product. We price new business with our customers by obtaining raw material quotes from our suppliers and then estimating the amount of labor and overhead that will be required to make the products.

Before we begin a customer relationship, we typically enter into arrangements that are intended to protect us in case a customer cancels an order after we purchase the raw materials to fill that order. In these circumstances, the customer is generally required to purchase the materials or reimburse us if we incur a loss from liquidating the raw materials.

The electronics manufacturing services industry is extremely dynamic and our customers make frequent changes to their orders. The magnitude and frequency of these changes make it difficult to predict revenues beyond the next quarter, and even relatively short-term forecasts may prove inaccurate depending on changes in economic, political, and military factors, as well as unexpected customer requests to delay shipments near the end of our fiscal quarters. These changes in customer orders also cause substantial difficulties in managing inventories, which often leads to excess inventories and the need to recognize losses on inventories. However, from time to time, we may also have difficulties obtaining certain electronic components that are in short supply. In addition, our inventories consist of over 150,000 different parts and many of these parts have limited alternative uses or markets beyond the products that we manufacture for our customers. When we liquidate excess materials through an inventory broker or auction, we often realize less than the original cost of the materials, and in some cases we determine that there is no market for the excess materials.

The most common reasons we incur losses related to inventories are due to purchasing more materials than are necessary to meet a customer's requirements or failing to act promptly to minimize losses once the customer communicates a cancellation. Occasionally it is not clear what action caused an inventory loss and there is a shared responsibility whereby our customers agree to negotiate a settlement with us. Accordingly, management continually evaluates inventory on-hand, forecasted demand, contractual protections, and net realizable values in order to determine whether an adjustment to the carrying amount of inventory is necessary. When the relationship with a customer terminates, we tend to be more vulnerable to inventory losses because the customer may be reluctant to accept responsibility for the remaining inventory if a product is at the end of its life cycle. We can also incur inventory losses if a customer becomes insolvent and the materials do not have alternative uses or markets into which we can sell them.

## **Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates**

The discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations is based upon our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. The preparation of these financial statements requires that we make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses, and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. On an on-going basis, we evaluate our estimates, including those related to bad debts, inventories,



**Table of Contents**

property, plant and equipment, intangible assets, income taxes, warranty obligations, restructuring-related obligations, and litigation. We base our estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. We cannot assure you that actual results will not differ from those estimates. We believe the following critical accounting policies affect our more significant judgments and estimates used in the preparation of our consolidated financial statements.

***Revenue Recognition.*** We recognize revenue from manufacturing services and product sales upon shipment and transfer of title of the manufactured product, whereby our customers assume the risks and rewards of ownership of the product. Occasionally, we enter into arrangements where services are bundled and completed in multiple stages. In these cases, we follow the guidance in Emerging Issues Task Force Issue No. 00-21, *Revenue Arrangements with Multiple Deliverables*, to determine the amount of revenue allocable to each deliverable.

Generally, there are no formal customer acceptance requirements or further obligations related to manufacturing services after shipment; however, if such requirements or obligations exist, then revenue is recognized at the point when the requirements are completed and the obligations fulfilled. If uncertainties exist about whether the customer has assumed the risks and rewards of ownership or if continuing performance obligations exist, we expand our written communications with the customer to ensure that our understanding of the arrangement is consistent with that of the customer before revenue is recognized. In limited circumstances, the Company's customers agree to purchase products but they request that we store the physical product in our facilities. In these circumstances, revenue is only recognized when the terms of the arrangement comply with the guidance in SEC Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 104, *Revenue Recognition*. Revenue from design, engineering and other services is recognized as the services are performed.

***Write-Downs for Obsolete and Slow-Moving Inventories.*** Our judgments about excess and obsolete inventories are especially difficult because (i) hundreds of different components may be associated with a single product we manufacture for a customer, (ii) we make numerous products for most of our customers, (iii) even though we are engaged in the EMS industry, most of our customers are engaged in diverse industries, (iv) a significant amount of the parts we purchase are unique to a particular customer's orders and there are limited alternative markets if that customer's order is canceled, and (v) all of our customers experience dynamic business environments affected by a wide variety of economic, political, and regulatory factors. This complex environment results in positive and negative events that can change daily and which affect judgments about future demand for our manufacturing services and the amounts we can realize when it is not possible to liquidate inventories through production of finished products.

We frequently review customer demand to determine if we have excess raw materials that will not be consumed in production. In determining demand we consider firm purchase orders and forecasts of demand submitted by our customers. If we determine that excess inventories exist and that the customer is not contractually obligated for the excess inventories, we make judgments about whether unforecasted demand for those materials is likely to occur or the amount we would likely realize in the sale of this material through a broker or auction. If we determine that future demand from the customer is unlikely, we write down our inventories to the extent that the cost of the inventory exceeds the estimated market value.

**Table of Contents**

If actual market conditions are less favorable than those projected by management, additional inventory write-downs may be required in future periods. Likewise, if we underestimate contractual recoveries from customers or future demand, hindsight may indicate that we over-reported our costs of goods sold in earlier periods, which results in the recognition of additional gross profit at the time the material is used in production and the related goods are sold. Therefore, although we make every effort to ensure the accuracy of our forecasts of future product demand, any significant unanticipated changes in demand or the outcome of customer negotiations with respect to the enforcement of contractual provisions could have a significant impact on the value of our inventory and our reported operating results.

***Allowance for Doubtful Accounts Receivable.*** We maintain an allowance for doubtful accounts for estimated losses resulting from the inability of our customers to make required payments, as well as to provide for adjustments related to pricing and quantity differences. If the financial condition of our customers were to deteriorate, resulting in an impairment of their ability to make payments, additional allowances would be required. When our customers experience difficulty in paying us, we estimate how much of our receivable will not be collected. These judgments are often difficult because the customer may not divulge complete and accurate information. Even if we are fully aware of the customer's financial condition it can be difficult to estimate the expected recovery and there is often a wide range of potential outcomes. Sometimes we collect receivables that we reserved for in prior periods and these recoveries are reflected as a credit to operations in the periods in which the recovery occurs. Over the past few years, we have diversified our concentration of business with our major customers and have added smaller customers that generally have higher credit risk. Accordingly, we may experience higher bad debt losses in the future.

***Restructuring Activities and Asset Impairments.*** When we undertake restructuring activities and decide to close a plant that we occupy under a non-cancelable operating lease, we are required to estimate how long it will take to locate a new tenant to sublease the facility and to estimate the rate that we are likely to receive when a tenant is located. Accordingly, we will incur additional lease exit charges in future periods if our estimates of the rate or timing of sublease payments turns out to be less favorable than our current expectations. We also consider the estimated cost of building improvements, brokerage commissions, and any other costs we believe will be incurred in connection with the subleasing process. The precise outcome of most of these factors is difficult to predict. We review our estimates at least quarterly, including consultation with our commercial real estate advisors to assess changes in market conditions, feedback from parties that have expressed interest, and other information that we believe is relevant to most accurately reflect the expected outcome of obtaining a subtenant to lease the facility. Commercial real estate conditions are currently weak in the areas in which we are attempting to sublease closed facilities, and we believe our estimates have appropriately considered these conditions.

When we undergo changes in our business, including the closure or relocation of facilities, we often have equipment and other long-lived assets that are no longer needed in continuing operations. When this occurs, we are required to estimate future cash flows and if such undiscounted cash flows are less than the carrying value of the assets (or asset group, as applicable), we recognize impairment charges to reduce the carrying value to estimated fair value. The determination of future cash flows and fair value tend to be highly subjective estimates. When assets are held for sale and the actual market conditions deteriorate, or are less favorable than those projected by management, additional impairment charges may be required in subsequent periods.

## **Table of Contents**

**Contingencies.** We are subject to loss contingencies arising in the ordinary course of business. These contingencies often involve legal proceedings where the outcome is not determinable with precision until all of the facts surrounding the dispute are known to both parties and legal counsel has had the opportunity to evaluate the merits of the case. An estimated loss from contingencies such as a legal proceedings and claims brought against us is required to be accrued by a charge to income if it is probable that an asset has been impaired or a liability has been incurred and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. In determining whether a loss should be accrued we evaluate, among other factors, the degree of probability of an unfavorable outcome and the ability to make a reasonable estimate of the amount of loss. Revisions in estimates related to the potential outcome of loss contingencies could have a material impact on our consolidated results of operations and financial position.

From time to time, we are also subject to gain contingencies in the ordinary course of our business. Generally, it is not appropriate to record a gain contingency in our financial statements until it is realized in cash.

For a detailed discussion on the application of these and other accounting policies, see Note 1 in our audited consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004.

## **Overview of Statement of Operations**

*Net sales* are recognized when title is transferred to our customers, which generally occurs upon shipment from our facilities. Net sales from design, engineering and other services are generally recognized as the services are performed. Our sales are recorded net of customer discounts and credits taken or expected to be taken.

*Cost of goods sold* includes materials, labor, and overhead expenses incurred in the manufacture of our products. Cost of goods sold also includes charges and credits related to manufacturing operations for lease exit costs, severance and retention costs, impairment of long-lived assets, and obsolete and slow moving inventories. Many factors affect our gross profit, including capacity utilization, product mix, and production volume.

*Selling, general, and administrative expenses* primarily include the salaries for executive, finance, accounting, and human resources personnel; salaries and commissions paid to our internal sales force and external sales representatives and marketing costs; insurance expenses; depreciation expense related to assets not used in manufacturing activities; bad debt charges and recoveries; professional fees for auditing and legal assistance; and general corporate expenses.

*Severance, retention, and lease exit costs* primarily relate to costs associated with closing administrative facilities and reductions in our administrative workforce. Severance, retention, and lease exit costs that relate to manufacturing activities are included in cost of goods sold.

*Related party expenses- management fees* consist of fees paid to affiliates of our majority stockholder.

*Interest expense* relates to our senior credit facilities and other debt obligations. Interest expense also includes the amortization of debt issuance costs and unused commitment fees that are charged for the portion of our \$75 million credit facility that is not used from time to time.

**Table of Contents****Results of Operations**

Our results of operations are affected by several factors, primarily the level and timing of customer orders (especially orders from our major customers). The level and timing of orders placed by a customer vary due to the customer's attempts to balance its inventory, changes in the customer's manufacturing strategy, and variation in demand for its products due to, among other things, product life cycles, competitive conditions, and general economic conditions. In the past, changes in orders from customers have had a significant effect on our quarterly results of operations. The following table sets forth certain operating data as a percentage of net sales for the quarters ended March 28, 2004 and April 3, 2005:

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Net sales	100.0%	100.0%
Cost of goods sold	97.0%	99.4%
Gross profit	3.0%	0.6%
Operating costs and expenses:		
Selling, general, and administrative expenses	5.6%	6.8%
Severance, retention, and lease exit costs	0.6%	0.0%
Related party expenses management fees	0.2%	0.2%
Operating loss	(3.4)%	(6.4)%

**Quarter Ended March 28, 2004 Compared to Quarter Ended April 3, 2005**

**Net Sales.** Net sales decreased \$18.0 million, or 17.8%, from \$100.7 million for the first quarter of 2004 to \$82.7 million for the first quarter of 2005. The decrease in first quarter of 2005 net sales was primarily attributable to a decrease of \$18.6 million in our net sales to customers engaged in the semiconductor capital equipment sector. However, while net sales to Applied Materials declined by \$24.8 million in the first quarter of 2005, net sales to other customers in the semiconductor capital equipment sector increased by \$6.2 million during this period.

During the first quarter of 2005, net sales to new customers amounted to approximately \$5.2 million.

Net sales for the first quarter of 2004 and 2005 includes approximately \$1.5 million and \$4.1 million, respectively, of excess inventories that were sold back to customers pursuant to provisions of our customer agreements.

For the first quarter of 2004, Honeywell and Applied Materials accounted for 22% and 26%, respectively, of our net sales. For the first quarter of 2005, Honeywell and Applied Materials accounted for 29% and 2%, respectively, of our net sales.

**Gross Profit (Loss).** Our gross profit decreased \$2.5 million from a profit of \$3.0 million in the first quarter of 2004 to a profit of \$0.5 million in the first quarter of 2005. Similarly, gross profit as a percentage of net sales decreased from a profit of 3.0% of net sales in the first quarter of 2004 to a profit of 0.6% of net sales in the first quarter of 2005. The decrease in gross profit in the first quarter of 2005 is primarily attributable to the reduction in net sales and our inability to reduce fixed costs in proportion to the decline in net sales. In response to lower sales forecasts, management took actions in the first quarter of 2005 to reduce operating costs and is considering



**Table of Contents**

the timing and extent of additional actions that may be implemented in the second quarter of 2005.

For the first quarter of 2005, we incurred restructuring costs of \$0.4 million, consisting of \$0.2 million for severance costs related to terminated employees, and \$0.2 million for lease exit costs associated with the early termination of the Austin warehouse lease. The Austin warehouse was devoted to our business with Applied Materials and was no longer necessary to support operations after our business relationship terminated. For the first quarter of 2004, restructuring costs related to manufacturing activities were \$0.1 million.

Through the first quarter of 2005 a significant amount of equipment became fully depreciated, although many of these assets are still in service. Accordingly, depreciation expense for the first quarter of 2005 declined by approximately \$1.7 million compared to the first quarter of 2004.

Inventory write-downs increased \$1.5 million from \$0.4 million, or 0.4% of net sales, in the first quarter of 2004 to \$1.9 million, or 2.3% of net sales, in the first quarter of 2005. The increase in inventory write-downs in the first quarter of 2005 was attributable to several unrelated factors including the renegotiation of a major customer agreement that increases our responsibility for excess and obsolete inventories in exchange for higher selling prices, and higher losses related to customers that are either experiencing financial difficulties or have terminated our business relationship. In both 2004 and 2005, write-downs of excess inventories are related to a variety of customers for which we do not expect to realize the carrying value through production or other means of liquidation.

***Selling, General, and Administrative Expenses.*** Selling, general, and administrative expenses ( SG & A ) were unchanged at \$5.6 million in the first quarter of 2004 and the first quarter of 2005. However, SG&A as a percentage of net sales increased from 5.6% in the first quarter of 2004 to 6.8% in the first quarter of 2005. Despite the decrease in net sales in the first quarter of 2005, we were unable to reduce administrative overhead in proportion to the decline in net sales primarily due to an increase of \$0.2 million in legal fees and higher costs for health care and other employee benefit plans. These increased costs were offset by a reduction in bad debt expense of \$0.2 million.

***Severance, Retention, and Lease Exit Costs.*** Severance, Retention, and Lease Exit Costs amounted to \$0.6 million in the first quarter of 2004, primarily due to a lease exit charge of \$0.4 million related to the consolidation of our Phoenix operations into a single building. In the first quarter of 2004, we also incurred severance costs of approximately \$0.2 million, primarily due to the termination of executive officers. For the first quarter of 2005, severance, retention and lease exit costs associated with our administrative activities were insignificant.

***Interest Expense.*** Interest expense increased approximately \$0.3 million, or 28.4%, from \$0.8 million in the first quarter of 2004 to \$1.1 million in the first quarter of 2005, primarily due to an increase in average outstanding borrowings. Our weighted average borrowings increased from \$40.1 million during the first quarter of 2004 to \$60.6 million for the first quarter of 2005. The impact of higher borrowings was partially offset by a reduction in our weighted average interest rate from 6.1% in the first quarter of 2004 to 5.5% in the first quarter of 2005. As a result of an amendment to our credit agreement that was effective on March 29, 2005, we expect our interest cost will increase due to higher interest rates as discussed under the caption *Capital Resources* .

**Table of Contents**

***Unrealized Loss on Marketable Securities.*** During the third quarter of 2004, a former customer emerged from bankruptcy protection and we received marketable equity securities that are traded on NASDAQ in exchange for our fully-reserved receivable. These securities were classified as trading securities which results in the recognition of unrealized gains and losses in our statements of operations. The trading value of these securities declined from \$0.8 million when the bankruptcy plan was confirmed to \$0.4 million by the end of 2004, which resulted in an unrealized loss of \$0.4 million in 2004. In March 2005, we sold these securities and recorded cash proceeds of \$0.3 million and an unrealized loss of \$0.1 million for the period from January 1, 2005 through the sale date. This unrealized loss is included under other income (expense) in the 2005 statement of operations.

**Liquidity and Capital Resources**

***Cash Flows from Operating Activities.*** Net cash provided by operating activities in the first quarter of 2005 was \$5.4 million, compared with net cash used by operating activities of \$13.3 million in the first quarter of 2004. The difference between our net loss of \$6.2 million in the first quarter of 2005 and \$5.4 million of positive operating cash flow was primarily attributable to a decrease in inventories of \$10.1 million, a decrease in trade receivables of \$3.5 million, \$2.1 million of depreciation and amortization expense, and an increase in other liabilities of \$1.1 million, partially offset by a decrease in accounts payable of \$5.3 million. Inventories and receivables decreased in the first quarter of 2005 primarily due to lower working capital requirements associated with lower net sales for the first quarter. For the first quarter of 2004, operating activities used \$13.3 million of cash, primarily due to higher inventories and receivables that were required to support a significant increase in net sales that occurred in 2004.

During 2004 and 2005, we accepted some orders from smaller, less creditworthy customers. While losses due to credit risk have not been a significant factor in the past, this trend may not continue in the future as we continue to diversify our major customer concentration with orders from smaller customers. If delinquencies related to our receivables increase in the future, this could adversely affect our borrowing capacity because accounts that are aged more than 90 days from the invoice date are ineligible for the borrowing base calculation under our credit agreement with Citibank.

Days sales outstanding (based on annualized net sales for the quarter and net trade receivables outstanding at the end of the quarter) increased to 52 days for the first quarter of 2005, compared to 46 days for the first quarter of 2004. Days sales outstanding increased in the first quarter of 2005 because Applied Materials was a large customer that took advantage of accelerated payment terms and net sales to Applied Materials were insignificant in the first quarter of 2005.

Inventories decreased 12.8% to \$69.1 million at April 3, 2005, compared to \$79.2 million at December 31, 2004. For the first quarter of 2005, inventory turns (annualized cost of goods sold excluding restructuring charges of \$0.1 million for the first quarter of 2004 and \$0.4 million for the first quarter of 2005, divided by quarter-end inventories) amounted to 4.7 times per year compared to 5.1 times per year for the comparable period in 2004. The termination of our business relationship with Applied Materials was primarily responsible for the decrease in inventory turns for the first quarter of 2005. We have approximately \$18 million of inventories that are subject to litigation with Applied Materials and net sales to Applied Materials amounted

**Table of Contents**

to \$1.4 million in the first quarter of 2005. Due to this ongoing dispute, we expect that our inventory turns will continue to be at relatively low levels for the remainder of 2005.

***Cash Flows from Investing Activities.*** Net cash used by investing activities in the first quarter of 2005 was \$0.3 million compared with net cash used by investing activities of \$2.8 million in the first quarter of 2004. Investing cash flows for the first quarter of 2005 totaled \$2.2 million of cash outflows, consisting of the payment of \$1.4 million of contingent consideration related to the 2004 earn-out associated with the acquisition of Trilogic Systems and payments of \$0.9 million primarily for manufacturing equipment and leasehold improvements for our new facility in Mexico. Our cash outflows for investing activities were partially offset by \$1.9 million of proceeds received to sell certain equipment used for plastic injection molding and sheet metal fabrication. The plastic injection molding equipment was sold for \$0.2 million during the first quarter of 2005 and we recognized a gain on the sale of \$0.2 million. We received a deposit of \$1.7 million for the sale of sheet metal fabrication equipment in the first quarter but closing is not expected to occur until July 2005, when additional proceeds of \$0.1 million are due. The sheet metal fabrication equipment has a net book value of \$1.6 million and is classified as equipment held for sale in the accompanying consolidated balance sheet as of April 3, 2005. The deposit for \$1.7 million that was received from the buyer of the equipment is included as a current liability in customer deposits and deferred profit in the accompanying consolidated balance sheet as of April 3, 2005.

Investing cash flows for the first quarter of 2004 consist of the payment of \$2.1 million of consideration for the 2003 earn-out associated with the acquisition of Trilogic Systems, \$0.3 million for the acquisition of a business, and \$0.4 million for other capital expenditures.

***Cash Flows from Financing Activities.*** Net cash used by financing activities in the first quarter of 2005 was \$5.1 million, compared with net cash provided by financing activities of \$16.2 million in the first quarter of 2004. Financing cash flows in the first quarter of 2005 reflect the net repayment of debt of \$4.4 million, payment of \$0.1 million of debt issuance costs associated with the March 2005 amendment to our revolving credit agreement, and a decrease in outstanding checks in excess of cash balances of \$0.6 million.

Financing cash flows in the first quarter of 2004 reflect net borrowings under our revolving line of credit of \$12.7 million. During the first quarter of 2004, the Company also paid debt issuance costs of \$0.2 million related to our revolving credit agreement. During the first quarter of 2004, an increase in outstanding checks in excess of cash balances of \$3.6 million contributed positively to cash flows from financing activities.



**Table of Contents**

**Contractual Obligations.** The following table summarizes our contractual obligations as of April 3, 2005:

	Revolving Credit(1)	Operating Leases (2)	Purchase Obligations (3)	Other (4)	Total
	(Dollars in Table are in Millions)				
Year ending March 31:					
2006	\$ 54.9	\$ 4.1	\$ 31.0	\$ 1.0	\$ 91.0
2007		3.5	1.0	0.2	4.7
2008		2.2	0.1		2.3
2009		1.4			1.4
2010		0.8			0.8
After 2010		0.6			0.6
	\$ 54.9	\$ 12.6	\$ 32.1	\$ 1.2	\$ 100.8

- 
- (1) Revolving credit agreement expires in July 2008 but all borrowings are classified as current liabilities due to the lenders requirement for a lockbox arrangement.
- (2) Includes an aggregate of \$1.5 million, which has been included in the determination of our liability for lease exit costs that is recorded on our balance sheet at April 3, 2005. U.S. generally accepted accounting principles require that we record a liability for future lease payments, net of estimated sublease rentals, for facilities that we have closed.
- (3) Consists of obligations under outstanding purchase orders. Approximately 82% of the deliveries under outstanding purchase orders are expected to be received in the second quarter of 2005. We often have the ability to cancel these obligations if we provide sufficient notice to our suppliers.
- (4) Includes \$1.1 million payable under agreements for the acquisition of capital assets.

We believe we will be able to fund our contractual operating lease and other purchase order obligations from operating cash flows during the periods that payments are required.

**Capital Resources.** Our working capital at April 3, 2005 totaled \$14.2 million compared to \$17.2 million at December 31, 2004. At April 3, 2005, the borrowing base under our \$75.0 million revolving credit facility with Citibank would have supported borrowings up to \$64.6 million, and we had outstanding borrowings of \$54.9 million and an outstanding letter of credit for \$0.1 million under this credit facility. Accordingly, as of April 3, 2005, we had unused availability of \$9.6 million after deducting outstanding borrowings and the letter of credit. The borrowing base calculation under the credit facility is based on a percentage of eligible receivables and inventories, plus the appraised value of certain real estate and equipment. Accordingly, our borrowing availability generally decreases as our net receivables and inventories decline. The credit agreement also limits or prohibits us from paying dividends, selling significant assets, acquiring other businesses, or merging with other entities without the consent of the lenders. Substantially all of our assets are pledged as collateral for outstanding borrowings.

On July 7, 2004, we entered into an amended credit agreement with Citibank and Congress Financial Corporation. The maximum borrowings permitted under the amended credit agreement remained unchanged at \$75.0 million from the previous agreement with Citibank, but the maturity date was extended until July 7, 2008. The amended credit

agreement includes a lockbox arrangement that requires the Company to instruct our customers to remit payments to restricted

**Table of Contents**

cash accounts, whereby all available funds are immediately used to pay down the outstanding principal balance under the amended credit agreement.

In order to ensure the continuing availability of funding under our credit facility, we are required to comply with certain financial and reporting covenants, including the covenant for earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization ( EBITDA ) discussed below. Compared to the previous credit facility, the amended credit agreement generally includes less stringent covenants for EBITDA, and covenants for minimum tangible net worth and capital expenditures were eliminated in the current agreement. However, the amended credit agreement provided that a more stringent EBITDA covenant is effective when the aggregate value of assets included in the borrowing base does not exceed outstanding borrowings by at least \$15.0 million.

Due to the termination of our relationship with Applied, our lenders determined in January 2005 that all inventories related to Applied are ineligible in future calculations of our borrowing base. This action, along with changes in the advance rates for real estate and equipment, contributed to the reduction in our borrowing availability from \$14.5 million at December 31, 2004 to \$9.6 million at April 3, 2005. Furthermore, due to the reduction in borrowing availability, a more stringent EBITDA covenant became effective in January 2005. The Company would have violated this more stringent EBITDA covenant by the end of the first quarter of 2005. However, as discussed below under the caption EBITDA Financial Covenant , effective March 29, 2005, the lenders agreed to amend the EBITDA covenant that will be effective for the remainder of the year ending December 31, 2005.

If we violate the EBITDA covenant, there can be no assurance that the lenders would waive our noncompliance. In these circumstances, the lenders could elect to withdraw the credit facility, which would have a material adverse effect on our liquidity and financial condition, resulting in the need to seek other sources of financing. As of April 3, 2005, we were in compliance with the covenants under the amended credit agreement. We believe that our borrowing availability will be sufficient to fund planned operations in 2005.

Prior to July 7, 2004, the Applicable Margin (the premium we are charged in excess of published Base and LIBOR rates) under the credit agreement was 2.50% for Base Rate borrowings and 3.75% for LIBOR Rate borrowings. From July 7, 2004 through March 29, 2005, the Applicable Margin under the amended credit agreement was reduced to 0.75% for Base Rate borrowings and 2.75% for LIBOR Rate borrowings. In connection with the March 29, 2005 amendment, the Applicable Margin for Base Rate borrowings increased by 1.00% on March 29, 2005, with subsequent quarterly increases of 0.25% on July 1, 2005, October 1, 2005 and January 1, 2006. The Applicable Margin for LIBOR Rate borrowings increased by 0.50% on March 29, 2005, with subsequent quarterly increases of 0.25% on July 1, 2005, October 1, 2005 and January 1, 2006. In addition, the Company is obligated to pay a commitment fee of 0.5% per annum of the unused portion of the credit facility.

During 2002, 2003 and 2004, we exercised our rights to require our customers (including Applied) to purchase excess inventories totaling \$24.2 million, \$8.2 million and \$9.2 million, respectively, under relevant provisions of our customer agreements. Applied was a customer of Suntron and its predecessors for over ten years. Our relationship was governed by multiple agreements that set forth Applied's responsibility for inventories that are purchased or manufactured based on orders and forecasts received from Applied, as well as other related costs that Applied is responsible for. During the past two years we intensified our efforts to enforce our contractual agreements to recover costs incurred for excess and obsolete inventories. In October 2004, Applied notified us that it intended to transition substantially all of its business to alternative contract manufacturers and by January 2005 our business relationship with Applied had substantially terminated. In December 2004, we initiated litigation in Fort Bend County, Texas, seeking monetary damages against Applied for expenses relating to raw materials, inventory, and capital and human resources that we expended in reliance upon



**Table of Contents**

Applied's representations. On January 14, 2005, Applied filed a Complaint for Declaratory Relief in the Superior Court of the State of California. Applied's Complaint seeks to establish that the dispute should be resolved in California. Applied seeks recovery of its attorneys' fees but is not seeking any other claim for monetary damages. In February 2005, we responded to Applied's California Complaint with a Cross-Complaint that sets forth our claim for reimbursement of amounts that we believe Applied is contractually obligated to pay under our agreements, including amounts due for excess and obsolete inventories of \$18.3 million as of January 2005, and additional charges for carrying costs, warehousing costs, cancellation charges, employee termination costs, punitive damages, interest and legal fees.

Our dispute involves a potential loss contingency if the outcome of the litigation does not result in a settlement that is adequate to recover the net carrying value of our inventories. Similar to the process employed for all of our customers, we evaluated excess inventories for Applied on a quarterly basis and write-downs were recognized in the period when we determined that recovery was not appropriate based on the applicable contractual agreements. We believe that Applied is responsible for the net carrying value of inventories that we purchased on its behalf and we intend to vigorously prosecute all of our claims. No assurances can be made as to the final timing or outcome of the litigation. We expect to incur attorneys' fees and related costs between \$1.5 and \$2.0 million during 2005 in connection with this litigation.

We continue to evaluate sales forecasts in relation to our operations, and many restructuring actions were taken in 2002 and 2003 to position us for improved operating results in 2004. However, we have been unable to consistently eliminate recurring operating losses through the first quarter of 2005, and preliminary sales forecasts indicate that net sales for the second quarter of 2005 will not exceed net sales for the first quarter of 2005. In response to the lower sales forecasts, we have taken actions in the first quarter of 2005 to reduce operating costs and further reductions will likely be implemented in the second quarter of 2005. The combination of lower net sales forecast for 2005 and these restructuring actions is not expected to result in profitable operations for 2005. However, we expect that we will be able to achieve positive cash flows from operating activities for the year ending December 31, 2005.

***EBITDA Financial Covenant.*** The primary measure of our operating performance is net income (loss). However, our lenders and many investment analysts believe that other measures of operating performance are relevant. One of these alternative measures is Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization (EBITDA). Management emphasizes that EBITDA is a non-GAAP measurement that excludes many significant items that are also important to understanding and assessing Suntron's financial performance. Additionally, in evaluating alternative measures of operating performance, it is important to understand that there are no standards for these calculations. Accordingly, the lack of standards can result in subjective determinations by management about which items may be excluded from the calculations, as well as the potential for inconsistencies between different companies that have similarly titled alternative measures. In order to illustrate our EBITDA calculations, we have provided the details below of the calculations for the quarters ended March 28, 2004 and April 3, 2005 using a traditional definition, as well as the calculation pursuant to the definition in our credit agreement with Citibank. Citibank modifies its definition of EBITDA to exclude certain operating charges that may be considered unlikely to recur in the future or that may be excluded due to a variety of other reasons. As shown below, the measure of EBITDA under a traditional definition differs materially from the calculation of EBITDA under our credit agreement:

**Table of Contents**

	<b>For the Quarter Ended:</b>	
	<b>March 28, 2004</b>	<b>April 3, 2005</b>
	<b>(Dollars in Millions)</b>	
Net loss	\$ (4.3)	\$ (6.2)
Income tax expense		
Interest expense	0.9	1.1
Depreciation and amortization	3.8	2.1
EBITDA per traditional definition	0.4	(3.0)
Restructuring costs (A)	0.7	0.4
Other charges (B)	0.1	1.0
EBITDA per credit agreement definition	\$ 1.2	\$ (1.6)

(A) Restructuring costs include lease exit costs, impairment of long-lived assets, and severance, retention, and moving costs related to facility closures and other reductions in workforce.

(B) Includes stock-based compensation expense and charges related to outstanding litigation and termination of our business relationship with Applied Materials.

In order to remain in compliance with the EBITDA covenant under the amended credit agreement, our EBITDA (as defined in the credit agreement) for the year 2005, must be no less favorable than break-even for the four preceding fiscal quarters. Furthermore, due to the reduction in borrowing availability, a more stringent EBITDA covenant first became effective in January 2005. The Company would have violated this more stringent EBITDA covenant by the end of the first quarter of 2005. However, effective March 29, 2005, the lenders agreed to amend the EBITDA covenant that will be effective for the remainder of the year ending December 31, 2005. Under the amended covenant, if the average value of assets included in the borrowing base does not exceed average outstanding borrowings by at least \$10.0 million for each of the first two fiscal months of a quarter, and at least \$12.5 million for the third fiscal month of each quarter, then a more stringent EBITDA calculation is required for that month (referred to as a Reduced Liquidity Month). The amended covenant for a Reduced Liquidity Month in 2005 requires minimum rolling three-month EBITDA calculations ranging from negative \$2.3 million for the three-months ended April 3, 2005 to positive \$1.8 million for the three-months ended December 31, 2005. As discussed above, we were subject to the more stringent EBITDA calculation beginning in January 2005 and we complied with the covenant for each of the fiscal months for the quarter ended April 3, 2005.

**Factors That May Affect Future Results**

*An investment in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the factors described below, in addition to those discussed elsewhere in this report, in analyzing an investment in our common stock. If any of the events described below occur, our business, financial condition, and results of operations would likely suffer, the trading price of our common stock could fall, and you could lose all or part of the money you paid for our common stock. In addition, the following factors could cause our actual results to differ materially from those projected in our forward-looking statements, whether made in this Form 10-Q, our annual or quarterly reports to stockholders, future press releases, other SEC filings, or orally, whether in presentations, responses to questions, or*

*otherwise. See Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements.*

**Table of Contents**

**Our level of indebtedness could adversely affect our financial viability, and the restrictions imposed by the terms of our debt instruments may severely limit our ability to plan for or respond to changes in our business.**

As of April 3, 2005, we had outstanding bank debt of approximately \$54.9 million. In addition, subject to the restrictions under our debt agreements, we may incur significant additional indebtedness from time to time to finance business acquisitions, capital expenditures, or for other purposes.

Significant levels of debt could have negative consequences. For example, it could:

require us to dedicate a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations to service interest and principal repayment requirements, limiting the availability of cash for other purposes;

increase our vulnerability to adverse general economic conditions by making it more difficult to borrow additional funds to maintain our operations if we suffer revenue shortfalls;

limit our ability to attract new customers if we do not have sufficient liquidity to meet working capital needs; and

hinder our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business and industry if we are unable to borrow additional funds to upgrade our equipment or facilities.

**We may need additional capital in the future and it may not be available on acceptable terms, or at all.**

We may need to raise additional funds for the following purposes:

to fund working capital requirements for future growth that we may experience;

to enhance or expand the range of services we offer;

to increase our promotional and marketing activities; or

to respond to competitive pressures or perceived opportunities, such as investment, acquisition, and international expansion activities.

If such funds are not available when required or on acceptable terms, our business and financial results could suffer.

**We experience significant volatility in our net sales, which leads to significant operating inefficiencies and the potential for significant charges.**

As a result of the soft demand in the end markets served by our customers, our net sales declined from \$197.9 million in the first quarter of 2001 to \$78.6 million in the fourth quarter of 2003. As demand in these end markets increased in 2004, our net sales increased to \$130.4 million in the second quarter of 2004. Our net sales declined to \$82.7 million in the first quarter of 2005.

During periods of rapidly declining net sales, we generally take actions to eliminate variable and fixed costs, which often results in significant restructuring charges. When our net sales decline significantly, it is difficult to operate our plants profitably since it is not possible to eliminate most of our fixed costs. If we believe that the decline in sales is unlikely to be followed by a rapid recovery, we may determine that there are significant benefits to reducing our cost structure by closing plants and transferring existing business to other plants that are also operating below optimal capacity levels. However, there can be no assurance that customers





**Table of Contents**

impacted by a restructuring will agree to transition their business to another Suntron location. In order to realize the long-term benefits of these actions, we usually incur substantial charges for impairment of assets, lease exit costs, and the payment of severance and retention benefits to affected employees. In addition to the up-front costs associated with these actions, the transition of inventory and manufacturing services to a different facility can result in quality and delivery issues that may have an adverse impact in retaining customers that are affected by the plant closure. Our results of operations could also be materially and adversely affected by our inability to timely sell or sublet closed facilities on expected terms, or otherwise achieve the expected benefits of our restructuring activities.

During periods of rapidly increasing net sales, we often experience inefficiencies related to hiring and training workers, as well as incremental costs incurred to expedite the purchase and delivery of raw materials and overtime costs related to our workforce. Periods of rapid growth tend to stress our resources and we may not have sufficient capacity to meet our customers' delivery requirements. Significant increases in net sales are typically accompanied by corresponding increases in inventories and receivables that must be financed with borrowings under our amended credit agreement.

**We are dependent upon the highly competitive electronics industry, and excess capacity or decreased demand for products produced by this industry could result in increased price competition as well as a decrease in our gross margins and unit volume sales.**

Our business is heavily dependent on the electronics manufacturing services industry, which is extremely competitive and includes hundreds of companies. The contract manufacturing services we provide are available from many independent sources, and we compete with numerous domestic and foreign EMS firms, including Benchmark Electronics, Inc.; Celestica Inc; Flextronics International Ltd.; Jabil Circuit, Inc.; Pemstar, Inc.; Plexus Corp.; Sanmina-SCI Corporation; SMTC Corporation; Solectron Corporation; Sypris Electronics, LLC; and others. Many of such competitors are more established in the industry and have greater financial, manufacturing or marketing resources than we do. We may be operating at a cost disadvantage as compared to our competitors that have greater direct buying power from component suppliers, distributors, and raw material suppliers and have lower cost structures. In addition, many of our competitors have a broader geographic presence, including manufacturing facilities in Asia, Europe, and South America.

We believe that the principal competitive factors in our targeted market are quality, reliability, the ability to meet delivery schedules, technological sophistication, geographic location, and price. We also face competition from our current and potential customers, who are continually evaluating the relative merits of internal manufacturing versus contract manufacturing for various products. As stated above, the price of our services is often one of many factors that may be considered by prospective customers in awarding new business. We believe existing and prospective customers are placing greater emphasis on contract manufacturers that can offer manufacturing services in low cost regions of the world, such as certain countries in Asia. Accordingly, in situations where the price of our services is a primary driver in prospective customers' decision to award new business, we currently believe we may have a competitive disadvantage in these circumstances.

A significant percentage of our net sales are generated from the semiconductor capital equipment, aerospace and defense, industrial, networking and telecommunications, and medical sectors of the electronics industry, which is characterized by intense competition and significant fluctuations in product demand. Furthermore, these sectors are subject to economic cycles and

**Table of Contents**

have experienced in the past, and are likely to experience in the future, recessionary economic cycles. A recession or any other event leading to excess capacity or a downturn in these sectors of the electronics industry results in intensified price competition as well as a decrease in our unit volume sales and our gross margins.

**We are dependent on the aerospace industry.**

One of our principal customers is engaged in the aerospace market. See We are dependent upon a small number of customers for a large portion of our net sales, and a decline in sales to major customers would harm our results of operations. Consequently, a significant percentage of our net sales have been derived from the aerospace sector of the electronics industry. The September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks using hijacked commercial aircraft and the ensuing war on terrorism have resulted in a reduction in demand for our services, which has had an adverse impact on our results of operations. See We experience significant volatility in our net sales which leads to significant operating inefficiencies and the potential for significant charges. In addition, continuing tensions in the Middle East, have resulted in higher oil prices, which could result in further reductions in demand for products of our aerospace customers, which would have a continuing negative impact on our results of operations.

**We are dependent upon a small number of customers for a large portion of our net sales, and a decline in sales to major customers would harm our results of operations.**

A small number of customers are responsible for a significant portion of our net sales. For the year ended December 31, 2004, Honeywell and Applied accounted for 21% and 25%, respectively, of our net sales. For the first quarter of 2005, Honeywell accounted for 29% of our net sales.

Our customer concentration could increase or decrease depending on future customer requirements, which will depend in large part on market conditions in the market sectors in which our customers participate. The loss of one or more major customers or a decline in sales to our major customers could significantly harm our business and results of operations. In the fourth quarter of 2004, Applied informed us that they planned to transition substantially all of their business with us to alternative contract manufacturers and by January 2005 this transition was substantially complete. Accordingly, this transition adversely impacted our results of operations for the first quarter of 2005 and we do not expect to achieve profitable results for the remainder of 2005.

If we are not able to expand our customer base, we will continue to depend upon a small number of customers for a significant percentage of our net sales. There can be no assurance that current customers will not terminate their manufacturing arrangements with us or significantly change, reduce, or delay the amount of manufacturing services ordered from us.

In addition, we generate significant accounts receivable in connection with providing services to our customers. If one or more of our significant customers were to become insolvent or were otherwise unable or unwilling to pay for our services, our results of operations would deteriorate substantially.

**Table of Contents**

**Our financial condition could suffer if we fail to obtain a sufficient award in pending litigation.**

In December and February 2005, we filed lawsuits in Texas and California that seek, through the enforcement of contractual provisions or based upon tort theories, to recover approximately \$18.3 million of costs incurred for excess and obsolete inventories; additional charges for carrying costs, warehousing costs, cancellation charges, and employee termination costs; plus punitive damages, interest and legal fees. See Item 3- Legal Proceedings. Although we are vigorously pursuing our claims, this litigation is in a very early stage and we cannot predict the outcome. If we are not able to obtain a sufficient award to recover the carrying value of these inventories, our business, operating results and financial condition will be negatively impacted.

**Our customers may cancel their orders, change production quantities, or delay production.**

Electronics manufacturing service providers must provide increasingly rapid product turnaround for their customers. We generally do not obtain firm, long-term purchase commitments from our customers, and we expect to continue to experience reduced lead-times in customer orders. Customers may cancel their orders, change production quantities, or delay production for a number of reasons. Cancellations, reductions, or delays by a significant customer or by a group of customers would seriously harm our results of operations. When customer orders are changed or cancelled, we may be forced to hold excess inventories and incur carrying costs as a result of delays, cancellations, or reductions in orders or poor forecasting by our key customers.

In addition, we make significant decisions, including determining the levels of business that we seek and accept, production schedules, component procurement commitments, personnel needs, and other resource requirements based on estimates of customer production requirements. The short-term nature of our customers' commitments to us, combined with the possibility of rapid changes in demand for their products, reduces our ability to accurately estimate future customer orders. In addition, because many of our costs and operating expenses are relatively fixed, a reduction in customer demand generally harms our operating results.

**If we experience excess capacity due to variability in customer demand, our gross margins may decline.**

We may schedule certain of our production facilities at less than full capacity to retain our ability to respond to additional quick turnaround orders. However, if these orders are not received, we could experience losses due to excess capacity. Whenever we experience excess capacity, our sales revenue may be insufficient to fully cover our fixed overhead expenses and our gross margins will decline. Conversely, we may not be able to capture all potential revenue in a given period if our customers' demands for quick turnaround services exceed our capacity during that period.

**If we are unable to respond to rapid technological change and process development, we may not be able to compete effectively.**

The market for our products and services is characterized by rapidly changing technology and continual implementation of new production processes. The future success of our business will depend in large part upon our ability to maintain and enhance our technological capabilities, to develop and market products that meet changing customer needs, and to

## **Table of Contents**

successfully anticipate or respond to technological changes on a cost-effective and timely basis. We expect that the investment necessary to maintain our technological position will increase as customers make demands for products and services requiring more advanced technology on a quicker turnaround basis.

In addition, the electronics manufacturing services industry could encounter competition from new or revised manufacturing and production technologies that render existing manufacturing and production technology less competitive or obsolete. We may not be able to respond effectively to the technological requirements of the changing market. If we need new technologies and equipment to remain competitive, the development, acquisition and implementation of those technologies may require us to make significant capital investments.

### **Operating in foreign countries exposes us to increased risks that could adversely affect our results of operations.**

We currently have foreign operations in Mexico. We may in the future expand into other foreign countries. We have limited experience in managing geographically dispersed operations and in operating in foreign countries. Because of the scope of our international operations, we are subject to the following risks, which could adversely impact our results of operations:

economic or political instability;

transportation delays and interruptions;

increased employee turnover and labor unrest;

incompatibility of systems and equipment used in foreign operations;

foreign currency exposure;

difficulties in staffing and managing foreign personnel and diverse cultures; and

less developed infrastructures.

In addition, changes in policies by the United States or foreign governments could negatively affect our operating results due to increased duties, increased regulatory requirements, higher taxation, currency conversion limitations, restrictions on the transfer of funds, the imposition of or increase in tariffs, and limitations on imports or exports. Also, we could be negatively affected if our host countries revise their policies away from encouraging foreign investment or foreign trade, including tax holidays.

### **If we are unsuccessful in managing future opportunities for growth, our results of operations will be harmed.**

Our future results of operations will be affected by our ability to successfully manage future opportunities for growth. Rapid growth, such as that experienced for 2004, is likely to place a significant strain on our managerial, operational, financial, and other resources. If this growth continues, it may require us to implement additional management information systems, to further develop our operating, administrative, financial, and accounting systems and controls and to maintain close coordination among our accounting, finance, sales and marketing, and customer service and support departments. In addition, we may be required to retain additional personnel to adequately support our growth. If we cannot effectively manage periods of rapid growth in our operations, we may not be able to continue to grow, or we may grow at a slower pace. Any failure to successfully manage growth and to develop financial controls and accounting and operating systems or to add and retain personnel that adequately support growth could harm our business and financial results.



**Table of Contents**

**Our results of operations are affected by a variety of factors, which could cause our results of operations to fail to meet expectations.**

Our results of operations have varied, and our results of operations may continue to fluctuate significantly from period to period, including on a quarterly basis. Our results of operations are affected by a number of factors, including:

- timing of orders from and shipments to major customers;
- mix of products ordered by major customers;
- volume of orders as related to our capacity at individual locations;
- pricing and other competitive pressures;
- component shortages, which could cause us to be unable to meet customer delivery schedules;
- our ability to minimize inventory obsolescence and bad debt expense risk;
- our ability to manage effectively inventory and fixed asset levels; and
- timing and level of goodwill and other long-lived asset impairments.

**We are dependent on limited and sole source suppliers for electronic components and may experience component shortages, which would cause us to delay shipments to customers.**

We are dependent on certain suppliers, including limited and sole source suppliers, to provide critical electronic components and other materials for our operations. At various times, there have been shortages of some of the electronic components we use, and suppliers of some components have lacked sufficient capacity to meet the demand for these components. For example, from time to time, some components we use, including semiconductors, capacitors, and resistors, have been subject to shortages, and suppliers have been forced to allocate available quantities among their customers. Such shortages have disrupted our operations in the past, which resulted in incomplete or late shipments of products to our customers. Our inability to obtain any needed components during future periods of allocations could cause delays in shipments to our customers. The inability to make scheduled shipments could in turn cause us to experience a shortfall in revenue. Component shortages may also increase our cost of goods due to premium charges we may pay to purchase components in short supply. Accordingly, even though component shortages have not had a lasting negative impact on our business, component shortages could harm our results of operations for a particular fiscal period due to the resulting revenue shortfall or cost increases and could also damage customer relationships over a longer-term period.

**We depend on our key personnel and may have difficulty attracting and retaining skilled employees.**

Our future success will depend to a significant degree upon the continued contributions of our key management, marketing, technical, financial, accounting and operational personnel. The loss of the services of one or more key employees could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations. We also believe that our future success will depend in large part upon our ability to attract and retain additional highly skilled managerial and technical resources. Competition for such personnel is intense. There can be no assurance that we will be successful in attracting and retaining such personnel. In addition, recent and potential future facility shutdowns and workforce reductions may have a negative impact on employee recruiting and retention.





**Table of Contents**

**Our manufacturing processes depend on the collective industry experience of our employees. If these employees were to leave and take this knowledge with them, our manufacturing processes may suffer and we may not be able to compete effectively.**

We have no patent or trade secret protection for our manufacturing processes, but instead rely on the collective experience of our employees to ensure that we continuously evaluate and adopt new technologies in our industry. Although we are not dependent on any one employee or a small number of employees, if a significant number of employees involved in our manufacturing processes were to leave our employment and we are not able to replace these people with new employees with comparable experience, our manufacturing processes may suffer as we may be unable to keep up with innovations in the industry. As a result, we may not be able to continue to compete effectively.

**Our failure to comply with the requirements of environmental laws could result in fines and revocation of permits necessary to our manufacturing processes.**

Our operations are regulated under a number of federal, state, and foreign environmental and safety laws and regulations that govern, among other things, the discharge of hazardous materials into the air and water, as well as the handling, storage, and disposal of such materials. These laws and regulations include the Clean Air Act; the Clean Water Act; the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act; as well as analogous state and foreign laws. Compliance with these environmental laws is a major consideration for us because our manufacturing processes use and generate materials classified as hazardous, such as ammoniacal etching solutions, copper, and nickel. In addition, because we use hazardous materials and generate hazardous wastes in our manufacturing processes, we may be subject to potential financial liability for costs associated with the investigation and remediation of our own sites or sites at which we have arranged for the disposal of hazardous wastes, if such sites become contaminated. Even if we fully comply with applicable environmental laws and are not directly at fault for the contamination, we may still be liable. The wastes we generate include spent ammoniacal etching solutions, solder stripping solutions, and hydrochloric acid solutions containing palladium; waste water that contains heavy metals, acids, cleaners, and conditioners; and filter cake from equipment used for on-site waste treatment. We have not incurred significant costs related to compliance with environmental laws and regulations in the prior three years, and we believe that our operations comply with all applicable environmental laws. However, any material violations of environmental laws by us could subject us to revocation of our effluent discharge and other environmental permits. Any such revocations could require us to cease or limit production at one or more of our facilities. Even if we ultimately prevail, environmental lawsuits against us would be time consuming and costly to defend.

Environmental laws could also become more stringent over time, imposing greater compliance costs and increasing risks and penalties associated with violation. We operate in environmentally sensitive locations and are subject to potentially conflicting and changing regulatory agendas of political, business, and environmental groups. Changes or restrictions on discharge limits; emissions levels; or material storage, handling, or disposal might require a high level of unplanned capital investment or relocation. It is possible that environmental compliance costs and penalties from new or existing regulations may harm our business, financial condition, and results of operations.

**Table of Contents**

**We may be subject to risks associated with acquisitions, and these risks could harm our results of operations.**

We completed two business combinations in 2002 and one each in 2003 and 2004, and we anticipate that we will seek to identify and acquire additional suitable businesses in the electronics manufacturing services industry. The long-term success of recent business combinations will depend on our ability to unite the business strategies, human resources and information technology systems of previously separate companies. The difficulties of combining operations include the necessity of coordinating geographically separated organizations and integrating personnel with diverse business backgrounds. Combining management resources will result in changes affecting all employees and operations. Differences in management approach and corporate culture may strain employee relations.

Future business combinations could cause certain customers to either seek alternative sources of product supply or service, or delay or change orders for products due to uncertainty over the integration of the two companies or the strategic position of the combined company. As a result, we may experience some customer attrition.

Acquisitions of companies and businesses and expansion of operations involve certain risks, including the following:

the business fails to achieve anticipated revenue and profit expectations;

the potential inability to successfully integrate acquired operations and businesses or to realize anticipated synergies, economies of scale, or other value;

diversion of management's attention;

difficulties in scaling up production and coordinating management of operations at new sites;

the possible need to restructure, modify, or terminate customer relationships of the acquired business;

loss of key employees of acquired operations; and

the potential liabilities of the acquired businesses.

Accordingly, we may experience problems in integrating the operations associated with any future acquisition. We therefore cannot provide assurance that any future acquisition will result in a positive contribution to our results of operations. In particular, the successful combination with any businesses we acquire will require substantial effort from each company, including the integration and coordination of sales and marketing efforts. The diversion of the attention of management and any difficulties encountered in the transition process, including the interruption of, or a loss of momentum in, the activities of any business acquired, problems associated with integration of management information and reporting systems, and delays in implementation of consolidation plans, could harm our ability to realize the anticipated benefits of any future acquisition. In addition, future acquisitions may result in dilutive issuances of equity securities, the incurrence of additional debt, large one-time write-offs, and the creation of goodwill or other intangible assets that could result in increased impairment or amortization expense.

**Table of Contents**

**Failure to maintain an effective system of internal controls in accordance with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act could inhibit our ability to accurately report our financial results and have a material adverse impact on our business and stock price.**

Effective internal controls are necessary for us to provide reliable financial reports. We have in the past discovered, and may in the future discover, areas of our internal controls that need improvement. We are in the process of documenting and testing our internal control procedures in order to satisfy the requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, which requires annual management assessments of the effectiveness of our internal controls over financial reporting and a report by our independent auditors attesting to these assessments. During the course of our testing we may identify deficiencies which we may not be able to remediate in time to meet the December 31, 2006 deadline imposed by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 for compliance with the requirements of Section 404. Failure to achieve and maintain effective internal controls over financial reporting could have a material adverse effect on our stock price.

**Our stock price may be volatile, and our stock is thinly traded, which could cause investors to lose all or part of their investments in our common stock.**

The stock market may experience volatility that has often been unrelated to the operating performance of any particular company or companies. If market or industry-based fluctuations continue, our stock price could decline regardless of our actual operating performance, and investors could lose a substantial part of their investments. Moreover, if an active public market for our stock is not sustained in the future, it may be difficult to resell our stock.

Since March 2002 when Suntron shares began trading, the average number of shares of our common stock that traded on the NASDAQ exchange has been approximately 8,000 shares per day compared to 27,415,221 issued and outstanding shares as of April 3, 2005. When trading volumes are this low, a relatively small buy or sell order can result in a large percentage change in the trading price of our common stock, which may be unrelated to changes in our stock price that are associated with our operating performance.

The market price of our common stock will likely fluctuate in response to a number of factors, including the following:

- failure to meet the performance estimates of securities analysts;
- changes in estimates of our results of operations by securities analysts;
- announcements about the financial performance and prospects of the industries and customers we serve;
- announcements about the financial performance of our competitors in the EMS industry;
- the timing of announcements by us or our competitors of significant contracts or acquisitions; and
- general stock market conditions.

## **Table of Contents**

**Our major stockholder controls us and our stock price could be influenced by actions taken by this stockholder. Additionally, this stockholder could prevent a change of control or other business combination, or could effect a short form merger without the approval of other stockholders.**

Thayer-Blum owns approximately 90% of our common stock, and five of our eleven directors are representatives of Thayer-Blum. The interests of Thayer-Blum may not always coincide with those of our other stockholders, particularly if Thayer-Blum decides to sell its controlling interest. In addition, Thayer-Blum will have sufficient voting power (without the approval of Suntron's other stockholders) to elect the entire Board of Directors of Suntron and, in general, to determine the outcome of various matters submitted to stockholders for approval, including fundamental corporate transactions. Thayer-Blum could cause us to take actions that we would not consider absent Thayer-Blum's influence, or could delay, deter, or prevent a change of control or other business combination that might otherwise be beneficial to our public stockholders.

In addition, Thayer-Blum could contribute its Suntron stock to a subsidiary corporation that, as a 90% stockholder, then would have the ability under Delaware law to merge with or into Suntron without the approval of the other Suntron stockholders. In the event of such a short-form merger, Suntron stockholders would have the right to assert appraisal/dissenters' rights to receive cash in the amount of the fair market value of their shares in lieu of the consideration they would have otherwise received from the transaction.

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

We have a revolving line of credit that provides for total borrowings up to \$75.0 million. The interest rate under this agreement is based on the prime rate and LIBOR rates, plus applicable margins. Therefore, as interest rates fluctuate, the Company may experience changes in interest expense that will impact financial results. The Company has not entered into any interest rate swap agreements, or similar instruments, to protect against the risk of interest rate fluctuations. Assuming outstanding borrowings of \$75.0 million, if interest rates were to increase or decrease by one percentage point, the result would be an increase or decrease in annual interest expense of \$0.75 million. Accordingly, significant increases in interest rates could have a material adverse effect on the Company's future results of operations.

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

Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer, we have evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 13a-15 as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based upon that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are effective. There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended April 3, 2005, that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Disclosure controls and procedures are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in our reports filed or submitted under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms. Disclosure controls and procedures include controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in our reports filed under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to management, including the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.



**Table of Contents**

**PART II. OTHER INFORMATION**

**Item 1. Legal Proceedings**

The information reported under Item 3, Legal Proceedings, of our 2004 Annual Report on Form 10-K is incorporated herein by reference. There are no other legal proceedings to which we are a party or to which any of our properties are subject, that we expect to have a material adverse effect on our Company.

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

Not Applicable.

**Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities**

Not Applicable.

**Item 4. Submission Of Matters To A Vote Of Security Holders**

Not Applicable

**Item 5. Other Information**

Not Applicable.

**Item 6. Exhibits**

The following exhibits are filed with this report:

Exhibit 10.10	Amendment No. 1, Consent and Waiver to Suntron Corporation Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated March 29, 2005
Exhibit 31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes- Oxley Act of 2002
Exhibit 31.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
Exhibit 32.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
Exhibit 32.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

**Table of Contents**

**SIGNATURES**

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

**SUNTRON CORPORATION**

(Registrant)

Date: May 16, 2005

/s/ Hargopal Singh  
Hargopal Singh  
*Chief Executive Officer*

Date: May 16, 2005

/s/ Peter W. Harper  
Peter W. Harper  
*Chief Financial Officer*

Date: May 16, 2005

/s/ James A. Doran  
James A. Doran  
*Chief Accounting Officer*