

Warner Music Group Corp.
Form 10-Q
February 09, 2010
Table of Contents

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

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

For the quarterly period ended December 31, 2009

OR

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

Commission File Number 001-32502

Warner Music Group Corp.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

13-4271875
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

75 Rockefeller Plaza

New York, NY 10019

(Address of principal executive offices)

(212) 275-2000

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company

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

As of February 5, 2010, the number of shares of the Registrant's common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, outstanding was 154,603,426.

Table of Contents

WARNER MUSIC GROUP CORP.

INDEX

	Page
Part I. Financial Information	
Item 1. <u>Financial Statements (Unaudited)</u>	3
<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2009 and September 30, 2009</u>	3
<u>Consolidated Statements of Operations for the Three Months Ended December 31, 2009 and 2008</u>	4
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Three Months Ended December 31, 2009 and 2008</u>	5
<u>Consolidated Statement of Equity (Deficit) for the Three Months Ended December 31, 2009</u>	6
<u>Notes to Consolidated Interim Financial Statements</u>	7
<u>Supplementary Information Consolidating Financial Statements</u>	17
Item 2. <u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	23
Item 3. <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	39
Item 4. <u>Controls and Procedures</u>	40
Part II. Other Information	
Item 1. <u>Legal Proceedings</u>	41
Item 1A. <u>Risk Factors</u>	41
Item 2. <u>Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u>	51
Item 3. <u>Defaults Upon Senior Securities</u>	51
Item 4. <u>Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders</u>	51
Item 5. <u>Other Information</u>	51
Item 6. <u>Exhibits</u>	51
<u>Signatures</u>	52

Table of Contents**ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****Warner Music Group Corp.****Consolidated Balance Sheets (Unaudited)**

	December 31, 2009	September 30, 2009
	(in millions)	
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and equivalents	\$ 339	\$ 384
Accounts receivable, less allowances of \$157 and \$135 million	536	544
Inventories	42	46
Royalty advances expected to be recouped within one year	174	171
Deferred tax assets	29	29
Other current assets	40	48
Total current assets	1,160	1,222
Royalty advances expected to be recouped after one year	214	209
Investments	9	18
Property, plant and equipment, net	98	100
Goodwill	1,030	1,032
Intangible assets subject to amortization, net	1,260	1,317
Intangible assets not subject to amortization	100	100
Other assets	63	64
Total assets	\$ 3,934	\$ 4,062
Liabilities and Deficit		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 191	\$ 219
Accrued royalties	1,214	1,185
Accrued liabilities	235	282
Accrued interest	16	57
Deferred revenue	82	113
Other current liabilities	21	16
Total current liabilities	1,759	1,872
Long-term debt	1,944	1,939
Deferred tax liabilities	165	164
Other noncurrent liabilities	163	172
Total liabilities	4,031	4,147
Commitments and Contingencies (See Note 11)		
Shareholders' equity (deficit):		
Common stock (\$0.001 par value; 500,000,000 shares authorized; 154,603,426 and 154,590,926 shares issued and outstanding)		
Additional paid-in capital	604	601
Accumulated deficit	(803)	(786)
Accumulated other comprehensive income, net	44	42
Total Warner Music Group Corp. shareholders' equity (deficit)	(155)	(143)
Noncontrolling interest	58	58

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

Total equity (deficit)	(97)	(85)
Total liabilities and deficit	\$ 3,934	\$ 4,062

See accompanying notes.

Table of Contents**Warner Music Group Corp.****Consolidated Statements of Operations (Unaudited)**

	Three Months Ended December 31, 2009	Three Months Ended December 31, 2008
	(in millions, except per share amounts)	
Revenues	\$ 918	\$ 887
Costs and expenses:		
Cost of revenues	(511)	(493)
Selling, general and administrative expenses (a)	(304)	(295)
Amortization of intangible assets	(56)	(58)
Total costs and expenses	(871)	(846)
Operating income	47	41
Interest expense, net	(51)	(44)
Gain on sale of equity-method investment		36
Gain on foreign exchange transaction		9
Impairment of equity-method investment		(10)
Other expense, net	1	
(Loss) income before income taxes	(3)	32
Income tax expense	(13)	(16)
Net (loss) income	(16)	16
Less: noncontrolling interest (income) loss	(1)	7
Net (loss) income attributable to Warner Music Group Corp.	\$ (17)	\$ 23
Net (loss) income per common share attributable to Warner Music Group Corp.:		
Basic	\$ (0.11)	\$ 0.15
Diluted	\$ (0.11)	\$ 0.15
Weighted average common shares:		
Basic	149.5	149.2
Diluted	149.5	149.9
(a) Includes depreciation expense of:	\$ (9)	\$ (8)

See accompanying notes.

Table of Contents**Warner Music Group Corp.****Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (Unaudited)**

	Three Months Ended December 31, 2009	Three Months Ended December 31, 2008
	(in millions)	
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net (loss) income	\$ (16)	\$ 16
Adjustments to reconcile net (loss) income to net cash (used in) provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	65	66
Deferred taxes	(3)	
Gain on sale of equity investment		(36)
Gain on foreign exchange transaction		(9)
Impairment of equity investment		10
Non-cash interest expense	10	11
Non-cash stock-based compensation expense	3	2
Other non-cash items		(1)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	7	(22)
Inventories	4	(3)
Royalty advances	(11)	(26)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(69)	52
Accrued interest	(41)	(12)
Other balance sheet changes	9	(5)
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	(42)	43
Cash flows from investing activities		
Repayments of loans to third parties		3
Investments and acquisitions of businesses		(5)
Acquisition of publishing rights	(4)	(2)
Proceeds from the sale of investments	9	124
Capital expenditures	(7)	(3)
Net cash (used in) provided by investing activities	(2)	117
Cash flows from financing activities		
Debt repayments		(4)
Net cash used in financing activities		(4)
Effect of foreign currency exchange rate changes on cash	(1)	(18)
Net (decrease) increase in cash and equivalents	(45)	138
Cash and equivalents at beginning of period	384	411
Cash and equivalents at end of period	\$ 339	\$ 549

See accompanying notes.

Table of Contents**Warner Music Group Corp.****Consolidated Statement of Equity (Deficit) (Unaudited)**

	Common Stock		Additional Paid-in Capital (in millions, except number of common shares)	Accumulated Deficit	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income	Total Warner Music Group Corp. Shareholders Deficit	Noncontrolling Interests	Total Equity (Deficit)
	Shares	Value						
Balance at September 30, 2009	154,590,926	\$ 0.001	\$ 601	\$ (786)	\$ 42	\$ (143)	\$ 58	\$ (85)
Comprehensive loss:								
Net loss				(17)		(17)	1	(16)
Foreign currency translation adjustment					2	2		2
Minimum pension liability								
Deferred losses on derivative financial instruments								
Other							(1)	(1)
Total comprehensive loss						(15)		(15)
Stock based compensation			3			3		3
Exercises of stock options	12,500							
Balance at December 31, 2009	154,603,426	\$ 0.001	\$ 604	\$ (803)	\$ 44	\$ (155)	\$ 58	\$ (97)

See accompanying notes.

Table of Contents

Warner Music Group Corp.

Notes to Consolidated Interim Financial Statements (Unaudited)

1. Description of Business

Warner Music Group Corp. (the Company or Parent) was formed by a private equity consortium of investors (the Investor Group) on November 21, 2003. The Company is the direct parent of WMG Holdings Corp. (Holdings), which is the direct parent of WMG Acquisition Corp. (Acquisition Corp.). Acquisition Corp. is one of the world's major music-based content companies and the successor to substantially all of the interests of the recorded music and music publishing businesses of Time Warner Inc. (Time Warner). Effective March 1, 2004, Acquisition Corp. acquired such interests from Time Warner for approximately \$2.6 billion (the Acquisition). The original Investor Group included affiliates of Thomas H. Lee Partners (THL), affiliates of Bain Capital Investors, LLC (Bain), affiliates of Providence Equity Partners, Inc. (Providence) and Music Capital Partners, L.P. (Music Capital). Music Capital's partnership agreement required that the Music Capital partnership dissolve and commence winding up by the second anniversary of the Company's May 2005 initial public offering. As a result, on May 7, 2007, Music Capital made a pro rata distribution of all shares of common stock of the Company held by it to its partners. The shares held by Music Capital had been subject to a stockholders agreement among Music Capital, THL, Bain and Providence and certain other parties. As a result of the distribution, the shares distributed by Music Capital ceased to be subject to the voting and other provisions of the stockholders agreement and Music Capital was no longer part of the Investor Group subject to the stockholders agreement.

The Company classifies its business interests into two fundamental operations: Recorded Music and Music Publishing. A brief description of these operations is presented below.

Recorded Music Operations

The Company's Recorded Music business primarily consists of the discovery and development of artists and the related marketing, distribution and licensing of recorded music produced by such artists.

The Company is also diversifying its revenues beyond its traditional businesses by entering into expanded-rights deals with recording artists in order to partner with artists in other areas of their careers. Under these agreements, the Company provides services to and participates in artists activities outside the traditional recorded music business. The Company is building artist services capabilities and platforms for exploiting this broader set of music-related rights and participating more broadly in the monetization of the artist brands it helps create. In developing the Company's artist services business, the Company has both built and expanded in-house capabilities and expertise and has acquired a number of existing artist services companies involved in artist management, merchandising, strategic marketing and brand management, ticketing, concert promotion, fan clubs, original programming and video entertainment. The Company believes that entering into expanded-rights deals and enhancing its artist services capabilities will permit it to diversify revenue streams to better capitalize on the growth areas of the music industry and permit it to build stronger, long-term relationships with artists and more effectively connect artists and fans.

In the U.S., Recorded Music operations are conducted principally through the Company's major record labels Warner Bros. Records and The Atlantic Records Group. The Company's Recorded Music operations also include Rhino, a division that specializes in marketing the Company's music catalog through compilations and reissues of previously released music and video titles, as well as in the licensing of recordings to and from third parties for various uses, including film and television soundtracks. Rhino has also become the Company's primary licensing division focused on acquiring broader licensing rights from certain catalog artists. For example, the Company has an exclusive license with The Grateful Dead to manage the band's intellectual property and a 50% interest in Frank Sinatra Enterprises, an entity that administers licenses for use of Frank Sinatra's name and likeness and manages all

Table of Contents

aspects of his music, film and stage content. The Company also conducts its Recorded Music operations through a collection of additional record labels, including, among others, Asylum, Cordless, East West, Elektra, Nonesuch, Reprise, Roadrunner, Rykodisc, Sire and Word.

Outside the U.S., Recorded Music activities are conducted in more than 50 countries primarily through Warner Music International (WMI) and its various subsidiaries, affiliates and non-affiliated licensees. WMI engages in the same activities as the Company's U.S. labels: discovering and signing artists and distributing, marketing and selling their recorded music. In most cases, WMI also markets and distributes the records of those artists for whom the Company's U.S. record labels have international rights. In certain smaller countries, WMI licenses to unaffiliated third-party record labels the right to distribute its records. The Company's international artist services operations also include a network of concert promoters through which WMI provides resources to coordinate tours.

Recorded Music distribution operations include WEA Corp, which markets and sells music and DVD products to retailers and wholesale distributors in the U.S.; ADA, which distributes the products of independent labels to retail and wholesale distributors in the U.S.; various distribution centers and ventures operated internationally; an 80% interest in Word Entertainment, which specializes in the distribution of music products in the Christian retail marketplace and ADA Global, which provides distribution services outside of the U.S. through a network of affiliated and non-affiliated distributors.

The Company plays an integral role in virtually all aspects of the music value chain from discovering and developing talent to producing albums and promoting artists and their products. After an artist has entered into a contract with one of the Company's record labels, a master recording of the artist's music is created. The recording is then replicated for sale to consumers primarily in the CD and digital formats. In the U.S., WEA Corp., ADA and Word market, sell and deliver product, either directly or through sub-distributors and wholesalers, to record stores, mass merchants and other retailers. The Company's recorded music products are also sold in physical form to online physical retailers such as Amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com and bestbuy.com and in digital form to online digital retailers like Apple's iTunes and mobile full-track download stores such as those operated by Verizon or Sprint. In the case of expanded-rights deals where the Company acquires broader rights in a recording artist's career, it may provide more comprehensive career support and actively develop new opportunities for an artist through touring, fan clubs, merchandising and sponsorships, among other areas. The Company believes expanded-rights deals create better partnerships with its artists, which allows it to work together more closely with them to create and sustain artistic and commercial success.

The Company has integrated the sale of digital content into all aspects of its Recorded Music and Music Publishing businesses including A&R, marketing, promotion and distribution. The Company's new media executives work closely with A&R departments to make sure that while a record is being made, digital assets are also created with all of its distribution channels in mind, including subscription services, social networking sites, online portals and music-centered destinations. The Company works side by side with its mobile and online partners to test new concepts. The Company believes existing and new digital businesses will be a significant source of growth for the next several years and will provide new opportunities to monetize its assets and create new revenue streams. As a music-based content company, the Company has assets that go beyond its recorded music and music publishing catalogs, such as its music video library, which it has begun to monetize through digital channels. The proportion of digital revenues attributed to each distribution channel varies by region and since digital music is in the relatively early stages of growth, proportions may change as the roll out of new technologies continues. As an owner of musical content, the Company believes it is well positioned to take advantage of growth in digital distribution and emerging technologies to maximize the value of its assets.

Table of Contents

Music Publishing Operations

Where recorded music is focused on exploiting a particular recording of a song, music publishing is an intellectual property business focused on the exploitation of the song itself. In return for promoting, placing, marketing and administering the creative output of a songwriter, or engaging in those activities for other rightsholders, the Company's Music Publishing business garners a share of the revenues generated from use of the song.

The Company's Music Publishing operations include Warner/Chappell, its global Music Publishing company, headquartered in New York with operations in over 50 countries through various subsidiaries, affiliates and non-affiliated licensees. The Company owns or controls rights to more than one million musical compositions, including numerous pop hits, American standards, folk songs and motion picture and theatrical compositions. Assembled over decades, its award-winning catalog includes over 65,000 songwriters and composers and a diverse range of genres including pop, rock, jazz, country, R&B, hip-hop, rap, reggae, Latin, folk, blues, symphonic, soul, Broadway, techno, alternative, gospel and other Christian music. Warner/Chappell also administers the music and soundtracks of several third-party television and film producers and studios, including Lucasfilm, Ltd., Hallmark Entertainment, Disney Music Publishing and HBO. In 2007, the Company entered the production music library business with the acquisition of Non-Stop Music. Production music is a complementary alternative to licensing standards and contemporary hits for television, film and advertising producers.

2. Basis of Presentation

Interim Financial Statements

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S. (U.S. GAAP) for interim financial information and 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. GAAP 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 three-month period ended December 31, 2009 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010.

The consolidated balance sheet at September 30, 2009 has been derived from the audited consolidated financial statements at that date but does not include all of the information and footnotes required by U.S. GAAP for complete financial statements.

For further information, refer to the consolidated financial statements and footnotes thereto included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2009 (File No. 001-32502).

Basis of Consolidation

The accompanying financial statements present the consolidated accounts of all entities in which the Company has a controlling voting interest and/or variable interest entities required to be consolidated in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Significant inter-company balances and transactions have been eliminated. Certain reclassifications have been made to the prior fiscal years' consolidated financial statements to conform with the current fiscal-year presentation.

The Company maintains a 52-53 week fiscal year ending on the Friday nearest to each reporting date. As such, all references to December 31, 2009 and 2008 relate to the three-month periods ended December 25, 2009 and December 26, 2008, respectively. For convenience purposes, the Company continues to date its financial statements as of December 31.

The Company has performed a review of all subsequent events up to and including the date of issuance of its financial statements, February 9, 2010, and has deemed that no additional disclosures are necessary.

New Accounting Pronouncements

In December 2007, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) revised the authoritative guidance for business combinations. The new guidance changes the accounting for business combinations in several areas including contingent consideration, acquisition-related costs, restructuring costs and deferred income taxes. Acquisition costs will generally be expensed as incurred. Restructuring costs associated with a business combination will generally be expensed subsequent to the acquisition date. Changes in deferred tax asset valuation allowances and uncertain tax positions after the acquisition date will generally impact income tax expense. The new guidance is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2008 on a prospective basis. The Company adopted the revised guidance as of October 1, 2009. The adoption of

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

this guidance did not affect the Company's historical consolidated financial statements but it will change the Company's accounting treatment for business combinations on a prospective basis.

In December 2007, the FASB revised the authoritative guidance for accounting and reporting for the noncontrolling interest in a subsidiary (previously referred to as minority interest) and for the deconsolidation of a subsidiary. The new guidance requires the

Table of Contents

recognition of a noncontrolling interest as a component of equity in the consolidated financial statements as opposed to as a liability or mezzanine equity. The new guidance also changes the computation of net income of a consolidated group such that earnings attributed to the noncontrolling interest will no longer be deducted in determining net income. Instead, it must be separately presented on the face of the consolidated income statement. The carrying amount of the noncontrolling interest is adjusted to reflect the change in ownership interest, and any difference between the amount by which the noncontrolling interests are adjusted and the fair value of the consideration paid or received is recognized directly in equity attributable to the controlling interest (i.e., as additional paid in capital). Any transaction that results in the loss of control of a subsidiary is considered a remeasurement event with any retained interest remeasured at fair value. The gain or loss recognized in income includes both the realized gain or loss related to the portion of the ownership interest sold and the gain or loss on the remeasurement to fair value of the retained interest. FASB requires that the new guidance for noncontrolling interests and the new guidance on business combinations be adopted concurrently and thus, this guidance is also effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2008. The Company adopted the provisions of this guidance effective October 1, 2009. This guidance changes the Company's accounting treatment of business combinations and dispositions with noncontrolling interests on a prospective basis, except for the presentation and disclosure requirements, which were applied on a retrospective basis. As of December 31, 2009 and September 30, 2009, noncontrolling interests of \$58 million have been classified as a component of equity in the consolidated balance sheet. Income attributable to noncontrolling interests of \$1 million is included in net loss for the three months ended December 31, 2009. Losses attributable to noncontrolling interests of \$7 million are included in net income for the three months ended December 31, 2008.

In June 2009, the FASB issued Statement No. 167, *Amendments to FASB Interpretation No. 46(R)* (FAS 167), which amends the consolidation guidance for variable interest entities. The amendments include: (1) the elimination of the exemption from consolidation for qualifying special purpose entities, (2) a new approach for determining the primary beneficiary of a VIE, which requires that the primary beneficiary have both (i) the power to control the most significant activities of the VIE and (ii) either the obligation to absorb losses or the right to receive benefits that could potentially be significant to the VIE, and (3) the requirement to continually reassess who should consolidate a variable-interest entity. FAS 167 is effective for the beginning of an entity's first annual reporting period that begins after November 15, 2009, for interim periods within that first annual reporting period and for interim and annual reporting periods thereafter. We have not completed our analysis of the impact of this new standard, if any, which will be adopted effective October 1, 2010.

3. Comprehensive (Loss) Income

Comprehensive (loss) income consists of net loss and other gains and losses affecting equity that, under U.S. GAAP, are excluded from net (loss) income. For the Company, the components of other comprehensive (loss) income primarily consist of foreign currency translation gains and losses and deferred gains and losses on financial instruments designated as hedges under FASB ASC Topic 815, *Derivatives and Hedging* (ASC 815), which include foreign exchange contracts. The following summary sets forth the components of comprehensive loss, net of related taxes (in millions):

	Three Months Ended December 31, 2009	Three Months Ended December, 2008
Net (loss) income	\$ (17)	\$ 23
Foreign currency translation adjustments (a)	2	23
Derivative financial instruments losses		(3)
Comprehensive (loss) income (b)	\$ (15)	\$ 43

(a) The foreign currency translation adjustments are not adjusted for income taxes as they relate to permanent investments in international subsidiaries.

(b) Comprehensive (loss) income includes \$1 million of income and \$7 million of losses attributable to noncontrolling interests for the three months ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively.

4. Net (Loss) Income Per Common Share

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

The Company computes net (loss) income per common share in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 260, *Earnings per Share* (ASC 260). Under the provisions of ASC 260, basic net (loss) income per common share is computed by dividing the net (loss) income applicable to common shares after preferred dividend requirements, if any, by the weighted average of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted net (loss) income per common share adjusts basic net (loss) income per common share for the effects of stock options, warrants and other potentially dilutive financial instruments, only in the periods in which such effect is dilutive.

Table of Contents

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted net (loss) income per common share (in millions, except per share amounts):

	Three Months Ended December 31, 2009	Three Months Ended December 31, 2008
Numerator:		
Basic and diluted net (loss) income per common share:		
Net (loss) income attributable to Warner Music Group Corp.	\$ (17)	\$ 23
Denominator:		
Weighted average common shares outstanding for basic calculation (a)	149.5	149.2
Dilutive effect of options and restricted stock		0.7
Weighted average common outstanding shares for diluted calculation	149.5	149.9
Net (loss) income per common share attributable to Warner Music Group Corp. basic	\$ (0.11)	\$ 0.15
Net (loss) income per common share attributable to Warner Music Group Corp. diluted	\$ (0.11)	\$ 0.15

(a) The denominator excludes the effect of unvested common shares subject to repurchase or cancellation. The calculation of diluted net loss per share excludes the following weighted average number of stock options and restricted stock because to include them in the calculation would be anti-dilutive:

	Three Months Ended December 31, 2009	Three Months Ended December 31, 2008
Stock options	8.0	1.0
Restricted stock	0.1	2.1

5. Investments

The Company's investments consist of the following (in millions):

	December 31, 2009	September 30, 2009
Cost-method investments	\$ 4	\$ 13
Equity-method investments	5	5
	\$ 9	\$ 18

During the three months ended December 31, 2009, the Company sold its equity interest in lala media, inc. and terminated a memorandum of terms related to the formation of an international joint venture. The Company received cash consideration of approximately \$9 million, which resulted in an immaterial gain.

6. Inventories

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

Inventories consist of the following (in millions):

	December 31, 2009	September 30, 2009
Compact discs and other music-related products	\$ 40	\$ 44
Published sheet music and song books	2	2
	\$ 42	\$ 46

Table of Contents**7. Goodwill and Intangible Assets****Goodwill**

The following analysis details the changes in goodwill for each reportable segment during the three months ended December 31, 2009 (in millions):

	Recorded Music	Music Publishing	Total
Balance at September 30, 2009	\$ 441	\$ 591	\$ 1,032
Acquisitions		1	1
Dispositions			
Other (a)	(3)		(3)
Balance at December 31, 2009	\$ 438	\$ 592	\$ 1,030

(a) Other represents foreign currency translation adjustments.

Other Intangible Assets

Other intangible assets consist of the following (in millions):

	September 30, 2009	Acquisitions	Other (a)	December 31, 2009
Intangible assets subject to amortization:				
Recorded music catalog	\$ 1,379		(1)	\$ 1,378
Music publishing copyrights	952	3	(3)	952
Artist contracts	80			80
Trademarks	31			31
Other intangible assets	8			8
	2,450	3	(4)	2,449
Accumulated amortization	(1,133)			(1,189)
Total net intangible assets subject to amortization	1,317			1,260
Intangible assets not subject to amortization:				
Trademarks and brands	100			100
Total net other intangible assets	\$ 1,417			\$ 1,360

(a) Other represents foreign currency translation adjustments.

8. Restructuring Costs**Acquisition-Related Restructuring Costs**

In connection with the Acquisition that was effective as of March 1, 2004, the Company reviewed its operations and implemented several plans to restructure its operations. As part of these restructuring plans, the Company recorded a restructuring liability during 2004, which included

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

costs to exit and consolidate certain activities of the Company, costs to exit certain leased facilities and operations such as international distribution operations, costs to terminate employees and costs to terminate certain artist, songwriter, co-publisher and other contracts. Such liabilities were recognized as part of the cost of the Acquisition. As of December 31, 2009, the Company had approximately \$10 million of liabilities outstanding primarily related to long-term lease obligations for vacated facilities, which are expected to be settled by 2019 and \$84 million of liabilities outstanding primarily related to revaluations of artist and other contracts.

Table of Contents**9. Debt**

The Company's long-term debt consists of (in millions):

	December 31, 2009	September 30, 2009
9.5% Senior Secured Notes due 2016- Acquisition Corp (a)	\$ 1,062	\$ 1,060
7.375% U.S. dollar-denominated Senior Subordinated Notes due 2014 Acquisition Corp.	465	465
8.125% Sterling-denominated Senior Subordinated Notes due 2014 Acquisition Corp. (b)	159	161
9.5% Senior Discount Notes due 2014 Holdings (c)	258	253
Total debt	\$ 1,944	\$ 1,939

- (a) 9.5% Senior Secured Notes due 2016; face amount of \$1.1 billion less unamortized discount of \$38 million at December 31, 2009 and \$40 million at September 30, 2009.
- (b) Change represents the impact of foreign currency exchange rates on the carrying value of the Sterling-denominated notes.
- (c) Change represents the accrual of interest in the form of an increase in the accreted value of the discount notes. During the three months ended December 31, 2009, the Holdings Notes accreted to the full principal amount due at maturity of \$258 million. The Company has started accruing interest which is to be paid semi-annually in cash beginning June 15, 2010.

Restricted Net Assets

The Company is a holding company with no independent operations or assets other than through its interests in its subsidiaries, such as Holdings and Acquisition Corp. Accordingly, the ability of the Company to obtain funds from its subsidiaries is restricted by the indenture for the Acquisition Corp. Senior Secured Notes due 2016, the indenture for the Acquisition Corp. Senior Subordinated Notes due 2014, and the indenture for the Holdings Senior Discount Notes due 2014.

10. Stock-based Compensation

The following table represents the expense recorded by the Company with respect to its stock-based awards for the three months ended December 31, 2009 and 2008 (in millions):

	Three Months Ended December 31, 2009	Three Months Ended December 31, 2008
Recorded Music	\$ 2	\$ 1
Music Publishing		
Corporate expenses	1	1
Total	\$ 3	\$ 2

During the three months ended December 31, 2009, the Company awarded 125,000 stock options to its employees. During the three months ended December 31, 2008, the Company awarded 450,000 shares of restricted stock and 585,000 stock options to its employees.

11. Commitments and Contingencies

Pricing of Digital Music Downloads

On December 20, 2005 and February 3, 2006, the Attorney General of the State of New York served the Company with requests for information in connection with an industry-wide investigation as to whether the practices of industry participants concerning the pricing of digital music downloads violate Section 1 of the Sherman Act, New York State General Business Law §§ 340 et seq., New York Executive Law §63(12), and related statutes. On February 28, 2006, the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice served the Company with a request for information in the form of a Civil Investigative Demand as to whether its activities relating to the pricing of digitally downloaded music violate Section 1 of the Sherman Act. Both investigations have now been closed. Subsequent to the announcements of the above governmental investigations, more than thirty putative class action lawsuits concerning the pricing of digital music downloads were filed and were later consolidated for pre-trial proceedings in the Southern District of New York. The consolidated amended complaint, filed on April 13, 2007, alleges conspiracy among record companies to delay the release of their content for digital distribution, inflate their pricing of CDs and fix prices for digital downloads. The complaint seeks unspecified compensatory, statutory and treble damages. All defendants, including the Company, filed a motion to dismiss the consolidated amended complaint on July 30, 2007. On October 9, 2008, the District Court issued an order dismissing the case as to all defendants, including the Company. On November 20, 2008, plaintiffs filed a Notice of Appeal from the order of the District Court to

Table of Contents

the Circuit Court for the Second Circuit. Oral argument took place before the Second Circuit Court of Appeals on September 21, 2009. On January 12, 2010, the Second Circuit vacated the judgment of the District Court and remanded the case for further proceedings. On January 27, 2010, all defendants, including the Company, filed a petition for rehearing en banc with the Second Circuit. The Company intends to defend against these lawsuits vigorously, but is unable to predict the outcome of these suits. Any litigation the Company may become involved in as a result of the inquiries of the Attorney General and Department of Justice, regardless of the merits of the claim, could be costly and divert the time and resources of management.

In addition to the matter discussed above, the Company is involved in other litigation arising in the normal course of business. Management does not believe that any legal proceedings pending against the Company will have, individually, or in the aggregate, a material adverse effect on its business. However, the Company cannot predict with certainty the outcome of any litigation or the potential for future litigation. Regardless of the outcome, litigation can have an adverse impact on the Company, including its brand value, because of defense costs, diversion of management resources and other factors.

12. Derivative Financial Instruments

The Company uses derivative financial instruments primarily foreign currency forward exchange contracts (FX Contracts) for the purpose of managing foreign currency exchange risk by reducing the effects of fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates.

The Company enters into FX Contracts primarily to hedge its royalty payments and balance sheet items denominated in foreign currency. The Company applies hedge accounting to FX Contracts for cash flows related to royalty payments. The Company records these FX Contracts in the consolidated balance sheet at fair value and changes in fair value are recognized in Other Comprehensive Income (OCI) for unrealized items and recognized in earnings for realized items. The Company elects to not apply hedge accounting to foreign currency exposures related to balance sheet items. The Company records these FX Contracts in the consolidated balance sheet at fair value and changes in fair value are immediately recognized in earnings. Fair value is determined by using observable market transactions of spot and forward rates (i.e., Level 2 inputs). Refer to Note 15.

Netting provisions are provided for in existing International Swap and Derivative Association Inc. (ISDA) agreements in situations where the Company executes multiple contracts with the same counterparty. As a result, net assets or liabilities resulting from foreign exchange derivatives subject to these netting agreements are classified within other current assets or other current liabilities in the Company s balance sheet. The Company monitors its positions with, and the credit quality of, the financial institutions that are party to any of its financial transactions.

13. Segment Information

As discussed more fully in Note 1, based on the nature of its products and services, the Company classifies its business interests into two fundamental operations: recorded music and music publishing. Information as to each of these operations is set forth below. The Company evaluates performance based on several factors, of which the primary financial measure is operating income (loss) before non-cash depreciation of tangible assets, non-cash amortization of intangible assets and non-cash impairment charges to reduce the carrying value of goodwill and intangible assets (OIBDA). The Company has supplemented its analysis of OIBDA results by segment with an analysis of operating income (loss) by segment.

The accounting policies of the Company s business segments are the same as those described in the summary of significant accounting policies included in the Company s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2009. The Company accounts for intersegment sales at fair value as if the sales were to third parties. While intercompany transactions are treated like third-party transactions to determine segment performance, the revenues (and corresponding expenses recognized by the segment that is counterparty to the transaction) are eliminated in consolidation, therefore, do not themselves impact the consolidated results. Segment information consists of the following (in millions):

Three Months Ended	Recorded music	Music publishing	Corporate expenses and eliminations	Total
December 31, 2009				
Revenues	\$ 783	\$ 141	\$ (6)	\$ 918
OIBDA	113	22	(23)	112
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	(6)	(1)	(2)	(9)

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

Amortization of intangible assets	(39)	(17)	(56)
Operating income (loss)	\$ 68	\$ 4	\$ (25) \$ 47
December 31, 2008			
Revenues	\$ 757	\$ 135	\$ (5) \$ 887
OIBDA	107	22	(22) 107
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	(5)	(1)	(2) (8)
Amortization of intangible assets	(43)	(15)	(58)
Operating income (loss)	\$ 59	\$ 6	\$ (24) \$ 41

Table of Contents**14. Additional Financial Information****Cash Interest and Taxes**

The Company made interest payments of approximately \$81 million and \$45 million during the three months ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively. The Company paid approximately \$9 million and \$12 million of income and withholding taxes in the three months ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively. The Company received \$9 million of income tax refunds in the three months ended December 31, 2008.

15. Fair Value Measurements

ASC 820 defines fair value as the price that would be received upon sale of an asset or paid upon transfer of a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date and in the principal or most advantageous market for that asset or liability. The fair value should be calculated based on assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability, not on assumptions specific to the entity.

In addition to defining fair value, ASC 820 expands the disclosure requirements around fair value and establishes a fair value hierarchy for valuation inputs. The hierarchy prioritizes the inputs into three levels based on the extent to which inputs used in measuring fair value are observable in the market. Each fair value measurement is reported in one of the three levels which is determined by the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety. These levels are:

Level 1 inputs are based upon unadjusted quoted prices for identical instruments traded in active markets.

Level 2 inputs are based upon quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active and model-based valuation techniques for which all significant assumptions are observable in the market or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities.

Level 3 inputs are generally unobservable and typically reflect management's estimates of assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. The fair values are therefore determined using model-based techniques that include option pricing models, discounted cash flow models and similar techniques.

In accordance with the fair value hierarchy, described above, the following table shows the fair value of the Company's financial instruments that are required to be measured at fair value as of December 31, 2009. Derivatives not designated as hedging instruments primarily represent the balances below and the gains and losses on these financial instruments are included as other expenses of \$7 million and royalty expense of \$1 million in the statement of operations. Derivatives designated as hedging instruments are not material to the Company's financial statements.

	Fair Value Measurements as of December 31, 2009			
	(Level 1)	(Level 2)	(Level 3)	Total
	(in millions)			
<i>Other Current Assets:</i>				
Foreign Currency Forward Exchange Contracts (a)	\$	\$ 8	\$	\$ 8
<i>Other Current Liabilities:</i>				
Foreign Currency Forward Exchange Contracts (a)	\$	\$ (2)	\$	\$ (2)
Purchase Obligation (b)	\$	\$	\$ (6)	\$ (6)

- (a) The fair value of the foreign currency forward exchange contracts is based on dealer quotes of market forward rates and reflects the amount that the Company would receive or pay at their maturity dates for contracts involving the same currencies and maturity dates.

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

- (b) The fair value of this purchase obligation is based on a discounted cash flow (DCF) approach and it is adjusted to fair value on an annual basis. The assumptions used in preparing the DCF model were based on data available as of September 30, 2009 and includes estimates of timing of the payment obligation, amount of cash flows, and discount rate.

Table of Contents

The majority of the Company's non-financial instruments, which include goodwill, intangible assets, inventories, and property, plant, and equipment, are not required to be remeasured to at fair value on a recurring basis. These assets are evaluated for impairment if certain triggering events occur. If such evaluation indicates that an impairment exists, the asset is written down to its fair value. In addition, an impairment analysis is performed at least annually for goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets.

Fair Value of Debt

Based on the level of interest rates prevailing at December 31, 2009, the fair value of the Company's fixed-rate debt exceeded the carrying value by approximately \$103 million. Unrealized gains or losses on debt do not result in the realization or expenditure of cash and generally are not recognized for financial reporting purposes unless the debt is retired prior to its maturity.

Table of Contents

WARNER MUSIC GROUP CORP.

Supplementary Information

Consolidating Financial Statements

The Company is the direct parent of Holdings, which is the direct parent of Acquisition Corp. Holdings has issued and outstanding the Holdings Discount Notes. The Holdings Discount Notes are guaranteed by the Company. These guarantees are full, unconditional, joint and several. The following consolidating financial statements are presented for the information of the holders of the Holdings Discount Notes and present the results of operations, financial position and cash flows of (i) the Company, which is the guarantor of the Holdings Discount Notes, (ii) Holdings, which is the issuer of the Holdings Discount Notes, (iii) the subsidiaries of Holdings (Acquisition Corp. is the only direct subsidiary of Holdings) and (iv) the eliminations necessary to arrive at the information for the Company on a consolidated basis. Investments in consolidated subsidiaries are presented under the equity method of accounting.

The Company and Holdings are holding companies that conduct substantially all their business operations through Acquisition Corp. Accordingly, the ability of the Company and Holdings to obtain funds from its subsidiaries is restricted by the indentures for the Senior Secured Notes and the Acquisition Corp. Senior Subordinated Notes, and, with respect to the Company, the indenture for the Holdings Senior Discount Notes.

Table of Contents**WARNER MUSIC GROUP CORP.****Supplementary Information****Consolidating Balance Sheet (Unaudited)****December 31, 2009**

	Warner Music Group Corp.	WMG Holdings Corp. (issuer)	WMG Acquisition Corp. (in millions)	Eliminations	Warner Music Group Corp. Consolidated
Assets:					
Current assets:					
Cash and equivalents	\$ 188	\$	\$ 151	\$	\$ 339
Accounts receivable, net			536		536
Inventories			42		42
Royalty advances expected to be recouped within one year			174		174
Deferred tax assets			29		29
Other current assets			40		40
Total current assets	188		972		1,160
Royalty advances expected to be recouped after one year			214		214
Investments in and advances (from) to consolidated subsidiaries	(344)	(87)		431	
Investments			9		9
Property, plant and equipment, net			98		98
Goodwill			1,030		1,030
Intangible assets subject to amortization, net			1,260		1,260
Intangible assets not subject to amortization			100		100
Other assets	(1)	2	62		63
Total assets	\$ (157)	\$ (85)	\$ 3,745	\$ 431	\$ 3,934
Liabilities and (Deficit) Equity:					
Current liabilities:					
Accounts payable	\$	\$	\$ 191	\$	\$ 191
Accrued royalties			1,214		1,214
Accrued liabilities			235		235
Accrued interest		1	15		16
Deferred revenue			82		82
Other current liabilities	2		19		21
Total current liabilities	2	1	1,756		1,759
Long-term debt		258	1,686		1,944
Deferred tax liabilities, net			165		165
Other noncurrent liabilities	(4)		167		163
Total liabilities	(2)	259	3,774		4,031
	(155)	(344)	(87)	431	(155)

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

Total Warner Music Group Corp. shareholders
(deficit) equity

Noncontrolling interest			58		58
Total equity (deficit)	(155)	(344)	(29)	431	(97)
Total liabilities and (deficit) equity	\$ (157)	\$ (85)	\$ 3,745	\$ 431	\$ 3,934

Table of Contents**WARNER MUSIC GROUP CORP.****Supplementary Information****Consolidating Balance Sheet (Unaudited)****September 30, 2009**

	Warner Music Group Corp.	WMG Holdings Corp. (issuer)	WMG Acquisition Corp. (in millions)	Eliminations	Warner Music Group Corp. Consolidated
Assets:					
Current assets:					
Cash and equivalents	\$ 188	\$	\$ 196	\$	\$ 384
Accounts receivable, net			544		544
Inventories			46		46
Royalty advances expected to be recouped within one year			171		171
Deferred tax assets			29		29
Other current assets			48		48
Total current assets	188		1,034		1,222
Royalty advances expected to be recouped after one year			209		209
Investments in and advances to (from) consolidated subsidiaries	(332)	(81)		413	
Investments			18		18
Property, plant and equipment, net			100		100
Goodwill			1,032		1,032
Intangible assets subject to amortization, net			1,317		1,317
Intangible assets not subject to amortization			100		100
Other assets	(2)	2	64		64
Total assets	\$ (146)	\$ (79)	\$ 3,874	\$ 413	\$ 4,062
Liabilities and (Deficit) Equity:					
Current liabilities:					
Accounts payable	\$	\$	\$ 219	\$	\$ 219
Accrued royalties			1,185		1,185
Accrued liabilities			282		282
Accrued interest			57		57
Deferred revenue			113		113
Other current liabilities	2		14		16
Total current liabilities	2		1,870		1,872
Long-term debt		253	1,686		1,939
Deferred tax liabilities, net			164		164
Other noncurrent liabilities	(5)		177		172
Total liabilities	(3)	253	3,897		4,147
	(143)	(332)	(81)	413	(143)

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

Total Warner Music Group Corp. shareholders
(deficit) equity

Noncontrolling interest			58		58
Total equity (deficit)	(143)	(332)	(23)	413	(85)
Total liabilities and (deficit) equity	\$ (146)	\$ (79)	\$ 3,874	\$ 413	\$ 4,062

Table of Contents**WARNER MUSIC GROUP CORP.****Supplementary Information****Consolidating Statements of Operations (Unaudited)****For The Three Months Ended December 31, 2009 and 2008**

	Three months ended December 31, 2009				Warner Music Group Corp. Consolidated
	Warner Music Group Corp.	WMG Holdings Corp. (issuer)	WMG Acquisition Corp. (in millions)	Eliminations	
Revenues	\$	\$	\$ 918	\$	\$ 918
Costs and expenses:					
Cost of revenues			(511)		(511)
Selling, general and administrative expenses			(304)		(304)
Amortization of intangible assets			(56)		(56)
Total costs and expenses			(871)		(871)
Operating income			47		47
Interest expense, net		(6)	(45)		(51)
Other (expense) income, net	(17)	(11)	1	28	1
(Loss) income before income taxes	(17)	(17)	3	28	(3)
Income tax expense			(13)		(13)
Net (loss) income	(17)	(17)	(10)	28	(16)
Less: noncontrolling interest income			(1)		(1)
Net (loss) income attributable to Warner Music Group Corp.	\$ (17)	\$ (17)	\$ (11)	\$ 28	\$ (17)

	Three months ended December 31, 2008				Warner Music Group Corp. Consolidated
	Warner Music Group Corp.	WMG Holdings Corp. (issuer)	WMG Acquisition Corp. (in millions)	Eliminations	
Revenues	\$	\$	\$ 887	\$	\$ 887
Costs and expenses:					
Cost of revenues			(493)		(493)
Selling, general and administrative expenses			(295)		(295)
Other income					
Amortization of intangible assets			(58)		(58)
Total costs and expenses			(846)		(846)
Operating income			41		41
Interest expense, net		(5)	(39)		(44)
Gain on sale of equity investment			36		36

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

Gain on foreign exchange transaction			9		9
Impairment of equity investment			(10)		(10)
Other income (expense), net	23	28		(51)	
Income (loss) before income taxes	23	23	37	(51)	32
Income tax expense			(16)		(16)
Net income (loss)	23	23	21	(51)	16
Less: noncontrolling interest loss			7		7
Net income (loss) attributable to Warner Music Group Corp.	\$ 23	\$ 23	\$ 28	\$ (51)	\$ 23

Table of Contents**WARNER MUSIC GROUP CORP.****Supplementary Information****Consolidating Statement of Cash Flows (Unaudited)****For The Three Months Ended December 31, 2009**

	Warner Music Group Corp.	WMG Holdings Corp. (issuer)	WMG Acquisition Corp. (in millions)	Eliminations	Consolidated
Cash flows from operating activities:					
Net (loss) income	\$ (16)	\$ (16)	\$ (10)	\$ 26	\$ (16)
Adjustments to reconcile net (loss) income to net cash used in operating activities:					
Depreciation and amortization			65		65
Deferred taxes			(3)		(3)
Non-cash interest expense		5	5		10
Non-cash, stock-based compensation expense			3		3
Other non-cash items	16	10		(26)	
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:					
Accounts receivable			7		7
Inventories			4		4
Royalty advances			(11)		(11)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities			(69)		(69)
Accrued interest		1	(42)		(41)
Other balance sheet changes			9		9
Net cash used in operating activities			(42)		(42)
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Acquisition of publishing rights			(4)		(4)
Proceeds from the sale of investments			9		9
Capital expenditures			(7)		(7)
Net cash used in investing activities			(2)		(2)
Cash flows from financing activities:					
Debt repayments					
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities					
Effect of foreign currency exchange rate changes on cash			(1)		(1)
Net decrease in cash and equivalents			(45)		(45)
Cash and equivalents at beginning of period	188		196		384
Cash and equivalents at end of period	\$ 188	\$	\$ 151	\$	\$ 339

Table of Contents**WARNER MUSIC GROUP CORP.****Supplementary Information****Consolidating Statement of Cash Flows (Unaudited)****For The Three Months Ended December 31, 2008**

	Warner Music Group Corp.	WMG Holdings Corp. (issuer)	WMG Acquisition Corp. (in millions)	Eliminations	Consolidated
Cash flows from operating activities:					
Net income (loss)	\$ 23	\$ 23	\$ 21	\$ (51)	\$ 16
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:					
Depreciation and amortization			66		66
Deferred taxes					
Gain on sale of equity investment			(36)		(36)
Gain on foreign exchange transaction			(9)		(9)
Impairment of equity investment			10		10
Non-cash interest expense		5	6		11
Non-cash, stock-based compensation expense			2		2
Other non-cash items	(23)	(28)	(1)	51	(1)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:					
Accounts receivable			(22)		(22)
Inventories			(3)		(3)
Royalty advances			(26)		(26)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities			52		52
Accrued interest			(12)		(12)
Other balance sheet changes			(5)		(5)
Net cash provided by operating activities			43		43
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Repayment of loans to third parties			3		3
Investments and acquisitions of businesses			(5)		(5)
Acquisition of publishing rights			(2)		(2)
Proceeds from the sale of investments			124		124
Capital expenditures			(3)		(3)
Net cash provided by investing activities			117		117
Cash flows from financing activities:					
Debt repayments			(4)		(4)
Net cash used in financing activities			(4)		(4)
Effect of foreign currency exchange rate changes on cash			(18)		(18)
Net increase in cash and equivalents			138		138
Cash and equivalents at beginning of period	98		313		411
Cash and equivalents at end of period	\$ 98	\$	\$ 451	\$	\$ 549

Table of Contents

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

You should read the following discussion of our results of operations and financial condition with the unaudited interim financial statements included elsewhere in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2009 (the "Quarterly Report").

We maintain an Internet site at www.wmg.com. We use our website as a channel of distribution for material company information. Financial and other material information regarding Warner Music Group is routinely posted on and accessible at <http://investors.wmg.com>. In addition, you may automatically receive email alerts and other information about Warner Music Group by enrolling your email by visiting the "email alerts" section at <http://investors.wmg.com>. We make available on our website free of charge our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K as soon as practicable after we electronically file such reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). Our website and the information posted on it or connected to it shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this Quarterly Report.

SAFE HARBOR STATEMENT UNDER PRIVATE SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM ACT OF 1995

This Quarterly Report includes forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. All statements other than statements of historical facts included in this Quarterly Report, including, without limitation, statements regarding our future financial position, business strategy, budgets, projected costs, cost savings, industry trends and plans and objectives of management for future operations, are forward-looking statements. In addition, forward-looking statements generally can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "may," "will," "expect," "intend," "estimate," "anticipate," "believe" or "continue" or the negative thereof or variations thereon or similar terms. Such statements include, among others, statements regarding our ability to develop talent and attract future talent, our ability to reduce future capital expenditures, our ability to monetize our music content, including through new distribution channels and formats to capitalize on the growth areas of the music industry, our ability to effectively deploy our capital, the development of digital music and the effect of digital distribution channels on our business, including whether we will be able to achieve higher margins from digital sales, the success of strategic actions we are taking to accelerate our transformation as we redefine our role in the music industry, our success in limiting piracy, our ability to compete in the highly competitive markets in which we operate, the growth of the music industry and the effect of our and the music industry's efforts to combat piracy on the industry, our intention to pay quarterly dividends, our ability to fund our future capital needs and the effect of litigation on us. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, we can give no assurance that such expectations will prove to have been correct.

There are a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause our actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements contained in this Quarterly Report. Additionally, important factors could cause our actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements we make in this Quarterly Report. As stated elsewhere in this Quarterly Report, such risks, uncertainties and other important factors include, among others:

the impact of our substantial leverage on our ability to raise additional capital to fund our operations, on our ability to react to changes in the economy or our industry and on our ability to meet our obligations under our indebtedness;

the continued decline in the global recorded music industry and the rate of overall decline in the music industry;

current uncertainty in global economic conditions could adversely affect our prospects and our results of operations;

our ability to continue to identify, sign and retain desirable talent at manageable costs;

the threat posed to our business by piracy of music by means of home CD-R activity, Internet peer-to-peer file-sharing and sideloading of unauthorized content;

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

the significant threat posed to our business and the music industry by organized industrial piracy;

the popular demand for particular recording artists and/or songwriters and albums and the timely completion of albums by major recording artists and/or songwriters;

the diversity and quality of our portfolio of songwriters;

the diversity and quality of our album releases;

significant fluctuations in our results of operations and cash flows due to the nature of our business;

our involvement in intellectual property litigation;

the possible downward pressure on our pricing and profit margins;

our ability to continue to enforce our intellectual property rights in digital environments;

the ability to develop a successful business model applicable to a digital environment and to enter into expanded-rights deals with recording artists in order to broaden our revenue streams in growing segments of the music business;

Table of Contents

the impact of heightened and intensive competition in the recorded music and music publishing businesses and our inability to execute our business strategy;

risks associated with our non-U.S. operations, including limited legal protections of our intellectual property rights and restrictions on the repatriation of capital;

the impact of legitimate music distribution on the Internet or the introduction of other new music distribution formats;

the reliance on a limited number of online music stores and their ability to significantly influence the pricing structure for online music stores;

the impact of rate regulations on our Recorded Music and Music Publishing businesses;

the impact of rates on other income streams that may be set by arbitration proceedings on our business;

the impact an impairment in the carrying value of goodwill or other intangible and long-lived assets could have on our operating results and shareholders' deficit;

risks associated with the fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates;

our ability and the ability of our joint venture partners to operate our existing joint ventures satisfactorily;

the enactment of legislation limiting the terms by which an individual can be bound under a personal services contract;

potential loss of catalog if it is determined that recording artists have a right to recapture recordings under the U.S. Copyright Act;

changes in law and government regulations;

trends that affect the end uses of our musical compositions (which include uses in broadcast radio and television, film and advertising businesses);

the growth of other products that compete for the disposable income of consumers;

risks inherent in relying on one supplier for manufacturing, packaging and distribution services in North America and Europe;

risks inherent in our acquiring or investing in other businesses including our ability to successfully manage new businesses that we may acquire as we diversify revenue streams within the music industry;

the fact that we have engaged in substantial restructuring activities in the past, and may need to implement further restructurings in the future and our restructuring efforts may not be successful;

the fact that we are outsourcing certain back office functions, such as IT infrastructure and development and certain finance and accounting functions, which will make us more dependent upon third parties;

the possibility that our owners' interests will conflict with ours or yours;

failure to attract and retain key personnel; and

the effects associated with the formation of Live Nation Entertainment.

There may be other factors not presently known to us or which we currently consider to be immaterial that may cause our actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements.

All forward-looking statements attributable to us or persons acting on our behalf apply only as of the date of this Quarterly Report and are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements included in this Quarterly Report. We disclaim any duty to publicly update or revise forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

INTRODUCTION

Warner Music Group Corp. was formed by the Investor Group on November 21, 2003. The Company is the direct parent of Holdings, which is the direct parent of Acquisition Corp. Acquisition Corp is one of the world's major music-based content companies and the successor to substantially all of the interests of the recorded music and music publishing businesses of Time Warner. Effective March 1, 2004, Acquisition Corp acquired such interests from Time Warner for approximately \$2.6 billion. The original Investor Group included THL, Bain, Providence and Music Capital. Music Capital's partnership agreement required that the Music Capital partnership dissolve and commence winding up by the second anniversary of the Company's May 2005 initial public offering. As a result, on May 7, 2007, Music Capital made a pro rata distribution of all shares of common stock of the Company held by it to its partners. The shares held by Music Capital had been subject to a stockholders agreement among Music Capital, THL, Bain and Providence and certain other parties. As a result of the distribution, the shares distributed by Music Capital ceased to be subject to the voting and other provisions of the stockholders agreement and Music Capital was no longer part of the Investor Group subject to the stockholders agreement.

Table of Contents

The Company and Holdings are holding companies that conduct substantially all of their business operations through their subsidiaries. The terms we, us, our, ours, and the Company refer collectively to Warner Music Group Corp. and its consolidated subsidiaries, except where otherwise indicated.

Management's discussion and analysis of results of operations and financial condition (MD&A) is provided as a supplement to the unaudited financial statements and footnotes included elsewhere herein to help provide an understanding of our financial condition, changes in financial condition and results of our operations. MD&A is organized as follows:

Overview. This section provides a general description of our business, as well as recent developments that we believe are important in understanding our results of operations and financial condition and in anticipating future trends.

Results of operations. This section provides an analysis of our results of operations for the three months ended December 31, 2009 and 2008. This analysis is presented on both a consolidated and segment basis.

Financial condition and liquidity. This section provides an analysis of our cash flows for the three months ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, as well as a discussion of our financial condition and liquidity as of December 31, 2009. The discussion of our financial condition and liquidity includes (i) a summary of our debt agreements and (ii) a summary of our key debt compliance measures under our debt agreements.

Use of OIBDA

We evaluate our operating performance based on several factors, including our primary financial measure of operating income (loss) before non-cash depreciation of tangible assets, non-cash amortization of intangible assets and non-cash impairment charges to reduce the carrying value of goodwill and intangible assets (which we refer to as OIBDA). We consider OIBDA to be an important indicator of the operational strengths and performance of our businesses, including the ability to provide cash flows to service debt. However, a limitation of the use of OIBDA as a performance measure is that it does not reflect the periodic costs of certain capitalized tangible and intangible assets used in generating revenues in our businesses. Accordingly, OIBDA should be considered in addition to, not as a substitute for, operating income, net income (loss) and other measures of financial performance reported in accordance with U.S. GAAP. In addition, our definition of OIBDA may differ from similarly titled measures used by other companies. A reconciliation of consolidated historical OIBDA to operating income and net income (loss) is provided in our Results of Operations.

Use of Constant Currency

As exchange rates are an important factor in understanding period to period comparisons, we believe the presentation of results on a constant-currency basis in addition to reported results helps improve the ability to understand our operating results and evaluate our performance in comparison to prior periods. Constant-currency information compares results between periods as if exchange rates had remained constant period over period. We use results on a constant-currency basis as one measure to evaluate our performance. We calculate constant currency by calculating prior-year results using current-year foreign currency exchange rates. We generally refer to such amounts calculated on a constant-currency basis as excluding the impact of foreign currency exchange rates. These results should be considered in addition to, not as a substitute for, results reported in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Results on a constant-currency basis, as we present them, may not be comparable to similarly titled measures used by other companies and is not a measure of performance presented in accordance with U.S. GAAP.

OVERVIEW

We are one of the world's major music-based content companies. We classify our business interests into two fundamental operations: Recorded Music and Music Publishing. A brief description of each of those operations is presented below.

Recorded Music Operations

Our Recorded Music business primarily consists of the discovery and development of artists and the related marketing, distribution and licensing of recorded music produced by such artists.

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

We are also diversifying our revenues beyond our traditional businesses by entering into expanded-rights deals with recording artists in order to partner with artists in other areas of their careers. Under these agreements, we provide services to and participate in artists' activities outside the traditional recorded music business. We are building artist services capabilities and platforms for exploiting this broader set of music-related rights and participating more broadly in the monetization of the artist brands we help create. In developing our artist services business, we have both built and expanded in-house capabilities and expertise and have acquired a number of existing artist services companies involved in artist management, merchandising, strategic marketing and brand management, ticketing, concert promotion, fan club, original programming and video entertainment. We believe that entering into expanded-rights deals and enhancing our artist services capabilities will permit us to diversify revenue streams to better capitalize on the growth areas of the music industry and permit us to build stronger, long-term relationships with artists and more effectively connect artists and fans.

Table of Contents

In the U.S., our Recorded Music operations are conducted principally through our major record labels Warner Bros. Records and The Atlantic Records Group. Our Recorded Music operations also include Rhino, a division that specializes in marketing our music catalog through compilations and reissues of previously released music and video titles, as well as in the licensing of recordings to and from third parties for various uses, including film and television soundtracks. Rhino has also become our primary licensing division focused on acquiring broader licensing rights from certain recording artists. For example, we have an exclusive license with The Grateful Dead to manage the band's intellectual property and a 50% interest in Frank Sinatra Enterprises, an entity that administers licenses for use of Frank Sinatra's name and likeness and manages all aspects of his music, film and stage content. We also conduct our Recorded Music operations through a collection of additional record labels, including, among others, Asylum, Cordless, East West, Elektra, Nonesuch, Reprise, Roadrunner, Rykodisc, Sire and Word.

Outside the U.S., our Recorded Music activities are conducted in more than 50 countries primarily through WMI and its various subsidiaries, affiliates and non-affiliated licensees. WMI engages in the same activities as our U.S. labels: discovering and signing artists and distributing, marketing and selling their recorded music. In most cases, WMI also markets and distributes the records of those artists for whom our U.S. record labels have international rights. In certain smaller countries, WMI licenses to unaffiliated third-party record labels the right to distribute its records. Our international artist services operations also include a network of concert promoters through which WMI provides resources to coordinate tours.

Our Recorded Music distribution operations include WEA Corp, which markets and sells music and DVD products to retailers and wholesale distributors in the U.S.; ADA, which distributes the products of independent labels to retail and wholesale distributors in the U.S.; various distribution centers and ventures operated internationally; an 80% interest in Word Entertainment, which specializes in the distribution of music products in the Christian retail marketplace; and ADA Global, which provides distribution services outside of the U.S. through a network of affiliated and non-affiliated distributors.

We play an integral role in virtually all aspects of the music value chain from discovering and developing talent to producing albums and promoting artists and their products. After an artist has entered into a contract with one of our record labels, a master recording of the artist's music is created. The recording is then replicated for sale to consumers primarily in the CD and digital formats. In the U.S., WEA Corp., ADA and Word market, sell and deliver product, either directly or through sub-distributors and wholesalers, to record stores, mass merchants and other retailers. Our recorded music products are also sold in physical form to online physical retailers such as Amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com and bestbuy.com and in digital form to online digital retailers like Apple's iTunes and mobile full-track download stores such as those operated by Verizon or Sprint. In the case of expanded-rights deals where we acquire broader rights in a recording artist's career, we may provide more comprehensive career support and actively develop new opportunities for an artist through touring, fan clubs, merchandising and sponsorships, among other areas. We believe expanded-rights deals create better partnerships with our artists, which allows us to work together more closely with them to create and sustain artistic and commercial success.

We have integrated the sale of digital content into all aspects of its Recorded Music and Music Publishing businesses including A&R, marketing, promotion and distribution. Our new media executives work closely with A&R departments to make sure that while a record is being made, digital assets are also created with all of our distribution channels in mind, including subscription services, social networking sites, online portals and music-centered destinations. We work side by side with our mobile and online partners to test new concepts. We believe existing and new digital businesses will be a significant source of growth for the next several years and will provide new opportunities to monetize our assets and create new revenue streams. As a music-based content company, our assets that go beyond our recorded music and music publishing catalogs, such as our music video library, which we have begun to monetize through digital channels. The proportion of digital revenues attributed to each distribution channel varies by region and since digital music is in the relatively early stages of growth, proportions may change as the roll out of new technologies continues. As an owner of musical content, we believe we are well positioned to take advantage of growth in digital distribution and emerging technologies to maximize the value of our assets.

Recorded Music revenues are derived from three main sources:

Physical and other: the rightsholder receives revenues with respect to sales of physical products such as CDs and DVDs. We are also diversifying our revenues beyond sales of physical products and receive other revenues from our artist services business and our participation in expanded rights associated with our artists and other artists, including sponsorship, fan club, websites, merchandising, touring, ticketing and artist and brand management;

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

Digital: the rightsholder receives revenues with respect to online and mobile downloads, mobile ringtones and online and mobile streaming; and

Licensing: the rightsholder receives royalties or fees for the right to use the sound recording in combination with visual images such as in films or television programs, television commercials and videogames.

The principal costs associated with our Recorded Music operations are as follows:

Royalty costs and artist and repertoire costs the costs associated with (i) paying royalties to artists, producers, songwriters, other copyright holders and trade unions, (ii) signing and developing artists, (iii) creating master recordings in the studio and (iv) creating artwork for album covers and liner notes;

Table of Contents

Product costs the costs to manufacture, package and distribute product to wholesale and retail distribution outlets as well as those principal costs related to expanded rights;

Selling and marketing costs the costs associated with the promotion and marketing of artists and recorded music products, including costs to produce music videos for promotional purposes and artist tour support; and

General and administrative costs the costs associated with general overhead and other administrative costs.

Music Publishing Operations

Where recorded music is focused on exploiting a particular recording of a song, music publishing is an intellectual property business focused on the exploitation of the song itself. In return for promoting, placing, marketing and administering the creative output of a songwriter, or engaging in those activities for other rightsholders, our Music Publishing business garners a share of the revenues generated from use of the song.

Our Music Publishing operations include Warner/Chappell, our global Music Publishing company headquartered in New York with operations in over 50 countries through various subsidiaries, affiliates and non-affiliated licensees. We own or control rights to more than one million musical compositions, including numerous pop hits, American standards, folk songs and motion picture and theatrical compositions. Assembled over decades, our award-winning catalog includes over 65,000 songwriters and composers and a diverse range of genres including pop, rock, jazz, country, R&B, hip-hop, rap, reggae, Latin, folk, blues, symphonic, soul, Broadway, techno, alternative, gospel and other Christian music. Warner/Chappell also administers the music and soundtracks of several third-party television and film producers and studios, including Lucasfilm, Ltd., Hallmark Entertainment, Disney Music Publishing and HBO. In 2007, we entered the production music library business with the acquisition of Non-Stop Music. Production music is a complementary alternative to licensing standards and contemporary hits for television, film and advertising producers.

Publishing revenues are derived from five main sources:

Mechanical: the licensor receives royalties with respect to compositions embodied in recordings sold in any physical format or configuration (e.g., CDs and DVDs);

Performance: the licensor receives royalties if the composition is performed publicly through broadcast of music on television, radio, cable and satellite, live performance at a concert or other venue (e.g., arena concerts, nightclubs), online and wireless streaming and performance of music in staged theatrical productions;

Synchronization: the licensor receives royalties or fees for the right to use the composition in combination with visual images such as in films or television programs, television commercials and videogames as well as from other uses such as in toys or novelty items and merchandise;

Digital: the licensor receives royalties or fees with respect to online and mobile downloads, mobile ringtones and online and mobile streaming; and

Other: the licensor receives royalties for use in sheet music.

The principal costs associated with our Music Publishing operations are as follows:

Artist and repertoire costs the costs associated with (i) signing and developing songwriters and (ii) paying royalties to songwriters, co-publishers and other copyright holders in connection with income generated from the exploitation of their copyrighted works; and

General and administration costs the costs associated with general overhead and other administrative costs.

Factors Affecting Results of Operations and Financial Condition

Market Factors

Since 1999, the recorded music industry has been unstable and the worldwide market has contracted considerably, which has adversely affected our operating results. The industry-wide decline can be attributed primarily to digital piracy. Other drivers of this decline are the bankruptcies of record retailers and wholesalers, growing competition for consumer discretionary spending and retail shelf space, and the maturation of the CD format, which has slowed the historical growth pattern of recorded music sales. While CD sales still generate most of the recorded music revenues, CD sales continue to decline industry-wide and we expect that trend to continue. While new formats for selling recorded music product have been created, including the legal downloading of digital music using the Internet and the distribution of music on mobile devices, revenue streams from these new formats have not yet reached a level where they fully offset the declines in CD sales. The recorded music industry performance may continue to negatively impact our operating results. In addition, a declining recorded music industry could continue to have an adverse impact on the music publishing business. This is because the music publishing business generates a significant portion of its revenues from mechanical royalties from the sale of music in CD and other physical recorded music formats.

Table of Contents

Ongoing uncertainty in global economic conditions poses a risk to the overall economy, which could continue to negatively affect demand for our products and other related matters. While the music industry has been relatively resilient in prior financial downturns as its products are low priced relative to other entertainment goods, we have been negatively impacted by these global economic conditions, which have resulted in significant recessionary pressures and lower consumer confidence and lower retail sales in general. The current uncertainty in global economic conditions makes it particularly difficult to predict product demand and other related matters and makes it more likely that our actual results could differ materially from our expectations. Even in the midst of the global economic slowdown, we remain committed to executing on our strategic initiatives and plan to continue our transformation to adapt to the changing music industry in order to maximize cash flow and profitability. We expect to adapt to the impact of the economic slowdown with a particular focus on cash and liquidity. We will monitor current events closely and take advantage of our flexible cost structure to minimize any impact.

Table of Contents**RESULTS OF OPERATIONS****Three Months Ended December 31, 2009 Compared with Three Months Ended December 31, 2008***Consolidated Historical Results**Revenues*

Our revenues were composed of the following amounts (in millions):

	For the Three Months Ended December 31,		2009 vs 2008	
	2009	2008	\$ Change	% Change
Revenue by Type				
Physical and other	\$ 548	\$ 545	\$ 3	1%
Digital	172	156	16	10%
Licensing	63	56	7	13%
Total Recorded Music	783	757	26	3%
Mechanical	47	46	1	2%
Performance	50	49	1	2%
Synchronization	25	22	3	14%
Digital	15	15		
Other	4	3	1	33%
Total Music Publishing	141	135	6	4%
Intersegment elimination	(6)	(5)	(1)	20%
Total Revenue	\$ 918	\$ 887	\$ 31	3%
Revenue by Geographical Location				
U.S. Recorded Music	\$ 285	\$ 315	\$ (30)	-10%
U.S. Publishing	46	48	(2)	-4%
Total U.S.	331	363	(32)	-9%
International Recorded Music	498	442	56	13%
International Publishing	95	87	8	9%
Total International	593	529	64	12%
Intersegment eliminations	(6)	(5)	(1)	20%
Total Revenue	\$ 918	\$ 887	\$ 31	3%

Total Revenue

Total revenues increased by \$31 million, or 3%, to \$918 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 from \$887 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008. Excluding the favorable impact of foreign currency exchange rates, total revenues decreased \$19 million, or 2%, period-to-period. Prior to intersegment eliminations, Recorded Music and Music Publishing revenues represented 85% and 15% of total revenues for the three months ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively. Prior to intersegment eliminations, U.S. and international revenues represented 36% and 64% of total revenues for the three months ended December 31, 2009, respectively, compared to 41% and 59% for the three months ended December 31, 2008, respectively.

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

Total digital revenues after intersegment eliminations increased by \$13 million, or 8%, to \$184 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 from \$171 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008. Total digital revenues represented 20% and 19% of consolidated revenues for the three months ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively. Prior to intersegment eliminations, total digital revenues for the three months ended December 31, 2009 were comprised of U.S. revenues of \$108 million, or 58% of total digital revenues, and international revenues of \$79 million, or 42% of total digital revenues. Total digital revenues for the three months ended December 31, 2008 were comprised of U.S. revenues of \$110 million, or 64% of total digital revenues, and international revenues of \$61 million, or 36% of total digital revenues. Excluding the favorable impact of foreign currency exchange rates, total digital revenues increased by \$8 million, or 5%, for the three months ended December 31, 2009.

Recorded Music revenues increased by \$26 million, or 3%, to \$783 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 from \$757 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008. Excluding the favorable impact of foreign currency exchange rates, total Recorded Music revenues decreased \$18 million, or 2%, for the three months ended December 31, 2009. This performance reflected strong international results primarily from our European concert promotion business, while U.S. results were tempered by continued general economic pressures and the transition from physical sales to digital sales in the recorded music industry. The industry transition continues to adversely impact our physical revenue as declines in physical revenue are not yet being fully offset by digital revenue.

Table of Contents

Digital revenues increased by \$16 million, or 10%, for the three months ended December 31, 2009, largely due to strong international download growth. Licensing revenues increased \$7 million, or 13%, to \$63 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 from \$56 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008 primarily driven by higher international revenues generated by our U.S. repertoire.

Music Publishing revenues increased by \$6 million, or 4%, to \$141 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 from \$135 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008. Excluding the favorable impact of foreign currency exchange rates, total Music Publishing revenues remained flat at \$141 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009. Synchronization revenue increased by \$3 million primarily as a result of a pickup in film and TV production licensing activity.

Revenue by Geographical Location

U.S. revenues decreased by \$32 million, or 9%, to \$331 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 from \$363 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008. The overall decline in the U.S. Recorded Music business reflected continued general economic pressures and declines in physical revenue due to the ongoing transition in the recorded music industry characterized by a shift in consumption patterns from physical sales to new forms of digital music. The decrease in physical revenues was partially offset by an increase in licensing revenue.

International revenues increased by \$64 million, or 12%, to \$593 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 from \$529 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008. Excluding the favorable impact of foreign currency exchange rates, total international revenues increased \$14 million, or 2%, for the three months ended December 31, 2009, due to revenue growth in the U.K. as well as growth in France and Italy primarily from our European concert promotion business, partially offset by weakness in Japan and parts of Europe. In addition, international digital revenues increased as a result of growth in digital downloads. Contracting demand for physical product and difficult economic conditions negatively impacted global physical revenue and international licensing revenue.

Cost of revenues

Our cost of revenues is composed of the following amounts (in millions):

	For the Three Months Ended		2009 vs 2008	
	December 31,		\$ Change	% Change
	2009	2008		
Artist and repertoire costs	\$ 291	\$ 313	\$ (22)	-7%
Product costs	200	164	36	22%
Licensing costs	20	16	4	25%
Total cost of revenues	\$ 511	\$ 493	\$ 18	4%

Our cost of revenues increased by \$18 million, or 4%, to \$511 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 from \$493 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008. Expressed as a percentage of revenues, cost of revenues remained flat at 56% for the three months ended December 31, 2009 and 2008.

Artist and repertoire costs decreased as a percentage of revenues from 35% for the three months ended December 31, 2008 to 32% in the three months ended December 31, 2009 as a result of the timing of our artist and repertoire spending partially offset by higher royalty expense related to certain artist profit-sharing agreements.

Product costs increased as a percentage of revenues to 22% for the three months ended December 31, 2009 from 18% of revenues in the three months ended December 31, 2008. The increase in product costs was due primarily to increased costs associated with our European concert promotion business.

Licensing costs increased \$4 million, or 25%, to \$20 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 from \$16 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008. The increase in licensing costs was driven primarily by costs associated with our increase in licensing revenue. Licensing costs as a percentage of licensing revenues increased from 29% for the three months ended December 31, 2008 to 32% for the three months ended December 31, 2009, primarily as a result of changes in revenue mix.

Table of Contents*Selling, general and administrative expenses*

Our selling, general and administrative expenses are composed of the following amounts (in millions):

	For the Three Months Ended December 31,		2009 vs 2008	
	2009	2008	\$ Change	% Change
General and administrative expense (1)	\$ 147	\$ 140	\$ 7	5%
Selling and marketing expense	138	137	1	1%
Distribution expense	19	18	1	6%
Total selling, general and administrative expense	\$ 304	\$ 295	\$ 9	3%

(1) Includes depreciation expense of \$9 million and \$8 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009, and 2008, respectively. Total selling, general and administrative expense increased by \$9 million, or 3%, to \$304 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 from \$295 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008. Expressed as a percentage of revenues, selling, general and administrative expenses remained flat at 33% for the three months ended December 31, 2009 and 2008.

General and administrative expenses increased by \$7 million, or 5%, to \$147 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 from \$140 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008. Expressed as a percentage of revenues, general and administrative expenses remained flat at 16% for the three months ended December 31, 2009 and 2008.

Selling and marketing expense increased by \$1 million, or 1%, to \$138 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 from \$137 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008. Expressed as a percentage of revenues, selling and marketing expense remained flat at 15% for the three months ended December 31, 2009 and 2008.

Distribution expense increased by \$1 million, or 6% to \$ 19 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 from \$18 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008. Expressed as a percentage of revenues, distribution expense remained flat at 2% for the three months ended December 31, 2009 and 2008.

Reconciliation of Consolidated Historical OIBDA to Operating Income from continuing operations and Net (Loss) Income

As previously described, we use OIBDA as our primary measure of financial performance. The following table reconciles OIBDA to operating income, and further provides the components from operating income to net (loss) income for purposes of the discussion that follows (in millions):

	For the Three Months Ended December 31,		2009 vs 2008	
	2009	2008	\$ Change	% Change
OIBDA	\$ 112	\$ 107	\$ 5	5%
Depreciation expense	(9)	(8)	(1)	13%
Amortization expense	(56)	(58)	2	-3%
Operating income	47	41	6	15%
Interest expense, net	(51)	(44)	(7)	16%
Gain on sale of equity-method investment		36	(36)	
Gain on foreign exchange transaction		9	(9)	
Impairment of equity-method investment		(10)	10	
Other income, net	1		1	

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

(Loss) income before income taxes	(3)	32	(35)	
Income tax expense	(13)	(16)	3	-19%
Net (loss) income	(16)	16	(32)	
Less: noncontrolling interest (income) expense	(1)	7	(8)	
Net (loss) income attributable to Warner Music Group Corp.	\$ (17)	\$ 23	\$ (40)	

Table of Contents

OIBDA

Our OIBDA increased by \$5 million to \$112 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 as compared to \$107 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008. Our OIBDA increase was primarily driven by increased revenues during the three months ended December 31, 2009 as compared to the three months ended December 31, 2008 and ongoing cost management efforts. Expressed as a percentage of revenues, total OIBDA margin remained flat at 12% for the three months ended December 31, 2009 and 2008 primarily as a result of continued cost-management efforts.

See **Business Segment Results** presented hereinafter for a discussion of OIBDA by business segment.

Depreciation expense

Our depreciation expense increased by \$1 million, or 13%, to \$9 million for three months ended December 31, 2009. The increase is primarily related to additional depreciation related to acquisitions and investments in IT infrastructure.

Amortization expense

Amortization expense decreased by \$2 million, or 3%, to \$56 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009.

Operating income

Our operating income increased \$6 million, or 15%, to \$47 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 as compared to \$41 million for the prior-year period. The increase in operating income was primarily due to the growth in OIBDA noted above.

Interest expense, net

Our interest expense, net, increased \$7 million, or 16%, to \$51 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 as compared to \$44 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008. This was primarily a result of the change in interest terms related to our refinancing in May 2009.

See **Financial Condition and Liquidity** for more information.

Gain on sale of equity-method investment

During the three months ended December 31, 2008, we sold our remaining equity stake in Front Line Management to Ticketmaster for \$123 million in cash. As a result of the transaction, we recorded a gain on sale of equity-method investment of \$36 million.

Gain on foreign exchange transaction

During the three months ended December 31, 2008, we recorded a \$9 million non-cash gain on a foreign exchange transaction as a result of a settlement of a short-term foreign-denominated loan related to the Front Line Management sale.

Impairment of equity-method investment

During the three months ended December 31, 2008, we chose not to continue our participation in Equatrax, L.P. (formerly known as Royalty Services, L.P.) and Equatrax, LLC (formerly known as Royalty Services, LLC), which were formed in 2004 to develop an outsourced royalty platform. As a result, the company, wrote off the remaining \$10 million related to our investment in the joint venture.

Other income, net

Other income, net for the three months ended December 31, 2009 includes net hedging gains on foreign exchange contracts, which represent currency exchange movements associated with inter-company receivables and payables that are short term in nature.

Income tax expense

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

We provided income tax expense of \$13 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 as compared to \$16 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008. Our income tax expense is primarily a function of pre-tax income in our foreign jurisdictions.

We are currently under examination by the Internal Revenue Service for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2004 through September 30, 2006. We expect that \$5 million of the total accrual for uncertain tax positions will be paid during the next twelve months.

Table of Contents*Net loss (income)*

Our net income decreased by \$32 million, to a net loss of \$16 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 as compared to net income of \$16 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008. During the three months ended December 31, 2008, we recorded a gain on the sale of our remaining stake in Front Line Management and a gain on a foreign exchange transaction, offset by an impairment of an equity-method investment. The net impact of these transactions was offset by the increase in OIBDA and decrease in income tax expense discussed above.

Noncontrolling interest (income) expense

Net loss (income) attributable to noncontrolling interests was income of \$1 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 as compared to a loss of \$7 million during the three months ended December 31, 2008.

Business Segment Results

Revenue, OIBDA and operating income (loss) by business segment are as follows (in millions):

	For the Three Months Ended December 31,		2009 vs 2008	
	2009	2008	\$ Change	% Change
Recorded Music				
Revenue	\$ 783	\$ 757	\$ 26	3%
OIBDA	113	107	6	6%
Operating income	\$ 68	\$ 59	\$ 9	15%
Music Publishing				
Revenue	\$ 141	\$ 135	\$ 6	4%
OIBDA	22	22		
Operating income	\$ 4	\$ 6	\$ (2)	-33%
Corporate expenses and eliminations				
Revenue	\$ (6)	\$ (5)	\$ (1)	20%
OIBDA	(23)	(22)	(1)	5%
Operating loss	\$ (25)	\$ (24)	\$ (1)	4%
Total				
Revenue	\$ 918	\$ 887	\$ 31	3%
OIBDA	112	107	5	5%
Operating income	\$ 47	\$ 41	\$ 6	15%

*Recorded Music**Revenues*

Recorded Music revenues increased by \$26 million, or 3%, to \$783 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 from \$757 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008. Excluding the favorable impact of foreign currency exchange rates, total Recorded Music revenues decreased \$18 million, or 2%, for the three months ended December 31, 2009. Prior to intersegment eliminations, Recorded Music revenues represented 85% of total revenues for the three months ended December 31, 2009 and 2008. U.S. Recorded Music revenues were \$285 million and \$315 million, or 36% and 42% of Recorded Music revenues for the three months ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively. International Recorded Music revenues were \$498 million and \$442 million, or 64% and 58% of consolidated Recorded Music revenues for the three months ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively.

The increase in Recorded Music revenues reflected strong international results primarily from our European concert promotion business, while U.S. results were tempered by continued general economic pressures and the transition from physical sales to digital sales in the recorded music industry. The industry transition continues to adversely impact our physical revenue as declines in physical revenue are not yet being fully offset by digital revenue.

Table of Contents*OIBDA and Operating Income from continuing operations*

Recorded Music OIBDA was \$113 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 as compared to \$107 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008. Recorded Music operating income included the following (in millions):

	For the Three Months Ended December 31,		2009 vs 2008	
	2009	2008	\$ Change	% Change
OIBDA	\$ 113	\$ 107	\$ 6	6%
Depreciation and amortization	(45)	(48)	3	-6%
Operating income	\$ 68	\$ 59	\$ 9	15%

Recorded Music OIBDA increased by \$6 million, or 6%, to \$113 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 compared to \$107 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008. Our OIBDA increase was primarily driven by increased revenues for the three months ended December 31, 2009 as compared with the three months ended December 31, 2008, our on-going cost management efforts as well as changes in product mix. Expressed as a percentage of Recorded Music revenues, Recorded Music OIBDA remained flat at 14% for the three months ended December 31, 2009 and 2008 primarily as a result of our continued cost-management efforts.

Recorded Music operating income increased by \$9 million, or 15% due to the increase in OIBDA described noted above as well as a decrease in depreciation and amortization expense.

Recorded Music cost of revenues is composed of the following amounts (in millions):

	For the Three Months Ended December 31,		2009 vs 2008	
	2009	2008	\$ Change	% Change
Artist and repertoire costs	\$ 194	\$ 222	\$ (28)	-13%
Product costs	200	162	38	23%
Licensing costs	20	17	3	18%
Total cost of revenues	\$ 414	\$ 401	\$ 13	3%

Cost of revenues

Recorded Music cost of revenues increased \$13 million, or 3%, for the three months ended December 31, 2009. The increase was comprised of increases in product costs of \$38 million and licensing costs of \$3 million partially offset by a decrease of \$28 million in artist and repertoire costs. The increase in product costs was driven by international production costs associated with our European concert promotion business and licensing costs associated with increased international revenues from U.S. repertoire. Artist and repertoire costs decreased as a percentage of Recorded Music revenues to 25% in the three months ended December 31, 2009 from 29% in the three months ended December 31, 2008 as a result of the timing of our artist and repertoire spending, partially offset by higher royalty expense related to certain artist profit-sharing agreements.

Recorded Music selling, general and administrative expenses are composed of the following amounts (in millions):

	For the Three Months Ended December 31,		2009 vs 2008	
	2009	2008	\$ Change	% Change
General and administrative expense (1)	\$ 107	\$ 99	\$ 8	8%

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

Selling and marketing expense	136	136		
Distribution expense	19	19		
Total selling, general and administrative expense	\$ 262	\$ 254	\$ 8	3%

- (1) Includes depreciation expense of \$6 million and \$5 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively.

Table of Contents*Selling, general and administrative expense*

Recorded Music selling, general and administrative expense increased \$8 million, or 3%, for the three months ended December 31, 2009. Expressed as a percentage of Recorded Music revenues, selling, general and administrative expense decreased to 33% for the three months ended December 31, 2009 from 34% for the three months ended December 31, 2008. The decrease was primarily the result of our efforts to better align spending on selling and marketing expense with revenues earned.

*Music Publishing**Revenues*

Music Publishing revenues increased by \$6 million, or 4%, to \$141 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 compared to \$135 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008. Excluding the favorable impact of foreign currency exchange rates, total Music Publishing revenues remained flat at \$141 million. Music Publishing revenues represented 15% of consolidated revenue, for the three months ended December 31, 2009 and 2008. International Music Publishing revenues were \$95 million and \$87 million, or 67% and 64% of consolidated Music Publishing revenues for the three months ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively. Synchronization revenue increased by \$3 million as a result of a pickup in film and TV production licensing activity.

OIBDA and Operating Income

Music Publishing operating income decreased to \$4 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 as compared to \$6 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008. Music Publishing operating income includes the following (in millions):

	For the Three Months Ended December 31,		2009 vs 2008	
	2008	2008	\$ Change	% Change
OIBDA	\$ 22	\$ 22		
Depreciation and amortization	(18)	(16)	(2)	13%
Operating income	\$ 4	\$ 6	\$(2)	-33%

Music Publishing OIBDA remained flat at \$22 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 and 2008. Expressed as a percentage of Music Publishing revenues, Music Publishing OIBDA remained flat at 16% for the three months ended December 31, 2009 and 2008.

Music Publishing operating income decreased by \$2 million due to increased amortization on music publishing rights.

Music Publishing cost of revenues is composed of the following amounts (in millions):

	For the Three Months Ended December 31,		2009 vs 2008	
	2009	2008	\$ Change	% Change
Artist and repertoire costs	\$ 103	\$ 99	\$ 4	4%
Total cost of revenues	\$ 103	\$ 99	\$ 4	4%

Cost of revenues

Music Publishing cost of revenues increased by \$4 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009, driven primarily by artist and repertoire costs relating to increased revenues. Expressed as a percentage of Music Publishing revenues, Music Publishing cost of revenues were 73% for the three months ended December 31, 2009 and 2008.

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

Music Publishing selling, general and administrative expenses are comprised of the following amounts (in millions):

	For the Three Months Ended December 31,		2009 vs 2008	
	2009	2008	\$ Change	% Change
General and administrative expense (1)	\$ 17	\$ 15	\$ 2	13%
Total selling, general and administrative expense	\$ 17	\$ 15	\$ 2	13%

(1) Includes depreciation expense of \$1 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 and 2008.

Table of Contents*Selling, general and administrative expense*

Music Publishing selling, general and administrative expense increased to \$17 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 as compared with \$15 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008. Expressed as a percentage of Music Publishing revenues, Music Publishing selling, general and administrative expense increased to 12% for the three months ended December 31, 2009 from 11% for the three months ended December 31, 2008.

Corporate Expenses and Eliminations

Our OIBDA loss from corporate expenses and eliminations increased from \$22 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008 to \$23 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009.

Our operating loss from corporate expenses and eliminations increased from \$24 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008 to \$25 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009.

FINANCIAL CONDITION AND LIQUIDITY**Financial Condition**

At December 31, 2009, we had \$1.944 billion of debt, \$339 million of cash and equivalents (net debt of \$1.605 billion, defined as total debt less cash and equivalents and short-term investments) and a \$155 million Warner Music Group Corp.'s shareholders' equity (deficit). This compares to \$1.939 billion of debt, \$384 million of cash and equivalents (net debt of \$1.555 billion, defined as total debt less cash and equivalents and short-term investments) and a \$143 million shareholders' deficit at September 30, 2009. Net debt increased by \$50 million as a result of (i) a \$45 million decrease in cash and equivalents as more fully described below, (ii) a \$2 million increase related to the accretion on our Senior Secured Notes (iii) a \$5 million increase related to the accretion on our Holdings Discount Notes offset by (iv) a decrease of \$2 million related to the impact of foreign exchange rates on our Sterling-denominated Senior Subordinated Notes.

The \$12 million increase in shareholders' deficit during the three months ended December 31, 2009 consisted of \$17 million of net loss for the three months ended December 31, 2009, offset by foreign currency exchange movements of \$2 million and \$3 million of stock compensation.

Cash Flows

The following table summarizes our historical cash flows. The financial data for the three months ended December 31, 2009 and 2008 are unaudited and are derived from our interim financial statements included elsewhere herein. The cash flow is comprised of the following in millions:

	Three Months Ended December 31, 2009	Three Months Ended December 31, 2008
Cash (used in) provided by:		
Operating activities	\$ (42)	\$ 43
Investing activities	(2)	117
Financing activities		(4)

Operating Activities

Cash used in operations was \$42 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 compared to cash provided by operations of \$43 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008. The \$85 million decrease primarily related to the variable timing of our working capital requirements, which included a decrease in cash associated with our European concert promotion business and an expected increase in cash paid for interest. Following the May 2009 refinancing, all of the company's cash interest payments are now made semi-annually in the first and third quarters of the fiscal year. As a result, cash interest amounted to \$81 million in the quarter, compared to \$45 in the prior-year quarter. We previously made quarterly interest payments under our senior secured credit facility which was retired in May 2009.

Investing Activities

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

Cash used in investing activities was \$2 million for the three months ended December 31, 2009 as compared to cash provided by investing activities of \$117 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008. The \$2 million of cash used in investing consisted of cash used to acquire music publishing rights of \$4 million and capital expenditures of \$7 million offset by \$9 million of cash proceeds received in connection with the sale of our equity investment in lala media, inc. The \$117 million of cash provided by investing activities in the three months ended December 31, 2008 consisted primarily of proceeds received from the sale of our remaining stake in Front Line Management to Ticketmaster for \$123 million, offset by cash used for acquisitions totaling \$5 million, net of cash acquired, and \$2 million to acquire music publishing rights.

Table of Contents*Financing Activities*

Cash used in financing activities was \$4 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008. The \$4 million of cash used in financing activities in the three months ended December 31, 2008 consisted of our quarterly repayments on our senior secured credit facility, which was retired in May 2009.

Liquidity

Our primary sources of liquidity are the cash flows generated from our subsidiaries' operations and available cash and equivalents and short-term investments. These sources of liquidity are needed to fund our debt service requirements, working capital requirements, capital expenditure requirements and any quarterly dividends we may elect to pay in the future. We believe that our existing sources of cash will be sufficient to support our existing operations over the next fiscal year.

As of December 31, 2009, our long-term debt consisted of \$1.1 billion aggregate principal amount of Senior Secured Notes less unamortized discount of \$38 million, \$624 million of Acquisition Corp. Senior Subordinated Notes and \$258 million of Holdings Discount Notes.

Senior Secured Notes

On May 28, 2009, Acquisition Corp. issued \$1.1 billion aggregate principal amount of 9.50% Senior Secured Notes due 2016 pursuant to an indenture, dated as of May 28, 2009, among Acquisition Corp., the guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee. The Senior Secured Notes were issued at 96.289% of their face value for total net proceeds of \$1.059 billion, with an effective interest rate of 10.25%. The original issue discount (OID) was \$41 million. The OID is equal to the difference between the stated principal amount and the issue price. The OID will be amortized over the term of the Senior Secured Notes using the effective interest rate method and reported as non-cash interest expense. Deferred financing fees of \$25 million were incurred related to the Senior Secured Notes and are being amortized over the term of the Senior Secured Notes.

The Senior Secured Notes mature on June 15, 2016. Interest on the Senior Secured Notes accrues at a rate of 9.50% per annum and is payable, commencing on December 15, 2009, semi-annually in arrears on June 15 and December 15 of each year to the holders of record on the immediately preceding June 1 and December 1. Interest on the Senior Secured Notes is computed on the basis of a 360-day year comprised of twelve 30-day months.

The Senior Secured Notes are senior secured obligations of Acquisition Corp. that rank senior in right of payment to Acquisition Corp.'s subordinated indebtedness, including its existing senior subordinated notes. The obligations under the Senior Secured Notes are fully and unconditionally guaranteed on a senior secured basis by each of Acquisition Corp.'s existing direct or indirect wholly owned U.S. subsidiaries and any such subsidiaries that guarantee other indebtedness of Acquisition Corp. in the future. The Senior Secured Notes are not guaranteed by Holdings. All obligations under the Senior Secured Notes and the guarantees of those obligations are secured by first-priority liens, subject to permitted liens, in the assets of Holdings, Acquisition Corp., and the subsidiary guarantors that previously secured our senior secured credit facility, which consist of the shares of Acquisition Corp., Acquisition Corp.'s assets and the assets of the subsidiary guarantors, except for certain excluded assets.

At any time prior to June 15, 2012, Acquisition Corp., at its option, may redeem up to 35% of the aggregate principal amount of the Senior Secured Notes at a redemption price of 109.50% of the principal amount of the Senior Secured Notes redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest with the proceeds of an Equity Offering, as defined in the indenture, provided that after such redemption at least 50% of the originally issued Senior Secured Notes remain outstanding. Prior to June 15, 2013, Acquisition Corp. may redeem some or all of the Senior Secured Notes at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount plus a make whole premium, as defined in the indenture. The Senior Secured Notes are also redeemable in whole or in part, at Acquisition Corp.'s option, at any time on or after June 15, 2013 for the following redemption prices, plus accrued and unpaid interest:

Twelve month period beginning June 15,	Percentage
2013	104.750%
2014	102.375%
2015 and thereafter	100.000%

Upon the consummation and closing of a Major Music/Media Transaction, as defined in the indenture, at any time prior to June 15, 2013, the Senior Secured Notes may be redeemed in whole or in part, at Acquisition Corp.'s option, at a redemption price of 104.75% plus accrued and

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

unpaid interest. In the event of a change in control, as defined in the indenture, each holder of the Senior Secured Notes may require Acquisition Corp. to repurchase some or all of its respective Senior Secured Notes at a purchase price equal to 101% plus accrued and unpaid interest.

The indenture for the Senior Secured Notes contains a number of covenants that, among other things, limit (subject to certain exceptions), the ability of Acquisition Corp. and its restricted subsidiaries to (i) incur additional debt or issue certain preferred shares; (ii) pay dividends on or make distributions in respect of its capital stock or make other restricted payments (as defined in the

Table of Contents

indenture); (iii) make certain investments; (iv) sell certain assets; (v) create liens on certain debt; (vi) consolidate, merge, sell or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of its assets; (vii) sell or otherwise dispose of its Music Publishing business; (viii) enter into certain transactions with affiliates and (ix) designate its subsidiaries as unrestricted subsidiaries.

Acquisition Corp. used the net proceeds from the Senior Secured Notes offering, plus approximately \$335 million in existing cash, to repay in full all amounts due under its senior secured credit facility and pay related fees and expenses. In connection with the repayment, Acquisition Corp. terminated its revolving credit facility.

Senior Subordinated Notes of Acquisition Corp.

Acquisition Corp. has outstanding two tranches of senior subordinated notes due in 2014: \$465 million principal amount of U.S. dollar-denominated notes and £100 million principal amount of Sterling-denominated notes (collectively, the Acquisition Corp. Senior Subordinated Notes). The Acquisition Corp. Senior Subordinated Notes mature on April 15, 2014 and bear interest at a fixed rate of 7.375% per annum on the \$465 million dollar notes and 8.125% per annum on the £100 million Sterling-denominated notes.

The indenture governing the Acquisition Corp. Senior Subordinated Notes limits our ability and the ability of our restricted subsidiaries to incur additional indebtedness or issue certain preferred shares; to pay dividends on or make other distributions in respect of our capital stock or make other restricted payments; to make certain investments; to sell certain assets; to create liens on certain debt without securing the notes; to consolidate, merge, sell or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets; to enter into certain transactions with affiliates and to designate our subsidiaries as unrestricted subsidiaries. Subject to certain exceptions, the indenture governing the notes permits us and our restricted subsidiaries to incur additional indebtedness, including secured indebtedness, and to make certain restricted payments and investments.

Holdings Discount Notes

As of December 31, 2009, Holdings had \$258 million of debt represented by the Holdings Discount Notes. The Holdings Discount Notes were issued at a discount and had an initial accreted value of \$630.02 per \$1,000 principal amount at maturity. Prior to December 15, 2009, no cash interest payments accrued. However, interest accrued on the Holdings Discount Notes in the form of an increase in the accreted value of such notes such that the accreted value of the Holdings Discount Notes equaled the principal amount at maturity of \$258 million on December 15, 2009. Thereafter, cash interest on the Holdings Discount Notes is payable semi-annually at a fixed rate of 9.5% per annum with the initial cash interest payment payable on June 15, 2010. The Holdings Discount Notes mature on December 15, 2014.

The indenture governing the Holdings Discount Notes limits our ability and the ability of our restricted subsidiaries to incur additional indebtedness or issue certain preferred shares; to pay dividends on or make other distributions in respect of its capital stock or make other restricted payments; to make certain investments; to sell certain assets; to create liens on certain debt without securing the notes; to consolidate, merge, sell or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of its assets; to enter into certain transactions with affiliates; and to designate its subsidiaries as unrestricted subsidiaries. Subject to certain exceptions, the indenture governing the notes permits Holdings and its restricted subsidiaries to incur additional indebtedness, including secured indebtedness, and to make certain restricted payments and investments.

Dividends

We discontinued our previous policy of paying a regular quarterly dividend during the second quarter of fiscal year 2008. Any future determination to pay dividends will be at the discretion of our Board of Directors and will depend on, among other things, our results of operations, cash requirements, financial condition, contractual restrictions and other factors our Board of Directors may deem relevant.

Covenant Compliance

The indentures governing the Holdings Discount Notes, the Acquisition Corp. Senior Subordinated Notes and the Senior Secured Notes contain certain financial covenants, which limit the ability of our restricted subsidiaries as defined in the indentures governing the notes to, among other things, incur additional indebtedness, issue certain preferred shares, pay dividends, make certain investments, sell certain assets, create liens on certain debt, and consolidate, merge, sell or otherwise dispose of all, or some of, our assets. In order for Acquisition Corp. and Holdings to incur additional debt or make certain restricted payments using certain exceptions provided for in the indentures governing the Acquisition Corp. Senior Subordinated Notes, the Senior Secured Notes and Holdings Discount Notes, the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio, as defined in such indentures, must exceed a 2.0 to 1.0 ratio. Fixed Charges are defined in such indentures as consolidated interest expense excluding certain non-cash interest expense.

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

The terms of the indentures governing the Acquisition Corp. Senior Subordinated Notes, the Senior Secured Notes and Holdings Discount Notes significantly restrict Acquisition Corp., Holdings and other subsidiaries from paying dividends and otherwise transferring assets to us. For example, the ability of Acquisition Corp. and Holdings to make such payments is governed by a formula based on 50% of each of their consolidated net income (which, as defined in the indentures governing such notes, excludes goodwill impairment charges and any after-tax extraordinary, unusual or nonrecurring gains and losses) accruing from July 1, 2004 under the

Table of Contents

indentures governing the Acquisition Corp. Senior Subordinated Notes, the Holdings Discount Notes, and July 1, 2009 under the Senior Secured Notes, plus in each case proceeds from equity offerings and capital contributions, among other items. In addition, as a condition to making such payments to us based on such formula, Acquisition Corp. and Holdings must each have an adjusted EBITDA, as defined in the indenture, to interest expense ratio of at least 2.0 to 1.0 after giving effect to any such payments. Notwithstanding such restrictions, the indentures governing the Acquisition Corp. Senior Subordinated Notes, the Holdings Discount Notes and the Senior Secured Notes permit an aggregate of \$45 million, \$75 million and \$50 million, respectively, of such payments to be made by Acquisition Corp. and Holdings pursuant to the indentures, whether or not there is availability under the formula or the conditions to its use are met. The indenture governing the Senior Secured Notes also permits Acquisition Corp. to make restricted payments not to exceed \$90 million in any fiscal year.

Acquisition Corp. and Holdings may make additional restricted payments using certain other exceptions provided for in the indentures governing the Acquisition Corp. Senior Subordinated Notes, the Senior Secured Notes and Holdings Discount Notes.

Summary

Management believes that funds generated from our operations will be sufficient to fund our debt service requirements, working capital requirements and capital expenditure requirements for the foreseeable future. We also have additional borrowing capacity under our indentures. However, our ability to continue to fund these items and to reduce debt may be affected by general economic, financial, competitive, legislative and regulatory factors, as well as other industry-specific factors such as the ability to control music piracy and the continued industry-wide decline of CD sales. We or any of our affiliates may also, from time to time depending on market conditions and prices, contractual restrictions, our financial liquidity and other factors, seek to repurchase our Holdings Discount Notes, our Acquisition Corp. Senior Subordinated Notes or our Senior Secured Notes and/or common stock in open market purchases, privately negotiated purchases or otherwise. The amounts involved in any such transactions, individually or in the aggregate, may be material and may be funded from available cash or from additional borrowings. In addition, we may from time to time, depending on market conditions and prices, contractual restrictions, our financial liquidity and other factors, seek to refinance our Holdings Discount Notes, Acquisition Corp. Senior Subordinated Notes and/or our Senior Secured Notes with existing cash and/or with funds provided from additional borrowings.

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

As discussed in Note 18 to our audited consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2009, the Company is exposed to market risk arising from changes in market rates and prices, including movements in foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates. As of December 31, 2009, other than as described below, there have been no material changes to the Company's exposure to market risk since September 30, 2009.

We have transactional exposure to changes in foreign currency exchange rates relative to the U.S. dollar due to the global scope of our operations. We use foreign exchange contracts, primarily to hedge the risk that unremitted or future royalties and license fees owed to our U.S. companies for the sale, or anticipated sale, of U.S.-copyrighted products abroad may be adversely affected by changes in foreign currency exchange rates. We focus on managing the level of exposure to the risk of foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations on our major currencies, which include the Euro, British pound sterling, Japanese yen, Canadian dollar, Swedish krona, and Australian dollar. During the three months ended December 31, 2009, the Company entered into additional foreign exchange hedge contracts and, as of December 31, 2009, the Company has outstanding hedge contracts for the sale of \$399 million and the purchase of \$146 million of foreign currencies at fixed rates. During the current-year quarter, certain of our foreign exchange contracts expired and new foreign exchange contracts were renewed with similar features.

The fair value of foreign exchange contracts is subject to changes in foreign currency exchange rates. For the purpose of assessing the specific risks, we use a sensitivity analysis to determine the effects that market risk exposures may have on the fair value of our financial instruments. For foreign exchange forward contracts outstanding at December 31, 2009, assuming a hypothetical 10% depreciation of the U.S. dollar against foreign currencies from prevailing foreign currency exchange rates and assuming no change in interest rates, the fair value of the foreign exchange forward contracts would have decreased by \$25 million. Because our foreign exchange contracts are entered into for hedging purposes, these losses would be largely offset by gains on the underlying transactions.

We are exposed to foreign currency exchange rate risk with respect to our £100 million principal amount of Sterling-denominated notes that were issued in April 2004. These sterling notes mature on April 15, 2014. As of December 31, 2009, these sterling notes had a carrying value of approximately \$159 million. Based on the principal amount of Sterling-denominated notes outstanding as of December 31, 2009 and assuming that all other market variables are held constant (including the level of interest rates), a 10% weakening or strengthening of the U.S. dollar compared to the British pound sterling would not have an impact on the fair value of these sterling notes, since these notes are completely hedged as of December 31, 2009.

Table of Contents

ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Certification

The certifications of the principal executive officer and the principal financial officer (or persons performing similar functions) required by Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the *Certifications*) are filed as exhibits to this report. This section of the report contains the information concerning the evaluation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) (*Disclosure Controls*) and changes to internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) (*Internal Controls*) referred to in the *Certifications* and this information should be read in conjunction with the *Certifications* for a more complete understanding of the topics presented.

Introduction

The Securities and Exchange Commission's rules define *disclosure controls and procedures* as controls and procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by public companies in the reports filed or submitted under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms. *Disclosure controls and procedures* include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by public companies in the reports that they file or submit under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to a company's management, including its principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

The Securities and Exchange Commission's rules define *internal control over financial reporting* as a process designed by, or under the supervision of, a public company's principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, and effected by our board of directors, management and other personnel, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, or U.S. GAAP, including those policies and procedures that: (i) pertain to the maintenance of records that in reasonable detail accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company, (ii) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company and (iii) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of our assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Our management, including the principal executive officer and principal financial officer, does not expect that our *Disclosure Controls* or *Internal Controls* will prevent or detect all error and all fraud. A control system, no matter how well conceived and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the control system are met. Because of the limitations in any and all control systems, no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, within our company have been detected. Further, the design of any control system is based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events, and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all potential future conditions. Because of these inherent limitations in a cost-effective control system, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected even when effective *Disclosure Controls* and *Internal Controls* are in place.

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Based on our management's evaluation (with the participation of our principal executive officer and principal financial officer), as of the end of the period covered by this report, our principal executive officer and principal financial officer have concluded that our *Disclosure Controls* provided reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed by us in reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act will be recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in SEC rules and forms, including that such information is accumulated and communicated to management, including the principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There have been no changes, other than as noted below, in our *Internal Controls* over financial reporting or other factors during the period ended December 31, 2009 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our *Internal Controls*.

In an effort to make our information technology, or IT, more efficient and increase our IT capabilities and reduce potential disruptions, as well as generate cost savings, we signed a contract during the first quarter of fiscal 2009 with a third-party service provider to outsource a significant portion of our IT functions. We began transitioning work to the service provider in December 2008, and the transition will continue through the following 18 months. In addition, in an effort to make our finance and accounting functions more efficient, as well as generate cost savings, we

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

signed a contract during the third quarter of fiscal 2009 with a third-party service provider to outsource certain accounting and finance functions. We began transitioning work to the service provider in April 2009, and the transition will continue through the following 12 months. The outsourcing arrangements are expected to enhance the cost efficiency of these administrative functions. The outsourcing of these functions will have an immediate effect with regard to the responsibilities for the performance of certain processes and internal controls over financial reporting. We anticipate that internal controls over financial reporting could be further impacted in the future as these outsourced functions benefit from expected innovations and improvements from our service providers.

Table of Contents**PART II. OTHER INFORMATION****ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS***Pricing of Digital Music Downloads*

On December 20, 2005 and February 3, 2006, the Attorney General of the State of New York served the Company with requests for information in connection with an industry-wide investigation as to whether the practices of industry participants concerning the pricing of digital music downloads violate Section 1 of the Sherman Act, New York State General Business Law §§ 340 et seq., New York Executive Law §63(12), and related statutes. On February 28, 2006, the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice served the Company with a request for information in the form of a Civil Investigative Demand as to whether its activities relating to the pricing of digitally downloaded music violate Section 1 of the Sherman Act. We have provided documents and other information in response to these requests and intend to continue to fully cooperate with the New York Attorney General's and Department of Justice's industry-wide inquiries. Subsequent to the announcements of the above governmental investigations, more than thirty putative class action lawsuits concerning the pricing of digital music downloads were filed. On August 15, 2006, the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation consolidated these actions for pre-trial proceedings in the Southern District of New York. The consolidated amended complaint, filed on April 13, 2007, alleges conspiracy among record companies to delay the release of their content for digital distribution, inflate their pricing of CDs and fix prices for digital downloads. The complaint seeks unspecified compensatory, statutory and treble damages. All defendants, including us, filed a motion to dismiss the consolidated amended complaint on July 30, 2007. On October 9, 2008, the District Court issued an order dismissing the case as to all defendants, including us. On November 20, 2008, plaintiffs filed a Notice of Appeal from the order of the District Court to the Circuit Court for the Second Circuit. Oral argument took place before the Second Circuit Court of Appeals on September 21, 2009. On January 12, 2010, the Second Circuit vacated the judgment of the District Court and remanded the case for further proceedings. On January 27, 2010, all defendants, including the Company, filed a petition for rehearing en banc with the Second Circuit. The Company intends to continue to defend against these lawsuits, including the appeal, vigorously, but is unable to predict the outcome of these suits. Any litigation the Company may become involved in as a result of the inquiries of the Attorney General and Department of Justice, regardless of the merits of the claim, could be costly and divert the time and resources of management.

Other Matters

In addition to the matters discussed above, we are involved in other litigation arising in the normal course of our business. Management does not believe that any legal proceedings pending against us will have, individually, or in the aggregate, a material adverse effect on our business. However, we cannot predict with certainty the outcome of any litigation or the potential for future litigation. Regardless of the outcome, litigation can have an adverse impact on us, including our brand value, because of defense costs, diversion of management resources and other factors.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

You should carefully consider the following risks and other information in this report before making an investment decision with respect to shares of our common stock or any of our other securities. The risks and uncertainties described below may not be the only ones facing us. Additional risks and uncertainties that we do not currently know about or that we currently believe are immaterial may also adversely impact our business operations. If any of the following risks actually occur, our business, financial condition or results of operations would likely suffer. In such case, the trading price of our common stock or other securities could fall, and you may lose all or part of the money you paid to buy such securities.

Risks Related to our Business

The recorded music industry has been declining and may continue to decline, which may adversely affect our prospects and our results of operations.

The industry began experiencing negative growth rates in 1999 on a global basis and the worldwide recorded music market has contracted considerably. Illegal downloading of music, CD-R piracy, industrial piracy, economic recession, bankruptcies of record wholesalers and retailers, and growing competition for consumer discretionary spending and retail shelf space may all be contributing to a declining recorded music industry. Additionally, the period of growth in recorded music sales driven by the introduction and penetration of the CD format has ended. While CD sales still generate most of the recorded music revenues, CD sales continue to decline industry-wide and we expect that trend

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

to continue. However, new formats for selling recorded music product have been created, including the legal downloading of digital music and the distribution of music on mobile devices and revenue streams from these new channels have emerged. These new digital revenue streams are important as they are beginning to offset declines in physical sales and represent the fastest growing area of our recorded music business. In addition, we are also taking steps to broaden our revenue mix into growing areas of the music business, including sponsorship, fan clubs, websites, merchandising, touring, ticketing and artist management. As our expansion into these new areas is recent, we cannot determine how our expansion into these new areas

Table of Contents

will impact our business. Despite the increase in digital sales and expanded-rights revenues, revenues from these sources have yet to fully offset declining physical sales on a worldwide industry basis and it is too soon to determine the impact that sales of music through new channels might have on the industry or when the decline in physical sales might be offset by the increase in digital sales and other expanded-rights revenues. Accordingly, the recorded music industry performance may continue to negatively impact our operating results. While it is believed within the recorded music industry that growth in digital sales will re-establish a growth pattern for recorded music sales, the timing of the recovery cannot be established with accuracy nor can it be determined how these changes will affect individual markets. A declining recorded music industry is likely to lead to reduced levels of revenue and operating income generated by our Recorded Music business. Additionally, a declining recorded music industry is also likely to have a negative impact on our Music Publishing business, which generates a significant portion of its revenues from mechanical royalties attributable to the sale of music in CD and other physical recorded music formats.

Current uncertainty in global economic conditions could adversely affect our prospects and our results of operations.

Current uncertainty in global economic conditions poses a risk to the overall economy as consumers and businesses may defer purchases in response to tighter credit and negative financial news, which could negatively affect product demand and other related matters. The current volatility and disruption to the capital and credit markets have reached unprecedented levels and have adversely impacted global economic conditions, resulting in significant recessionary pressures and lower consumer confidence and lower retail sales in general, which has negatively impacted our business. In addition, although we believe our cash provided by operations will provide us with sufficient liquidity through the current credit crisis, the impact of this crisis on our major customers and suppliers, including those who provide our manufacturing, packaging and physical distribution requirements, cannot be predicted and may be quite severe. The inability of major manufacturers to ship our products could impair our ability to meet delivery date requirements of our customers. A disruption of the ability of our significant customers to access liquidity could cause disruptions or an overall deterioration of their businesses which could lead to reductions in their future orders of our products or the failure on their part to meet their payment obligations to us. Consequently, demand could be different from our expectations due to factors including changes in business and economic conditions, including conditions in the credit market that could affect consumer confidence, customer acceptance of our and competitors' products, changes in the level of inventory at retailers and changes in the global advertising business, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our results.

There may be downward pressure on our pricing and our profit margins and reductions in shelf space.

There are a variety of factors that could cause us to reduce our prices and reduce our profit margins. They are, among others, price competition from the sale of motion pictures in DVD-Video format and videogames, the negotiating leverage of mass merchandisers, big-box retailers and distributors of digital music, the increased costs of doing business with mass merchandisers and big-box retailers as a result of complying with operating procedures that are unique to their needs and any changes in costs associated with new digital formats. In addition, we are currently dependent on a small number of leading online music stores, which allows them to significantly influence the prices we can charge in connection with the distribution of digital music. Over the course of the last decade, U.S. mass-market and other stores' share of U.S. physical music sales has continued to grow. While we cannot predict how future competition will impact music retailers, as the music industry continues to transform it is possible that the share of music sales by mass-market retailers such as Wal-Mart and Target and online music stores such as Apple's iTunes will continue to grow as a result of the decline of specialty music retailers, which could further increase their negotiating leverage. Several large specialty music retailers, including Tower Records and Musicland, have filed for bankruptcy protection. The declining number of specialty music retailers may not only put pressure on profit margins, but could also impact catalog sales as mass-market retailers generally sell top chart albums only, with a limited range of back catalog. Recently, global economic conditions have led to a continued challenging retailer landscape which was most pronounced in the U.K., where EUK, Pinnacle and Zavvi have each gone into administration, which is similar to bankruptcy in the U.S. See Risk Factors We are substantially dependent on a limited number of online music stores, in particular Apple's iTunes Music Store, for the online sale of our music recordings and they are able to significantly influence the pricing structure for online music stores.

Our prospects and financial results may be adversely affected if we fail to identify, sign and retain artists and songwriters and by the existence or absence of superstar releases and by local economic conditions in the countries in which we operate.

We are dependent on identifying, signing and retaining recording artists with long-term potential, whose debut albums are well received on release, whose subsequent albums are anticipated by consumers and whose music will continue to generate sales as part of our catalog for years to come. The competition among record companies for such talent is intense. Competition among record companies to sell records is also intense and the marketing expenditures necessary to compete have increased as well. We are also dependent on signing and retaining songwriters who will write the hit songs of today and the classics of tomorrow. Our competitive position is dependent on our continuing ability to attract and develop artists whose work can achieve a high degree of public acceptance. Our financial results may be adversely affected if we are unable to identify, sign and retain such artists under terms that are economically attractive to us. Our financial results may also be affected by the existence or absence of superstar artist releases during a particular period. Some music industry observers believe that the number of superstar acts with long-term appeal, both in terms of catalog sales and future releases, has declined in recent years. Additionally, our financial results are generally affected by the worldwide economic and retail environment, as well as the appeal of our Recorded Music catalog and our Music Publishing

library.

Table of Contents

We may have difficulty addressing the threats to our business associated with home copying and Internet downloading.

The combined effect of the decreasing cost of electronic and computer equipment and related technology such as CD burners and the conversion of music into digital formats have made it easier for consumers to create unauthorized copies of our recordings in the form of, for example, burned CDs and MP3 files. For example, about 95% of the music downloaded in 2008, or more than 40 billion files, was illegal and not paid for, according to the IFPI 2009 Digital Music Report. In addition, while growth of music-enabled mobile consumers offers distinct opportunities for music companies such as ours, it also opens the market up to certain risks from behaviors such as sideloading of unauthorized content and illegitimate user-created ringtones. A substantial portion of our revenue comes from the sale of audio products that are potentially subject to unauthorized consumer copying and widespread digital dissemination without an economic return to us. The impact of digital piracy on legitimate music sales is hard to quantify but we believe that illegal file-sharing has a substantial negative impact on music sales. We are working to control this problem through further litigation, by lobbying governments for new, stronger copyright protection laws and more stringent enforcement of current laws, through graduated response programs achieved through cooperation with ISPs and legislation being advanced or considered in many countries, through technological measures and by establishing legitimate new media business models. We cannot give any assurances that such measures will be effective. If we fail to obtain appropriate relief through the judicial process or the complete enforcement of judicial decisions issued in our favor (or if judicial decisions are not in our favor), if we are unsuccessful in our efforts to lobby governments to enact and enforce stronger legal penalties for copyright infringement or if we fail to develop effective means of protecting our intellectual property (whether copyrights or other rights such as patents, trademarks and trade secrets) or our entertainment-related products or services, our results of operations, financial position and prospects may suffer.

Organized industrial piracy may lead to decreased sales.

The global organized commercial pirate trade is a significant threat to the music industry. The IIPA estimates that trade losses due to physical piracy of records and music in 47 key countries/territories around the world with copyright protection and/or enforcement deficiencies totaled \$2 billion in 2008. Unauthorized copies and piracy have contributed to the decrease in the volume of legitimate sales and put pressure on the price of legitimate sales. They have had, and may continue to have, an adverse effect on our business.

Our involvement in intellectual property litigation could adversely affect our business.

Our business is highly dependent upon intellectual property, an area that has encountered increased litigation in recent years. If we are alleged to infringe the intellectual property rights of a third party, any litigation to defend the claim could be costly and would divert the time and resources of management, regardless of the merits of the claim. There can be no assurance that we would prevail in any such litigation. If we were to lose a litigation relating to intellectual property, we could be forced to pay monetary damages and to cease the sale of certain products or the use of certain technology. Any of the foregoing may adversely affect our business.

Due to the nature of our business, our results of operations and cash flows may fluctuate significantly from period to period.

Our net sales, operating income and profitability, like those of other companies in the music business, are largely affected by the number and quality of albums that we release or that include musical compositions published by us, timing of our release schedule and, more importantly, the consumer demand for these releases. We also make advance payments to recording artists and songwriters, which impact our operating cash flows. The timing of album releases and advance payments is largely based on business and other considerations and is made without regard to the impact of the timing of the release on our financial results. We report results of operations quarterly and our results of operations and cash flows in any reporting period may be materially affected by the timing of releases and advance payments, which may result in significant fluctuations from period to period.

We may be unable to compete successfully in the highly competitive markets in which we operate and we may suffer reduced profits as a result.

The industry in which we operate is highly competitive, is based on consumer preferences and is rapidly changing. Additionally, the music industry requires substantial human and capital resources. We compete with other recorded music companies and music publishers to identify and sign new recording artists and songwriters who subsequently achieve long-term success and to renew agreements with established artists and songwriters. In addition, our competitors may from time to time reduce their prices in an effort to expand market share and introduce new services, or improve the quality of their products or services. We may lose business if we are unable to sign successful recording artists or songwriters or to match the prices or the quality of products and services, offered by our competitors. Our Recorded Music business competes not only with other recorded music companies, but also with the recorded music efforts of live events companies and artists who may choose to distribute their own works. Our Music Publishing business competes not only with other music publishing companies, but also with songwriters who publish their own works. Our Recorded Music business is to a large extent dependent on technological developments, including access to

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

and selection and viability of new technologies, and is subject to potential pressure from competitors as a result of their technological developments. For example, our Recorded Music business may be further adversely affected by technological developments that facilitate the piracy of music, such as Internet peer-to-peer file-sharing and CD-R activity, by an inability to enforce our intellectual property rights in digital environments and by a failure to develop successful business models applicable to a digital environment. The Recorded Music business also faces competition from other forms of entertainment and leisure activities, such as cable and satellite television, pre-recorded films on videocassettes and DVD, the Internet and computer and videogames.

Table of Contents

Our business operations in some countries subject us to trends, developments or other events in foreign countries which may affect us adversely.

We are a global company with strong local presences, which have become increasingly important as the popularity of music originating from a country's own language and culture has increased in recent years. Our mix of national and international recording artists and songwriters provides a significant degree of diversification for our music portfolio. However, our creative content does not necessarily enjoy universal appeal. As a result, our results can be affected not only by general industry trends, but also by trends, developments or other events in individual countries, including:

limited legal protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights;

restrictions on the repatriation of capital;

fluctuations in interest and foreign exchange rates;

differences and unexpected changes in regulatory environment, including environmental, health and safety, local planning, zoning and labor laws, rules and regulations;

varying tax regimes which could adversely affect our results of operations or cash flows, including regulations relating to transfer pricing and withholding taxes on remittances and other payments by subsidiaries and joint ventures;

exposure to different legal standards and enforcement mechanisms and the associated cost of compliance;

difficulties in attracting and retaining qualified management and employees or rationalizing our workforce;

tariffs, duties, export controls and other trade barriers;

longer accounts receivable settlement cycles and difficulties in collecting accounts receivable;

recessionary trends, inflation and instability of the financial markets;

higher interest rates; and

political instability.

We may not be able to insure or hedge against these risks, and we may not be able to ensure compliance with all of the applicable regulations without incurring additional costs. Furthermore, financing may not be available in countries with less than investment-grade sovereign credit ratings. As a result, it may be difficult to create or maintain profit-making operations in developing countries.

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

In addition, our results can be affected by trends, developments and other events in individual countries. There can be no assurance that in the future other country-specific trends, developments or other events will not have such a significant adverse effect on our business, results of operations or financial condition. Unfavorable conditions can depress sales in any given market and prompt promotional or other actions that affect our margins.

Our business may be adversely affected by competitive market conditions and we may not be able to execute our business strategy.

We intend to increase revenues and cash flow through a business strategy which requires us, among other things, to continue to maximize the value of our music assets, to significantly reduce costs to maximize flexibility and adjust to new realities of the market, to continue to act to contain digital piracy and to diversify our revenue streams into growing segments of the music business by entering into expanded-rights deals with recording artists and by operating our artist services businesses and to capitalize on digital distribution and emerging technologies.

Each of these initiatives requires sustained management focus, organization and coordination over significant periods of time. Each of these initiatives also requires success in building relationships with third parties and in anticipating and keeping up with technological developments and consumer preferences and may involve the implementation of new business models or distribution platforms. The results of our strategy and the success of our implementation of this strategy will not be known for some time in the future. If we are unable to implement our strategy successfully or properly react to changes in market conditions, our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows could be adversely affected.

Our ability to operate effectively could be impaired if we fail to attract and retain our executive officers.

Our success depends, in part, upon the continuing contributions of our executive officers. Although we have employment agreements with our executive officers, there is no guarantee that they will not leave. The loss of the services of any of our executive officers or the failure to attract other executive officers could have a material adverse effect on our business or our business prospects.

Table of Contents**Legitimate channels for digital distribution of our creative content are a recent development, and their impact on our business is unclear and may be adverse.**

We have positioned ourselves to take advantage of online and mobile technology as a sales distribution channel and believe that the development of legitimate channels for digital music distribution holds promise for us in the future. Digital revenue streams of all kinds are important to offset continued declining revenues from physical CD sales industry-wide over time. However, legitimate channels for digital distribution are a recent development and we cannot predict their impact on our business. In digital formats, certain costs associated with physical products such as manufacturing, distribution, inventory and return costs do not apply. While there are some digital-specific variable costs and infrastructure investments necessary to produce, market and sell music in digital formats, we believe it is reasonable to expect that we will generally derive a higher contribution margin from digital sales than physical sales. However, we cannot be sure that we will generally continue to achieve higher margins from digital sales. Any legitimate digital distribution channel that does develop may result in lower or less profitable sales for us than comparable physical sales. In addition, the transition to greater sales through digital channels introduces uncertainty regarding the potential impact of the unbundling of the album on our business. It remains unclear how consumer behavior will continue to change when customers are faced with more opportunities to purchase only favorite tracks from a given album rather than the entire album. In addition, if piracy continues unabated and legitimate digital distribution channels fail to gain consumer acceptance, our results of operations could be harmed. Furthermore, as new distribution channels continue to develop, we have to implement systems to process royalties on these new revenue streams. If we are not able to successfully expand our processing capability or introduce technology to allow us to determine and pay royalty amounts due in a timely manner, we may experience delays or reduced accuracy as we increase the volume of our digital sales, which could have a negative effect on our relationships with artists and brand identity.

We are substantially dependent on a limited number of online music stores, in particular Apple's iTunes Music Store, for the online sale of our music recordings and they are able to significantly influence the pricing structure for online music stores.

We derive an increasing portion of our revenues from sales of music through digital distribution channels. We are currently dependent on a small number of leading online music stores that sell consumers digital music. Currently, the largest U.S. online music store, iTunes, charges U.S. consumers prices ranging from \$0.69 to \$1.29 per single-track download. We have limited ability to increase our wholesale prices to digital service providers for digital downloads as we believe Apple's iTunes controls more than two-thirds of the legitimate digital music track download business. If iTunes were to adopt a lower pricing model or if there were structural change to other download pricing models, we may receive substantially less per download for our music, which could cause a material reduction in our revenues, unless it is offset by a corresponding increase in the number of downloads. Additionally, Apple's iTunes and other online music stores at present accept and make available for sale all the recordings that we and other distributors deliver to them. However, if online stores in the future decide to limit the types or amount of music they will accept from music content owners like us, our revenues could be significantly reduced.

A significant portion of our Music Publishing revenues is subject to rate regulation either by government entities or by local third-party collection societies throughout the world and rates on other income streams may be set by arbitration proceedings, which may limit our profitability.

Mechanical royalties and performance royalties are the two largest sources of income to our Music Publishing business and mechanical royalties are a significant expense to our Recorded Music business. In the U.S., mechanical rates are set pursuant to an arbitration process under the U.S. Copyright Act unless rates are determined through voluntary industry negotiations and performance rates are set by performing rights societies and subject to challenge by performing rights licensees. Outside the U.S., mechanical and performance rates are typically negotiated on an industry-wide basis. The mechanical and performance rates set pursuant to such processes may adversely affect us by limiting our ability to increase the profitability of our Music Publishing business. If the mechanical rates are set too high it may also adversely affect us by limiting our ability to increase the profitability of our Recorded Music business. In addition, rates our Recorded Music business receives in the U.S. for, among other sources of income and potential income, webcasting and satellite radio are set by an arbitration process under the U.S. Copyright Act unless rates are determined through voluntary industry negotiations. It is important as sales shift from physical to diversified distribution channels that we receive fair value for all of the uses of our intellectual property as our business model now depends upon multiple revenue streams from multiple sources. If the rates for Recorded Music income sources that are established through legally prescribed rate-setting processes are set too low, it could have a material adverse impact on our Recorded Music business or our business prospects.

An impairment in the carrying value of goodwill or other intangible and long-lived assets could negatively affect our operating results and shareholders' equity.

On December 31, 2009, we had \$1.030 billion of goodwill and \$100 million of indefinite-lived intangible assets. Financial Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 350, Intangibles—Goodwill and other (ASC 350) requires that we test these assets for impairment annually (or more frequently should indications of impairment arise) by estimating the fair value of each of our reporting units (calculated using a discounted cash flow method) and comparing that value to the reporting units' carrying value. If the carrying value exceeds the fair value, there is

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

a potential impairment and additional testing must be performed. In performing our annual tests and determining whether indications of impairment exist, we consider numerous factors including actual and projected operating results of each reporting unit, external market factors such as market prices for similar assets, the market capitalization of

Table of Contents

our stock, and trends in the music industry. We tested our goodwill and other indefinite-lived intangible assets for impairment in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2009 and concluded that such assets were not impaired. We continue to believe that conclusion is appropriate. However, future events may occur that could adversely affect the estimated fair value of our reporting units. Such events may include, but are not limited to, strategic decisions made in response to changes in economic and competitive conditions and the impact of the economic environment on our operating results. Failure to achieve sufficient levels of cash flow at our reporting units could also result in impairment charges on goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets. If the value of the acquired goodwill or acquired indefinite-lived intangible assets is impaired, our operating results and shareholders' deficit could be adversely affected.

We also had \$1.260 billion of definite-lived intangible assets at December 31, 2009. FASB ASC Topic 360-10-35, (ASC 360-10-35) requires companies to review these assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amounts may not be recoverable. If similar events occur as enumerated above such that we believe indicators of impairment are present, we would test for recoverability by comparing the carrying value of the asset to the net undiscounted cash flows expected to be generated from the asset. If those net undiscounted cash flows do not exceed the carrying amount, we would perform the next step, which is to determine the fair value of the asset, which could result in an impairment charge. Any impairment charge recorded would negatively affect our operating results and shareholders' deficit.

Unfavorable currency exchange rate fluctuations could adversely affect our results of operations.

The reporting currency for our financial statements is the U.S. dollar. We have substantial assets, liabilities, revenues and costs denominated in currencies other than U.S. dollars. To prepare our consolidated financial statements, we must translate those assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses into U.S. dollars at then-applicable exchange rates. Consequently, increases and decreases in the value of the U.S. dollar versus other currencies will affect the amount of these items in our consolidated financial statements, even if their value has not changed in their original currency. These translations could result in significant changes to our results of operations from period to period. Prior to intersegment eliminations, approximately 64% of our revenues related to operations in foreign territories for the three months ended December 31, 2009. From time to time, we enter into foreign exchange contracts to hedge the risk of unfavorable foreign currency exchange rate movements. As of December 31, 2009, we have hedged a portion of our material foreign currency exposures related to royalty payments remitted between our foreign affiliates and our U.S. affiliates for the next fiscal year.

We may not have full control and ability to direct the operations we conduct through joint ventures and we do not control minority (equity and cost-method) investments.

We currently have interests in a number of joint ventures and may in the future enter into further joint ventures as a means of conducting our business. In addition, we structure certain of our relationships with recording artists and songwriters as joint ventures. We may not be able to fully control the operations and the assets of our joint ventures, and we may not be able to make major decisions or may not be able to take timely actions with respect to our joint ventures unless our joint venture partners agree.

We also have several equity and cost-method investments. We have invested in privately held companies, some of which are in the startup or development stages. These investments are inherently risky because the markets for the technologies or products these companies are developing are typically in the early stages and may never materialize. We do not control these investments and could lose some or all of our investment in these entities. Our evaluation of investments in private companies is based on the fundamentals of the business, including, among other factors, the nature of their technologies and potential for financial returns.

The enactment of legislation limiting the terms by which an individual can be bound under a personal services contract could impair our ability to retain the services of key artists.

California Labor Code Section 2855 (Section 2855) limits the duration of time any individual can be bound under a contract for personal services to a maximum of seven years. In 1987, Subsection (b) was added, which provides a limited exception to Section 2855 for recording contracts, creating a damages remedy for record companies. Legislation was introduced in New York in April 2009 to create a statute similar to Section 2855 to limit contracts between artists and record companies to a term of seven years which term may be reduced to three years if the artist was not represented in the negotiation and execution of such contracts by qualified counsel experienced with entertainment industry law and practices, potentially affecting the duration of artist contracts. There is no assurance that California will not introduce legislation in the future seeking to repeal Subsection (b). The repeal of Subsection (b) of Section 2855 and/or the passage of legislation similar to Section 2855 by other states could materially affect our results of operations and financial position.

We face a potential loss of catalog if it is determined that recording artists have a right to recapture rights in their recordings under the U.S. Copyright Act.

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

The U.S. Copyright Act provides authors (or their heirs) a right to terminate U.S. licenses or assignments of rights in their copyrighted works. This right does not apply to works that are works made for hire. Since the effective date of U.S. copyright liability for sound recordings (February 15, 1972), virtually all of our agreements with recording artists provide that such recording artists render services under an employment-for-hire relationship. A termination right exists under the U.S. Copyright Act for U.S. rights in musical compositions that are not works made for hire. If any of our commercially available sound recordings were

Table of Contents

determined not to be works made for hire, then the recording artists (or their heirs) could have the right to terminate the U.S. rights they granted to us, generally during a five-year period starting at the end of 35 years from the date of a post-1977 license or assignment (or, in the case of a pre-1978 grant in a pre-1978 recording, generally during a five-year period starting either at the end of 56 years from the date of copyright or on January 1, 1978, whichever is later). A termination of U.S. rights could have an adverse effect on our Recorded Music business. From time to time, authors (or their heirs) can terminate our U.S. rights in musical compositions. However, we believe the effect of those terminations is already reflected in the financial results of our Music Publishing business.

If we acquire or invest in other businesses, we will face certain risks inherent in such transactions.

We may acquire, make investments in, or enter into strategic alliances or joint ventures with, companies engaged in businesses that are similar or complementary to ours. If we make such acquisitions or investments or enter into strategic alliances, we will face certain risks inherent in such transactions. For example, gaining regulatory approval for significant acquisitions or investments could be a lengthy process and there can be no assurance of a successful outcome and we could increase our leverage in connection with acquisitions or investments. We could face difficulties in managing and integrating newly acquired operations. Additionally, such transactions would divert management resources and may result in the loss of recording artists or songwriters from our rosters. If we invest in companies involved in new businesses or develop our own new business opportunities, we will need to integrate and effectively manage these new businesses before any new line of business can become successful, and as such the progress and success of any new business is uncertain. In addition, investments in new business may result in an increase in capital expenditures to build infrastructure to support our new initiatives. We cannot assure you that if we make any future acquisitions, investments, strategic alliances or joint ventures that they will be completed in a timely manner, that they will be structured or financed in a way that will enhance our credit-worthiness or that they will meet our strategic objectives or otherwise be successful. We also may not be successful in implementing appropriate operational, financial and management systems and controls to achieve the benefits expected to result from these transactions. Failure to effectively manage any of these transactions could result in material increases in costs or reductions in expected revenues, or both. In addition, if any new business in which we invest or which we attempt to develop does not progress as planned, we may not recover the funds and resources we have expended and this could have a negative impact on our businesses or our company as a whole.

We have engaged in substantial restructuring activities in the past, and may need to implement further restructurings in the future and our restructuring efforts may not be successful.

The recorded music industry continues to undergo substantial change. These changes continue to have a substantial impact on our business. See The recorded music industry has been declining and may continue to decline, which may adversely affect our prospects and our results of operations. Following the Acquisition, we implemented a broad restructuring plan in order to adapt our cost structure to the changing economics of the music industry. We continue to shift resources from our physical sales channels to efforts focused on digital distribution, emerging technologies and other new revenue streams.

We cannot be certain that we will not be required to implement further restructuring activities, make additions or other changes to our management or workforce based on other cost reduction measures or changes in the markets and industry in which we compete. Our inability to structure our operations based on evolving market conditions could impact our business. Restructuring activities can create unanticipated consequences and negative impacts on the business, and we cannot be sure that any future restructuring efforts will be successful.

We are outsourcing our information technology infrastructure and certain finance and accounting functions and may outsource other back-office functions, which will make us more dependent upon third parties.

In an effort to make our information technology, or IT, more efficient and increase our IT capabilities and reduce potential disruptions, as well as generate cost savings, we signed a contract during the first quarter of fiscal 2009 with a third-party service provider to outsource a significant portion of our IT infrastructure functions. This outsourcing initiative is a component of our ongoing strategy to monitor our costs and to seek additional cost savings. We incurred both transition costs and one-time employee termination costs during fiscal 2009 associated with this outsourcing initiative. As a result, we rely on third parties to ensure that our IT needs are sufficiently met. This reliance subjects us to risks arising from the loss of control over IT processes, changes in pricing that may affect our operating results, and potentially, termination of provisions of these services by our supplier. In addition, in an effort to make our finance and accounting functions more efficient, as well as generate cost savings, we signed a contract during the third quarter of fiscal 2009 with a third-party service provider to outsource certain finance and accounting functions. A failure of our service providers to perform may have a significant adverse effect on our business. We may outsource other back-office functions in the future, which would increase our reliance on third parties.

We are controlled by entities that may have conflicts of interest with us.

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

THL, Bain Capital and Providence Equity (collectively, the Current Investor Group) control a majority of our common stock on a fully diluted basis. In addition, representatives of the Current Investor Group occupy substantially all of the seats on our Board of Directors and pursuant to a stockholders agreement, have the right to appoint all of the independent directors to our board. As a result, the Current Investor Group has the ability to control our policies and operations, including the appointment of management, the

Table of Contents

entering into of mergers, acquisitions, sales of assets, divestitures and other extraordinary transactions, future issuances of our common stock or other securities, the payments of dividends, if any, on our common stock, the incurrence of debt by us and the amendment of our certificate of incorporation and Bylaws. The Current Investor Group has the ability to prevent any transaction that requires the approval of our Board of Directors or the stockholders regardless of whether or not other members of our Board of Directors or stockholders believe that any such transaction is in their own best interests. For example, the Current Investor Group could cause us to make acquisitions that increase our indebtedness or to sell revenue-generating assets. Additionally, the Current Investor Group is in the business of making investments in companies and may from time to time acquire and hold interests in businesses that compete directly or indirectly with us. The Current Investor Group may also pursue acquisition opportunities that may be complementary to our business, and, as a result, those acquisition opportunities may not be available to us. So long as the Current Investor Group continues to hold a majority of our outstanding common stock, they will be entitled to nominate a majority of our Board of Directors, and will have the ability to effectively control the vote in any election of directors. In addition, so long as the Current Investor Group continues to own a significant amount of our equity, even if such amount is less than 50%, they will continue to be able to strongly influence or effectively control our decisions.

Our reliance on one company for the manufacturing, packaging and physical distribution of our products in North America and Europe could have an adverse impact on our ability to meet our manufacturing, packaging and physical distribution requirements.

Cinram is currently our exclusive supplier of manufacturing, packaging and physical distribution services in North America and most of Europe. Accordingly, our continued ability to meet our manufacturing, packaging and physical distribution requirements in those territories depends largely on Cinram's continued successful operation in accordance with the service level requirements mandated by us in our service agreements. If, for any reason, Cinram were to fail to meet contractually required service levels, we would have difficulty satisfying our commitments to our wholesale and retail customers, which could have an adverse impact on our revenues. Even though our agreements with Cinram give us a right to terminate based upon failure to meet mandated service levels, and there are several capable substitute suppliers, it might be difficult for us to switch to substitute suppliers for any such services, particularly in the short term, and the delay and transition time associated with finding substitute suppliers could also have an adverse impact on our revenues.

On March 13, 2007, we entered into amendments to our existing manufacturing, packaging and physical distribution arrangements with Cinram for our physical products in North America and most of Europe. Cinram will remain our exclusive supplier of manufacturing, packaging and physical distribution services in North America and most of Europe. The terms of the Cinram agreements remain substantially the same as the terms of the original agreements. We believe that the terms of these agreements, as amended, continue to reflect market rates. The agreements, as amended, now expire on December 31, 2010.

We may be materially and adversely affected by the formation of Live Nation Entertainment.

On February 10, 2009, Live Nation and Ticketmaster Entertainment announced a proposed merger to form Live Nation Entertainment. The Live Nation-Ticketmaster merger attracted intense scrutiny and was reviewed by the U.S. Department of Justice, several State Attorneys General (including New York, California, Illinois, Florida and Massachusetts) and the U.K., where it was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for a more detailed investigation. The merger would combine the world's largest online ticketing, concert promotion and management companies including Front Line Management. The combined entity would control venues, ticketing and ancillary revenues derived from concerts, and in some cases would act as a record label as part of the expanded-rights deals Live Nation has signed with several artists. On January 25, 2010, the U.S. Department of Justice cleared the merger but required the companies to make several concessions as a condition of their approval. We cannot predict what impact the closing of this transaction might have on us.

Risks Related to our Leverage

Our substantial leverage on a consolidated basis could adversely affect our ability to raise additional capital to fund our operations, limit our ability to react to changes in the economy or our industry and prevent us from meeting our obligations under our indebtedness.

We are highly leveraged. As of December 31, 2009, our total consolidated indebtedness was \$1.944 billion.

Our high degree of leverage could have important consequences for our investors, including:

making it more difficult for us and our subsidiaries to make payments on indebtedness;

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

increasing our vulnerability to general economic and industry conditions;

requiring a substantial portion of cash flow from operations to be dedicated to the payment of principal and interest on indebtedness, therefore reducing our ability to use our cash flow to fund our operations, capital expenditures and future business opportunities;

Table of Contents

limiting our ability and the ability of our subsidiaries to obtain additional financing for working capital, capital expenditures, product development, debt service requirements, acquisitions and general corporate or other purposes; and

limiting our ability to adjust to changing market conditions and placing us at a competitive disadvantage compared to our competitors who are less highly leveraged.

We and our subsidiaries may be able to incur substantial additional indebtedness in the future, subject to the restrictions contained in our indentures relating to our outstanding notes. If new indebtedness is added to our current debt levels, the related risks that we and our subsidiaries now face could intensify.

We may not be able to generate sufficient cash to service all of our indebtedness, and may be forced to take other actions to satisfy our obligations under our indebtedness, which may not be successful.

Our ability to make scheduled payments on or to refinance our debt obligations depends on our financial condition and operating performance, which is subject to prevailing economic and competitive conditions and to certain financial, business and other factors beyond our control. We may not maintain a level of cash flows from operating activities sufficient to permit us to pay the principal, premium, if any, and interest on our indebtedness.

While we currently have sufficient cash to make scheduled interest payments, in the future Holdings, our immediate subsidiary, also may rely on our indirect subsidiary Acquisition Corp. and its subsidiaries to make payments on its borrowings. If Acquisition Corp. does not dividend funds to Holdings in an amount sufficient to make such payments, Holdings may default under the indenture governing its borrowings, which would result in all such notes becoming due and payable. Because Acquisition Corp.'s debt agreements have covenants that limit its ability to make payments to Holdings, Holdings may not have access to funds in an amount sufficient to service its indebtedness.

Our debt agreements contain restrictions that limit our flexibility in operating our business.

The indentures governing our outstanding notes contain various covenants that limit our ability to engage in specified types of transactions. These covenants limit our ability, Holdings' ability and the ability of our restricted subsidiaries to, among other things:

incur additional indebtedness or issue certain preferred shares;

pay dividends on or make distributions in respect of our common stock or make other restricted payments;

make certain investments;

sell certain assets;

create liens on certain indebtedness without in certain cases securing the applicable indebtedness;

consolidate, merge, sell or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets;

enter into certain transactions with our affiliates; and

designate our subsidiaries as unrestricted subsidiaries.

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

All of these restrictions could affect our ability to operate our business or may limit our ability to take advantage of potential business opportunities as they arise.

If our cash flows and capital resources are insufficient to fund our debt service obligations, we may be forced to reduce or delay investments in recording artists and songwriters, capital expenditures or dividends, or to sell assets, seek additional capital or restructure or refinance our indebtedness. These alternative measures may not be successful and may not permit us to meet our scheduled debt service obligations. In the absence of such operating results and resources, we could face substantial liquidity problems and might be required to dispose of material assets or operations to meet our debt service and other obligations. The indentures governing our outstanding notes restrict our ability to dispose of assets and use the proceeds from dispositions. We may not be able to consummate those dispositions or to obtain the proceeds which we could realize from them and these proceeds may not be adequate to meet any debt service obligations then due.

A reduction in our credit ratings could impact our cost of capital.

Although reductions in our debt ratings may not have an immediate impact on the cost of debt or our liquidity, they may impact the cost of debt and liquidity over the medium term and future access at a reasonable rate to the debt markets may be adversely impacted.

Table of Contents

Risks Related to our Common Stock

We are a controlled company within the meaning of the New York Stock Exchange rules and, as a result, will qualify for, and intend to rely on, exemptions from certain corporate governance requirements.

The Current Investor Group controls a majority of our outstanding common stock. As a result, we are a controlled company within the meaning of the NYSE corporate governance standards. Under the NYSE rules, a company of which more than 50% of the voting power is held by an individual, a group, or another company is a controlled company and may elect not to comply with certain NYSE corporate governance requirements, as applicable, including (1) the requirement that a majority of the Board of Directors consist of independent directors, (2) the requirement that we have a nominating/corporate governance committee that is composed entirely of independent directors with a written charter addressing the committee's purpose and responsibilities, (3) the requirement that we have a compensation committee that is composed entirely of independent directors with a written charter addressing the committee's purpose and responsibilities and (4) the requirement that we perform an annual performance evaluation of the nominating/corporate governance committee and compensation committee. We are utilizing and intend to continue to utilize these exemptions while we are a controlled company. As a result, we will not have a majority of independent directors and neither our nominating and corporate governance committee, which also serves as our executive committee, nor our compensation committee will consist entirely of independent directors. While our executive, governance and nominating committee and compensation committee have charters that comply with NYSE requirements, we are not required to maintain those charters. Accordingly, you will not have the same protections afforded to stockholders of companies that are subject to all of the NYSE corporate governance requirements.

Future sales of our shares could depress the market price of our common stock.

The market price of our common stock could decline as a result of sales of a large number of shares of common stock in the market or the perception that such sales could occur. These sales, or the possibility that these sales may occur, also might make it more difficult for us to sell equity securities in the future at a time and at a price that we deem appropriate. As of December 31, 2009, we had approximately 154.6 million shares of common stock outstanding. Approximately 93.3 million shares are held by the Current Investor Group and are eligible for resale from time to time, subject to contractual and Securities Act restrictions. The Current Investor Group has the ability to cause us to register the resale of their shares and certain other holders of our common stock, including members of our management and certain other parties that have piggyback registration rights, will be able to participate in such registration. In addition, in 2005, we registered approximately 8.3 million shares of restricted common stock and approximately 8.4 million shares underlying options issued and securities that may be issued in the future pursuant to our benefit plans and arrangements on registration statements on Form S-8. Shares registered on these registration statements on Form S-8 may be sold as provided in the respective registration statements on Form S-8. In April 2008, we registered an additional 16.5 million shares underlying options issued, and securities that might be issued in the future pursuant to our benefit plans and arrangements, on an additional Form S-8.

The market price of our common stock may be volatile, which could cause the value of your investment to decline.

Securities markets worldwide experience significant price and volume fluctuations. This market volatility, as well as general economic, market or potential conditions, could reduce the market price of our common stock in spite of our operating performance. In addition, our operating results could be below the expectations of securities analysts and investors, and in response, the market price of our common stock could decrease significantly. As a result, the market price of our common stock could decline below the price at which you purchase it. You may be unable to resell your shares of our common stock at or above such price. Among the other factors that could affect our stock price are:

actual or anticipated variations in operating results;

changes in dividend policy or our intentions to deploy our capital, including any decisions to repurchase our debt or common stock;

changes in financial estimates or investment recommendations by research analysts;

actual or anticipated changes in economic, political or market conditions, such as recessions or international currency fluctuations;

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

actual or anticipated changes in the regulatory environment affecting the music industry;

changes in the retailing environment;

changes in the market valuations of other content on media companies or diversified media companies that are also engaged in some of the business in which we are engaged that may be deemed our peers; and

announcements by us or our competitors of significant acquisitions, strategic partnerships, divestitures, joint ventures or other strategic initiatives.

See Risk Factors Due to the nature of our business, our results of operations and cash flows may fluctuate significantly from period to period. In the past, following periods of volatility in the market price of a company's securities, stockholders have often

Table of Contents

instituted class action securities litigation against those companies. Such litigation, if instituted, could result in substantial costs and a diversion of management attention and resources, which could significantly harm our profitability and reputation.

Provisions in our Charter and amended and restated bylaws and Delaware law may discourage a takeover attempt.

Provisions contained in our Charter and amended and restated bylaws (Bylaws) and Delaware law could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire us, even if doing so might be beneficial to our stockholders. Provisions of our Charter and Bylaws impose various procedural and other requirements, which could make it more difficult for shareholders to effect certain corporate actions. For example, our Charter authorizes our Board of Directors to issue up to 100,000,000 preferred shares and determine the rights including vesting rights, preferences, privileges, qualifications, limitations, and restrictions of unissued series of preferred stock, without any vote or action by our shareholders. Thus, our Board of Directors can authorize and issue shares of preferred stock with voting or conversion rights that could adversely affect the voting or other rights of holders of our common stock. These rights may have the effect of delaying or deterring a change of control of our company. These provisions could limit the price that certain investors might be willing to pay in the future for shares of our common stock.

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

Item 2 is not applicable and has been omitted.

ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES

Item 3 is not applicable and has been omitted.

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

Item 4 is not applicable and has been omitted.

ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION

Item 5 is not applicable and has been omitted.

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

- 3.1 Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Warner Music Group Corp. (1)
- 3.2 Amended and Restated Bylaws of Warner Music Group Corp. (2)
- 31.1 Certification of the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) and Rule 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended*
- 31.2 Certification of the Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) and Rule 15d-15(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended*
- 32.1 Certification of the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002**
- 32.2 Certification of the Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002**

Edgar Filing: Warner Music Group Corp. - Form 10-Q

* Filed herewith.

** This certification will be treated as accompanying this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and not filed as part of such report for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act, as amended, or otherwise subject the liability of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and this certification will not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, except to the extent that the registrant specifically incorporates it by reference.

- (1) Incorporated by reference to Warner Music Group Corp. s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2005 (File No. 001-32502).
- (2) Incorporated by reference to Warner Music Group Corp. s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 17, 2009 (File No. 001-32502).

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.

February 9, 2010

WARNER MUSIC GROUP CORP.

By: /s/ EDGAR BRONFMAN, JR.
Name: **Edgar Bronfman, Jr.**
Title: **Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the
Board of Directors (Principal Executive Officer)**

By: /s/ STEVEN MACRI
Name: **Steven Macri**
Title: **Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial
Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)**