KAR Auction Services, Inc. Form 10-K February 24, 2011 **Table of Contents** 

# **UNITED STATES**

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

# Form 10-K

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010

OR

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

Commission File Number: 001-34568

# KAR Auction Services, Inc.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of

20-8744739 (I.R.S. Employer

incorporation or organization)

**Identification No.)** 

13085 Hamilton Crossing Boulevard

Carmel, Indiana 46032

(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

Registrant s telephone number, including area code: (800) 923-3725

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share

ch class
Name of each exchange on which registered alue \$0.01 per share
New York Stock Exchange
Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

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Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes "No x

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes "No x

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 x 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 if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§ 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant s knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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 x Non-accelerated filer " Smaller reporting company "

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

The aggregate market value of the registrant s common stock held by stockholders who were not affiliates (as defined by regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission) of the registrant was \$316,171,201 at June 30, 2010.

As of February 18, 2011, 135,604,691 shares of the registrant s common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, were outstanding.

#### Documents Incorporated by Reference

Certain information required by Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K is incorporated by reference herein from the registrant s Definitive Proxy Statement for its 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be filed with the SEC within 120 days after the end of the registrant s fiscal year ended December 31, 2010.

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#### **DEFINED TERMS**

Unless otherwise indicated, the following terms used in this Annual Report on Form 10-K have the following meanings:

we, us, our and the Company refer, collectively, to KAR Auction Services, Inc. (formerly known as KAR Holdings, Inc.) and all of its subsidiaries unless the context otherwise requires;

2007 Transactions refers to the following events: On December 22, 2006, KAR LLC entered into a definitive merger agreement to acquire ADESA. The merger occurred on April 20, 2007. Concurrently with the merger, IAAI, a leading provider of automotive salvage auction and claims processing services in the United States, was contributed by affiliates of Kelso & Company and Parthenon Capital and IAAI s management to KAR Auction Services. Both ADESA and IAAI became wholly owned subsidiaries of KAR Auction Services, which was wholly-owned by KAR LLC prior to the initial public offering. KAR Auction Services is the accounting acquirer, and the assets and liabilities of both ADESA and IAAI were recorded at fair value as of April 20, 2007;

ADESA refers, collectively, to ADESA, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of KAR Auction Services, and its subsidiaries;

AFC refers, collectively, to Automotive Finance Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of ADESA and its subsidiaries;

ALLETE refers to ALLETE, Inc. the former parent company of ADESA;

AutoVIN refers to AutoVIN, Inc., our wholly owned subsidiary;

Axle LLC refers to Axle Holdings II, LLC, which is owned by affiliates of certain of the Equity Sponsors (Kelso & Company and Parthenon), certain members or former members of IAAI management and certain co-investors in connection with the acquisition of IAAI in 2005. Axle LLC is the former ultimate parent company of IAAI and is a holder of common equity interests in KAR LLC;

Credit Agreement refers to the Credit Agreement, dated April 20, 2007, among KAR Auction Services, as the borrower, KAR LLC, as guarantor, the several lenders from time to time parties thereto and the administrative agent, the joint bookrunners, the co-documentation agents, the syndication agent and the joint lead arrangers named therein, as amended on June 10, 2009, October 23, 2009, November 11, 2010 and from time to time;

Equity Sponsors refers, collectively, to Kelso Investment Associates VII, L.P., GS Capital Partners VI, L.P., ValueAct Capital Master Fund, L.P. and Parthenon Investors II, L.P., which collectively own through their respective affiliates a majority of the equity of KAR Auction Services;

fixed senior notes refers to KAR Auction Services /4% Senior Notes due May 1, 2014 (\$450.0 million aggregate principal amount outstanding at December 31, 2010);

floating senior notes refers to KAR Auction Services Floating Rate Senior Notes due May 1, 2014 (\$150.0 million aggregate principal amount outstanding at December 31, 2010);

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IAAI refers, collectively, to Insurance Auto Auctions, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of KAR Auction Services, and its subsidiaries;

KAR Auction Services refers to KAR Auction Services, Inc., and not to its subsidiaries;

KAR LLC refers to KAR Holdings II, LLC, which is owned by affiliates of the Equity Sponsors and management of the Company;

LAI refers, collectively, to LiveBlock Auctions International, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of ADESA and its subsidiaries;

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notes refers, collectively, to our senior notes and senior subordinated notes;

senior notes refers, collectively, to the fixed senior notes and floating senior notes; and

senior subordinated notes refers to KAR Auction Services 10% Senior Subordinated Notes due May 1, 2015 (\$131.1 million aggregate principal amount outstanding at December 31, 2010).

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#### PART I

# Item 1. Business Overview

We are a leading provider of vehicle auction services in North America. We facilitate an efficient marketplace providing auction services for sellers of used, or whole car, vehicles and salvage vehicles through our 229 physical auction locations at December 31, 2010, and multiple proprietary internet venues. In 2010, we facilitated the sale of over 3.1 million used and salvage vehicles. Our revenues are generated through auction fees from both vehicle buyers and sellers as well as by providing value-added ancillary services, including inspections, storage, transportation, reconditioning, salvage recovery, titling, and floorplan financing. We facilitate the transfer of ownership directly from seller to buyer and we do not take title or ownership to substantially all vehicles sold at our auctions.

ADESA, our whole car auction services business, is the second largest provider of used vehicle auction services in North America. Vehicles at ADESA s auctions are typically sold by commercial fleet operators, financial institutions, rental car companies, used vehicle dealers and vehicle manufacturers and their captive finance companies to franchised and independent used vehicle dealers. IAAI, our salvage auction services business, is one of the two largest providers of salvage auction services in North America. Vehicles at our salvage auctions are typically damaged or low value vehicles that are sold by automobile insurance companies, non-profit organizations, automobile dealers, vehicle leasing companies and rental car companies to licensed dismantlers, rebuilders, scrap dealers or qualified public buyers. An important component of ADESA s and, to a lesser extent, IAAI s services to its buyers is providing short-term inventory-secured financing, known as floorplan financing, primarily to independent used vehicle dealers through our wholly owned subsidiary, AFC.

At December 31, 2010, we had a network of 70 whole car auction locations and 159 salvage auction locations. Our auction locations are primarily stand-alone facilities dedicated to either whole car or salvage auctions. However, many of our sites are utilized to service both whole car and salvage customers at the same location. We believe our extensive geographic network and diverse product offerings enable us to leverage relationships with North American providers and buyers of used and salvage vehicles.

### Our Corporate History

KAR Auction Services (formerly KAR Holdings, Inc.) was incorporated in 2006 and commenced operations in April 2007 upon the consummation of the 2007 Transactions. On November 3, 2009, we changed our name from KAR Holdings, Inc. to KAR Auction Services, Inc. ADESA entered the vehicle remarketing industry in 1989 and first became a public company in 1992. In 1994, ADESA acquired AFC. ADESA remained a public company until 1995 when ALLETE purchased a majority of its outstanding equity interests. In June 2004, ALLETE sold 20% of ADESA to the public and then spun off their remaining 80% interest to shareholders in September 2004. ADESA was acquired by the Company in April 2007. IAAI entered the vehicle salvage business in 1982, and first became a public company in 1991. After growing through a series of acquisitions, IAAI was acquired by affiliates of Kelso & Company and Parthenon Capital in 2005. Affiliates of Kelso & Company and Parthenon Capital and certain members of IAAI management contributed IAAI to KAR Auction Services in connection with the 2007 Transactions. On December 16, 2009, we sold 25,000,000 shares of common stock in an initial public offering. In addition, on December 23, 2009, the underwriters of the initial public offering exercised a portion of their option to purchase additional shares, resulting in an additional 2,656,050 shares of common stock being sold.

#### Our Industry

Auctions are the hub of the remarketing system for used and salvage vehicles, bringing professional sellers and buyers together and creating a marketplace for the sale of these vehicles. Whole car auction vehicles include vehicles from dealers turning their inventory, off-lease vehicles, vehicles repossessed by financial institutions and rental and other program fleet vehicles that have reached a predetermined age or mileage. The salvage vehicle auction industry provides a venue for sellers, primarily automobile insurance companies, to dispose or liquidate damaged or low value vehicles to dismantlers, rebuilders, scrap dealers or qualified public buyers. The following are key industry highlights:

#### Whole Car Industry Volumes

During the period from 1999 to 2009, approximately 9 to 10 million used vehicles per year were sold in North America through whole car auctions, declining to what we estimate to be approximately 8.4 million to 8.5 million in 2010. The number of vehicles sold at auction in North America is primarily dependent upon the total population of cars on the road as opposed to the more volatile annual new vehicle sales. Positive trends which should influence future demand for used vehicles include increases in the number of households with more than one vehicle, improvements by manufacturers that have extended vehicle lifespan and the affordability of used vehicles relative to new vehicles.

#### Growing Salvage Auction Industry Volumes

During the period of 2005 through 2010, we believe that the North American salvage vehicle auction industry volumes grew at an estimated compound annual growth rate of approximately 1.5%. Vehicles deemed a total loss by the insurance companies represent the largest category of vehicles sold in the salvage vehicle auction industry. As vehicles become more complex with additional enhancements, such as airbags and electrical components, they are more costly to repair following an accident and insurance companies are more likely to declare a damaged vehicle a total loss. This trend, along with increases in miles driven and vehicles per household, has contributed to the growth in salvage vehicle volumes.

#### Consolidated Whole Car and Salvage Auction Markets

The North American used vehicle auction market is largely consolidated. We estimate that Manheim, a subsidiary of Cox Enterprises, and ADESA represent approximately 45% - 50% and approximately 22% of the North American whole car market, respectively, and no other whole car auction represents more than 3%. The North American salvage vehicle auction market is also largely consolidated with the top two competitors, IAAI and Copart, each representing an estimated 35% to 40% of the market, and no other competitor representing more than 10%.

#### High Barriers to Entry

High barriers to entry make it difficult for new entrants to capture significant market share. The required investment in technology and related infrastructure in addition to ongoing maintenance costs required to meet customers demands present challenges for new entrants. Large tracts of land and a significant investment in facilities and land improvements are required to build new auctions. In addition, the need to comply with regulatory requirements would pose a challenge for new entrants to build a scale operation. Larger participants are also able to better develop relationships with many of the major whole car and salvage sellers and buyers, which increases the sellers flexibility to redistribute vehicles to markets where demand best matches supply in order to maximize proceeds, while also reducing the cost of disposition.

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#### Our Business Strategy

We continue to focus on growing our revenues and profitability through the execution of the following key operating strategies:

Grow Market Share and Unit Volume in Our Whole Car and Salvage Auction Businesses

We are continuing to implement new initiatives to grow our market share in our whole car and salvage businesses. Through the coordinated efforts of ADESA and IAAI, since the 2007 Transactions, we have achieved market share and volume gains in each of these businesses by providing customers with a comprehensive offering of services that we believe increase customer value. In addition to improving market share with our institutional consignors, our other specific major initiatives for continuing to increase our market share include:

Grow our dealer consignment business. The dealer consignment business is a highly market-specific business that requires local auction sales representatives who have experience in the used vehicle business and an intimate knowledge of their local market. We have augmented our local auction teams with the addition of corporate-level resources focused on growing the number of dealer vehicles sold at our physical and online auctions. The corporate team assists the local sales representatives in developing and implementing standard best practices for building and maintaining relationships with dealers to increase our market share. Our sales representatives also utilize proprietary technology solutions to maintain and grow the dealer consignment business by strategically matching the supply of vehicles with prospective buyers at auction. We believe this combination of a standard centralized approach with decentralized resources close to large populations of dealers will enhance our relationships with the dealer community and increase dealer volumes at our whole car auctions. On a same store basis, our dealer consignment sales volumes were up approximately 14% and 7% for the quarter and year ended December 31, 2010 compared to the same periods in 2009.

**Grow our non-insurance salvage auction customer base.** More than 12 million vehicles are de-registered annually, but only approximately 3.5 million are sold through salvage auctions, mostly by automobile insurance companies. In order to capture a greater portion of the total unit volume, we are increasingly focused on growing our vehicle supplier base, with a particular focus on non-insurance company customers, which includes charitable organizations, rental car, captive finance and fleet companies. ADESA s strong customer relationships with used vehicle dealers as well as rental car, captive finance and fleet companies provide an advantage in accessing these segments as these customers already use ADESA s whole car auction services.

Selective acquisitions and greenfield expansion. Increased demand for single source solutions by our customers and other factors may increase our opportunities to acquire smaller, less geographically diverse competitors. Both ADESA and IAAI have a strong record of acquiring and integrating independent auction operations and improving profitability. We will continue to evaluate opportunities to open and acquire new sites in selected markets in order to effectively leverage our sales and marketing capabilities and expand our geographic presence for both ADESA and IAAI.

Use Excess Cash Flow to Reduce Debt

We generate strong cash flows as a result of our attractive gross margins, the ability to leverage our corporate infrastructure across our multiple auction locations, low maintenance capital expenditures and limited working capital requirements. We generated \$467.6 million (\$318.7 million excluding the impact of the change in accounting for the securitization) and \$250.8 million of cash flow from operations for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively. Management plans to utilize a significant portion of excess cash generated by the business for debt reduction for the foreseeable future.

Continue to Grow Revenue per Vehicle

From 2005 through 2010, we grew our whole car and salvage revenue per vehicle at compound annual growth rates of 5.5% and 2.9%, respectively. Increased utilization of ancillary services, selective fee increases

and the introduction of new product offerings were key components of this growth. We believe these services provide economic benefits to our customers who are willing to utilize our products and services that improve their ability to manage their remarketing efforts and increase their returns. Wholecar revenue per vehicle generally consists of auction fees and fees from ancillary services. We plan to grow revenue by increasing customer utilization of these existing products and by enhancing our core auction services through such initiatives as increasing the number of vehicles offered both online and at physical auctions.

Expand Opportunities for Customers to Buy and Sell Online

Online vehicle remarketing solutions provide the opportunity to improve the customer experience, expand our volume of transactions and potentially increase proceeds for sellers through greater buyer participation at auctions. IAAI is the only national salvage auction company that offers buyers both live and internet purchasing opportunities. ADESA provides online solutions to sell vehicles directly from a dealership or other interim storage location (upstream selling) and also offers vehicles for sale while in transit to auction locations (midstream selling). We are focused on enhancing our internet solutions in all of the key channels (upstream, midstream and at auction) and we will continue to invest in our technology platforms to ensure that we can capitalize on new opportunities and attract new customers.

Leverage AFC s Products and Services at ADESA and IAAI

We intend to selectively grow AFC while using enhanced credit analysis and risk management techniques to mitigate risk. We will continue to focus on expanding dealer coverage and improving coordination with ADESA and IAAI to capitalize on cross-selling opportunities with AFC. By encouraging a collaborative marketing effort between AFC, ADESA and IAAI, we believe we can market an enterprise solution more effectively to dealers and tailor AFC s financing products to individual dealer needs. We will maintain our focus on generating additional revenues by expanding our suite of floorplan financing and related products and services and leveraging our market position, broad infrastructure and diversified business relationships to capitalize on current market opportunities.

Continue to Improve Operating Efficiency

We continue to focus on reducing costs by optimizing efficiency at each of our auction locations and consolidating certain management functions. We successfully implemented IAAI s standard processes and technology systems at 28 sites previously operated by ADESA and 14 salvage sites acquired since the 2007 Transactions, streamlining operations and improving operating efficiencies. As a result of these actions, IAAI has achieved gross margin expansion over the last three fiscal years. Subsequent to the 2007 Transactions, ADESA implemented Project PRIDE, an initiative to identify best practices at its whole car auction sites, standardize auction operating processes and improve efficiency in the delivery of services. We introduced a management operating system to actively monitor and manage staffing levels in conjunction with Project PRIDE and have begun to realize significant labor efficiency gains.

Similar to Project PRIDE, IAAI launched an initiative in the first quarter of 2010 to identify best practices at its salvage auction sites, standardize auction operating processes and improve efficiency in the delivery of services. We introduced a management operating system to actively monitor and manage staffing levels in conjunction with the initiative and have begun to realize labor efficiency gains.

#### **Our Business Segments**

We operate as three reportable business segments: ADESA Auctions, IAAI and AFC. Our revenues for the year ended December 31, 2010 were distributed as follows: ADESA 59%, IAAI 34% and AFC 7%. Geographic information as well as comparative segment revenues and related financial information pertaining to ADESA,

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IAAI and AFC for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008 are presented in the tables in Note 20, Segment Information, to the Consolidated Financial Statements for KAR Auction Services, Inc., which are included under Item 8 in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

**ADESA** 

#### Overview

We are the second largest provider of whole car auctions and related services in North America. We serve our customer base throughout North America, with auction facilities that are strategically located to draw professional sellers and buyers together and allow the buyers to physically inspect and compare vehicles, which we believe many customers in the industry demand. Our complementary online auction capabilities provide our sellers with a potentially larger group of buyers who have the convenience of viewing, comparing and bidding on vehicles remotely.

Vehicles available at our auctions include vehicles from institutional customers such as off-lease vehicles, repossessed vehicles, rental vehicles and other program fleet vehicles that have reached a predetermined age or mileage and have been repurchased by the manufacturers, as well as vehicles from dealers turning their inventory. The number of vehicles offered for sale is the key driver of our costs incurred in the whole car auction process, and the number of vehicles sold is the key driver of the related fees generated by the remarketing process.

Our whole car auctions strive to maximize returns for the sellers of used vehicles by effectively and efficiently providing value-enhancing ancillary services and quickly transferring the vehicles and ownership to the buyer and net funds to the seller. Auctions are typically held at least weekly at most locations and provide real-time wholesale market prices for the used vehicle remarketing industry as large populations of dealers seek to fill their inventory for resale to their retail customers.

We generate revenue primarily from auction fees paid by vehicle buyers and sellers. We do not take title to or bear the risk of loss for substantially all vehicles sold at whole car auctions. Our buyer fees and dealer seller fees are typically based on a tiered structure with fees increasing with the sale price of the vehicle, while institutional seller fees are typically fixed. We add buyer fees to the gross sales price paid by buyers for each vehicle, and generally customers do not receive title or possession of vehicles after purchase until payment is received, proof of floorplan financing is provided, or credit is approved. We generally deduct seller fees and other ancillary service fees to sellers from the gross sales price of each vehicle before remitting the net amount to the seller.

#### Customers

Suppliers of vehicles to our whole car auctions primarily include (i) large institutions, such as vehicle manufacturers and their captive finance arms, vehicle rental companies, financial institutions, and commercial fleets and fleet management companies; and (ii) franchised and independent used vehicle dealers. For the year ended December 31, 2010, no single supplier accounted for more than 5% of ADESA s revenues.

Buyers of vehicles at our whole car auctions primarily include franchised and independent used vehicle dealers. For the year ended December 31, 2010, no single buyer accounted for more than 1% of ADESA s revenues.

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#### Services

Our whole car auctions also provide a full range of innovative and value-added services to sellers and buyers that enable us to serve as a one-stop shop. Many of these services may be provided or purchased independently from the auction process, including:

Services Description

Auction Related Services ADESA provides marketing and advertising for the vehicles to be auctioned, dealer

registration, storage of consigned and purchased inventory, clearing of funds, arbitration of disputes, auction vehicle registration, condition report processing, post-sale inspections, security for consigned inventory, sales results reports, pre-sale lineups and auctioning of

vehicles by licensed auctioneers.

Transportation We provide both inbound (pickup) and outbound (delivery) transportation services

utilizing our own equipment and personnel as well as licensed and insured third party

carriers.

Reconditioning Services Our ADESA auctions provide detailing, body work, paintless dent repair ( PDR ), light

mechanical work, glass repair, tire and key replacement and upholstery repair.

Inspection Services Provided By AutoVIN AutoVIN provides vehicle condition reporting, inventory verification auditing, program

compliance auditing and facility inspections. Field managers are equipped with handheld computers and digital cameras to record all inspection and audit data on-site. The same technology is utilized at our whole car auction locations and we believe that the expanded utilization of comprehensive vehicle condition reports with pictures will significantly

increase the penetration of the internet as a method of sourcing vehicles for buying dealers.

PAR provides end-to-end management of the remarketing process including titling,

Title and Repossession Administration and

Remarketing Services Provided By PAR repossession administration, inventory management, auction selection, pricing and

representation of the vehicles at auction for those customers seeking to outsource all or just

a portion of their remarketing needs.

ADESA Analytical Services provides value-added market analysis to our customers and

the media. These services include access to publications and custom analysis of wholesale market trends for ADESA s customers, including peer group and market benchmarking studies, analysis of the benefits of reconditioning, site selection for optimized remarketing of vehicles, portfolio analysis of auction sales and computer-generated mapping and buyer

analysis.

Sales and Marketing

Our sales and marketing approach at ADESA is to develop stronger relationships and more interactive dialogue with our customers. We have relationship managers for the various categories of institutional customers, including vehicle manufacturers, rental car companies, finance companies and others. These relationship managers focus on current trends and customer needs for their respective seller group in order to better coordinate our sales effort and service offerings.

Managers of individual auction locations are ultimately responsible for providing services to the institutional customers whose vehicles are directed to the auctions by the corporate sales team. Developing and

servicing the largest possible population of buying dealers for the vehicles consigned for sale at each auction is integral to maximizing value for our vehicle suppliers. We also provide market analysis to our customers through our ADESA Analytical Services department. We market this service to institutional customers as they favorably use analytical techniques in making their remarketing decisions.

We have local auction sales representatives who have experience in the used vehicle business and an intimate knowledge of local markets. These local representatives are complemented by local telesales representatives and are managed by a corporate-level team focused on developing and implementing standard best practices. We believe this combination of a centralized structure with decentralized resources enhances relationships with the dealer community and may further increase dealer consignment business at our auctions.

#### **Online Solutions**

Our current ADESA online solutions include:

Proprietary ADESA Technology	Description
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ADESA LiveBlock

Our live auction internet bidding solution, ADESA LiveBlock, operates in concert with our physical auctions and provides registered buyers with the opportunity to participate in live auctions. Potential buyers bid online in real time along with the live local bidders and other internet bidders via a simple, web-based interface. ADESA LiveBlock provides real-time streaming audio and video from the live auction and still images of vehicles and other data.

Buyers inspect and evaluate the vehicle and listen to the live call of the auctioneer while

viewing the physical auction that is underway.

ADESA DealerBlock® Provides for either real-time or round-the-clock bulletin-board type online auctions of

consigned inventory not scheduled for active bidding. This platform is also utilized for upstream and midstream selling, which facilitates the sale of vehicles prior to their arrival at a

physical auction site.

ADESA Run List® Provides a summary of consigned vehicles offered for auction sale, allowing dealers to

preview inventory and vehicle condition reports prior to an auction event.

ADESA Market Guide® Provides wholesale auction prices, auction sales results, market data and vehicle condition

information.

ADESA Virtual Inventory Subscription-based service to allow dealers to embed ADESA s search technology into a

dealer s Web site to increase the number of vehicles advertised by the dealer.

ADESA Notify Me E-mail notification service for dealers looking for particular vehicles being run at physical or

online auctions.

#### Competition

In the whole car auction industry, we compete with Manheim, a subsidiary of Cox Enterprises, Inc., as well as several smaller chains of auctions and independent auctions, some of which are affiliated through their membership in industry associations. Due to our national presence, competition is strongest with Manheim for the supply of used vehicles from national institutional customers. The supply of vehicles from dealers is dispersed among all of the auctions in the used vehicle market.

Due to the increased viability of the internet as a marketing and distribution channel, new competition has arisen from internet-based companies and our own customers who have historically redistributed vehicles through various channels, including auctions. Direct sales of vehicles by institutional customers and large dealer groups through internally developed or third-party online platforms have largely replaced telephonic and other non-auction methods, becoming a significant portion of overall used vehicle remarketing. The extent of use of direct, online systems varies by customer. In addition, we and some of our competitors offer online auctions in connection with physical auctions, and other online companies now include used vehicles among the products offered at their auctions.

In Canada, we are the largest provider of whole car vehicle auction services. Our competitors include Manheim, independent vehicle auctions, brokers, online companies and vehicle recyclers and dismantlers.

**IAAI** 

#### Overview

We are one of the two leading providers of salvage vehicle auctions and related services in North America. We operate as Insurance Auto Auctions in the U.S. and Impact Auto Auctions in Canada and serve our customer base through salvage auction locations throughout North America. We facilitate the remarketing of damaged vehicles that are designated as total-losses by insurance companies, recovered stolen vehicles for which an insurance settlement with the vehicle owner has already been made and older model vehicles donated to charity or sold by dealers in salvage auctions. Our auctions provide buyers with the salvage vehicles they need to fulfill their scrap needs, replacement part or vehicle rebuild requirements. We earn fees for our services from both suppliers and buyers of salvage vehicles.

We process salvage vehicles primarily under two consignment methods: fixed fee and percentage of sale. Under these methods, in return for agreed upon fees, we sell vehicles on behalf of insurance companies, which continue to own the vehicles until they are sold to buyers at auction. In addition to auction fees, we generally charge fees to vehicle suppliers for various services, including towing, title processing and other administrative services. Under all methods of sale, we also charge the buyer of each vehicle fees based on a tiered structure that increase with the sale price of the vehicle as well as fixed fees for other services.

Auctions are typically held weekly at most locations. Vehicles are marketed at each respective auction site as well as via an online auction list that allows prospective bidders to preview vehicles prior to the actual auction event. Our online Auction Center feature provides internet buyers with an open, competitive bidding environment that reflects the dynamics of the live salvage auction. The Auction Center includes such services as comprehensive auction lists featuring links to digital images of vehicles available for sale, an Auto Locator function that promotes the search for specific vehicles within the auction system and special Flood or other catastrophe auction notifications. Higher returns are generally driven by broader market exposure and increased competitive bidding.

We have developed online tools to assist customers in redistributing their vehicles and establishing salvage vehicle values, in addition to offering an alternative to physically attending an auction. Through our hybrid auction model, vehicles are offered simultaneously to live and online buyers in a live auction format utilizing i-Bid LIVE<sup>SM</sup>. We believe our hybrid auction capabilities maximize auction proceeds and returns to our customers. First, our physical auctions allow buyers to inspect and compare the vehicles, thus enabling them to make fully-informed bidding decisions. These physical auction abilities are an important part of the bidding process. Second, our internet auction capabilities allow buyers to participate in a greater number of auctions than if physical attendance was required. Online inventory browsing and e-mail-based inventory alerts reduce the time required to acquire vehicles.

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#### Services

We also offer a comprehensive suite of auction, logistics and claims services, which aim to maximize salvage returns, lower administrative costs, shorten the claims process and increase the predictability of returns to vehicle suppliers, while simultaneously expanding our ability to handle an increasing proportion of the total salvage and claims-processing function as a one-stop shop for insurers. Some of the services provided by IAAI include:

Services Description

Hybrid Auction Model

Through our hybrid auction model vehicles are offered simultaneously to live and online buyers in a live auction format utilizing i-Bid LIVE<sup>SM</sup>. We believe this exposes the vehicles

to the maximum number of potential buyers.

Titling Services After a totaled vehicle is received at one of our facilities, it remains in storage but cannot be

auctioned until transferable title has been submitted to and processed by us. We provide management reports to the insurance company suppliers, including an aging report of vehicles for which title documents have not been provided. We utilize our title services to expedite the processing of titles, thereby reducing the time in which suppliers receive their salvage proceeds, in addition to decreasing their administrative expenses. We then process the title documents in order to comply with Department of Motor Vehicles ( DMV ) requirements for these vehicles. Wherever possible, we interface electronically with the DMV. In addition, we

processing procedures.

Vehicle Inspection Centers We maintain vehicle inspection centers, or VICs, at many of our facilities. A VIC is a

temporary storage and inspection facility located at one of our sites that is operated by the insurance company. Some of these VIC sites are formalized through temporary license agreements with the insurance companies that supply the vehicles. VICs minimize vehicle storage charges incurred by insurance company suppliers at the temporary storage facility or

customarily offer the insurance companies staff training for each state s DMV document

repair shop and also improve service time for the policyholder.

Transportation and Towing Inbound and outbound logistics administration with actual services typically provided by third

party carriers.

Vehicle Remarketing Division Focuses on vehicles, rental sellers, fleet and leasing companies, banks and dealer trade-in

inventory.

Charity Processing Processes vehicle donations to charities across the United States to help turn vehicles into

money for a variety of charitable organizations.

Settlement Package Express IAAI utilizes a proprietary, in-house salvage title administration product, Settlement Package

Express. By providing our customers with this product, we are able to streamline the title procurement process for their vehicles, thereby reducing processing cycle times while

potentially eliminating salvage pool storage fees.

Customers

We obtain IAAI s supply of vehicles from insurance companies, non-profit organizations, automobile dealers and vehicle leasing and rental car companies. We have long-term relationships with substantially all of the major automobile insurance companies. For the year ended December 31, 2010, no single supplier accounted for more than 4% of IAAI s revenues.

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Buyers of salvage vehicles include automotive body shops, rebuilders, used car dealers, automotive wholesalers, exporters, dismantlers, recyclers, brokers, and where allowed, non-licensed (public) buyers. For the year ended December 31, 2010, no single buyer accounted for more than 3% of IAAI s revenues.

#### Sales and Marketing

We solicit prospective vehicle providers at the national, regional and local levels through our IAAI sales force. Branch managers execute customer service requests and address customer needs at the local level. We also participate in a number of local, regional and national trade show events that further promote the benefits of our products and services.

In addition to providing insurance companies and certain non-insurance company suppliers with a means of disposing of salvage vehicles, we offer a comprehensive suite of services which aim to maximize salvage returns and shorten the claims processing time. We seek to become integrated within our suppliers salvage processes, and we view such mutually beneficial relationships as an essential component of our effort to attract and retain suppliers.

By analyzing historical industry and customer data, we provide suppliers with a detailed analysis of their current salvage returns and a proposal detailing methods to improve salvage returns, reduce administrative costs and provide proprietary turn-key claims processing services.

We also seek to expand our supplier relationships through recommendations from individual insurance company branch offices to other offices of the same insurance company. We believe that our existing relationships and the recommendations of branch offices play a significant role in our marketing of services within national insurance companies. As we have expanded our geographic coverage, we have been able to market our services to insurance company suppliers on a national basis or within an expanded geographic area.

#### **Online Solutions**

Our current IAAI online solutions include:

Proprietary IAAI Technology *i-Bid LIVE*<sup>SM</sup>

CSA Today

#### Description

Our live auction internet bidding solution, i-Bid LIVE<sup>SM</sup>, operates in concert with our physical auctions and provides registered buyers with the opportunity to participate in live auctions. Potential buyers bid online in real time along with the live local bidders and other internet bidders via a simple, web-based interface. i-Bid LIVE<sup>SM</sup> provides real-time streaming audio from the live auction and images of salvage vehicles and other data. Buyers inspect and evaluate the salvage vehicle and listen to the auction while it is underway.

The process of salvage disposition through our system begins at the first report of loss or when a stolen vehicle has been subsequently recovered. An insurance company representative consigns the vehicle to us, either by phone, facsimile or electronically through our online proprietary data management system, CSA Today .

CSA Today enables insurance company suppliers to enter vehicle data electronically and then track and manage the progress of salvage vehicles in terms of both time and salvage recovery dollars. With this tool, vehicle providers have 24-hour access to their total-loss data. The information provided through this system ranges from the details associated with a specific total-loss vehicle, to comprehensive management reports for an

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#### **Proprietary IAAI Technology**

#### Description

entire claims center or geographic region. Additional features of this system include inventory management tools and a powerful new Average Salvage Calculator that helps customers determine the approximate salvage value of a potential total-loss vehicle. This tool is helpful to adjusters when evaluating the repair vs. total decision. The management tools provided by CSA Today enable claims personnel to monitor and manage total-loss salvage more effectively. Insurance company suppliers can also use CSA Today to view original garage receipts, verify ignition key availability, view settlement documents and images of the vehicles and receive updates of other current meaningful data.

# Automated Salvage Auction Processing (ASAP)

We have developed a proprietary web-based information system, Automated Salvage Auction Processing system, or ASAP, to streamline all aspects of our operations and centralize operational data collection. ASAP provides salvage vehicle suppliers with 24-hour online access to powerful tools to manage the salvage disposition process, including inventory management, salvage returns analysis and electronic data interchange of titling information.

Significantly, our other information systems, including our i-Bid LIVE<sup>SM</sup> and CSA Today systems, are integrated with our ASAP product, facilitating seamless auction processes and information flow with internal operational systems. Our technology platform is a significant competitive advantage that allows us to efficiently manage our business, improve customer returns, shorten customers claims processing cycle and lower our customers administration costs.

#### Competition

In the salvage sector, we compete with Copart, Total Resource Auctions (Manheim), independent auctions, some of which are affiliated through their membership in industry organizations to provide broader coverage through network relationships, and a limited number of used vehicle auctions that regularly redistribute salvage vehicles. Additionally, some dismantlers of salvage vehicles such as Greanleaf and LKQ Corporation and internet-based companies have entered the market, thus providing alternate avenues for sellers to redistribute salvage vehicles. While most insurance companies have abandoned or reduced efforts to sell salvage vehicles without the use of service providers such as us, they may in the future decide to dispose of their salvage vehicles directly to end users.

In Canada, we are the largest provider of salvage vehicle auction services. Our competitors include Copart, independent vehicle auctions, brokers, online auction companies, and vehicle recyclers and dismantlers.

AFC

#### Overview

We are a leading provider of floorplan financing to independent used vehicle dealers. We provide short-term inventory-secured financing, known as floorplan financing, to independent used vehicle dealers through branches throughout North America. In 2010, AFC serviced over 900,000 loan transactions, which includes both loans paid off and loans extended, or curtailed. We sell the majority of our U.S. dollar-denominated finance receivables without recourse to a wholly owned bankruptcy remote special purpose entity, which sells an undivided participation interest in such finance receivables to a bank conduit facility on a revolving basis. We generate a significant portion of our revenues from fees. These fees include origination, floorplan, curtailment and other related program fees. When the loan is extended or paid in full, AFC collects all accrued fees and interest.

#### **Customers and Locations**

Floorplan financing supports independent used vehicle dealers in North America who purchase vehicles from our auctions, other auctions and non-auction purchases. In 2010, over 80% of the vehicles floorplanned by AFC were vehicles purchased by dealers at auction. Our ability to provide floorplan financing facilitates the growth of vehicle sales at auction. We service auctions through our 88 branches which are conveniently located at or within close proximity of auctions held by ADESA and other auctions, which allows dealers to reduce transaction time by providing immediate payment for vehicles purchased at auction. We provide availability lists on behalf of our customers to auction representatives regarding the financing capacity of our customers, thereby increasing the purchasing potential at auctions. In addition, we have the ability to send finance representatives on-site to most approved independent auctions during auction sale-days. Geographic proximity to the customers gives our employees the ability to stay in close contact with outstanding accounts, thereby better enabling them to manage credit risk.

As of December 31, 2010, AFC had over 7,000 active dealers with an average line of credit of approximately \$160,000 and no one dealer representing greater than 1.5% of our portfolio. An average of approximately 13 vehicles per active dealer was floorplanned with an approximate average value of \$8,100 per vehicle at the end of 2010.

#### Sales and Marketing

AFC approaches and seeks to expand its share of the independent dealer floorplan market through a number of methods and channels. We target and solicit new dealers through both direct sales efforts at the dealer s place of business as well as auction-based sales and customer service representatives, who service our dealers at auctions where they replenish and rotate vehicle inventory. These largely local efforts are handled by AFC branch managers or AFC branch personnel. AFC s corporate-level team also provides sales and marketing support to AFC field personnel by helping to identify target dealers and coordinating both promotional activity with auctions and other vehicle supply sources.

#### Credit

Our procedures and proprietary computer-based system enable us to manage our credit risk by tracking each vehicle from origination to payoff, while expediting services through our branch network. Typically, we assess a floorplan fee at the inception of a loan and we collect all accrued fees and interest when the loan is extended or repaid in full. In addition, AFC generally holds the title or other evidence of ownership to all vehicles which are floorplanned. Typical loan terms are 30 to 60 days, each with a possible loan extension. For an additional fee, this loan extension allows the dealer to extend the duration of the loan beyond the original term for another 30 to 60 days if the dealer makes payment towards principal and pays accrued interest and fees.

The extension of a credit line to a dealer starts with the underwriting process. Credit lines up to \$300,000 are extended using a proprietary scoring model developed internally by AFC with no requirement for financial statements. Credit lines in excess of \$300,000 may be extended using underwriting guidelines which require dealership and personal financial statements and tax returns. The underwriting of each line of credit requires an analysis, write-up and recommendation by the credit department and, in case of credit lines in excess of \$300,000, final review by a credit committee.

#### Collateral Management

Collateral management is an integral part of daily operations at each AFC branch and our corporate headquarters. AFC s proprietary computer-based system facilitates this daily collateral management by providing real-time access to dealer information and enables branch and corporate personnel to assess and manage potential collection issues. Restrictions are automatically placed on customer accounts in the event of a delinquency, insufficient funds received or poor audit results. Branch personnel are proactive in managing collateral by

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monitoring loans and notifying dealers that payments are coming due. In addition, routine audits, or lot checks, are performed on the dealers lots through our AutoVIN subsidiary. Poor results from lot checks typically require branch personnel to take actions to determine the status of missing collateral, including visiting the dealer personally, verifying units held off-site and collecting payments for units sold. Audits also identify troubled accounts, triggering the involvement of AFC s collections department.

AFC operates two divisions which are organized into eleven regions in North America. Each division and region is monitored by managers who oversee daily operations. At the corporate level, AFC employs full-time collection specialists and collection attorneys who are assigned to specific regions and monitor collection activity for these areas. Collection specialists work closely with the branches to track trends before an account becomes a troubled account and to determine, together with collection attorneys, the best strategy to secure the collateral once a troubled account is identified.

#### Securitization

AFC sells the majority of its U.S. dollar denominated finance receivables on a revolving basis and without recourse to a wholly owned, bankruptcy remote, consolidated, special purpose subsidiary ( AFC Funding Corporation ), established for the purpose of purchasing AFC s finance receivables. A securitization agreement allows for the revolving sale by AFC Funding Corporation to a bank conduit facility of undivided interests in certain eligible finance receivables subject to committed liquidity. AFC s securitization facility has been in place since 1996. AFC Funding Corporation had committed liquidity of \$450 million from a third party conduit for U.S. finance receivables at December 31, 2010. The agreement expires on April 20, 2012.

We completed an agreement for the securitization of Automotive Finance Canada, Inc. s (AFCI) receivables in February 2010. This securitization facility provides up to C\$75 million in financing for eligible finance receivables through another third party conduit. The initial funding for securitization of Canadian finance receivables resulted in net proceeds of \$56.6 million. In accordance with terms of the Company s Credit Agreement, 50% of the net proceeds from the initial securitization of AFC s Canadian receivables were used to repay \$28.3 million of the Company s Term Loan B. The agreement expires on April 20, 2012.

Accounting Standards Update 2009-16 amended ASC 860, *Transfers and Servicing*, and we adopted the new guidance on January 1, 2010. The new guidance specifies that the finance receivable transactions on or subsequent to January 1, 2010 under our revolving sale agreement be included in our balance sheet. See Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements and Adoption of Accounting Standards Update 2009-16.

#### Competition

AFC primarily provides short-term dealer floorplan financing of wholesale vehicles to independent vehicle dealers in North America. At the national level, AFC s competition includes Manheim Automotive Financial Services (MAFS), Dealer Services Corporation, other specialty lenders, banks and financial institutions. At the local level, AFC faces competition from banks and credit unions who may offer floorplan financing to local auction customers. Such entities typically service only one or a small number of auctions.

Some of our industry competitors who operate whole car auctions on a national scale may endeavor to capture a larger portion of the floorplan financing market. AFC competes primarily on the basis of quality of service, convenience of payment, scope of services offered and historical and consistent commitment to the sector. Our long-term relationships with customers have been established over time and act as a competitive strength for us.

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## Seasonality

The volume of vehicles sold at our auctions generally fluctuates from quarter to quarter. This seasonality is caused by several factors including weather, the timing of used vehicles available for sale from selling customers, the availability and quality of salvage vehicles, holidays, and the seasonality of the retail market for used vehicles, which affects the