

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC
Form 10-Q
May 08, 2008

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

FORM 10-Q

(MARK ONE)

(X) QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(D) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 FOR THE QUARTERLY PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31, 2008

OR

() TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(D) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM _____ TO _____

COMMISSION FILE NUMBER 1-10596

ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

MISSOURI
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

43-1554045
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

9900A CLAYTON ROAD
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
(Address of principal executive offices)

63124-1186
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (314) 213-7200

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 is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer or a smaller reporting company. See definitions of "large accelerated filer", "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer X
Non-accelerated filer _____

Accelerated filer _____
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 X

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

Class	Outstanding at April 30, 2008
-----	-----
[Common stock, \$.01 par value per share]	25,940,901 shares

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
(Unaudited)
(Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts)

	Three Months Ended March 31, -----	
	2008 ----	2007 ----
Net sales	\$ 135,159	108,860
Costs and expenses:		
Cost of sales	78,263	66,698
Selling, general and administrative expenses	39,546	28,568
Amortization of intangible assets	4,598	2,792
Interest expense (income), net	3,187	(176)
Other income, net	(137)	(10)
	----	---
Total costs and expenses	125,457	97,872
Earnings before income taxes	9,702	10,988
Income tax expense	3,620	2,035
	-----	-----
Net earnings from continuing operations	6,082	8,953
Earnings from discontinued operations, net of tax of \$363	-	665
	----	---
Net earnings	\$ 6,082	9,618
	=====	=====
Earnings per share:		
Basic - Continuing operations	\$ 0.24	0.35
- Discontinued operations	-	0.02
	----	----
- Net earnings	\$ 0.24	0.37
	=====	=====
Diluted - Continuing operations	\$ 0.23	0.34
- Discontinued operations	-	0.02
	----	----
- Net earnings	\$ 0.23	0.36
	=====	=====

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
(Unaudited)

(Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts)

	Six Months Ended March 31, -----	
	2008 ----	2007 ----
Net sales	\$270,116	189,447
Costs and expenses:		
Cost of sales	162,275	122,712
Selling, general and administrative expenses	73,056	55,191
Amortization of intangible assets	8,195	4,818
Interest expense (income), net	4,546	(497)
Other income, net	(351)	(564)
	----	----
Total costs and expenses	247,721	181,660
Earnings before income taxes	22,395	7,787
Income tax expense	8,408	185
	-----	---
Net earnings from continuing operations	13,987	7,602
(Loss) earnings from discontinued operations, net of tax of \$325 and \$393, respectively	(115)	635
Loss on sale of discontinued operations, net of tax of \$4,809	(4,974)	-
	-----	-----
Net (loss) earnings from discontinued operations	(5,089)	635
	-----	---
Net earnings	\$ 8,898	8,237
	=====	=====
Earnings (loss) per share:		
Basic - Continuing operations	\$ 0.54	0.29
- Discontinued operations	(0.20)	0.03
	-----	---
- Net earnings	\$ 0.34	0.32
	=====	=====
Diluted - Continuing operations	\$ 0.53	0.29
- Discontinued operations	(0.19)	0.02
	-----	---
- Net earnings	\$ 0.34	0.31
	=====	=====

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (Dollars in thousands)

	March 31, 2008 ----	September 30, 2007 ----
(Unaudited)		
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 30,973	18,638
Accounts receivable, net	100,575	85,319
Costs and estimated earnings on long-term contracts, less progress billings of \$25,795 and \$21,292, respectively	9,001	11,520
Inventories	71,670	55,885
Current portion of deferred tax assets	15,934	25,264
Other current assets	15,985	28,054
Current assets of discontinued operations	-	35,670
Total current assets	244,138	260,350
Property, plant and equipment, net	72,903	50,193
Goodwill	318,365	124,757
Intangible assets, net	240,540	74,624
Other assets	14,193	10,338
Other assets of discontinued operations	-	55,845
Total assets	\$ 890,139 =====	576,107 =====
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities:		
Short-term borrowings and current portion of long-term debt	\$ 15,474	-
Accounts payable	36,814	45,726
Advance payments on long-term contracts, less costs incurred of \$6,233 and \$2,902, respectively	8,006	3,408
Accrued salaries	17,937	12,348
Current portion of deferred revenue	17,665	24,621
Accrued other expenses	20,385	16,103
Current liabilities of discontinued operations	-	16,994
Total current liabilities	116,281	119,200
Long-term portion of deferred revenue	9,240	4,514
Pension obligations	9,339	8,029
Deferred tax liabilities	82,208	18,522
Other liabilities	8,922	7,825
Long-term debt, less current portion	235,000	-
Other liabilities of discontinued operations	-	2,534

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

Total liabilities	460,990	160,624
Shareholders' equity:		
Preferred stock, par value \$.01 per share, authorized 10,000,000 shares	-	-
Common stock, par value \$.01 per share, authorized 50,000,000 shares, issued 29,279,348 and 29,159,629 shares, respectively	293	292
Additional paid-in capital	248,061	243,131
Retained earnings	235,657	226,759
Accumulated other comprehensive income, net of tax	5,591	6,303
	489,602	476,485
Less treasury stock, at cost: 3,383,106 and 3,416,966 common shares, respectively	(60,453)	(61,002)
Total shareholders' equity	429,149	415,483
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$ 890,139	576,107

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(Unaudited)
(Dollars in thousands)

	Six Months Ended March 31,	
	2008	2007
	----	----
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net earnings	\$ 8,898	8,237
Adjustments to reconcile net earnings to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Net loss (earnings) from discontinued operations, net of tax	5,089	(635)
Depreciation and amortization	12,745	7,822
Stock compensation expense	2,326	2,636
Changes in operating working capital	1,451	(11,887)
Effect of deferred taxes	7,602	(267)
Change in deferred revenue and costs, net	(859)	3,292
Other	408	(173)
Net cash provided by operating activities - continuing operations	37,660	9,025
Net (loss) earnings from discontinued operations, net of tax	(5,089)	635
Net cash provided by discontinued operations	125	3,479
Net cash (used) provided by operating activities-	----	-----

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

discontinued operations	(4,964)	4,114
	-----	-----
Net cash provided by operating activities	32,696	13,139
	-----	-----
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Acquisition of businesses, net of cash acquired- continuing operations	(328,829)	(1,250)
Proceeds from sale of marketable securities	4,966	-
Additions to capitalized software	(8,004)	(15,320)
Capital expenditures - continuing operations	(8,673)	(5,048)
	-----	-----
Net cash used by investing activities- continuing operations	(340,540)	(21,618)
Capital expenditures - discontinued operations	(1,126)	(2,132)
Proceeds from divestiture of business, net - discontinued operations	74,370	-
	-----	-----
Net cash provided (used) by investing activities - discontinued operations	73,244	(2,132)
Net cash used by investing activities	(267,296)	(23,750)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Net decrease in short-term borrowings - discontinued operations	(2,844)	-
Proceeds from long-term debt	275,197	-
Principal payments on long-term debt	(24,723)	-
Debt issuance costs	(2,965)	-
Excess tax benefit from stock options exercised	737	73
Other	1,533	1,764
	-----	-----
Net cash provided by financing activities	246,935	1,837
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	12,335	(8,774)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	18,638	36,819
	-----	-----
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$ 30,973	28,045
	=====	=====

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Unaudited)

1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying consolidated financial statements, in the opinion of management, include all adjustments, consisting of normal recurring accruals, necessary for a fair presentation of the results for the interim periods presented. The consolidated financial statements are presented in accordance with the requirements of Form 10-Q and consequently do not include all the disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). For further information refer to the consolidated financial statements and related notes included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2007. Certain 2007 amounts have been reclassified to conform

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

with the 2008 presentation.

The Company's business is typically not impacted by seasonality, however, the results for the three and six-month periods ended March 31, 2008 are not necessarily indicative of the results for the entire 2008 fiscal year.

As a result of the acquisition of Doble Engineering Company (Doble) in November 2007, the Company changed the name of the Communications segment to the Utility Solutions Group segment. The renaming of this segment more accurately describes the segment's operating activities and strategically aligns the respective operating entities to focus on a single goal of satisfying the expanding AMI, Smart Grid, and other operational requirements of electric, gas and water utilities worldwide. The name change was done in conjunction with the Company's strategic integration and rebranding of its AMI related technologies under the brand name Aclara, and renaming the businesses as follows: Distribution Control Systems, Inc. renamed Aclara Power-Line Systems Inc.; Hexagram, Inc. renamed Aclara RF Systems Inc.; and Nexus Energy Software, Inc. renamed Aclara Software Inc.

2. DIVESTITURE

On November 25, 2007, the Company completed the sale of the filtration portion of Filtertek Inc. (Filtertek) to Illinois Tool Works Inc. for \$74.4 million, net, of cash. The TekPackaging division of Filtertek was not included in the transaction. The Filtertek businesses are accounted for as discontinued operations in accordance with SFAS No. 144, "Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets." Accordingly, the Filtertek businesses are reflected as discontinued operations in the financial statements and related notes for all periods presented. A pre-tax loss of \$0.2 million related to the sale of Filtertek is reflected in the Company's fiscal 2008 first quarter results in discontinued operations. Filtertek's net sales were \$13.7 million for the two-month period ended November 25, 2007 and \$18.2 million for the three-month period ended December 31, 2006, respectively. Filtertek's operations were included within the Company's Filtration segment prior to divestiture. The operations of the TekPackaging division, currently operating as TekPackaging LLC, are reflected in continuing operations and continue to be included in the Filtration segment.

The major classes of discontinued assets and liabilities included in the Consolidated Balance Sheet at September 30, 2007 are shown below (in thousands).

	September 30, 2007

Assets:	
Accounts receivable, net	\$ 17,675
Inventories	11,986
Other current assets	6,009

Current assets	35,670
Net property, plant & equipment	28,084
Goodwill	24,709
Other assets	3,052

Total assets of Discontinued Operations	\$ 91,515
	=====
Liabilities:	
Accounts payable	\$ 8,908
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	8,086

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

Current liabilities	16,994
Other liabilities	2,534

Total liabilities of Discontinued Operations	\$ 19,528
	=====

3. ACQUISITIONS

Doble

On November 30, 2007, the Company acquired the capital stock of Doble for a purchase price of approximately \$328 million, net of cash acquired. Doble, headquartered in Watertown, Massachusetts, is a worldwide leader in providing high-end diagnostic test solutions for the electric utility industry. The acquisition aligns with the Company's long-term growth strategy of expanding its products and services in the utility industry. The acquisition was funded by a combination of the Company's existing cash, including the proceeds from the divestiture of Filtertek, and borrowings under a new \$330 million credit facility led by National City Bank. The operating results for Doble, since the date of acquisition, are included within the Utility Solutions Group segment.

The acquisition was recorded by allocating the cost of completing the acquisition to the assets acquired, including identifiable intangible assets and liabilities assumed, based on their estimated fair values at the acquisition date pursuant to SFAS No. 141, "Business Combinations". The excess of the cost of the acquisition over the net amounts assigned to the fair value of the assets acquired and the liabilities assumed was recorded as goodwill. The final valuation of intangible assets and tax contingencies was completed during the second quarter of 2008. The significant changes from the preliminary valuation included a \$36.6 million increase in the value of the trade names, a \$21.7 million decrease in goodwill and a \$12.5 million increase in deferred tax liabilities. The final valuation of certain tangible assets is expected to be completed prior to September 30, 2008.

The purchase price allocation is as follows:

(In thousands)	
Net tangible assets	\$ 42,196
Identifiable intangible assets:	
Trade names	\$ 112,290
Customer relationships	52,510
Software and databases	3,790

Total identifiable intangible assets	168,590
Goodwill	192,591
Long-term deferred tax liabilities	(65,916)

Total cash consideration	\$337,461
	=====

Reconciliation of purchase price:

Purchase price per agreement	\$319,000
Add: cash acquired	9,639
Add: short-term marketable securities acquired	4,966
Add: transaction costs	2,574
Add: working capital adjustment, net	1,282

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

Total cash consideration	----- \$337,461 =====
--------------------------	-----------------------------

The identifiable intangible assets consisting of customer relationships will be amortized on a straight-line basis over 20 years and the software and databases will be amortized on a straight-line basis over 5 years. The identifiable intangible asset consisting of trade names has an indefinite life and is not subject to amortization.

Pro Forma Results

The following pro forma financial information for the six months ended March 31, 2008 and 2007 presents the combined results of operations of ESCO and Doble as if the acquisition had occurred on October 1, 2006, respectively. The pro forma financial information for the periods presented excludes the Filtertek business which was sold on November 25, 2007. The combined results of operations have been adjusted for the impact of certain acquisition-related items, including additional amortization of identifiable intangible assets, additional financing expenses and other direct costs. The impact of pro forma adjustments are tax-effected at the expected future consolidated corporate tax rate.

The unaudited pro forma financial information is not intended to represent, or be indicative of, the Company's consolidated results of operations or financial condition that would have been reported had the acquisition been completed as of the beginning of each of the periods presented. This information is provided for illustrative purposes only and is not necessarily indicative of the Company's future consolidated results of operations or financial condition.

(In millions, except per share data)	Six Months ended March 31, -----	
	2008	2007
	----	----
Net sales	\$286.4	228.5
EBIT	29.2	17.1
Net earnings from continuing operations	\$ 13.5	10.3
 Net earnings per share		
Basic	\$0.52	0.40
	=====	=====
Diluted	\$0.51	0.39
	=====	=====

Other Acquisitions

In addition, during the first quarter of 2008, the Company acquired certain assets and liabilities related to two minor acquisitions for a total purchase price of \$1 million.

All acquisitions have been accounted for by the purchase method and, accordingly, their results are included in the Company's consolidated financial statements from the respective dates of acquisition. Under the purchase price method, the purchase price is allocated based on the fair value of assets received and liabilities assumed as of the acquisition

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

date.

4. EARNINGS PER SHARE (EPS)

Basic EPS is calculated using the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted EPS is calculated using the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period plus shares issuable upon the assumed exercise of dilutive common share options and vesting of performance-accelerated restricted shares (restricted shares) by using the treasury stock method. The number of shares used in the calculation of earnings per share for each period presented is as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended March 31,		Six Months Ended March 31,	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
Weighted Average Shares Outstanding - Basic	25,847	25,895	25,803	25,885
Dilutive Options and Restricted Shares	403	596	424	592
Adjusted Shares- Diluted	26,250	26,491	26,227	26,477

Options to purchase 554,842 shares of common stock at prices ranging from \$35.69 - \$54.88 and options to purchase 582,322 shares of common stock at prices ranging from \$42.10 - \$54.88 were outstanding during the three month periods ended March 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively, but were not included in the computation of diluted EPS because the options' exercise prices were greater than the average market price of the common shares. The options expire at various periods through 2013. Approximately 54,000 and 26,000 restricted shares were excluded from the computation of diluted EPS based upon the application of the treasury stock method for the three-month period ended March 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

5. SHARE-BASED COMPENSATION

The Company provides compensation benefits to certain key employees under several share-based plans providing for employee stock options and/or performance-accelerated restricted shares (restricted shares), and to non-employee directors under a non-employee directors compensation plan.

Stock Option Plans

The Company's stock option awards are generally subject to graded vesting over a three year service period. All outstanding options were granted at prices equal to fair market value at the date of grant. The options granted prior to September 30, 2003 have a ten-year contractual life from date of issuance, expiring in various periods through 2013. Beginning in fiscal 2004, the options granted have a five-year contractual life from date of issuance. Beginning with fiscal 2006 awards, the Company recognizes compensation cost on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period for the entire award. Prior to fiscal 2006, the Company calculated the pro forma compensation cost using the graded vesting method.

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

The fair value of each option award is estimated as of the date of grant using a Black-Scholes option pricing model. The weighted average assumptions for the periods indicated are noted below. Expected volatility is based on historical volatility of ESCO's stock calculated over the expected term of the option. In 2008, the Company utilized historical, company data to develop its expected term assumption. For fiscal years 2006 and 2007, the expected term was calculated in accordance with Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 107 using the simplified method for "plain-vanilla" options. The risk-free rate for the expected term of the option is based on the U.S. Treasury yield curve in effect at the date of grant.

The fair value of each option grant is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model with the following weighted-average assumptions used for grants in the six-month period ended March 31, 2008: expected dividend yield of 0%; expected volatility of 34.8%; risk-free interest rate of 2.9%; and expected term of 3.8 years. Pre-tax compensation expense related to the stock option awards was \$0.5 million and \$1.1 million for the three and six-month periods ended March 31, 2008, respectively, and \$0.6 million and \$1.2 million for the respective prior year periods.

Information regarding stock options awarded under the option plans is as follows:

	Shares -----	Weighted Avg. Price -----	Aggregate Intrinsic Value (in millions) -----	Weighted- Average Remaining Contractual Life ----
Outstanding at				
October 1, 2007	1,558,941	\$30.35		
Granted	16,000	\$35.82		
Exercised	(136,948)	\$20.87	\$ 2.3	
Cancelled	(125,980)	\$41.87		
	-----	-----		
Outstanding at				
March 31, 2008	1,312,013	\$30.30	\$ 15.2	2.6 years
	=====	=====	=====	
Exercisable at				
March 31, 2008	1,029,632	\$26.20	\$ 15.1	
	=====	=====	=====	

The weighted-average grant-date fair value of options granted during the six-month periods ended March 31, 2008 and 2007 was \$10.98 and \$12.25, respectively.

Performance-accelerated Restricted Share Awards

The performance-accelerated restricted shares (restricted shares) vest over five years with accelerated vesting if certain performance targets are achieved. In these cases, if it is probable that the performance condition will be met, the Company recognizes compensation cost on a straight-line basis over the shorter performance period; otherwise, it will recognize

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

compensation cost over the longer service period. Compensation cost for the majority of the outstanding restricted share awards is being recognized over the longer performance period as it is not probable the performance condition will be met. The restricted share award grants were valued at the stock price on the date of grant. Pre-tax compensation expense related to the restricted share awards was \$0.4 million and \$0.9 million for the three and six-month periods ended March 31, 2008, respectively, and \$0.5 million and \$1.0 million for the respective prior year periods.

The following summary presents information regarding outstanding restricted share awards as of March 31, 2008 and changes during the six-month period then ended:

	Shares -----	Weighted Avg. Price -----
Nonvested at October 1, 2007	164,060	\$41.77
Granted	93,335	\$36.97
Cancelled	(8,000)	\$41.74
Nonvested at March 31, 2008	249,395	\$39.98

Non-Employee Directors Plan

Pursuant to the non-employee directors compensation plan, each non-employee director receives a retainer of 800 common shares per quarter. Pre-tax compensation expense related to the non-employee director grants was \$0.2 million and \$0.3 million for the three and six-month periods ended March 31, 2008, respectively, and \$0.2 million and \$0.4 million for the respective prior year periods.

The total share-based compensation cost that has been recognized in results of operations and included within SG&A was \$1.1 million and \$2.3 million for the three and six-month periods ended March 31, 2008, respectively, and \$1.3 million and \$2.6 million for the three and six-month periods ended March 31, 2007. The total income tax benefit recognized in results of operations for share-based compensation arrangements was \$0.3 million and \$0.6 million for the three and six-month periods ended March 31, 2008, respectively, and \$0.4 million and \$0.7 million for the three and six-month periods ended March 31, 2007. As of March 31, 2008, there was \$12.7 million of total unrecognized compensation cost related to share-based compensation arrangements. That cost is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 2.7 years.

6. INVENTORIES

Inventories from continuing operations consist of the following (in thousands):

	March 31, 2008 ----	September 30, 2007 ----
Finished goods	\$ 23,681	17,652
Work in process, including long-term contracts	14,363	13,532
Raw materials	33,626	24,701
	-----	-----
Total inventories	\$ 71,670	55,885

=====

=====

7. COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Comprehensive income for the three-month periods ended March 31, 2008 and 2007 was \$4.4 million and \$10.2 million, respectively. Comprehensive income for the six-month periods ended March 31, 2008 and 2007 was \$8.2 million and \$9.8 million, respectively. For the six-month periods ended March 31, 2008 and 2007, the Company's comprehensive income was positively impacted by foreign currency translation adjustments of \$1.6 million and \$1.6 million, respectively and negatively impacted by interest rate swaps of \$2.3 million and zero, respectively.

8. BUSINESS SEGMENT INFORMATION

The Company is organized based on the products and services that it offers. Under this organizational structure, the Company operates in three segments: Utility Solutions Group (formerly the Communications segment), Test and Filtration/Fluid Flow (Filtration). As a result of the acquisition of Doble in November 2007, the Company changed the name of the Communications segment to the Utility Solutions Group segment. The renaming of this segment more accurately describes the segment's operating activities and strategically aligns the respective operating entities to focus on a single goal of satisfying the expanding AMI, Smart Grid, and other operational requirements of electric, gas and water utilities worldwide. The change in segment name was made in conjunction with the Company's strategic integration and rebranding of its AMI related technologies under the brand name Aclara and renaming the businesses as follows: Distribution Control Systems, Inc. renamed Aclara Power-Line Systems Inc.; Hexagram, Inc. renamed Aclara RF Systems Inc.; and Nexus Energy Software, Inc. renamed Aclara Software Inc. In addition to the AMI businesses operating under the Aclarabrand, the Utility Solutions Group also includes Comtrak Technologies, L.L.C. (Comtrak) and Doble. Doble provides high-end, diagnostic test solutions for the electric power delivery industry.

As a result of the divestiture of Filtertek in November 2007, the Company re-evaluated the aggregation criteria of its remaining operating units within the Filtration segment. The TekPackaging LLC business (formerly a division of Filtertek) was not included in the divestiture transaction. Prior to the divestiture of Filtertek, each of the components of the Filtration segment were presented separately due to differing long-term economics. However, as a result of the divestiture of Filtertek, management believes the remaining companies within the Filtration segment now have similar long-term economics and, therefore, will not be presented separately beginning with the first quarter of 2008. The Filtration segment's operations consist of: PTI Technologies Inc., VACCO Industries and TekPackaging LLC.

Test segment operations represent the EMC Group, consisting primarily of ETS-Lindgren L.P. (ETS) and Lindgren R.F. Enclosures, Inc. (Lindgren). The EMC Group is principally involved in the design and manufacture of EMC test equipment, test chambers, and electromagnetic absorption materials.

Management evaluates and measures the performance of its operating segments based on "Net Sales" and "EBIT", which are detailed in the table below. EBIT is defined as earnings from continuing operations before interest and taxes. The table below is presented on the basis of continuing operations and excludes discontinued operations.

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

(In thousands)	Three Months ended March 31, -----		Six Months ended March 31, -----	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
NET SALES -----				
Utility Solutions Group	\$ 74,571	49,226	153,880	79,260
Test	33,496	33,959	65,561	62,212
Filtration	27,092	25,675	47,975	50,675
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Consolidated totals	\$135,159	108,860	270,116	189,447
	=====	=====	=====	=====
 EBIT -----				
Utility Solutions Group	\$ 10,466	6,109	23,874	3,327
Test	2,742	4,061	4,732	6,204
Filtration	4,913	5,226	8,562	6,908
Corporate	(5,232)	(4,584)	(10,227)	(9,149)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Consolidated EBIT	12,889	10,812	26,941	7,290
 Add: Interest (expense)/income	(3,187)	176	(4,546)	49
	-----	---	-----	--
Earnings before income taxes	\$ 9,702	10,988	22,395	7,787
	=====	=====	=====	=====
 IDENTIFIABLE ASSETS -----				
Utility Solutions Group	\$190,697	122,270		
Test	72,702	57,229		
Filtration	57,825	59,508		
Reconciliation to consolidated totals (Corporate assets)	568,915	290,000		
	-----	-----		
Consolidated totals	\$890,139	529,007		
	=====	=====		

9. DEBT

The Company's debt is summarized as follows:

(In thousands)	March 31, 2008 ----	September 30, 2007 ----
Revolving credit facility, including current portion	\$250,474	-
Current portion of long-term debt	15,474	-
	-----	-----
Total long-term debt, less current portion	\$235,000	-
	=====	=====

On November 30, 2007, in conjunction with the acquisition of Doble, the Company entered into a new \$330 million five-year revolving credit facility with a \$50 million increase option. This facility replaces the Company's \$100 million credit facility that would have otherwise matured in October 2009. The facility is available for direct borrowings and/or the issuance of letters of credit. It is provided by a group of sixteen banks, led by National City Bank as agent, with a maturity of November 30, 2012.

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

At March 31, 2008, the Company had approximately \$77 million available to borrow under the credit facility in addition to \$31.0 million cash on hand. At March 31, 2008, the Company had \$250 million of outstanding borrowings under the credit facility and outstanding letters of credit of \$4.2 million (\$3.3 million outstanding under the credit facility). The Company classified \$15.5 million as current portion on long-term debt as of March 31, 2008, as the Company intends to repay this amount within the next twelve months.

The new credit facility requires, as determined by certain financial ratios, a facility fee ranging from 15-25 basis points per annum on the revolving line of credit. The terms of the facility provide that interest on borrowings may be calculated at a spread over the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) or based on the prime rate, at the Company's election. The facility is secured by the unlimited guaranty of the Company's material domestic subsidiaries and a 65% pledge of the material foreign subsidiaries' share equity. The financial covenants of the credit facility include a leverage ratio and an interest coverage ratio.

10. INCOME TAX EXPENSE

The second quarter of 2008 effective income tax rate for continuing operations was 37.3% compared to 18.5% in the second quarter of 2007. The effective income tax rate from continuing operations in the first six months of 2008 was 37.5% compared to 2.4% in the prior period. The increase in the effective income tax rate in the second quarter and first six months of 2008 as compared to the prior year periods was due to the favorable impact of research tax credits in 2007. The second quarter 2007 income tax expense was favorably impacted by \$2.2 million, net, research tax credits, reducing the 2007 second quarter effective income tax rate by 20.4%. The income tax expense in the first six months of 2007 was favorably impacted by \$3.1 million, net, research tax credits, reducing the rate for the first six months of 2007 by 40.3%. The Company estimates the fiscal 2008 tax rate to be approximately 37.5%, excluding the effect of discontinued operations.

Effective October 1, 2007, the Company adopted FASB Interpretation No. 48 (FIN 48), "Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes." FIN 48 provides a financial statement recognition threshold and measurement attribute for a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. FIN 48 also provides guidance on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure and transition. The adoption of FIN 48 had the following impact on the Company's financial statements: decreased current assets by \$1.5 million, decreased current liabilities by \$0.3 million, and decreased long-term liabilities by \$1.2 million. As of October 1, 2007, the Company had \$6.7 million of unrecognized tax benefits of which \$5.9 million, if recognized, would affect the Company's effective tax rate. The Company made no adjustments to retained earnings related to the adoption.

The Company anticipates a \$0.3 million reduction in the amount of unrecognized tax benefits in the next twelve months as a result of a lapse of the applicable statute of limitations. The Company's policy is to include interest related to unrecognized tax benefits in income tax expense and penalties in operating expense. As of October 1, 2007, the Company had accrued interest related to uncertain tax positions of \$0.1 million, net of federal income tax benefit, on its consolidated balance sheet. No penalties have been accrued due to the Company's net operating loss position.

The principal jurisdictions for which the Company files income tax returns are U.S. federal and the various city, state, and international locations where the Company has operations. Due to the Company's available net operating loss, the 1995 through 2006 U.S. federal tax years remain subject

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

to income tax examinations. Various state years from 2003 through 2006 remain subject to income tax examinations. The Company is subject to income tax in many jurisdictions outside the United States, none of which are individually material to the Company's financial position, statement of cash flows, or results of operations.

11. GOODWILL AND OTHER INTANGIBLE ASSETS

The changes in the carrying amount of goodwill attributable to each business segment from continuing operations for the six month period ended March 31, 2008 are presented in the table below.

(In millions)	Utility Solutions Group -----	Filtration -----	Test ----	Total -----
Balance as of September 30, 2007	\$ 75.4	20.3	29.1	124.8
Acquisitions	193.2	-	0.4	193.6
	-----		---	-----
Balance as of March 31, 2008	\$268.6	20.3	29.5	318.4
	=====	====	====	=====

The following table presents the gross carrying amount and accumulated amortization of identifiable intangible assets, other than goodwill, at the dates presented:

	March 31, 2008			September 30, 2007		
	Gross Carrying Amt -----	Accum Amort -----	Net ---	Gross Carrying Amt -----	Accum Amort -----	Net ---
Amortized intangible assets:						
Customer relationships	\$ 52.5	\$ 0.9	\$ 51.6	\$ 0.0	\$ 0.0	\$ 0.0
Capitalized software	\$ 88.2	\$20.1	\$ 68.1	\$ 79.0	\$ 13.6	\$ 65.4
Patents & other	\$ 23.4	\$18.4	\$ 5.0	\$ 23.3	\$ 17.6	\$ 5.7
Unamortized intangible assets:						
Trade Names	\$115.8	\$ 0.0	\$115.8	\$ 3.5	\$ 0.0	\$ 3.5
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total other intangible assets	\$279.9	\$39.4	\$240.5	\$105.8	\$ 31.2	\$ 74.6
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

Amortization of intangible assets for the three and six-month periods ended March 31, 2008 was \$4.6 million and \$8.2 million, respectively. During the three and six-month periods ended March 31, 2008, the Company recorded \$2.9 million and \$5.2 million, respectively, of amortization related to Aclara Power-Line Systems TWACS NG software. Amortization of intangible assets for fiscal years 2008 through 2012 is estimated at approximately \$17 million to

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

\$22 million per year. The increase in intangible asset amortization in future years is related to the TWACS NG software.

12. RETIREMENT PLANS

A summary of net periodic benefit expense for the Company's defined benefit plans for the three and six-month periods ended March 31, 2008 and 2007 is shown in the following table. Net periodic benefit cost for each period presented is comprised of the following:

	Three Months Ended March 31,		Six Months Ended March 31,	
(In thousands)	2008	2007	2008	2007
-----	----	----	----	----
Defined benefit plans				
Interest cost	\$ 713	688	1,425	1,375
Expected return on assets	(738)	(700)	(1,475)	(1,400)
Amortization of:				
Prior service cost	4	2	8	5
Actuarial loss	86	73	172	170
	--	--	---	---
Net periodic benefit cost	\$ 65	63	130	150
	=====	==	===	===

13. DERIVATIVE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Market risks relating to the Company's operations result primarily from changes in interest rates and changes in foreign currency exchange rates. The Company is exposed to market risk related to changes in interest rates and selectively uses derivative financial instruments, including forward contracts and swaps, to manage these risks. During the first quarter of 2008, the Company entered into a two-year amortizing interest rate swap to hedge some of its exposure to variability in future LIBOR-based interest payments on variable rate debt. The swap notional amount for the first year is \$175 million amortizing to \$100 million in the second year. All derivative instruments are reported on the balance sheet at fair value. The derivative instrument is designated as a cash flow hedge and the gain or loss on the derivative is deferred in accumulated other comprehensive income until recognized in earnings with the underlying hedged item. Including the impact of interest rate swaps outstanding, the interest rates on approximately 70% of the Company's total borrowings were effectively fixed as of March 31, 2008.

The following is a summary of the notional transaction amounts and fair values for the Company's outstanding derivative financial instruments by risk category and instrument type, as of March 31, 2008.

(In thousands)	Notional Amount	Average Receive Rate	Average Pay Rate	Fair Value
	-----	----	-----	-----
Interest rate swaps	\$175,000	3.00%	3.99%	(\$3,687)

14. RECENTLY ISSUED ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 157, "Fair Value Measurements" (SFAS 157), which defines fair value in generally accepted accounting principles and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. This

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

Statement is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. In February 2008, the FASB amended SFAS 157 to delay the effective date by one year for nonfinancial assets and liabilities that are recognized or disclosed at fair value in the financial statements on a nonrecurring basis. The adoption of SFAS 157 is not expected to have a material impact to the Company's financial position or results of operations.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 141R, "Business Combinations" (SFAS 141R), which establishes principles and requirements for how an acquirer recognizes and measures in its financial statements the identifiable assets acquired, the liabilities assumed, and any noncontrolling interest in an acquiree, including the recognition and measurement of goodwill acquired in a business combination. The requirements of SFAS 141R are effective for business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after the beginning of the first annual reporting period beginning on or after December 15, 2008. Earlier adoption is prohibited.

In March 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 161, "Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities, an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133" (SFAS 161). This statement is intended to improve transparency in financial reporting by requiring enhanced disclosures of an entity's derivative instruments and hedging activities and their effects on the entity's financial position, financial performance, and cash flows. SFAS 161 is effective prospectively for financial statements issued for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after November 15, 2008, with early application permitted. The adoption of SFAS 161 is not expected to have a material impact to the Company's financial position or results of operations.

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

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

As a result of the acquisition of Doble in November 2007, the Company changed the name of the Communications segment to the Utility Solutions Group segment. The name change was done in conjunction with the Company's strategic integration and rebranding of its AMI related technologies under the brand name Aclara, and renaming the businesses as follows: Distribution Control Systems, Inc. renamed Aclara Power-Line Systems Inc.; Hexagram, Inc. renamed Aclara RF Systems Inc.; and Nexus Energy Software, Inc. renamed Aclara Software Inc.

The following discussion refers to the Company's results from continuing operations, except where noted. The Filtertek businesses (excluding Tek Packaging) are accounted for as discontinued operations in accordance with SFAS No. 144, "Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets." Accordingly, the Filtertek businesses are reflected as discontinued operations in the financial statements and related notes for all periods shown. References to the second quarters of 2008 and 2007 represent the fiscal quarters ended March 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

NET SALES

Net sales increased \$26.3 million, or 24.2%, to \$135.2 million for the second quarter of 2008 from \$108.9 million for the second quarter of 2007 mainly due to the current year acquisition of Doble. Net sales increased \$80.7 million, or 42.6% to \$270.1 million for the first six months of 2008 from \$189.4 million for the first six months of 2007. Net sales increased across all segments in the first six months of 2008 compared to the prior year period, with the most

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

significant increase in the Utility Solutions Group segment of \$74.6 million.

-Utility Solutions Group

Net sales increased \$25.3 million, or 51.5%, to \$74.6 million for the second quarter of 2008 from \$49.2 million for the second quarter of 2007. Net sales increased \$74.6 million, or 94.1%, to \$153.9 million for the first six months of 2008 from \$79.3 million in the prior year period. The sales increase in the second quarter of 2008 as compared to the prior year quarter was due to: an increase of \$21.7 million of sales from Doble; a \$5.1 million increase in sales from Aclara RF Systems Inc. primarily due to higher gas AMI deliveries at PG&E; partially offset by a \$1.8 million decrease in sales at Aclara Power-Line Systems driven by lower sales to investor owned utility (IOU) customers (primarily in Texas). The sales increase in the first six months of 2008 as compared to the prior year period was due to: a \$46.0 million increase in sales from the Aclara group; a \$31.1 million increase in sales from Doble; partially offset by a \$2.5 million decrease in sales from Comtrak due to the timing of product deliveries.

The increase in sales of \$46.0 million from the Aclara Group for the first six months of 2008 as compared to the prior year period was mainly due to: a \$29.8 million increase in sales from Aclara Power-Line Systems Inc. (of which \$20.5 million represented the cumulative effect of the hardware shipments to date as TWACS NG 3.0 software was delivered to PG&E in December 2007), a \$10.7 million increase in sales to electric utility cooperative (COOP) and public power (Municipal) customers, a \$4.7 million increase in sales to the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA), partially offset by a \$6.0 million decrease in sales to IOU customers; and a \$16.2 million increase in net sales from Aclara RF Systems Inc. mainly due to a \$16.6 million increase in shipments to PG&E for the gas AMI deployment.

-Test

For the second quarter of 2008, net sales of \$33.5 million were \$0.5 million, or 1.5% lower than the \$34.0 million of net sales recorded in the second quarter of 2007. Net sales increased \$3.3 million, or 5.4%, to \$65.6 million for the first six months of 2008 from \$62.2 million for the first six months of 2007. The sales decrease in the second quarter of 2008 as compared to the prior year quarter was mainly due to: a \$1.1 million decrease in net sales from the Company's U.S. operations driven by the timing of domestic chamber deliveries which are expected to be completed in the second half of 2008. The sales increase for the first six months of 2008 compared to the prior year period was due to: a \$2.4 million increase in net sales from the Company's European operations driven by favorable foreign currency values and the delivery of test chambers; and a \$1.0 million increase in net sales from the Company's U.S. operations due to the timing of test chamber sales and sales of components.

-Filtration

Net sales increased \$1.4 million, or 5.5%, to \$27.1 million for the second quarter of 2008 from \$25.7 million of net sales for the second quarter of 2007. Net sales increased \$2.7 million, or 5.6%, to \$50.7 million for the first six months of 2008 from \$48.0 million in the prior year period. The sales increase during the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2008 as compared to the prior year quarter was mainly due to a \$1.6 million increase in commercial aerospace shipments at PTI. The sales increase in the first six months of 2008 as compared to the prior year period was mainly due to a \$2.9 million increase in commercial aerospace shipments at PTI.

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

ORDERS AND BACKLOG

Backlog from continuing operations was \$281.9 million at March 31, 2008 compared with \$257.6 million at September 30, 2007. The Company received new orders totaling \$164.1 million in the second quarter of 2008 compared to \$110.5 million in the prior year quarter. New orders of \$99.6 million were received in the second quarter of 2008 related to Utility Solutions Group products (including \$7.0 million of Doble related backlog), \$32.5 million related to Test products, and \$31.9 million related to Filtration products.

The Company received new orders totaling \$294.4 million in the first six months of 2008 compared to \$237.1 million in the prior year period. New orders of \$166.9 million were received in the first six months of 2008 related to Utility Solutions Group products (including \$7.0 million of Doble related backlog), \$65.8 million related to Test products, and \$61.7 million related to Filtration products. New orders of \$106.2 million were received in the first six months of 2007 related to Utility Solutions Group products, \$76.0 million related to Test products, and \$54.9 million related to Filtration products. In December 2007, the Company signed a contract with PREPA for a total value expected to be \$27.0 million for the purchase of Aclara Power-Line Systems meter modules and associated substation equipment to be released through the placement of purchase orders over the next two-and-a-half years. During the first six months of 2008, the Company recorded approximately \$11.0 million in entered orders related to this contract.

See "CAPITAL RESOURCES AND LIQUIDITY - Pacific Gas & Electric" below for a discussion of PG&E contracts. The Company received orders totaling \$32.3 million and \$46.5 million from PG&E under these agreements during the three and six-month periods ended March 31, 2008, respectively. Included in the \$32.3 million of orders received from PG&E during the second quarter of 2008 was a \$4.1 million order from PG&E for 88,000 Aclara RF System electric devices. Subsequent to March 31, 2008, the Company received an additional \$11.1 million of orders from PG&E (\$6.1 million of Aclara RF gas devices and \$4.7 million Aclara RF electric devices).

AMORTIZATION OF INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Amortization of intangible assets was \$4.6 million and \$8.2 million for the three and six-month periods ended March 31, 2008, respectively, compared to \$2.8 million and \$4.8 million for the respective prior year periods. Amortization of intangible assets for the three and six-month periods ended March 31, 2008 included \$1.1 million and \$1.9 million, respectively, of amortization of acquired intangible assets related to recent acquisitions compared to \$0.6 million and \$1.2 million for the respective prior year periods. The amortization of these acquired intangible assets are included in Corporate's operating results, see "EBIT - Corporate". The remaining amortization expenses consist of other identifiable intangible assets (primarily software, patents and licenses). During the three and six-month periods ended March 31, 2008, the Company recorded \$2.9 million and \$5.2 million, respectively, of amortization related to Aclara Power-Line Systems TWACS NG software compared to \$1.8 million and \$2.7 million for the respective prior year periods.

SELLING, GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Selling, general and administrative (SG&A) expenses for the second quarter of 2008 were \$39.5 million (29.3% of net sales), compared with \$28.6 million (26.2% of net sales) for the prior year quarter. For the first six months of 2008, SG&A expenses were \$73.1 million (27.0% of net sales) compared with \$55.2 million (29.1% of net sales) for the prior year period. The increase in SG&A spending in the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2008 as compared to the prior year quarter was primarily due to: \$7.3 million of SG&A expenses related to Doble and a \$3.3

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

million increase in SG&A related to the Aclara Group mainly due to an increase in sales, marketing, and engineering headcount. The increase in SG&A spending in the first six months of 2008 as compared to the prior year period was primarily due to \$9.7 million of SG&A expenses related to Doble, and a \$6.8 million increase in SG&A related to the Aclara Group for the reasons mentioned above.

EBIT

The Company evaluates the performance of its operating segments based on EBIT, defined below. EBIT was \$12.9 million (9.5% of net sales) for the second quarter of 2008 and \$10.8 million (9.9% of net sales) for the second quarter of 2007. For the first six months of 2008, EBIT was \$26.9 million (10.0% of net sales) and \$7.3 million (3.8% of net sales) for the first six months of 2007. The increase in EBIT for the second quarter of 2008 and first six months of 2008 as compared to the prior year periods is primarily due to the increase in margins in the Utility Solutions Group segment including the acquisition of Doble.

This Form 10-Q contains the financial measure "EBIT", which is not calculated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America (GAAP). EBIT provides investors and Management with an alternative method for assessing the Company's operating results. The Company defines "EBIT" as earnings from continuing operations before interest and taxes. Management evaluates the performance of its operating segments based on EBIT and believes that EBIT is useful to investors to demonstrate the operational profitability of the Company's business segments by excluding interest and taxes, which are generally accounted for across the entire Company on a consolidated basis. EBIT is also one of the measures Management uses to determine resource allocations within the Company and incentive compensation. The following table presents a reconciliation of EBIT to net earnings from continuing operations.

(In thousands)	Three Months ended March 31, -----		Six Months ended March 31, -----	
	2008 ----	2007 ----	2008 ----	2007 ----
Consolidated EBIT	\$12,889	10,812	26,941	7,290
Less: Interest (expense), net	(3,187)	-	(4,546)	-
Add: interest income, net	-	176	-	497
Less: Income tax expense	(3,620)	(2,035)	(8,408)	(185)
	-----	-----	-----	----
Net earnings from continuing operations	\$ 6,082	8,953	13,987	7,602
	=====	=====	=====	=====

-Utility Solutions Group -----

EBIT in the second quarter of 2008 was \$10.5 million (14.0% of net sales) compared to \$6.1 million (12.4% of net sales) in the prior year quarter. For the first six months of 2008, EBIT was \$23.9 million (15.5% of net sales) compared to \$3.3 million (4.2% of net sales) in the prior year period. The \$4.4 million increase in EBIT in the second quarter of 2008 as compared to the prior year quarter was due to: the EBIT contribution from Doble; partially offset by a decrease in EBIT from the Aclara Group due to an increase in amortization expenses related to its TWACS NG software and an increase in SG&A expenses mentioned above. The \$20.6 million increase in EBIT for the first six months of 2008 compared to the prior year period was due to: an increase in EBIT from the Aclara Group related to the increased sales volumes (of which approximately \$9 million related to the recognition of deferred revenue for PG&E from Aclara Power-Line Systems); the EBIT contribution from Doble; partially offset by a

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

decrease in EBIT at Comtrak due to lower sales volumes.

-Test

EBIT in the second quarter of 2008 was \$2.7 million (8.2% of net sales) as compared to \$4.1 million (12.0% of net sales) in the prior year quarter. For the first six months of 2008, EBIT was \$4.7 million (7.2% of net sales) as compared to \$6.2 million (10.0% of net sales) in the prior year period. EBIT decreased \$1.4 million and \$1.5 million over the prior quarter and six month period, respectively, mainly due to changes in product mix (lower sales of higher margin components) and \$0.7 million of non-recurring costs associated with the facility consolidation in Austin, Texas that was completed in January 2008.

-Filtration

EBIT was \$4.9 million (18.1% of net sales) and \$5.2 million (20.3% of net sales) in the second quarters of 2008 and 2007, respectively, and \$8.6 million (16.9% of net sales) and \$6.9 million (14.4% of net sales) in the first six months of 2008 and 2007, respectively. For the second quarter of 2008 as compared to the prior year quarter, EBIT decreased \$0.3 million due to: a decrease at VACCO due to changes in product mix; partially offset by increases at PTI and TekPackaging LLC due to higher sales volumes. For the first six months of 2008 as compared to the prior year period, EBIT increased \$1.7 million primarily due to an increase at PTI due to higher commercial aerospace shipments.

-Corporate

Corporate costs included in EBIT were \$5.2 million and \$10.2 million for the three and six-month periods ended March 31, 2008, respectively, compared to \$4.6 million and \$9.1 million for the respective prior year periods. The increase in Corporate costs in the first six months of 2008 as compared to the prior year period was due to: a \$0.9 million decrease in royalty income and a \$0.7 million increase in amortization expense related to purchase accounting identifiable intangible assets recorded at Corporate. In the first six months of 2008, Corporate costs included \$2.3 million of pre-tax stock compensation expense and \$1.9 million of pre-tax amortization of acquired intangible assets.

INTEREST EXPENSE (INCOME), NET

Interest expense was \$3.2 million for the second quarter of 2008 compared to interest income of \$0.2 million in the prior year quarter. For the first six months of 2008, interest expense was \$4.5 million compared to interest income of \$0.5 million in the prior year period. The increase in interest expense in the second quarter of 2008 and the first six months of 2008 as compared to the prior year periods is due to the outstanding borrowings under the revolving credit facility related to the Doble acquisition.

INCOME TAX EXPENSE

The second quarter of 2008 effective income tax rate for continuing operations was 37.3% compared to 18.5% in the second quarter of 2007. The effective income tax rate from continuing operations in the first six months of 2008 was 37.5% compared to 2.4% in the prior year period. The increase in the effective income tax rate in the second quarter and first six months of 2008 as compared to the prior year periods was due to the favorable impact of research tax credits in 2007. The second quarter 2007 income tax expense was favorably impacted by \$2.2 million, net, research tax credits, reducing the 2007 second quarter effective income tax rate by 20.4%. The income tax expense in the first six months of 2007 was favorably impacted by \$3.1 million, net, research tax credits, reducing the

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

rate for the first six months of 2007 by 40.3%. The Company estimates the fiscal 2008 tax rate to be approximately 37.5%, excluding the effect of discontinued operations.

Effective October 1, 2007, the Company adopted FASB Interpretation No. 48 (FIN 48), "Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes." FIN 48 provides a financial statement recognition threshold and measurement attribute for a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. The Company made no adjustments to retained earnings upon adoption. The Company recorded a \$5.8 million increase in its unrecognized tax benefits in the first quarter of 2008.

CAPITAL RESOURCES AND LIQUIDITY

Working capital from continuing operations (current assets less current liabilities) increased to \$127.9 million at March 31, 2008 from \$122.5 million at September 30, 2007. Accounts receivable increased by \$15.3 million and inventories increased by \$15.8 million in the first six months of 2008 primarily related to acquisition of Doble. Accounts payable decreased by \$8.9 million in the first six months of 2008, of which approximately \$4.2 million related to the Aclara Group segment and \$4.1 million related to the Test segment, both due to timing of vendor invoicing.

Net cash provided by operating activities from continuing operations was \$37.7 million and \$9.0 million for the six-month periods ended March 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The increase is mainly due to a decrease in operating working capital requirements.

Capital expenditures from continuing operations were \$8.7 million and \$5.0 million in the first six months of fiscal 2008 and 2007, respectively. The increase in the first six months of 2008 as compared to the prior year period included approximately \$2.7 million for the ETS Austin facility expansion.

At March 31, 2008, intangible assets, net, of \$240.5 million included \$68.1 million of capitalized software. Approximately \$58.0 million of the capitalized software balance represents software development costs on the TWACS NG software within the Utility Solutions Group segment to further penetrate the IOU market. This software is being deployed to efficiently handle the additional levels of communications dictated by the size of the utility service territories and the frequency of meter reads that are required under time-of-use or critical peak pricing scenarios to meet the requirements of large IOUs. Amortization expense of TWACS NG software is on a straight-line basis over seven years and began in March 2006. The Company recorded \$2.9 million and \$5.2 million in amortization expense related to TWACS NG in the second quarter of 2008 and in the first six months of 2008, respectively.

Divestiture

On November 25, 2007, the Company completed the sale of the filtration portion of Filtrertek Inc. (Filtrertek) to Illinois Tool Works Inc. for \$74.4 million, net, of cash. The TekPackaging division of Filtrertek was not included in the transaction. The Filtrertek businesses are accounted for as discontinued operations in accordance with SFAS No. 144, "Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets." Accordingly, the Filtrertek businesses are reflected as discontinued operations in the financial statements and related notes for all periods presented. A pre-tax loss of \$0.2 million related to the sale of Filtrertek is reflected in the Company's fiscal 2008 first quarter results in discontinued operations. Filtrertek's net sales were \$13.7 million for the two-month period ended November 25, 2007 and \$18.2 million for the three-month period ended December 31, 2006, respectively. The operations of the TekPackaging division, currently operating as TekPackaging LLC, are reflected in continuing operations. The closure and relocation of the Filtrertek Puerto Rico

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

facility was completed in March 2004. The Puerto Rico facility was included in current assets from discontinued operations with a carrying value of \$1.1 million at December 31, 2007. Effective March 31, 2008, the Company sold the Puerto Rico facility for approximately \$1.3 million, net. The cash proceeds were received in April 2008.

Acquisitions

On November 30, 2007, the Company acquired the capital stock of Doble for a purchase price of approximately \$328 million, net of cash acquired. Doble, headquartered in Watertown, Massachusetts, is a worldwide leader in providing high-end diagnostic test solutions for the electric utility industry. The acquisition aligns with the Company's long-term growth strategy of expanding its products and services in the utility industry. The acquisition was funded by a combination of the Company's existing cash, including the proceeds from the partial divestiture of Filtertek, and borrowings under a new \$330 million credit facility led by National City Bank. Doble's annual revenue for the trailing twelve months ended September 30, 2007 was approximately \$80 million. The operating results for Doble, since the date of acquisition, are included within the Utility Solutions Group segment. The Company recorded \$192.6 million of goodwill and \$112.3 million of trade names as a result of transaction. The Company also recorded \$56.3 million of identifiable intangible assets consisting primarily of customer relationships and software/databases which will be amortized on a straight-line basis over periods ranging from five years to twenty years.

Other Acquisitions

In addition, during the first quarter of 2008, the Company acquired certain assets and liabilities related to two minor acquisitions for a total purchase price of \$1 million.

Credit facility

On November 30, 2007, in conjunction with the acquisition of Doble, the Company entered into a new \$330 million five-year revolving credit facility with a \$50 million increase option. This facility replaces the Company's \$100 million credit facility that would have otherwise matured in October 2009. The facility is available for direct borrowings and/or the issuance of letters of credit. It is provided by a group of sixteen banks, led by National City Bank as agent, with a maturity of November 30, 2012.

At March 31, 2008, the Company had approximately \$77 million available to borrow under the credit facility in addition to \$31.0 million cash on hand. At March 31, 2008, the Company had \$250 million of outstanding borrowings under the credit facility and outstanding letters of credit of \$4.2 million (\$3.3 million outstanding under the credit facility). The Company classified \$15.5 million as the current portion on long-term debt as of March 31, 2008, as the Company intends to repay this amount within the next twelve months. Cash flow from operations and borrowings under the Company's bank credit facility are expected to meet the Company's capital requirements and operational needs for the foreseeable future.

Pacific Gas & Electric

Aclara Power-Line Systems Inc. (formerly known as Distribution Control Systems Inc.) delivered the final software version (TWACS NG 3.0) to PG&E in December 2007 and, as a result, recognized deferred revenue of \$20.5 million during the

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

first quarter of 2008. The parties continue to negotiate an amendment to the current contract to conform to the parties' performance. Testing of Aclara RF Systems Inc.'s (formerly known as Hexagram Inc.) RF electric solution by PG&E began in the fiscal fourth quarter of 2007 and continues. During the second quarter of 2008, the Company received a \$4.1 million order from PG&E for 88,000 Aclara RF System electric devices. PG&E has not yet announced what changes, if any, will be made to its AMI project plan, and therefore, the Company continues to be unable to estimate the timing or value of orders that may be received under the Company's PG&E contracts. Refer to "Pacific Gas & Electric" in "Management's Discussion and Analysis" appearing in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2007 for further discussion about the Company's contracts with PG&E.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Management has evaluated the accounting policies used in the preparation of the Company's financial statements and related notes and believes those policies to be reasonable and appropriate. Certain of these accounting policies require the application of significant judgment by Management in selecting appropriate assumptions for calculating financial estimates. By their nature, these judgments are subject to an inherent degree of uncertainty. These judgments are based on historical experience, trends in the industry, information provided by customers and information available from other outside sources, as appropriate. The most significant areas involving Management judgments and estimates may be found in the Critical Accounting Policies section of Management's Discussion and Analysis and in Note 1 to the Consolidated Financial Statements contained in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2007 at Exhibit 13.

OTHER MATTERS

Contingencies

As a normal incident of the businesses in which the Company is engaged, various claims, charges and litigation are asserted or commenced against the Company. In the opinion of Management, final judgments, if any, which might be rendered against the Company in current litigation are adequately reserved, covered by insurance, or would not have a material adverse effect on its financial statements.

RECENTLY ISSUED ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 157, "Fair Value Measurements" (SFAS 157), which defines fair value in generally accepted accounting principles and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. This Statement is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. In February 2008, the FASB amended SFAS 157 to delay the effective date by one year for nonfinancial assets and liabilities that are recognized or disclosed at fair value in the financial statements on a nonrecurring basis. The adoption of SFAS 157 is not expected to have a material impact to the Company's financial position or results of operations.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 141R, "Business Combinations" (SFAS 141R), which establishes principles and requirements for how an acquirer recognizes and measures in its financial statements the identifiable assets acquired, the liabilities assumed, and any noncontrolling interest in an acquiree, including the recognition and measurement of goodwill acquired in a business combination. The requirements of SFAS 141R are effective for business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after the beginning of the first annual reporting period beginning on or after December 15, 2008. Earlier adoption is prohibited.

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

In March 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 161, "Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities, an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133" (SFAS 161). This statement is intended to improve transparency in financial reporting by requiring enhanced disclosures of an entity's derivative instruments and hedging activities and their effects on the entity's financial position, financial performance, and cash flows. SFAS 161 is effective prospectively for financial statements issued for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after November 15, 2008, with early application permitted. The adoption of SFAS 161 is not expected to have a material impact to the Company's financial position or results of operations.

FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

Statements in this report that are not strictly historical are "forward looking" statements within the meaning of the safe harbor provisions of the federal securities laws. Forward looking statements include, but are not limited to, those relating to the estimates or projections made in connection with the Company's accounting policies, the timing of the final valuation of certain tangible Doble assets, timing and amount of repayment of debt, annual effective tax rate, the reduction in the amount of unrecognized tax benefits over the next twelve months, the impact of SFAS 157 and SFAS 161, outcome of current claims and litigation, future cash flow, capital requirements and operational needs for the foreseeable future, and the ultimate values and timing of revenues under the Aclara Power-Line Systems / PREPA contract. Investors are cautioned that such statements are only predictions, and speak only as of the date of this report. The Company's actual results in the future may differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements due to risks and uncertainties that exist in the Company's operations and business environment including, but not limited to: the risk factors described in Item 1A of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2007, and in Part II, Item 1A of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the three months ended December 31, 2007, actions by PG&E's Board of Directors and PG&E's management impacting PG&E's AMI projects, changes to PG&E's AMI project plan resulting from the evaluation of other AMI vendor technologies or other factors; the Company's successful performance under the PG&E contracts; weakening of economic conditions in served markets; changes in customer demands or customer insolvencies; competition; intellectual property rights; material changes in the costs of certain raw materials including steel and copper; delivery delays or defaults by customers; termination for convenience of customer contracts; timing and magnitude of future contract awards; performance issues with key suppliers, customers and subcontractors; collective bargaining and labor disputes; changes in laws and regulations including changes in accounting standards and taxation requirements; costs relating to environmental matters; litigation uncertainty; and the Company's successful execution of internal operating plans and integration of newly acquired businesses.

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Market risks relating to the Company's operations result primarily from changes in interest rates and changes in foreign currency exchange rates. The Company is exposed to market risk related to changes in interest rates and selectively uses derivative financial instruments, including forward contracts and swaps, to manage these risks. During the first quarter of 2008, the Company entered into a two-year amortizing interest rate swap to hedge some of its exposure to variability in future LIBOR-based interest payments on variable rate debt. The swap notional amount for the first year is \$175 million amortizing to \$100 million in the second year. All derivative instruments are reported on the balance sheet at fair value. The derivative instrument is designated as a cash flow hedge and the gain or loss on the derivative is deferred in accumulated other comprehensive income until recognized in earnings with the underlying

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

hedged item. Including the impact of interest rate swaps outstanding, the interest rates on approximately 70% of the Company's total borrowings were effectively fixed as of March 31, 2008.

The following is a summary of the notional transaction amounts and fair values for the Company's outstanding derivative financial instruments by risk category and instrument type, as of March 31, 2008.

(In thousands)	Notional Amount -----	Average Receive Rate ----	Average Pay Rate -----	Fair Value -----
Interest rate swaps	\$175,000	3.00%	3.99%	(\$3,687)

In addition, the Company pays 75bps spread on its outstanding debt. Refer to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2007 for further discussion about market risk.

ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

The Company carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of Management, including the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based upon that evaluation, the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of that date. Disclosure controls and procedures are controls and procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in Company reports filed or submitted under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms. There has been no change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Exchange Act) during the period covered by this report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

The discussion of risk factors in Item 1A of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2007 refers to the Company's Communications segment and to its subsidiaries DCSI (Distribution Controls Systems, Inc.) and Hexagram (Hexagram, Inc.). As a result of the acquisition of Doble in November 2007, the Company changed the name of the Communications segment to the Utility Solutions Group segment. The name change was done in conjunction with the Company's strategic integration and rebranding of its AMI related technologies under the brand name Aclara and renaming the businesses as follows: Distribution Control Systems, Inc. renamed Aclara Power-Line Systems Inc.; Hexagram, Inc. renamed Aclara RF Systems Inc.; and Nexus Energy Software, Inc. renamed Aclara Software Inc.

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

In August 2006, the Company's Board of Directors authorized an open market common stock repurchase program for up to 1.2 million shares, subject to market conditions and other factors, which covers the period through September 30, 2008. There were no stock repurchases during the three-month period ended March 31, 2008.

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

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

The Annual Meeting of the Company's shareholders was held on Wednesday, February 6, 2008. The voting for directors was as follows:

	For ---	Withheld -----	Broker Non-Votes -----
L.W. Solley	19,230,354	2,119,222	0
J.D. Woods	19,225,682	2,123,894	0

The terms of J.M. McConnell, VL. Richey, Jr., J.M. Stolze and D.C. Trauscht as directors continued after the meeting.

The voting to approve amendments to the Company's 2004 Incentive Compensation Plan, 2001 Stock Incentive Plan and 1999 Stock Option Plan was as follows:

For ---	Against -----	Abstain -----	Broker Non-Votes -----
13,153,855	4,247,218	2,051,533	1,896,969

The voting to ratify the Company's selection of KPMG LLP as independent public accountants for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008 was as follows:

For ---	Against -----	Abstain -----	Broker Non-Votes -----
21,190,333	102,981	52,263	0

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

a) Exhibits
Exhibit
Number

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 2.1 | Stock Purchase and Sale Agreement dated as of November 6, 2007 by and among ESCO Technologies Holding Inc. and ESCO Technologies Inc., Doble Engineering Company and the Stockholders of Doble Engineering Company | Incorporated by reference to Current Report on Form 8-K dated November 6, 2007 at Exhibit 2.1 |
| 2.2 | Stock Purchase Agreement dated as of November 25, 2007 by and among ESCO Technologies Holding Inc. and ESCO Technologies Inc. and Illinois Tool Works Inc. | Incorporated by reference to Current Report on Form 8-K dated November 25, 2007 at Exhibit 2.1 |
| 3.1 | Restated Articles of | Incorporated by reference to |

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

	Incorporation	Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1999, at Exhibit 3(a)
3.2	Amended Certificate of Designation Preferences and Rights of Series A Participating Cumulative Preferred Stock of the Registrant	Incorporated by reference to Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2000, at Exhibit 4(e)
3.3	Articles of Merger effective July 10, 2000	Incorporated by reference to Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2000, at Exhibit 3(c)
3.4	Bylaws, as amended and restated as of July 10, 2000.	Incorporated by reference to Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2003, at Exhibit 3.4
3.5	Amendment to Bylaws effective as of February 2, 2007.	Incorporated by reference to Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2006, at Exhibit 3.5
3.6	Amendment to Bylaws effective as of November 9, 2007.	Incorporate by reference to Current Report on Form 8-K dated November 12, 2007 at Exhibit 3.1
4.1	Specimen Common Stock Certificate	Incorporated by reference to Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2000, at Exhibit 4(a)
4.2	Specimen Rights Certificate	Incorporated by reference to Current Report on Form 8-K dated February 3, 2000, at Exhibit B to Exhibit 4.1
4.3	Rights Agreement dated as of September 24, 1990 (as amended and Restated as of February 3, 2000) between the Registrant and Registrar and Transfer Company, as successor Rights Agent	Incorporated by reference to Current Report on Form 8-K dated February 3, 2000, at Exhibit 4.1
4.4	Credit Agreement dated as of November 30, 2007 among the Registrant, National City Bank and the lenders from time to time parties thereto	Incorporated by reference to Current Report on Form 8-K dated November 30, 2007, at Exhibit 4.1
31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer relating to Form 10-Q	

Edgar Filing: ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 10-Q

for period ended March
31, 2008

31.2 Certification of Chief
Financial Officer
relating to Form 10-Q
for period ended March
31, 2008

32 Certification of Chief
Executive Officer and
Chief Financial
Officer relating to
Form 10-Q for period
ended March 31, 2008

SIGNATURE

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.

ESCO TECHNOLOGIES INC.

/s/ Gary E. Muenster
Gary E. Muenster
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
(As duly authorized officer and principal accounting
officer of the registrant)

Dated: May 8, 2008