

AIRGATE PCS INC /DE/
Form 425
December 18, 2003

[AirGate PCS Logo - GRAPHIC OMITTED]

Contact: Will Seippel
Chief Financial Officer
404-525-7272

AIRGATE PCS, INC. ANNOUNCES FOURTH QUARTER
AND YEAR-END FISCAL 2003 RESULTS

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS INCREASE TO \$54.1 MILLION

ATLANTA (December 18, 2003) - AirGate PCS, Inc. (OTCBB: PCSA.OB), a PCS Affiliate of Sprint, today announced financial and operating results for its fourth quarter and fiscal year ended September 30, 2003.

Highlights of the quarter for stand-alone AirGate include the following:

- o Cash and cash equivalents increased to \$54.1 million from \$30.8 million from the third fiscal quarter of 2003 and from \$4.9 million at the end of fiscal year 2002.
- o Net loss improved to (\$7.8) million from (\$29.1) million in the fourth fiscal quarter of 2002.
- o EBITDA, earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, was \$15.3 million, an increase of \$21.5 million from (\$6.2) million in the fourth fiscal quarter of 2002.
- o The Company announced a proposed debt restructuring to strengthen its balance sheet and substantially reduce debt service in 2005 and beyond.

Fourth Quarter Review

On an AirGate stand-alone basis, excluding iPCS, total revenues were \$89.3 million during the fourth fiscal quarter of 2003 compared with \$87.4 million for the same period last year. Net loss for AirGate on a stand-alone basis was (\$7.8) million for the fourth fiscal quarter of 2003 and (\$29.1) million for the same period of fiscal 2002. On a stand-alone basis, EBITDA, a non-GAAP financial measure, for AirGate was \$15.3 million during the fourth fiscal quarter of 2003 compared with (\$6.2) million for the fourth fiscal quarter of 2002. AirGate EBITDA for the quarter was favorably impacted by special Sprint settlements of \$1.9 million and the effects of cost cutting measures taken earlier in the year. Included in the AirGate fourth fiscal quarter of 2003 results are financial restructuring-related expenses of approximately \$3.0 million.

Consolidated revenues for the fourth fiscal quarter ended September 30, 2003 were \$89.3 million compared with \$137.2 million for the prior-year period. The Company reported a net loss of (\$7.8) million, or (\$0.29) per share, for the three months ended September 30, 2003, compared with a net loss of (\$615.0) million, or (\$23.83) per share, in the same period of fiscal 2002. Consolidated EBITDA was \$15.3 million during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2003, which compares with an EBITDA loss of (\$566.4) million during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2002. During the quarter ended September 30, 2002, the Company recorded goodwill impairments of \$199.7 million, property and equipment impairments of \$44.5 million, and intangible asset impairments of \$312.0 million, each of which was related to iPCS. The results of the unrestricted iPCS subsidiary are included in the consolidated results of the fourth fiscal quarter of 2002, but

Edgar Filing: AIRGATE PCS INC /DE/ - Form 425

are excluded from the fourth fiscal quarter of 2003 as a result of iPCS filing a Chapter 11 bankruptcy case on February 23, 2003 for the purpose of effecting a court-administered reorganization.

-MORE-

AirGate PCS Announces Fourth Quarter Fiscal 2003 Results

Page 2

December 18, 2003

Fiscal 2003 Review

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2003, stand-alone AirGate had revenues of \$331.3 million and a net loss of (\$42.2) million. For 2002, stand-alone AirGate had revenues of \$313.5 million and a net loss of (\$92.8) million. On a stand-alone basis, EBITDA for AirGate improved by \$63.5 million to \$46.8 million for the year, compared with (\$16.7) million for fiscal 2002. AirGate net loss and EBITDA for fiscal 2003 were favorably impacted by \$25.0 million in higher service revenues, a \$27.3 million reduction in sales and marketing expenses, primarily in advertising, a \$16.1 million improvement in bad debt expense and \$8.6 million in special settlements received from Sprint. The improvements in net loss were partially offset by financial restructuring-related expenses of approximately \$3.0 million, increased interest expense of \$7.2 million and increased depreciation and amortization expense of \$5.8 million.

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2003, the Company reported consolidated revenues of \$410.0 million compared with \$456.6 million for the prior year. The Company reported a net loss of (\$84.8) million, or (\$3.27) per share, for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2003, compared with a net loss of (\$996.6) million or (\$41.96) per share, for fiscal 2002. Consolidated EBITDA was \$38.0 million for fiscal 2003. During the year ended September 30, 2002, the Company recorded goodwill impairments of \$460.9 million, property and equipment impairments of \$44.5 million, and intangible asset impairments of \$312.0 million, each of which was related to the Company's investment in iPCS. The consolidated fiscal year results include the results of the unrestricted iPCS subsidiary for the period beginning December 1, 2001 and ending September 30, 2002 for fiscal year 2002 and for the period beginning October 1, 2002 and ending February 23, 2003 for fiscal year 2003.

During fiscal year 2003, the Company increased cash and cash equivalents by \$49.2 million. The increase is primarily attributable to \$10.5 from Sprint special settlements, \$39.7 million from other operating cash flow activities and \$17.0 million in additional borrowings under the AirGate credit facility, offset by \$16.0 million in capital expenditures and \$2.0 in payments under the credit facility.

"This past year has been full of challenges for AirGate," said Thomas M. Dougherty, president and chief executive officer of AirGate PCS. "The Company has been encumbered by the bankruptcy and separation of iPCS from AirGate, the lingering effects on the business and on our subscriber base of the Clear Pay program, loss in market share, more competitive conditions and the restructuring of the debt on our balance sheet."

"Despite these added challenges in fiscal 2003, we have continued to focus on enhancing our operating performance with our 'smart-growth' strategy," Dougherty

Edgar Filing: AIRGATE PCS INC /DE/ - Form 425

continued. "The first phase of this strategy has been targeted on improving EBITDA and increasing cash while realizing slower, higher credit quality subscriber growth. As evidence of this progress, in the fourth quarter we achieved our third consecutive quarter of double-digit positive EBITDA (in millions) for stand-alone AirGate. In addition, we achieved fourth quarter EBITDA of \$15.3 million despite incurring approximately \$3.0 million of expenses related to our financial restructuring."

-MORE-

AirGate PCS Announces Fourth Quarter Fiscal 2003 Results

Page 3

December 18, 2003

"As for the second phase of the strategy, we have taken steps to improve our capital structure," Dougherty continued. "First, we have increased our cash position to \$54.1 million during the fourth quarter from \$30.8 million at the end of the prior quarter. Second, we are in the middle of pursuing a financial restructuring which would reduce our debt service in 2005 and beyond. We believe that our proposed restructuring will provide AirGate with a more appropriate level of leverage for the current wireless environment. Furthermore, with a restructured balance sheet, we believe we will be in a better position to further improve the margins in our business and build more value for our stakeholders."

"As disclosed when we announced our proposed financial restructuring, during the fourth quarter we experienced some additional challenges," Dougherty continued. "Gross activations were softer than originally expected with the loss of distribution channels such as Circuit City and declines in market share. Further exacerbating this was a spike up in churn by about 50 basis points. Despite the contraction in our subscriber base by approximately 4,700 subscribers during the quarter, monthly recurring revenues not only held firm but also increased in absolute terms over the prior quarter. Although we expect subscriber growth to be relatively flat in the quarter ending December 31, 2003, we have also made progress in the current quarter towards improving future subscriber growth with the addition of a major local distributor."

"We are optimistic about our prospects for fiscal 2004 and the completion of our proposed financial restructuring," Dougherty continued. "Our noteholders and lenders have supported us during the challenges we have faced over the past 18 months and in our restructuring efforts. We have entered into an amendment of our credit facility, which provides needed flexibility to complete the restructuring and additional financial covenant flexibility. We have asked the noteholders who are parties to the support agreement to extend the expiration date to February 14, 2004, to provide us additional time to complete the SEC review process. We look forward to completing this financial restructuring so we can focus our efforts on phases three and four of our strategy in which we plan to pursue reductions in many of our operating expenses currently controlled by Sprint, improvements to churn, and other initiatives to accelerate the growth and profitability of our business."

Operating and Performance Metrics

Additional operating and performance metrics, which include non-GAAP financial measures, for the fourth quarter and fiscal year ended September 30, 2003 for AirGate stand-alone and iPCS include the following:

Edgar Filing: AIRGATE PCS INC /DE/ - Form 425

	Quarter Ended September 30, 2003			Quarter Ended September 30, 2002	
	AirGate	iPCS(1)	Combined	AirGate	iPCS
Gross Additions	34,464	--	34,464	48,276	44,833
Net Additions	(4,697)	--	(4,697)	1,836	20,553
Ending Subscribers	359,460	--	359,460	339,139	215,693
Churn	3.41%	--	3.41%	4.30%	3.60%
ARPU	\$61	--	\$61	\$63	\$55
CCPU	\$52	--	\$52	\$63	\$63
CPGA	\$403	--	\$403	\$507	\$363
EBITDA	\$15,256,000	--	\$15,256,000	(\$6,150,000)	(\$560,205,000)
Capital Expenditures	\$7,106,000	--	\$ 7,106,000	\$9,058,000	\$10,597,000

-MORE-

AirGate PCS Announces Fourth Quarter Fiscal 2003 Results
Page 4
December 18, 2003

	Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2003			Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2002	
	AirGate	iPCS(1)	Combined	AirGate	iPCS
Gross Additions	172,007	59,403	231,410	247,221	127,000
Net Additions(2)	20,321	14,199	34,520	104,116	66,000
Ending Subscribers	359,460	--	359,460	339,139	215,693
Churn	3.20%	4.00%	3.50%	3.50%	3.60%
ARPU	\$60	\$53	\$59	\$61	\$55
CCPU	\$50	\$58	\$52	\$59	\$63
CPGA	\$364	\$356	\$362	\$387	\$363
EBITDA	\$46,827,000	(\$8,783,000)	\$38,044,000	(\$16,703,000)	(\$842,583,000)
Capital Expenditures	\$16,023,000	\$9,921,000	\$25,944,000	\$41,338,000	\$55,722,000

(1) iPCS calculations reflect results up to February 23, 2003; operations subsequent to this date have been excluded

(2) Elimination of subscriber reserve resulted in an increase in net additions of 4,187 (AirGate) and 2,252 (iPCS)

Guidance for December 31, 2003 Quarter

We anticipate that revenues for the quarter ending December 31, 2003 will be consistent with those reported for the first fiscal quarter of 2003. We anticipate that expenses will increase over the prior quarter ended September

Edgar Filing: AIRGATE PCS INC /DE/ - Form 425

30, 2003 as gross subscriber additions increase slightly and we incur additional expenses related to the financial restructuring. We anticipate that our subscriber base will remain relatively flat compared to the quarter ended September 30, 2003.

Churn has improved to lower levels in October and November; however, the implementation on November 24, 2003 of wireless local number portability in 35% of our markets makes churn trends more difficult to predict in the near term. Wireless local number portability has not had a significant effect on our business since its November 24, 2003 implementation; however, its impact during the quarter ending December 31, 2003 and beyond is difficult to predict.

iPCS Treatment

As previously announced, AirGate's unrestricted subsidiary, iPCS, Inc. and its subsidiaries, iPCS Wireless, Inc. and iPCS Equipment, Inc., filed a Chapter 11 bankruptcy case on February 23, 2003, for the purpose of effecting a court-administered reorganization. Subsequent to February 23, 2003, AirGate no longer consolidated the accounts and results of operations of iPCS and the accounts of iPCS were recorded as an investment using the cost method of accounting. The financial and operating results presented here for the fourth fiscal quarter of 2003 are for AirGate stand-alone. On October 17, 2003, AirGate transferred its iPCS stock to a trust organized under Delaware law and no longer has any interest in iPCS. As a result of this transfer, iPCS will be accounted for as a discontinued operation and the iPCS investment (approximately \$184 million credit balance carrying amount) will be eliminated and recorded as a non-monetary gain from disposition of discontinuing operations.

Credit Facility Amendment

In contemplation of the proposed restructuring, AirGate entered into an amendment to its credit facility on November 30, 2003. Certain changes are effective and are used in determining compliance with financial covenants for periods ending December 31, 2003 and thereafter. These changes clarify certain ambiguities and modify the definition of, and period for calculating, EBITDA for purposes of complying with financial covenants under the credit facility. Management expects these changes to generally assist AirGate in complying with these financial covenants for the next twelve months. Under the amendment, AirGate is required to pre-pay \$10.0 million of principal on the date the

-MORE-

AirGate PCS Announces Fourth Quarter Fiscal 2003 Results

Page 5

December 18, 2003

restructuring is complete. Of this prepayment, \$7.5 million will be credited against principal payments otherwise due in 2004 and \$2.5 million will be credited against principal payments otherwise coming due in 2005. Other changes are not effective unless the restructuring is completed.

Reduction in Sprint/Affiliate Roaming Rate

Sprint has unilaterally reduced the reciprocal roaming rate among Sprint and its PCS Affiliates, including the Company, over time, from \$0.20 per minute of use prior to June 1, 2001, to \$0.10 per minute of use in calendar 2002 to \$0.058 per minute of use in 2003. On December 4, 2003, Sprint notified us that it intends to reduce the reciprocal roaming rate to \$0.041 per minute of use in 2004. If

Edgar Filing: AIRGATE PCS INC /DE/ - Form 425

this reduction had been in effect in fiscal 2003, it would have increased our net loss by \$4.3 million.

Auditor Opinion

In connection with their audit of our year-end financial results, KPMG LLP, our independent auditors, included an explanatory paragraph for "going concern" in their audit opinion with respect to our fiscal 2003 financial statements. Such an explanatory paragraph would result in a default under our credit facility. We have obtained an amendment of our credit facility to permit this explanatory paragraph and prevent a default under the credit facility.

Additional Information

AirGate has filed an exchange offer registration statement and a proxy statement relating to the restructuring transaction and exchange offer with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). Broadview International, LLC and Masson and Company are advising AirGate on the transaction. Jefferies & Company has been appointed dealer-manager for the exchange offer. AirGate and its directors and executive officers may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from the stockholders of AirGate with respect to the transactions contemplated by the exchange offer. Information about AirGate's directors and officers is included in AirGate's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on December 16, 2003 and in AirGate's Proxy Statement for its 2003 Annual Meeting of Shareowners filed with the SEC on January 28, 2003.

The foregoing reference to the registered exchange offer shall not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy, nor shall there be any sale of shares of AirGate's common stock or AirGate's 9 3/8% senior subordinated secured notes due 2009 in any state in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such state. Investors and security holders are urged to read the Registration Statement on Form S-4, including the prospectus relating to the exchange offer and the Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A (and, in each case, any amendments thereto) because they contain important information.

Preliminary drafts of these documents have been filed, and amendments to these documents have and will be filed, with the SEC. When these and other documents are filed with the SEC, they may be obtained at the SEC's web site at www.sec.gov. You may also obtain each of these documents (when available) from AirGate by directing your request to Barbara L. Blackford, Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary at (404) 525-7272.

-MORE-

AirGate PCS Announces Fourth Quarter Fiscal 2003 Results

Page 6

December 18, 2003

Conference Call

AirGate PCS will hold a conference call to discuss this press release Friday, December 19, 2003, at 9:00 a.m. ET. A live broadcast of the conference call will be available on-line at www.airgatepcsa.com or www.fulldisclosure.com. To listen to the live call, please go to the Web site at least 15 minutes early to register, download, and install any necessary audio software. For those who cannot listen to the live broadcast, a replay will be available shortly after the call through the close of business on January 19, 2004.

About AirGate PCS

AirGate PCS, Inc. is the PCS Affiliate of Sprint with the right to sell wireless mobility communications network products and services under the Sprint brand in

Edgar Filing: AIRGATE PCS INC /DE/ - Form 425

territories within three states located in the Southeastern United States. The territories include over 7.2 million residents in key markets such as Charleston, Columbia, and Greenville-Spartanburg, South Carolina; Augusta and Savannah, Georgia; and Asheville, Wilmington and the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

Safe Harbor Statement under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995
This news release contains forward-looking statements that are based on current expectations, estimates, forecasts and projections about the wireless industry, our beliefs and our management's assumptions. Words such as "expects," "anticipates," "targets," "goals," "projects," "intends," "plans," "believes," "seeks," "estimates" and variations of such words and similar expressions are intended to identify such forward-looking statements. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are difficult to predict. Therefore, actual outcomes and results may differ materially from what is expressed or forecast in such forward-looking statements.

Factors that could cause actual results to differ include: the ability to completed the proposed debt restructuring, the unsettled nature and increased competitiveness of the wireless market; the potential need for additional sources of liquidity; the potential to continue to experience a high rate of customer turnover; the effects of wireless local number portability; our ability to predict future customer growth, as well as other key operating metrics; the competitiveness and impact of Sprint wireless pricing plans, products and services; the ability to successfully launch and leverage 3G products and services; customer credit quality; our ability to retain customers; the ability of Sprint to provide back office, customer care and other services or our ability to outsource these services; the impact on our relationship with Sprint of our efforts to more closely examine Sprint charges and amounts payable by Sprint; the prices charged by Sprint for its services; the impact of our disputes with Sprint; consumer purchasing patterns; potential fluctuations in quarterly results; an adequate supply of subscriber equipment; risks related to our ability to compete with larger, more established businesses; rapid technological and market change; risks related to future growth and expansion; rates of penetration in the wireless industry; impacts of spending cuts on network quality, customer retention and customer growth; anticipated future losses; the significant level of indebtedness; the current economic slowdown; the impact of the iPCS bankruptcy filing; adequacy of bad debt and other reserves; and the volatility of AirGate PCS' stock price.

For a detailed discussion of these and other cautionary statements and factors that could cause actual results to differ from those contained in this news release, please refer to AirGate PCS' filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), especially in the "risk factors" section of AirGate PCS' Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2003 and in subsequent filings with the SEC. Except as otherwise required under federal securities laws and the rules and regulations of the SEC, we do not have any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, changes in assumptions or otherwise.

-MORE-

Edgar Filing: AIRGATE PCS INC /DE/ - Form 425

Financial Measures and Key Operating Metrics

In this press release, the Company uses several key operating metrics and non-GAAP financial measures. In Schedule I, the Company defines each of these metrics and provides a reconciliation of non-GAAP financial measures to the most directly comparable GAAP financial measure. These financial measures and operating metrics are a supplement to GAAP financial information and should not be considered as an alternative to, or more meaningful than, net loss, cash flow or operating loss as determined in accordance with GAAP.

-MORE-

AirGate PCS Announces Fourth Quarter Fiscal 2003 Results

Page 8

December 18, 2003

AirGate PCS, Inc., and Subsidiaries
Condensed Balance Sheet at September 30, 2003
(Unaudited)

(dollars in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

	AirGate PCS, Inc.

ASSETS	
Current Assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 54,078
Accounts receivable, net	26,994
Receivable from Sprint PCS	15,809
Inventories	2,132
Prepaid expenses	2,107
Other current assets	145

Total current assets	101,265
Property and equipment, net	178,070
Financing costs	6,682
Other assets	4,899

Total assets	\$ 290,916
	=====
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY (DEFICIT)	
Current Liabilities:	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 18,049
Payable to Sprint PCS	45,069
Deferred revenue	7,854
Current maturities of long term debt and capital lease obligations	17,775

Total current liabilities	88,747

Edgar Filing: AIRGATE PCS INC /DE/ - Form 425

Long-term debt and capital lease obligations, excluding current maturities	386,509
Investment in iPCS	184,115
Other long term liabilities	8,542

Total liabilities	667,913
Stockholders' equity (deficit):	
Common stock	259
Additional paid-in-capital	923,888
Unearned stock compensation	(203)
Accumulated deficit	(1,300,941)

Total stockholders' equity (deficit)	(376,997)

Total liabilities and stockholders' equity (deficit)	\$ 290,916
	=====

-MORE-

AirGate PCS Announces Fourth Quarter Fiscal 2003 Results
Page 9
December 18, 2003

AirGate PCS, Inc., and Subsidiaries
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations
(Unaudited)
(dollars in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

	Three Months Ended September 30,		
	2003	2002	2
	-----	-----	-----
Revenues:			
Service revenue	\$ 66,449	\$ 96,943	\$ 309
Roaming revenue	19,653	35,704	86
Equipment revenue	3,215	4,505	13
	-----	-----	-----
	89,317	137,152	410
	-----	-----	-----
Operating Expenses:			
Cost of services and roaming (exclusive of depreciation, as shown separately below)	49,119	94,470	243
Cost of equipment	6,019	13,486	28
Selling and marketing	10,839	31,098	68
General and administrative expenses	8,049	7,178	30
Depreciation and amortization	11,662	32,288	67
Loss on disposal of property and equipment	35	1,074	1
Impairment of goodwill	-	199,708	
Impairment of property and equipment	-	44,450	

Edgar Filing: AIRGATE PCS INC /DE/ - Form 425

Impairment of intangibles	-	312,043	
Total operating expenses	85,723	735,795	439
Operating loss	3,594	(598,643)	(29)
Interest income	135	60	
Interest expense	(11,544)	(16,401)	(55)
Loss before income tax benefit	(7,815)	(614,984)	(8)
Income tax benefit	-	-	
Net loss	\$ (7,815)	\$ (614,984)	\$ (8)
Basic and diluted net loss per share of common stock	\$ (0.29)	\$ (23.83)	\$
Basic and diluted weighted-average outstanding common shares	25,941,052	25,801,138	25,90

-MORE-

AirGate PCS Announces Fourth Quarter Fiscal 2003 Results
Page 10
December 18, 2003

AirGate PCS, Inc., and Subsidiaries
Condensed Consolidating Statements of Operations for the Year
Ended September 30, 2003
(Unaudited)
(dollars in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

	AirGate PCS, Inc.	iPCS, Inc.
	-----	-----
Revenues:		
Service revenue	\$ 251,481	\$ 57,896
Roaming revenue	68,222	18,893
Equipment revenue	11,645	2,575
	-----	-----
	331,348	79,364
Operating Expenses:		
Cost of services and roaming (exclusive of depreciation, as shown separately below)	187,365	56,269
Cost of equipment	21,522	7,129
Selling and marketing	51,769	16,417
General and administrative expenses	23,347	6,881
Depreciation and amortization	46,494	20,989
Loss on disposal of property and equipment	518	1,451
	-----	-----
Total operating expenses	331,015	109,136

Edgar Filing: AIRGATE PCS INC /DE/ - Form 425

Operating loss	333	(29,772)
Interest expense, net	(42,519)	(12,799)
Loss before income tax benefit	(42,186)	(42,571)
Income tax benefit	-	-
Net loss	\$ (42,186)	\$ (42,571)

Note: AirGate did not apply push down accounting for the acquisition of iPCS.

-MORE-

AirGate PCS Announces Fourth Quarter Fiscal 2003 Results
 Page 11
 December 18, 2003

SCHEDULE I

Financial Measures and Key Operating Metrics

We use certain operating and financial measures that are not calculated in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, or GAAP. A non-GAAP financial measure is defined as a numerical measure of a company's financial performance that (i) excludes amounts, or is subject to adjustments that have the effect of excluding amounts, that are included in the comparable measure calculated and presented in accordance with GAAP in the statement of income or statement of cash flows; or (ii) includes amounts, or is subject to adjustments that have the effect of including amounts, that are excluded from the comparable measure so calculated and presented.

Terms such as subscriber net additions, average revenue per user ("ARPU"), churn, cost per gross addition ("CPGA") and cash cost per user ("CCPU") are important operating metrics used in the wireless telecommunications industry. These metrics are important to compare us to other wireless service providers. ARPU, CCPU and CPGA also assist management in budgeting and CPGA also assists management in quantifying the incremental costs to acquire a new subscriber. Except for churn and net subscriber additions, we have included a reconciliation of these metrics to the most directly comparable GAAP financial measure. Churn and subscriber net additions are operating statistics with no comparable GAAP financial measure. ARPU, CPGA and CCPU are supplements to GAAP financial information and should not be considered an alternative to, or more meaningful than, revenues, expenses or net loss as determined in accordance with GAAP. In calculating CCPU, we exclude depreciation and amortization and selling and marketing expenses. CCPU is intended to provide an estimate of the ongoing cash costs of maintaining our existing subscribers. By excluding depreciation and amortization, the non-cash costs of assets needed to support our subscribers in not apparent. Further, by excluding selling and marketing expenses, all expenses to continue operating our business are not apparent to investors.

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, or "EBITDA", is a performance metric we use and which is used by other companies. Management believes that EBITDA is a useful adjunct to net loss and other measurements under GAAP because it is a meaningful measure of a company's performance, as interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization can vary significantly between

Edgar Filing: AIRGATE PCS INC /DE/ - Form 425

companies due in part to differences in accounting policies, tax strategies, levels of indebtedness, capital purchasing practices and interest rates. EBITDA also assists management in evaluating operating performance and is sometimes used to evaluate performance for executive compensation. We have included below a presentation of the GAAP financial measure most directly comparable to EBITDA, which is net loss, as well as a reconciliation of EBITDA to net loss. We have also provided a reconciliation to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities as supplemental information. EBITDA is a supplement to GAAP financial information and should not be considered an alternative to, or more meaningful than, net loss, cash flow or operating loss as determined in accordance with GAAP. EBITDA has distinct limitations as compared to GAAP information such as net loss, cash flow or operating loss. By excluding interest and tax payments for example, it may not be apparent that both represent a reduction in cash available to the Company. Likewise, depreciation and amortization, while non-cash items, represent generally the devaluation of assets that produce revenue for the Company.

EBITDA, ARPU, churn, CPGA and CCPU as used by the Company may not be comparable to a similarly titled measure of another company.

The following terms used in this report have the following meanings:

"EBITDA" means earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization.

"ARPU" summarizes the average monthly service revenue per user, excluding roaming revenue. The Company excludes roaming revenue from its ARPU calculation because this revenue is generated from customers of Sprint and other carriers that use our network and not directly from our subscribers. ARPU is computed by dividing service revenue for the period by the average subscribers for the period.

-MORE-

AirGate PCS Announces Fourth Quarter Fiscal 2003 Results

Page 12

December 18, 2003

"Churn" is the average monthly rate of subscriber turnover that both voluntarily and involuntarily discontinued service during the period, expressed as a percentage of the average subscribers. Churn is computed by dividing the number of subscribers that discontinued service during the period, net of 30-day returns, by the average subscribers for the period.

"CPGA" summarizes the average cost to acquire new subscribers during the period. CPGA is computed by adding the income statement components of selling and marketing (including commissions), cost of equipment and activation costs (which are included as a component of cost of service) and reducing that amount by the equipment revenue recorded. That net amount is then divided by the total new subscribers acquired during the period.

"CCPU" is a measure of the average monthly cash costs to operate the business on a per user basis consisting of subscriber support, network operations, service delivery, roaming expense, bad debt expense, wireless handset upgrade subsidies (but not commissions) and other general and administrative costs, divided by average subscribers for the period.

Edgar Filing: AIRGATE PCS INC /DE/ - Form 425

-MORE-

AirGate PCS Announces Fourth Quarter Fiscal 2003 Results
 Schedule I - Page 1
 December 18, 2003

AirGate PCS, Inc., and Subsidiaries
 Reconciliation of AirGate Stand-Alone and iPCS Non-GAAP Financial Measures
 for the Three Months Ended September 30, 2003
 (Unaudited)

The reconciliation of EBITDA to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities, as determined in accordance with GAAP, is as follows:

	AirGate	iPCS
	-----	-----
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	\$ 21,898	\$
Change in operating assets and liabilities	(5,723)	
Interest expense	11,544	
Accretion of interest	(8,540)	
Interest income	(135)	
Provision for doubtful accounts	(1,395)	
Other expense	(2,393)	
	-----	-----
EBITDA	\$ 15,256	\$
	=====	=====

The reconciliation of EBITDA to our reported net loss, as determined in accordance with GAAP, is as follows:

	AirGate	iPCS
	-----	-----
Net loss	\$ (7,815)	\$
Depreciation and Amortization	11,662	
Interest income	(135)	
Interest Expense	11,544	
	-----	-----
EBITDA	\$ 15,256	\$
	=====	=====

The reconciliation of ARPU to service revenue, as determined in accordance with GAAP, is as follows:

	AirGate	iPCS
	-----	-----
Average Revenue Per User (ARPU):		
Service Revenue	\$ 66,449	\$
Average subscribers	361,809	
ARPU	\$ 61	\$

The reconciliation of CCPU to cost of service expense as determined in

Edgar Filing: AIRGATE PCS INC /DE/ - Form 425

Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	\$ 50,182	\$ (7,6
Change in operating assets and liabilities	(6,061)	1,2
Interest expense	42,706	12,8
Accretion of interest	(32,698)	(11,5
Goodwill impairment	-	
Interest income	(187)	(
Provision for doubtful accounts	(5,218)	(1,6
Other expense	(1,897)	(1,9
EBITDA	\$ 46,827	\$ (8,7

The reconciliation of EBITDA to our reported net loss, as determined in accordance with GAAP, is as follows:

	AirGate	iPCS (2)
Net loss	(42,186)	\$ (42,5
Depreciation and Amortization	46,494	20,9
Interest income	(187)	(
Interest Expense	42,706	12,8
Income Tax benefit	-	
EBITDA	\$ 46,827	\$ (8,7

The reconciliation of ARPU to service revenue, as determined in accordance with GAAP, is as follows:

	AirGate	iPCS (2)
Average Revenue Per User (ARPU):		
Service Revenue	\$ 251,481	\$ 57,8
Average subscribers	349,300	222,7
ARPU	\$ 60	\$

The reconciliation of CCPU to cost of service expense as determined in accordance with GAAP, is calculated as follows:

	AirGate	iPCS (2)	Elimi
Cash Cost Per User (CCPU):			
Cost of service expense	\$ 187,365 (1)	\$ 56,269 (1)	
Less: Activation expense	(996)	(194)	
Plus: General and administrative expense	23,347	6,881	
Total cash costs	\$ 209,716	\$ 62,956	
Average subscribers	349,300	222,794	
CCPU	\$ 50	\$ 58	

The reconciliation of CPGA to selling and marketing expense as determined in accordance with GAAP, is calculated as follows:

Edgar Filing: AIRGATE PCS INC /DE/ - Form 425

Cost Per Gross Addition (CPGA):	AirGate	iPCS(2)	Eli
	-----	-----	-----
Sales and marketing expense	\$ 51,769	\$ 16,417	
Plus: Activation expense	996	194	
Plus: Cost of equipment	21,521 (1)	7,130 (1)	
Less: Equipment revenue	(11,645) (1)	(2,575) (1)	
	-----	-----	-----
Total acquisition costs	\$ 62,641	\$ 21,166	
	=====	=====	=====
Gross additions	172,007	59,403	
CPGA	\$ 364	\$ 356	

Notes

(1) Amounts are reflected prior to the elimination of intercompany transactions.

(2) For 2003, iPCS amounts represent the period between October 1, 2002 and February 23, 2003. For 2003, average subscribers for combined entity is a weighted average.

-MORE-

AirGate PCS Announces Fourth Quarter Fiscal 2003 Results
 Schedule I - Page 3
 December 18, 2003

AirGate PCS, Inc., and Subsidiaries
 Reconciliation of AirGate Stand-Alone and iPCS Non-GAAP Financial Measures
 for the Three Months Ended September 30, 2002
 (Unaudited)
 (dollars in thousands, except per unit amounts)

The reconciliation of EBITDA to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities, as determined in accordance with GAAP, is as follows:

	AirGate	iPCS
	-----	-----
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	\$ 1,626	\$ (553,6
Change in operating assets and liabilities	(6,279)	(3,7
Interest expense	10,714	5,6
Accretion of interest	(6,282)	(7,9
Interest income	(5)	(
Provision for doubtful accounts	(4,375)	(2
Other expense	(1,549)	(3
	-----	-----
EBITDA	\$ (6,150)	\$ (560,2
	=====	=====

Edgar Filing: AIRGATE PCS INC /DE/ - Form 425

The reconciliation of EBITDA to our reported net loss, as determined in accordance with GAAP, is as follows:

	AirGate	iPCS
Net loss	\$ (29,141)	\$ (585,8
Depreciation and Amortization	12,282	20,0
Interest income	(5)	(
Interest Expense	10,714	5,6
	\$ (6,150)	\$ (560,2
EBITDA	\$ (6,150)	\$ (560,2

The reconciliation of ARPU to service revenue, as determined in accordance with GAAP, is as follows:

	AirGate	iPCS
Average Revenue Per User (ARPU):		
Service Revenue	\$ 63,618	\$ 33,3
Average subscribers	338,221	205,4
ARPU	\$ 63	\$

The reconciliation of CCPU to cost of service expense as determined in accordance with GAAP, is calculated as follows:

	AirGate	iPCS	Elim
Cash Cost Per User (CCPU):			
Cost of service expense	\$ 59,286 (1)	\$ 35,492 (1)	
Less: Activation expense	(570)	(311)	
Plus: General and administrative expense	4,740	2,438	
	\$ 63,456	\$ 37,619	
	\$ 63,456	\$ 37,619	
Average subscribers	338,221	205,419	
CCPU	\$ 63	\$ 61	

The reconciliation of CPGA to selling and marketing expense as determined in accordance with GAAP, is calculated as follows:

	AirGate	iPCS	Elim
Cost Per Gross Addition (CPGA):			
Sales and marketing expense	\$ 19,414	\$ 11,684	
Plus: Activation expense	570	311	
Plus: Cost of equipment	7,310 (1)	6,254 (1)	
Less: Equipment revenue	(2,809) (1)	(1,774) (1)	
	\$ 24,485	\$ 16,475	
	\$ 24,485	\$ 16,475	

Edgar Filing: AIRGATE PCS INC /DE/ - Form 425

Gross additions	48,276	44,832
CPGA	\$ 507	\$ 367

Note: (1) Amounts are reflected prior to the elimination of intercompany transactions.

-MORE-

AirGate PCS Announces Fourth Quarter Fiscal 2003 Results
 Schedule I - Page 4
 December 18, 2003

AirGate PCS, Inc., and Subsidiaries
 Reconciliation of AirGate Stand-Alone and iPCS Non-GAAP Financial Measures
 for the Year Ended September 30, 2002
 (Unaudited)
 (dollars in thousands, except per unit amounts)

The reconciliation of EBITDA to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities, as determined in accordance with GAAP, is as follows:

	AirGate	iPCS (2)
	-----	-----
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	\$ (24,460)	\$ (20,7
Change in operating assets and liabilities	24,446	3,0
Interest expense	35,474	21,6
Accretion of interest	(27,605)	(23,0
Goodwill and asset impairments	-	(817,4
Interest and other income	(161)	(4
Provision for doubtful accounts	(21,343)	(5,5
Other expense	(3,054)	
	-----	-----
EBITDA	\$ (16,703)	\$ (842,5
	=====	=====

The reconciliation of EBITDA to our reported net loss, as determined in accordance with GAAP, is as follows:

	AirGate	iPCS (2)
	-----	-----
Net loss	\$ (92,780)	\$ (903,8
Depreciation and Amortization	40,764	68,7
Interest income	(161)	(4
Interest Expense	35,474	21,6
Income Tax benefit	-	(28,7
	-----	-----
EBITDA	\$ (16,703)	\$ (842,5

Edgar Filing: AIRGATE PCS INC /DE/ - Form 425

The reconciliation of ARPU to service revenue, as determined in accordance with GAAP, is as follows:

	AirGate	iPCS (2)
	-----	-----
Average Revenue Per User (ARPU):		
Service Revenue	\$ 226,504	\$ 100,8
Average subscribers	310,013	183,4
ARPU	\$ 61	\$

The reconciliation of CCPU to cost of service expense as determined in accordance with GAAP, is calculated as follows:

	AirGate	iPCS (2)	Elim
	-----	-----	-----
Cash Cost Per User (CCPU):			
Cost of service expense	\$ 204,153 (1)	\$ 107,924 (1)	
Less: Activation expense	(1,830)	(907)	
Plus: General and administrative expense	18,143	7,708	
Total cash costs	\$ 220,466	\$ 114,725	
Average subscribers	310,013	183,407	
CCPU	\$ 59	\$ 62	

The reconciliation of CPGA to selling and marketing expense as determined in accordance with GAAP, is calculated as follows:

	AirGate	iPCS (2)	Eli
	-----	-----	-----
Cost Per Gross Addition (CPGA):			
Sales and marketing expense	\$ 79,099	\$ 37,511	
Plus: Activation expense	1,830	907	
Plus: Cost of equipment	27,778 (1)	16,107 (1)	
Less: Equipment revenue	(13,027) (1)	(5,296) (1)	
Total acquisition costs	\$ 95,680	\$ 49,229	
Gross additions	247,221	127,028	
CPGA	\$ 387	\$ 388	

Notes:

(1) Amounts are reflected prior to the elimination of intercompany transactions.

(2) For 2002, iPCS amounts represent the period between December 1, 2002 and June 30, 2002. For 2002, average subscribers for combined entity is a weighted average.

-END-

