

NIC INC  
Form 10-Q  
November 04, 2010

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

FORM 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2010

Commission file number 000-26621

NIC INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

52-2077581  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

25501 West Valley Parkway, Suite 300, Olathe, Kansas 66061  
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (877) 234-3468

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer", "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

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Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

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

As of October 31, 2010, the number of shares outstanding of the registrant's common stock, \$0.0001 par value per share, was 63,690,064.

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PART I - FINANCIAL INFORMATION  
ITEM 1. CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS

NIC INC.  
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS  
(UNAUDITED)  
thousands

	September 30, 2010	December 31, 2009
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 59,230	\$ 68,632
Trade accounts receivable	39,862	38,964
Deferred income taxes, net	1,027	834
Prepaid expenses & other current assets	4,283	3,231
Total current assets	104,402	111,661
Property and equipment, net	6,588	6,428
Intangible assets, net	1,693	1,991
Deferred income taxes, net	2,818	3,285
Other assets	242	242
Total assets	\$ 115,743	\$ 123,607
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
<b>Current liabilities:</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 37,100	\$ 42,872
Accrued expenses	13,929	12,793
Other current liabilities	268	777
Total current liabilities	51,297	56,442
Other long-term liabilities	859	607
Total liabilities	52,156	57,049
Commitments and contingencies (Notes 2 and 7)	-	-
<b>Stockholders' equity:</b>		
Common stock, \$0.0001 par, 200,000 shares authorized,		
63,672 and 63,239 shares issued and outstanding	6	6
Additional paid-in capital	123,311	139,587
Accumulated deficit	(59,730 )	(73,035 )
Total stockholders' equity	63,587	66,558
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 115,743	\$ 123,607

The accompanying Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of these statements.



NIC INC.  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME  
(UNAUDITED)

thousands except for per share amounts

	Three-months ended September 30,		Nine-months ended September 30,	
	2010	2009	2010	2009
<b>Revenues:</b>				
Portal revenues	\$ 39,763	\$ 36,236	\$ 116,431	\$ 93,408
Software & services revenues	1,957	1,018	4,284	3,058
Total revenues	41,720	37,254	120,715	96,466
<b>Operating expenses:</b>				
Cost of portal revenues, exclusive of depreciation & amortization	23,714	21,133	70,919	53,743
Cost of software & services revenues, exclusive of depreciation & amortization	1,093	609	3,025	1,847
Selling & administrative	6,504	6,163	21,910	19,589
Nonrecurring gain on acquisition of business, net of tax (Note 3)	-	-	-	(2,184 )
Amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets	81	1,770	242	2,398
Depreciation & amortization	1,081	1,009	3,253	2,949
Total operating expenses	32,473	30,684	99,349	78,342
Operating income	9,247	6,570	21,366	18,124
<b>Other income (expense):</b>				
Interest income	1	3	2	48
Other expense, net	-	-	(2 )	-
Total other income (expense)	1	3	-	48
Income before income taxes	9,248	6,573	21,366	18,172
Income tax provision	3,196	2,453	8,061	6,543
Net income	\$ 6,052	\$ 4,120	\$ 13,305	\$ 11,629
Basic net income per share	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.06	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.18
Diluted net income per share	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.06	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.18
<b>Weighted average shares outstanding:</b>				
Basic	63,609	63,062	63,449	62,933
Diluted	63,678	63,179	63,517	63,019

The accompanying Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of these statements.



NIC INC.  
 CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY  
 (UNAUDITED)  
 thousands

	Common Stock		Additional	Accumulated	Total
	Shares	Amount	Paid-in Capital	Deficit	
Balance, January 1, 2010	63,239	\$ 6	\$ 139,587	\$ (73,035 )	\$ 66,558
Net income	-	-	-	13,305	13,305
Cash dividends on common stock (Note 4)	-	-	(19,312 )	-	(19,312 )
Shares surrendered and cancelled upon vesting of restricted stock to satisfy tax withholdings	(122 )	-	(911 )	-	(911 )
Stock option exercises and restricted stock vestings	399	-	15	-	15
Stock-based compensation	-	-	3,137	-	3,137
Tax deductions relating to stock-based compensation	-	-	113	-	113
Issuance of common stock under employee stock purchase plan	156	-	682	-	682
Balance, September 30, 2010	63,672	\$ 6	\$ 123,311	\$ (59,730 )	\$ 63,587

The accompanying Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of these statements.

NIC INC.  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
(UNAUDITED)  
thousands

	Nine-months ended September 30,	
	2010	2009
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 13,305	\$ 11,629
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities, excluding the effects of acquisition:		
Amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets	242	2,398
Depreciation & amortization	3,253	2,949
Stock-based compensation expense	3,137	2,121
Deferred income taxes, net	274	4,504
Nonrecurring gain on acquisition of business, net of tax (Note 3)	-	(2,184 )
Loss on disposal of property and equipment	2	-
Changes in operating assets and liabilities, net of acquisition:		
(Increase) in trade accounts receivable	(898 )	(2,286 )
(Increase) decrease in prepaid expenses & other current assets	(1,052 )	213
(Increase) in other assets	-	(55 )
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	(5,772 )	4,800
Increase in accrued expenses	225	4,146
Increase (decrease) in other current liabilities	(509 )	152
Increase (decrease) in other long-term liabilities	252	(562 )
Net cash provided by operating activities	12,459	27,825
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchases of property and equipment	(2,958 )	(2,458 )
Capitalized internal use software development costs	(401 )	(400 )
Acquisition of business (Note 3)	-	(1,500 )
Net cash used in investing activities	(3,359 )	(4,358 )
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Cash dividends on common stock	(19,312 )	(19,150 )
Proceeds from employee common stock purchases	682	465
Proceeds from exercise of employee stock options	15	90
Tax deductions related to stock-based compensation	113	1,388
Net cash used in financing activities	(18,502 )	(17,207 )
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(9,402 )	6,260
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	68,632	60,373
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$ 59,230	\$ 66,633



Other cash flow information:

Income taxes paid	\$	8,405	\$	800
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The accompanying Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of these statements.

## NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The interim consolidated financial statements of NIC Inc. and its subsidiaries ("NIC" or the "Company") included herein have been prepared, without audit, pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). Certain information and disclosures normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles have been condensed or omitted pursuant to such rules and regulations. In management's opinion, the unaudited interim consolidated financial statements reflect all adjustments (which include only normal recurring adjustments, except as disclosed) necessary to present fairly the consolidated financial position, results of operations and cash flows of the Company and its subsidiaries as of the dates and for the interim periods presented. These unaudited consolidated financial statements and notes should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and related notes and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, filed with the SEC on March 16, 2010, and Item 2, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included in this Form 10-Q. The consolidated balance sheet data included herein as of December 31, 2009 was derived from audited financial statements, but does not include all disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates. The results of operations for the three and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2010 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the full year ending December 31, 2010.

### 1. THE COMPANY AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### The Company

NIC is a provider of eGovernment services that helps governments use the Internet to increase internal efficiencies and provide a higher level of service to businesses and citizens. The Company accomplishes this currently through two channels: its primary portal outsourcing businesses and its software & services businesses.

In its primary portal outsourcing business, the Company designs, builds and operates Internet-based, enterprise-wide portals on behalf of state and local governments desiring to provide access to government information and to complete government-based transactions online. These portals consist of Web sites and applications the Company has built that allow businesses and citizens to access government information online and complete transactions, including applying for a permit, retrieving driver's license records or filing a government-mandated form or report. Operating under multiple-year contracts (see Note 2), NIC markets the services and solicits users to complete government-based transactions and to enter into subscriber contracts permitting users to access the portal and the government information contained therein in exchange for transactional and/or subscription user fees. The Company manages operations for each contractual relationship through separate local subsidiaries that operate as decentralized businesses with a high degree of autonomy. NIC's self-funding business model allows the Company to generate revenues by sharing in the fees the Company collects from eGovernment transactions. The Company's government partners benefit through reducing their financial and technology risks, increasing their operational efficiencies and gaining a centralized, customer-focused presence on the Internet, while businesses and citizens receive a faster, more convenient and more cost-effective means to interact with governments. The Company is typically responsible for funding up-front investment and ongoing operations and maintenance costs of the government portals.

The Company's software & services businesses primarily include its subsidiaries that provide software development and services other than portal outsourcing services to state and local governments, and include NIC Technologies and NIC Conquest. NIC Technologies recently entered into a new contract with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration ("FMCSA") to develop and manage a National Motor Carrier Pre-Employment Screening Program ("NMCPSP"). The NMCPSP launched in the second quarter of 2010. The contract has an initial term which expires on February 16, 2011, with four single-year renewals at the option of the FMCSA. NIC Technologies also designs and develops online campaign expenditure and ethics compliance systems for federal and state government agencies through its contracts with the Federal Election Commission ("FEC") and the state of Michigan. The contract with the FEC expires on December 31, 2011 and the contract with the state of Michigan expires on December 31, 2012. NIC Conquest completed the maintenance and operations phase of its one remaining contract to provide software applications and services for electronic filings and document management for the California Secretary of State ("California SOS") effective December 31, 2009, and delivered a final release of its application to the California SOS for acceptance testing. During the first quarter of 2010, the California SOS completed its acceptance testing and moved the final release into production. As a result, NIC Conquest has no future obligations under this contract. NIC offers UCC applications through several of its state portals, typically through the Secretary of State's office; however, transactional revenues associated with these applications are not associated with NIC Conquest and are included in portal revenues.

## Basis of presentation

The Company classifies its revenues and cost of revenues into two categories: (1) portal and (2) software & services. The portal category includes revenues from the Company's subsidiaries operating government portals under long-term contracts on an outsourced basis. The software & services category includes revenues primarily from the Company's software & services businesses. The primary categories of operating expenses include: cost of portal revenues, cost of software & services revenues, selling & administrative, amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets and depreciation & amortization. Cost of portal revenues consist of all direct costs associated with operating government portals on an outsourced basis including employee compensation (including stock-based compensation), telecommunications, merchant fees required to process credit card and automated clearinghouse transactions, and all other costs associated with the provision of dedicated client service such as dedicated facilities. Cost of software & services revenues consist of all direct project costs to provide software development and services such as employee compensation (including stock-based compensation), subcontractor labor costs, and all other direct project costs including hardware, software, materials, travel and other out-of-pocket expenses. Selling & administrative costs consist primarily of corporate-level expenses relating to human resource management, administration, information technology, security, legal, finance and accounting, and all costs of non-customer service personnel from the Company's software & services businesses, including information systems and office rent. Selling & administrative costs also consist of stock-based compensation and corporate-level expenses for market development and public relations. In addition, selling & administrative costs include legal fees and other expenses, net of insurance reimbursements received during 2010, incurred in connection with the ongoing SEC investigation and Audit Committee review. See Note 7 for additional information.

Certain amounts in the 2009 financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the 2010 presentation.

## Earnings per share

The Company accounts for its service-based restricted stock awards, which contain non-forfeitable rights to dividends, as participating securities. Accordingly, service-based restricted stock awards were included in the calculation of earnings per share using the two-class method, which is an earnings allocation formula that treats a participating security as having rights to undistributed earnings that would otherwise have been available to common stockholders. Unvested service-based restricted shares totaled approximately 1.1 million at both September 30, 2010 and 2009. Basic earnings per share is calculated by first allocating earnings between common stockholders and participating securities. Earnings attributable to common stockholders are divided by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the relevant period. Diluted earnings per share is calculated by giving effect to dilutive potential common shares outstanding during the relevant period. The dilutive effect of stock options and shares related to the employee stock purchase plan is determined based on the treasury stock method. The dilutive effect of service-based restricted stock awards is based on the more dilutive of the treasury stock method or the two-class method assuming a reallocation of undistributed earnings to common stockholders after considering the dilutive effect of potential common shares other than the participating unvested restricted stock awards. The dilutive effect of performance-based restricted stock awards is based on the treasury stock method.

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted earnings per share (in thousands, except per share amounts):

	For the three months ended September 30,		For the nine months ended September 30,	
	2010	2009	2010	2009
<b>Numerator:</b>				
Net income	\$ 6,052	\$ 4,120	\$ 13,305	\$ 11,629
	(96)	(67)	(313)	(290)

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Less: Income allocated to participating securities								
Net income available to common stockholders	\$	5,956	\$	4,053	\$	12,992	\$	11,339
Denominator:								
Weighted average shares – basic		63,609		63,062		63,449		62,933
Stock options and restricted stock awards		69		117		68		86
Weighted average shares – diluted		63,678		63,179		63,517		63,019
Basic net income per share:								
Net income	\$	0.09	\$	0.06	\$	0.20	\$	0.18
Diluted net income per share:								
Net income	\$	0.09	\$	0.06	\$	0.20	\$	0.18

There were no outstanding stock options excluded from the computation of diluted weighted average shares outstanding for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2010 and 2009.

### Concentration of credit risk

Financial instruments that potentially subject the Company to significant concentrations of credit risk consist primarily of cash and cash equivalents and accounts receivable. The Company limits its exposure to credit loss by depositing its cash with high credit quality financial institutions and monitoring the financial stability of those institutions. In November 2008, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation adopted the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program (“TLGP”) to strengthen investor confidence and encourage liquidity in the banking system by providing full coverage on noninterest bearing deposit transaction accounts, regardless of dollar amount, for participating banks through December 31, 2009. In August 2009, the FDIC extended the Transaction Account Guarantee (“TAG”) portion of the TLGP to allow participating banks to continue in the program through June 30, 2010. In April 2010, the FDIC extended the TAG portion of the TLGP to allow participating banks to continue in the program through December 31, 2010. At September 30, 2010, the amount of cash held by the Company in domestic non-interest bearing checking accounts was approximately \$58.0 million (of which approximately \$9.1 million was either held at banks electing to continue participation in the TAG or subject to FDIC insurance, while approximately \$48.9 million exceeded FDIC insurance limits), while the amount of cash held in interest-bearing sweep accounts was approximately \$1.2 million. With respect to the cash held in sweep accounts, the Company limits its exposure to credit loss by investing the cash held in its sweep accounts primarily in U.S. government money market accounts that purchase U.S. agency instruments, direct obligations of the U.S. Treasury or repurchase agreements secured by U.S. agency instruments. The Company performs ongoing credit evaluations of its customers and generally requires no collateral to secure accounts receivable. The Company has not experienced any significant credit losses for the periods reported.

### Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In October 2009, the FASB issued new guidance related to the accounting for multiple-deliverable revenue arrangements. These new rules amend the existing guidance for separating consideration into multiple-deliverable arrangements and establish a selling price hierarchy for determining the selling price of a deliverable. The new guidance regarding multiple-deliverable revenue arrangements is effective for the Company beginning January 1, 2011. The guidance may be applied retrospectively or prospectively for new or materially modified arrangements. The Company is currently evaluating the requirements of this new guidance and has not yet determined the impact, if any, on its consolidated financial statements.

In October 2009, the FASB issued new guidance that changes the accounting model for revenue arrangements that include both tangible products and software elements. Tangible products containing software components and non-software components that function together to deliver the tangible product’s essential functionality are no longer within the scope of the software revenue guidance. The new guidance regarding software revenue arrangements is effective for the Company beginning January 1, 2011. The guidance may be applied retrospectively or prospectively for new or materially modified arrangements. The Company is currently evaluating the requirements of this new guidance and has not yet determined the impact, if any, on its consolidated financial statements.

## 2. OUTSOURCED GOVERNMENT PORTAL CONTRACTS

The Company currently has contracts to provide portal outsourcing services for 23 states, and was recently awarded a new portal contract in New Jersey, which has not yet fully deployed. These contracts generally have an initial term of three to five years with provisions for renewals for various periods at the option of the government. The Company's primary business obligation under these contracts is to design, build and operate Internet-based portals on an enterprise-wide basis on behalf of governments desiring to provide access to government information and to complete government-based transactions online. NIC typically markets the services and solicits users to complete government-based transactions and to enter into subscriber contracts permitting the user to access the portal and the

government information contained therein in exchange for transactional and/or subscription user fees. The Company enters into separate agreements with various agencies and divisions of the government to provide specific services and to conduct specific transactions. These agreements preliminarily establish the pricing of the electronic transactions and data access services the Company provides and the division of revenues between the Company and the government agency. The government oversight authority must approve prices and revenue sharing agreements. The Company has limited control over the level of fees it is permitted to retain. Any changes made to the amount or percentage of fees retained by NIC, or to the amounts charged for the services offered, could adversely affect the profitability of the respective contract to NIC.

The Company is typically responsible for funding up-front investment and ongoing operations and maintenance costs of the government portals, and generally owns all applications developed under these contracts. After completion of a defined contract term, the government agency typically receives a perpetual, royalty-free license to the applications for use only. However, certain customer management, billing and payment processing software applications that the Company has developed and standardized centrally and that are utilized by the Company's portal businesses, are being provided to an increasing number of government partners on a software-as-a-service basis, and thus would not be included in any royalty-free license. If the Company's contract were not to be renewed after a defined term, the government agency would be entitled to take over the portal in place with no future obligation of the Company, except for services provided by the Company on a software-as-a-service basis, which would be available to the government agency on a fee-for-service basis.

Any renewal of these contracts beyond the initial term is optional and a government may terminate its contract prior to the expiration date upon specific cause events that are not cured within a specified period and, in certain circumstances, upon passing legislation. Eleven contracts under which the Company provides portal outsourcing services can be terminated by the other party without cause on a specified period of notice; collectively, revenues generated from these contracts represented 59% of the Company's portal revenues for both the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2010. In the event that any of these contracts would be terminated without cause, the terms of the respective contract may require the government to pay a fee to the Company in order to continue to use the Company's software in its portal. In addition, the loss of one or more of the Company's larger state portal partners, such as Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Utah or Virginia, as a result of the expiration, termination or failure to renew the respective contract, if such partner is not replaced, could significantly reduce the Company's revenues and profitability.

At September 30, 2010, the Company was bound by performance bond commitments totaling approximately \$4.5 million on certain portal outsourcing contracts. Under a typical portal contract, the Company is required to fully indemnify its government clients against claims that the Company's services infringe upon the intellectual property rights of others and against claims arising from the Company's performance or the performance of the Company's subcontractors under the contract. We have never had any defaults resulting in draws on performance bonds or letters of credit.

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The following is a summary of the Company's twenty-three outsourced state government portal contracts at September 30, 2010 together with the year the Company commenced providing services to the state:

NIC Subsidiary	Portal Web Site (State)	Year Services Commenced	Contract Expiration Date (Renewal Options Through)
New Mexico Interactive, LLC	www.mvd.newmexico.gov (New Mexico)	2009	6/1/2013
Texas NICUSA, LLC	www.Texas.gov (Texas)	2009	8/31/2016
West Virginia Interactive	www.WV.gov (West Virginia)	2007	6/30/2011 (6/30/2013)
NICUSA, AZ Division	www.AZ.gov (Arizona)	2007	6/26/2011 (6/26/2013)
Vermont Information Consortium	www.Vermont.gov (Vermont)	2006	10/14/2012
Colorado Interactive	www.Colorado.gov (Colorado)	2005	5/18/2014
South Carolina Interactive	www.SC.gov (South Carolina)	2005	7/15/2014
Kentucky Interactive	www.Kentucky.gov (Kentucky)	2003	8/19/2012 (8/19/2015)
Alabama Interactive	www.Alabama.gov (Alabama)	2002	2/28/2011 (2/28/2012)
Rhode Island Interactive	www.RI.gov (Rhode Island)	2001	8/7/2012
Oklahoma Interactive	www.OK.gov (Oklahoma)	2001	12/31/2010 (12/31/2014)
Montana Interactive	www.MT.gov (Montana)	2001	12/31/2010
NICUSA, TN Division	www.Tennessee.gov (Tennessee)	2000	8/27/2011
Hawaii Information Consortium	www.Hawaii.gov (Hawaii)	2000	1/3/2013 (unlimited 3-year renewal options)
Idaho Information Consortium	www.Idaho.gov (Idaho)	2000	6/30/2011 (6/30/2015)
Utah Interactive	www.Utah.gov (Utah)	1999	6/5/2013 (6/5/2019)
Maine Information Network	www.Maine.gov (Maine)	1999	3/14/2012 (3/14/2018)
Arkansas Information Consortium	www.Arkansas.gov (Arkansas)	1997	6/30/2011
Iowa Interactive	www.Iowa.gov (Iowa)	1997	3/31/2011 (3/31/2012)
Virginia Interactive	www.Virginia.gov (Virginia)	1997	8/31/2012
Indiana Interactive	www.IN.gov (Indiana)	1995	7/1/2014
Nebraska Interactive	www.Nebraska.gov (Nebraska)	1995	1/31/2014 (1/31/2016)
Kansas Information Consortium	www.Kansas.gov (Kansas)	1992	12/31/2012 (12/31/2016)



### 3. ACQUIRED TEXAS PORTAL MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS

On May 29, 2009, the Company, through its indirect wholly-owned subsidiary Texas NICUSA, LLC (“TXNICUSA”), completed the acquisition of certain assets from BearingPoint, Inc. (“BearingPoint”), including the then-current portal management contract and related contracts for the state of Texas through December 31, 2009 (the “Acquired Texas Contracts”). The acquired assets were part of BearingPoint’s North American Public Services Unit which BearingPoint previously agreed to sell to Deloitte LLP (“Deloitte”) pursuant to an Asset Purchase Agreement dated March 23, 2009 (“Asset Purchase Agreement”). BearingPoint had previously filed for relief under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code in February 2009. Pursuant to the terms of the Asset Purchase Agreement, Deloitte designated the Company as the acquirer of certain designated contracts and assets, and the Company acquired the rights to the designated contracts and the assets directly from BearingPoint.

The Company paid Deloitte \$1.5 million in cash in exchange for the designation of the Company as the acquirer of the designated contracts and assets from BearingPoint. The Company funded the purchase price from its existing cash resources.

The acquisition was accounted for under the purchase method of accounting. For further discussion of the Company’s acquisition of the Acquired Texas Contracts, see Note 4 in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in the Company’s 2009 Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 16, 2010.

The following unaudited pro forma information presents consolidated financial results as if the acquisition was completed as of January 1, 2009. This supplemental unaudited pro forma information has been prepared for comparative purposes only and is not intended to be indicative of what the Company's results would have been had the acquisition been completed on January 1, 2009, nor does it purport to be indicative of any future results.

(in thousands, except per share data)	For the nine months ended September 30, 2009	
Revenues	\$	110,843
Net income	\$	12,157
Net income per common share:		
Basic	\$	0.19
Diluted	\$	0.19

The amounts above have been calculated after applying the Company's accounting policies and adjusting the results to reflect the \$2.2 million nonrecurring gain on acquisition of business (net of tax) and additional amortization expense that would have been incurred assuming the fair value adjustments to the net assets acquired had been applied from January 1, 2009, together with the consequential tax effects.

As discussed in Note 3 in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in the Company's 2009 Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 16, 2010, during the third quarter of 2009, the Company entered into a new seven year contract with the state of Texas to manage the state's official government portal (the "New Texas Contract"). The New Texas Contract commenced on January 1, 2010 and runs through August 31, 2016. The New Texas Contract has terms substantially different than the Acquired Texas Contracts. The Acquired Texas Contracts expired December 31, 2009, except that certain Master Work Order projects expire August 31, 2012 and others expire August 31, 2014.

#### 4. SPECIAL CASH DIVIDEND

On February 1, 2010, the Company's Board of Directors declared a special cash dividend of \$0.30 per share, payable to stockholders of record as of February 16, 2010. The dividend, totaling approximately \$19.3 million, was paid on February 26, 2010 on 63,276,943 outstanding shares of common stock. A dividend equivalent of \$0.30 per share was also paid simultaneously on 1,099,352 unvested shares of restricted stock granted under the Company's 2006 Stock Option and Incentive Plan. The dividend was paid out of the Company's available cash.

The dividend may result in a partial return of capital to stockholders, with the balance being taxable to stockholders as a qualified dividend. The exact amount of the return of capital, if any, is dependent on the earnings and profits of the Company through the end of its 2010 fiscal year.

#### 5. INCOME TAXES

The Company, along with its wholly owned subsidiaries, files a consolidated U.S. federal income tax return and separate income tax returns in many states throughout the U.S. The Company's tax returns are not currently under examination by any of these tax authorities. The Company remains subject to U.S. federal examination for the tax years ended on or after December 31, 2007. State income tax returns are generally subject to examination for a period of three to five years after filing of the respective return.

The Company's effective tax rate was approximately 35% and 38%, respectively, for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2010, compared to 37% and 36%, respectively, in the prior year periods. The Company's effective tax rate for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2010 includes a favorable benefit related

to the federal research and development tax credit for fiscal year 2009 totaling approximately \$0.5 million and a decrease in the liability for uncertain tax positions totaling approximately \$0.2 million. Legislation extending the research and development tax credit beyond December 31, 2009 has not yet been enacted.

As further discussed in Note 7, the Company recorded a \$500,000 liability in the third quarter of 2010 in anticipation of a civil penalty that may be part of a settlement relating to an ongoing SEC investigation. The Company did not record a tax benefit on this amount because such penalties are typically not deductible from an income tax standpoint.

The Company's effective tax rate for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2009 includes a decrease in the liability for uncertain tax positions totaling approximately \$0.1 million. The Company's effective tax rate for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2009 was lower than the rate customarily expected due primarily to the nonrecurring gain on acquisition of business being presented net of taxes (of approximately \$1.2 million) in operating income, as required by authoritative accounting guidance for business acquisitions. Including the tax impact related to the nonrecurring gain on acquisition of business, our effective tax rate would have been approximately 40% for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2009.

A reconciliation of the beginning and ending amount of the consolidated liability for unrecognized income tax benefits is as follows (in thousands):

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2010	2009	2010	2009
Beginning balance	\$499	\$468	\$499	\$468
Additions for tax positions of prior years	113	1	113	1
Reductions for tax positions of prior years	(154 )	-	(154 )	-
Expiration of the statute of limitations	(133 )	(136 )	(133 )	(136 )
Ending balance	\$325	\$333	\$325	\$333

It is expected that the amount of unrecognized tax benefits will change in the next 12 months. However, the Company does not expect the change to have a significant impact on its results of operations or financial condition.

The Company recognizes accrued interest and penalties associated with uncertain tax positions as part of its income tax provision in the consolidated statements of income. At September 30, 2010 and 2009, accrued interest and penalty amounts were not material.

## 6. STOCK BASED COMPENSATION

During the third quarter of 2010, the Board of Directors of the Company granted certain non-executive management-level employees and non-employee directors service-based restricted stock awards totaling 319,078 shares, with a grant-date fair value of \$7.58 per share, totaling approximately \$2.4 million. During the nine-month period ended September 30, 2010, the Board of Directors of the Company granted certain management-level employees, executive officers and non-employee directors service-based restricted stock awards totaling 414,888 shares, with a grant date fair value totaling approximately \$3.2 million. Such restricted stock awards generally vest beginning one year from the date of grant in cumulative annual installments of 25%. Restricted stock is valued at the date of grant, based on the closing market price of the Company's common stock, and expensed using the straight-line method over the requisite service period.

During the first quarter of 2010, the Board of Directors of the Company also granted certain executive officers performance-based restricted stock awards pursuant to the terms of the Company's executive compensation program totaling 126,219 shares, with a grant date fair value of \$8.34 per share, totaling approximately \$1.1 million, which represents the maximum number of shares able to be earned by the executive officers at the end of a three-year performance period ending December 31, 2012. The actual number of shares earned will be based on the Company's performance related to the following performance criteria over the performance period:

- Operating income growth (three-year compound annual growth rate)
- Total revenue growth (three-year compound annual growth rate)
  - Cash flow return on invested capital (three-year average)

At the end of the three-year period, the executive officers will receive a specified number of shares based upon certain historical performance criteria.

Performance-based restricted stock is valued at the date of grant, based on the closing market price of the Company's common stock, and expensed over the requisite service period, beginning on the date of grant, based upon the probable number of shares expected to vest.

The following table presents stock-based compensation expense included in the Company's consolidated statements of income (in thousands):

	For the three months ended		For the nine months ended	
	September 30,		September 30,	
	2010	2009	2010	2009
Cost of portal revenues, exclusive of depreciation & amortization	\$ 264	\$ 169	\$ 799	\$ 535
Cost of software & services revenues, exclusive of depreciation and amortization	14	8	39	25
Selling & administrative	876	561	2,299	1,561
Stock-based compensation expense before income taxes	1,154	738	3,137	2,121
Income tax benefit	(378)	(288)	(1,156)	(828)
Net stock-based compensation expense	\$ 776	\$ 450	\$ 1,981	\$ 1,293



## 7. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

### SEC Investigation

The Company has previously disclosed the status of an investigation by the staff of the Division of Enforcement (the "Staff") of the SEC regarding the reimbursement of expenses to Jeffery S. Fraser, the Company's former Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer. The Company has engaged in discussions with the Staff to resolve this matter through a settlement that may involve a civil money penalty of \$500,000, certain preventive undertakings and a civil injunction action against the Company for alleged violations of Sections 17(a)(2) and (a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933 and Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A) and (B) and 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and certain related rules under those provisions. As a result of these discussions, the Company has recorded a \$500,000 liability in the third quarter of 2010 relating to the potential civil penalty.

It is the Company's understanding that separate counsel for each of Harry H. Herington, the Company's Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, and Stephen M. Kovzan, the Company's Chief Financial Officer, have also engaged in settlement discussions with the Staff, the resolution of which would be independent of one another or any settlement with the Company. It is anticipated that any relief obtained by the SEC pursuant to a settlement with Mr. Herington would involve injunctive relief relating to provisions of the federal securities laws similar to those referenced above with respect to the Company and a civil penalty, but would not include any bar against his service as an officer or director of a public company. The settlement discussions involving Mr. Kovzan are ongoing and the prospects for resolution are unclear. Any settlement by the Company or Mr. Herington or Mr. Kovzan would be made without admitting or denying the Staff's allegations.

No assurance can be given as to whether or when any settlement might occur or as to the final terms and conditions of any settlement. Any settlement recommended by the Staff would be subject to approval by the Commission. In addition, any settlement approved by the Commission would be subject to the approval of a federal district court with jurisdiction over the matter. Because the matter is not concluded, it is unclear whether the Commission will approve the settlement on the terms described above.

If the Company and the officers do not enter into settlements with the SEC, there can be no assurance that the SEC will not take actions that could adversely affect the Company as a result of the matters described above. Among other things, if the SEC were to authorize and obtain officer and director bars in a SEC civil injunctive action against any of the members of management referenced above, or William F. Bradley, Jr., the Company's Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel, the Company would lose the services of key personnel that could be expected to have a material adverse effect on the Company. Whether or not settlement is achieved, there could be an adverse affect on the Company's reputation and customer relationships from the resulting charges, which may, in turn, impair its ability to obtain new business or retain existing business on current or revised terms.

For the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2010, the Company incurred approximately \$1.0 million and \$3.8 million, respectively, in legal fees and other third-party costs in connection with the ongoing SEC investigation and the Audit Committee review, and received approximately \$1.2 million and \$1.6 million, respectively, of reimbursement from its directors' and officers' liability insurance carrier. This compared to approximately \$0.3 million and \$0.9 million, respectively, of legal fees and other third-party costs for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2009 incurred in connection with such investigation and review. The Company expects to continue to incur significant legal fees and other expenses in connection with the ongoing SEC investigation and Audit Committee review.

### Derivative Action

A purported shareholder derivative action was filed against the Company (solely as a nominal defendant), and its directors and certain officers on August 23, 2010, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas, titled Gene Sidore, derivatively on behalf of NIC Inc. v. William F. Bradley, Jr., John L. Bunce, Jr., Art N. Burtscher, Daniel J. Evans, Jeffery S. Fraser, Ross C. Hartley, Harry H. Herington, Alexander C. Kemper, Stephen M. Kovzan, William M. Lyons, Pete Wilson, and NIC Inc. (as nominal defendant), case no. 2:10-cv-02466. The complaint alleges that the individual defendants breached certain fiduciary duties to the Company in connection with the Company's handling of certain business expenses claimed by former Chief Executive Officer Jeffery Fraser and the internal and SEC investigations of such expenses. Plaintiff seeks unspecified damages, disgorgement of stock awards and bonuses from Messrs. Herington, Bradley and Kovzan, and an award of plaintiffs' attorney fees and costs. The litigation is in its early stages, and the Company and the individual defendants are preparing their responses to the complaint.

#### Litigation

The Company is involved from time to time in legal proceedings and litigation arising in the ordinary course of business. However, the Company is not currently involved with any legal proceedings, with the exception of the purported derivative action noted above.

## 8. REPORTABLE SEGMENTS AND RELATED INFORMATION

The Company's two reportable segments consist of its Outsourced Portal businesses and Software & Services businesses. The Outsourced Portals segment includes the Company's subsidiaries operating outsourced state government portals and the corporate divisions that directly support portal operations. The Software & Services segment includes the Company's subsidiaries that provide software development and services other than portal outsourcing services to state and local governments, and primarily includes NIC Technologies and NIC Conquest. Each of the Company's Software & Services businesses is an operating segment and has been aggregated to form the Software & Services reportable segment. Unallocated corporate-level expenses are reported in the reconciliation of the segment totals to the related consolidated totals as "Other Reconciling Items." There have been no significant intersegment transactions for the periods reported. The summary of significant accounting policies applies to all segments.

The measure of profitability by which management evaluates the performance of its segments and allocates resources to them is operating income (loss). Segment asset or other segment balance sheet information is not presented to the Company's chief operating decision maker. Accordingly, the Company has not presented information relating to segment assets.

The table below reflects summarized financial information for the Company's reportable segments for the three months ended September 30 (in thousands):

	Outsourced Portals	Software & Services	Other Reconciling Items	Consolidated Total
2010				
Revenues	\$39,763	\$1,957	\$ -	\$ 41,720
Costs & expenses	24,962	1,076	5,273	31,311
Amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets	81	-	-	81
Depreciation & amortization	982	20	79	1,081
Operating income (loss)	\$13,738	\$861	\$ (5,352 )	\$ 9,247
2009				
Revenues	\$36,236	\$1,018	\$ -	\$ 37,254
Costs & expenses	22,625	737	4,543	27,905
Amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets	1,770	-	-	1,770
Depreciation & amortization	888	17	104	1,009
Operating income (loss)	\$10,953	\$264	\$ (4,647 )	\$ 6,570

The following is a reconciliation of total segment operating income to total consolidated income before income taxes for the three months ended September 30 (in thousands):

	2010	2009
Total operating income for reportable segments	\$9,247	\$6,570
Interest income	1	3
Consolidated income before income taxes	\$9,248	\$6,573



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The table below reflects summarized financial information for the Company's reportable segments for the nine months ended September 30 (in thousands):

	Outsourced Portals	Software & Services	Other Reconciling Items	Consolidated Total
2010				
Revenues	\$116,431	\$4,284	\$ -	\$ 120,715
Costs & expenses	74,882	3,325	17,647	95,854
Amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets	242	-	-	242
Depreciation & amortization	2,904	61	288	3,253
Operating income (loss)	\$38,403	\$898	\$ (17,935 )	\$ 21,366
2009				
Revenues	\$93,408	\$3,058	\$ -	\$ 96,466
Costs & expenses	57,648	2,256	15,275	75,179
Amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets	2,398	-	-	2,398
Depreciation & amortization	2,596	48	305	2,949
Nonrecurring gain on acquisition of business (net of tax)	(2,184 )	-	-	(2,184
Operating income (loss)	\$32,950	\$754	\$ (15,580 )	\$ 18,124

The following is a reconciliation of total segment operating income to total consolidated income before income taxes for the nine months ended September 30 (in thousands):

	2010	2009
Total operating income for reportable segments	\$ 21,366	\$ 18,124
Interest income	2	48
Other expense, net	(2 )	-
Consolidated income before income taxes	\$ 21,366	\$ 18,172

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

### FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

"Safe Harbor" statement under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995: Statements in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q regarding NIC Inc. and its subsidiaries (the "Company", "NIC", "we" or "us") and its business, which are not current or historical facts, are "forward-looking statements" that involve risks and uncertainties. Forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements of plans and objectives, statements of future economic performance or financial projections, statements of assumptions underlying such statements, and statements of NIC's or management's intentions, hopes, beliefs, expectations or predictions of the future. For example, statements like we "expect," we "believe," we "plan," we "intend" or we "anticipate" are forward-looking statements. Investors should be aware that our actual operating results and financial performance may differ materially from our expressed expectations because of risks and uncertainties about the future including those risks discussed in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and in our 2009 Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") on March 16, 2010.

There are a number of important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those suggested or indicated by such forward-looking statements. These include, among others, NIC's ability to successfully integrate into its operations recently awarded eGovernment contracts or acquired assets or entities; NIC's ability to successfully increase the adoption and use of eGovernment services; the success of the Company in signing contracts with new states and government agencies, including continued favorable government legislation; NIC's ability to develop new services; existing states and agencies adopting those new services; acceptance of eGovernment services by businesses and citizens; competition; the SEC investigation; pending litigation involving the Company; and general economic conditions (including the current economic slowdown) and the other factors discussed under "CAUTIONS ABOUT FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS" in Part I and "RISK FACTORS" in Part I, Item 1A of NIC's 2009 Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 16, 2010 and "RISK FACTORS" in Part II, Item 1A of this Form 10-Q. The SEC investigation and the pending litigation are discussed in Note 7 in the Notes to the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements in this Form 10-Q; Part II, Item 1 of this Form 10-Q; and Item 1A, Item 3 and Note 9 of NIC's 2009 Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 16, 2010. Investors should read all of these discussions of risks carefully.

We will not necessarily update the information in this Form 10-Q if any forward-looking statement later turns out to be inaccurate. Investors are cautioned not to put undue reliance on any forward-looking statement.

### WHAT WE DO – AN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We are a leading provider of eGovernment services that help governments use the Internet to reduce costs and provide a higher level of service to businesses and citizens. We accomplish this currently through two channels: our core portal outsourcing businesses and our software & services businesses.

In our core business, portal outsourcing, we enter into contracts primarily with state governments and design, build and operate enterprise-wide, Web-based portals on their behalf. Currently, we have contracts to provide portal outsourcing services for 23 states, and were recently awarded a new portal contract in New Jersey, which has not yet fully deployed. We enter into long-term contracts, typically three to five years, and manage operations for each government partner through separate subsidiaries that operate as decentralized businesses with a high degree of autonomy. Our portals consist of Web sites and applications that we build, which allow businesses and citizens to access government information online and complete transactions, including applying for a permit, retrieving driver's license records or filing a form or report. We help increase our government partners' revenues by expanding the distribution of their information assets and increasing the number of financial transactions conducted with governments. We do this by marketing portal services and soliciting users to complete government-based transactions and to enter into subscriber contracts that permit users to access the portal and the government information contained therein in exchange for transactional and/or subscription user fees. We are typically responsible for funding up-front investment and ongoing operations and maintenance costs of the government portals. Our unique self-funding business model allows us to obtain revenues by sharing in the fees generated from eGovernment services. Our partners benefit because they reduce their financial and technology risks, increase their operational efficiencies and gain a centralized, customer-focused presence on the Internet. Businesses and citizens gain a faster, more convenient and more cost-effective means to interact with governments.

On behalf of our government partners, we enter into separate agreements with various agencies and divisions of the government to provide specific services and to conduct specific transactions. These agreements preliminarily establish the pricing of the transaction and data access services we provide and the division of revenues between the Company and the government agency. The government must approve prices and revenue sharing agreements. We have limited control over the level of fees we are permitted to retain. Any changes made to the amount or percentage of fees retained by us, or to the amounts charged for the services offered, could adversely affect the profitability of the respective contract to us. We generally own all the applications developed under these contracts. After completion of a defined contract term, the government agency typically receives a perpetual, royalty-free license to the applications for use only. However, certain customer management, billing and payment processing software applications that we have developed and standardized centrally and that are utilized by our portal businesses, are being provided to an increasing number of our government partners on a software-as-a-service, or "SaaS," basis, and thus would not be included in any royalty-free license. If our contract were not renewed after a defined term, the government agency would be entitled to take over the portal in place with no future obligation of the Company, except for the services we provide on a SaaS basis, which would be available to our partners on a fee-for-service basis. We have begun to provide certain payment processing services on a SaaS basis to a few private sector companies and non-NIC portal states, and may continue to market these services to other entities in the future. Historically, however, revenues from these services have been insignificant. In some cases, we enter into contracts to provide consulting, application development and portal management services to governments in exchange for an agreed-upon fee.

Any renewal of these contracts beyond the initial term is optional and a government may terminate its contract prior to the expiration date upon specific cause events that are not cured within a specified period and, in certain circumstances, upon the passage of legislation. Eleven contracts under which we provide portal outsourcing services can be terminated without cause on a specified period of notice. Collectively, revenues generated from contracts that can be terminated by the other party without cause represented 59% of our portal revenues for both the three-and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2010. In the event that any of these contracts would be terminated without cause, the terms of the respective contract may require the government to pay a fee to us in order to continue to use our software in its portal. In addition, the loss of one or more of our larger state portal partners, such as Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Utah or Virginia, as a result of the expiration, termination or failure to renew the respective contract, if such partner is not replaced, could significantly reduce our revenues and

profitability.

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## REVENUE RECOGNITION

We classify our revenues and cost of revenues into two categories: (1) portal and (2) software & services. The portal category includes revenues and cost of revenues primarily from our subsidiaries operating government portals on an outsourced basis. The software & services category includes revenues and cost of revenues primarily from our subsidiaries that provide software development and services other than portal outsourcing services to state and local governments, and includes NIC Technologies and NIC Conquest. We currently derive revenues from three main sources: transaction-based fees, time and materials-based fees for application development and fixed fees for portal management services. Each of these revenue types and the corresponding business models are further described below.

### Our portal outsourcing businesses

We categorize our portal revenues according to the underlying source of revenue. A brief description of each category follows:

- **DMV transaction-based:** these are transaction fees from the sale of electronic access to driver history records, referred to as DMV records, from our state portals to data resellers, insurance companies and other pre-authorized customers on behalf of our state partners, and are generally recurring.
- **Non-DMV transaction-based:** these are transaction fees from sources other than the sale of DMV records, for transactions conducted by business users and consumer users through our portals, and are generally recurring. For a representative listing of non-DMV services we currently offer through our portals, refer to Part I, Item 1 in our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, filed with the SEC on March 16, 2010.
- **Portal management:** these are revenues from the performance of fixed fee portal management services for our government partners in the states of Arizona and Indiana, and are generally recurring.
- **Portal software development:** these are revenues from the performance of application development projects and other time and materials services for our government partners. While we actively market these services, they do not have the same degree of predictability as our transaction-based or portal management revenues. As a result, these revenues are excluded from our recurring portal revenue percentage.

### Our software & services businesses

#### NIC Technologies

NIC Technologies currently derives a significant portion of its revenues from a new contract with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (“FMCSA”) to develop and manage a National Motor Carrier Pre-Employment Screening Program (“NMCPSP”). The NMCPSP launched in the second quarter of 2010. The contract has an initial term which expires on February 16, 2011, with four single-year renewals at the option of the FMCSA. The NMCPSP was developed and will be maintained using a self-funded, transaction-based business model. NIC Technologies also derives a significant portion of its revenues from time and materials application development and maintenance outsourcing contracts with the Federal Election Commission and the state of Michigan and recognizes revenues as services are provided.

#### NIC Conquest

NIC Conquest derived the majority of its revenues from fixed-price application development contracts and recognized revenues on the percentage of completion method. NIC Conquest completed the maintenance and operations phase of its contract with the California Secretary of State (“California SOS”) effective December 31, 2009, and delivered a final release of its application to the California SOS for acceptance testing. During the first quarter of 2010, the California SOS completed its acceptance testing and moved the final release into production. As a result, NIC Conquest has no future obligations under this contract.

#### CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

There have been no material changes in our critical accounting policies and estimates from the information provided in Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations,” included in our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, filed with the SEC on March 16, 2010.

## TEXAS CONTRACTS

In the second quarter of 2009, we acquired the then-current portal management contract and related contracts for the state of Texas (collectively, the “Acquired Texas Contracts”). The Acquired Texas Contracts expired on December 31, 2009, except certain Master Work Order projects will expire on August 31, 2012 and others will expire on August 31, 2014. During the third quarter of 2009 we entered into a new seven-year contract with the state of Texas to manage the state’s official government portal (the “New Texas Contract”). The New Texas Contract commenced on January 1, 2010 and runs through August 31, 2016. We did not begin earning revenues under the New Texas Contract until 2010. The New Texas Contract has terms substantially different than the Acquired Texas Contracts.

## RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following discussion summarizes the significant factors affecting operating results for the three-and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2010 and 2009. This discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with our unaudited interim consolidated financial statements and the related notes included in this Form 10-Q.

Key Financial Metrics	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2010	2009	2010	2009
Revenue growth – outsourced portals	10%	50%	25%	29%
Same state revenue growth – outsourced portals	8%	14%	7%	12%
Recurring portal revenue %	90%	87%	89%	89%
Gross profit % - outsourced portals	40%	42%	39%	42%
Selling & administrative expenses as % of total revenues	16%	17%	18%	20%
Operating income margin % (operating income as a % of total revenues)	22%	18%	18%	19%

PORTAL REVENUES. In the analysis below, we have categorized our portal revenues according to the underlying source of revenue (in thousands), with the corresponding percentage increase or decrease from the prior year period.

	Three months ended September 30,			Nine months ended September 30,		
	2010	% Change	2009	2010	% Change	2009
DMV transaction-based	\$ 15,847	0%	\$ 15,862	\$ 48,131	16%	\$ 41,403
Non-DMV transaction-based	17,843	30%	13,745	49,791	39%	35,702
Portal management	1,988	6%	1,883	5,769	2%	5,674
Portal software development	4,085	(14%)	4,746	12,740	20%	10,629
Total	\$ 39,763	10%	\$ 36,236	\$ 116,431	25%	\$ 93,408

Portal revenues in the current quarter increased 10%, or approximately \$3.5 million, over the prior year quarter. Of this increase, 8%, or approximately \$2.9 million, was attributable to an increase in same state portal revenues (outsourced portals in operation and generating revenues for two full periods). Revenues from the Texas portal are included in the calculation of same state portal revenues growth for the current quarter. Portal revenues from the New Texas Contract were approximately \$9.2 million in the current quarter; portal revenues from the Acquired Texas

Contracts were approximately \$8.8 million in the prior year quarter. The remaining 2% increase in portal revenues, or approximately \$0.6 million, was attributable to our New Mexico portal, which began to generate revenues in October 2009.

Same state portal revenues in the current quarter increased 8% over the prior year quarter primarily due to increased revenues from our Alabama, Colorado, Hawaii, Indiana and Texas portals, among others. The increase in same state portal revenues was driven by same state non-DMV transaction-based revenue growth of 29% in the current quarter, up from 25% in the prior year quarter, due in part to strong performance from several key applications, including payment processing, motor vehicle registrations, professional license renewals, court-related transactions and tax filings. Our same state revenue growth in the current quarter was lower than the 14% growth we achieved in the prior year quarter primarily due to lower same state portal software development revenues, which decreased 14% from the prior year quarter, and lower same state DMV transaction-based revenues, which decreased 3% from the prior year quarter. The decrease in portal software development revenues in the current quarter was the result of a few significant non-recurring time and materials projects in the prior year quarter. Absent DMV price increases, same state DMV revenues have historically grown at a rate of 1% to 3% per year. We believe our DMV revenues in both the current and prior year quarters were negatively affected by the continued weakness in the broader macroeconomic conditions, which we expect may continue for the remainder of 2010.

Portal revenues for the nine months in the current fiscal year increased 25%, or approximately \$23.0 million, over the prior year period. Of this increase, 18%, or approximately \$16.9 million, was attributable to our newer portals, including Texas (\$15.4 million, which includes increases in DMV transaction-based revenues of \$5.2 million, non-DMV transaction-based revenues of \$7.2 million and portal software development revenues of \$3.0 million), and New Mexico (\$1.5 million); and 7%, or approximately \$6.1 million, was attributable to an increase in same state portal revenues. Portal revenues from the New Texas Contract were approximately \$27.0 million in the current year-to-date period, while portal revenues from the Acquired Texas Contracts were approximately \$11.6 million in the prior year period after the Company's acquisition of the contracts on May 29, 2009.

Same state portal revenues in the current year-to-date period increased 7% over the prior year period, with same state non-DMV transaction-based revenues increasing 21%, same state portal software development revenues decreasing 10% and same state DMV transaction-based revenues remaining flat. The year-to-date increase in same state non-DMV transaction-based revenues was attributable to the addition of several new revenue generating applications in existing portals. Our same state revenue growth in the current year-to-date period was lower than the 12% growth we achieved in the prior year period primarily due to the decrease in same state portal software development revenue growth for reasons further discussed above. Same state non-DMV transaction-based revenue growth was 26% in the prior year period.



**COST OF PORTAL REVENUES.** In the analysis below, we have categorized our cost of portal revenues between fixed and variable costs (in thousands), with the corresponding percentage increase or decrease from the prior year period. Fixed costs include such costs as employee compensation, telecommunication and all other costs associated with the provision of dedicated client service such as dedicated facilities. Variable costs consist of costs that vary with our level of portal revenues and primarily include bank fees required to process credit card and automated clearinghouse transactions and costs associated with revenue share arrangements with our state partners.

	Three months endedSeptember 30,			Nine months endedSeptember 30,		
	2010	% Change	2009	2010	% Change	2009
Fixed costs	\$15,471	2%	\$15,124	\$48,317	23%	\$39,263
Variable costs	8,243	37%	6,009	22,602	56%	14,480
Total	\$23,714	12%	\$21,133	\$70,919	32%	\$53,743

Cost of portal revenues for the current quarter increased 12%, or approximately \$2.6 million, over the prior year quarter. Of this increase, 11%, or approximately \$2.4 million, was attributable to an increase in same state cost of portal revenues; and 1%, or approximately \$0.2 million, was attributable to an increase in cost of portal revenues in New Mexico (\$0.1 million) and an increase in other portal-related start-up costs (\$0.1 million). Cost of portal revenues relating to the Texas portal are included in the calculation of same state cost of portal revenues growth for the current quarter.

The increase in same state cost of portal revenues in the current quarter was primarily attributable to an increase in variable bank fees, particularly from our portals in Alabama, Colorado, Indiana and Texas. A growing percentage of our non-DMV transaction-based revenues are generated from online applications whereby users pay for information or transactions via credit cards. We typically earn a percentage of the credit card transaction amount, but also must pay an associated fee to the bank that processes the credit card transaction. We earn a lower gross profit percentage on these transactions as compared to our other non-DMV applications. However, we plan to continue to implement these services as they contribute favorably to our operating income growth.

Our portal gross profit percentage was 40% in the current year quarter, down from 42% in the prior year quarter. This decrease was due mainly to the gross profit percentage from the New Texas Contract, which is currently lower than the company-wide average excluding the New Texas Contract. Portal revenues from the New Texas Contract were approximately \$9.2 million in the current quarter, while portal revenues from the Acquired Texas Contracts were approximately \$8.8 million in the prior year quarter. Cost of portal revenues from the New Texas Contract was approximately \$6.4 million in the current quarter, while cost of portal revenues from the Acquired Texas Contracts was approximately \$5.6 million in the prior year quarter. Excluding revenues and cost of revenues from the New Texas Contract in 2010 and the Acquired Texas Contracts in 2009, our portal gross profit percentage would have been 43% and 44%, respectively, in the current year and prior year quarters. We also incurred approximately \$0.2 million and \$0.3 million of portal-related start-up costs in the current and prior year quarters. We carefully monitor our portal gross profit percentage to strike the balance between generating a solid return for our stockholders and delivering value to our government partners through reinvestment in our portal operations (which we believe also benefits our stockholders). We currently expect our portal gross profit percentage to be in the mid to upper 30% range in 2010, primarily reflecting lower margins from the New Texas Contract.

Cost of portal revenues for the nine months in the current fiscal year increased 32%, or approximately \$17.2 million, over the prior period. Of this increase, 25%, or approximately \$13.3 million, was attributable to increases in our newer state portal businesses in Texas (\$12.3 million, which includes increases in fixed costs of \$7.7 million and variable costs of \$4.6 million) and New Mexico (\$0.6 million) and other portal-related start-up costs (\$0.4 million); and 7%, or approximately \$3.9 million, was attributable to an increase in same state cost of portal revenues. Cost of portal revenues from the New Texas Contract was approximately \$20.0 million in the current year-to-date period,

while cost of portal revenues from the Acquired Texas Contracts was approximately \$7.7 million in the prior year period after the Company's acquisition of the contracts on May 29, 2009. Our portal gross profit rate for the nine months in the current year period was 39% compared to 42% in the prior year period, for reasons further discussed above. Excluding the New Texas Contract in 2010 and the Acquired Texas Contracts in 2009, our portal gross profit percentage would have been 43% and 44%, respectively.

**SOFTWARE & SERVICES REVENUES.** In the analysis below, we have categorized our software & services revenues by business (in thousands), with the corresponding percentage increase or decrease from the prior year period.

	Three months endedSeptember 30,			Nine months endedSeptember 30,		
	2010	% Change	2009	2010	% Change	2009
NIC Technologies	\$ 1,612	134%	\$ 689	\$ 3,330	55%	\$ 2,146
NIC Conquest	-	(100%)	174	180	(63%)	482
Other	345	123%	155	774	80%	430
Total	\$ 1,957	92%	\$ 1,018	\$ 4,284	40%	\$ 3,058

Software & services revenues in the current quarter increased 92%, or approximately \$0.9 million, over the prior year quarter. This increase was primarily due to revenues from the NMCPSP with the FMCSA (\$0.8 million), which launched during the second quarter of 2010. Software & services revenues for the nine months in the current fiscal year increased 40%, or approximately \$1.2 million, over the prior period. This increase was primarily due to the launch of the NMCPSP.

**COST OF SOFTWARE & SERVICES REVENUES.** Cost of software & services revenues in the current quarter increased 79%, or approximately \$0.5 million, over the prior year quarter. This increase was primarily attributable to the new contract with the FMCSA (\$0.5 million), offset partially by lower expenses from NIC Conquest (\$0.1 million) which was attributable to the completion of its contract with the California SOS in the first quarter of 2010. Cost of software & services revenues for the nine months in the current fiscal year increased 64%, or approximately \$1.2 million, over the prior year quarter. This increase was primarily attributable to additional start-up costs related to the new contract with the FMCSA (\$1.5 million), offset partially by lower expenses from NIC Conquest (\$0.4 million) which was attributable to the completion of its contract with the California SOS in the first quarter of 2010.

**SELLING & ADMINISTRATIVE.** Selling & administrative expenses in the current quarter increased 6%, or approximately \$0.3 million, from the prior year quarter. In the current quarter, the Company incurred approximately \$1.0 million of legal fees and other third-party costs in connection with the ongoing SEC investigation and related Audit Committee review of expense reporting by certain officers of our Company and certain related matters described in Note 7 in the Notes to the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements and Part II, Item 1 in this Form 10-Q. However, the Company received approximately \$1.2 million of reimbursement from its directors' and officers' liability insurance carrier in the current quarter, which was treated as a reduction of selling & administrative expenses in the current quarter. In addition, the Company recorded a \$0.5 million liability in the current quarter for the Company's potential settlement with the SEC. The Company accrues legal fees and other third-party costs relating to the SEC investigation in the quarter in which the Company receives services. The Company promptly submits any invoices potentially reimbursable under its directors' and officers' liability insurance policies to its carrier for reimbursement. For expenses that are subject to reimbursement, the Company does not generally receive reimbursement for 90 to 120 days. To the extent that the carrier agrees to reimburse the Company for expenses previously recorded in selling & administrative expenses, the Company treats any such reimbursement as a reduction of selling & administrative expenses in the period such reimbursement is determined to be probable. Selling & administrative expenses in the prior year quarter include approximately \$0.3 million of legal fees and other third-party costs in connection with the ongoing SEC investigation and the Audit Committee review. Selling & administrative expenses for the nine months in the current year increased 12%, or approximately \$2.3 million, over the prior period and include approximately \$2.2 million of net expenses relating to the SEC investigation and Audit Committee review, consisting of approximately \$3.8 million of legal fees and other third-party costs incurred, and approximately \$1.6 million of directors' and officers' liability insurance reimbursement. In addition, selling & administrative expenses for the current year-to-date period include a \$0.5 million liability for the Company's potential settlement with the SEC, as further discussed above. Selling & administrative expenses for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2009 include approximately \$0.9 million of such legal fees and other third-party costs incurred in connection with the ongoing SEC investigation and the Audit Committee review. To date, the Company has incurred approximately \$6.0 million in legal fees and other third-party costs (exclusive of the \$0.5 million liability for the Company's potential settlement with the SEC) related to this matter, and received approximately \$1.6 million of directors' and officers' liability insurance reimbursement, for net expenses of approximately \$4.4 million. Such expenses may be expected to continue until the SEC resolves this matter with each of the parties who received Wells Notices and until the Audit Committee completes its review of expense reimbursements to Jeffery Fraser, former Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, during the period from 1999 to 2003. At such time, the Company will make a determination as to the right to receive indemnification by each of its current and former officers which may result in repayment of expenses pursuant to their respective undertakings to repay amounts advanced to them if their conduct did not satisfy the standards for receiving indemnification. The current year-to-date increase in selling & administrative expenses was also attributable to higher sales commissions for new business wins of approximately \$0.6 million and higher incentive compensation and benefit expense (including stock-based compensation for annual grants of restricted stock to certain management-level employees, executive officers and non-employee directors) of approximately \$0.7 million. Selling & administrative expenses in the prior year-to-date period included approximately \$0.5 million of nonrecurring acquisition-related costs for the Acquired Texas Contracts.

In March 2010, the Company's directors' and officers' liability insurance carrier informally advised the Company that it may reimburse the Company for certain expenses incurred prior to the initial issuance of the Wells Notices on March 9, 2010 and would reimburse the Company for reasonable defense costs incurred after that time, subject to certain conditions, including application of the \$250,000 retention in the insurance policy and the policy limits, the carrier's review of applicable invoices and the carrier's approval of separate counsel for the different insured parties. With respect to expenses incurred prior to the initial issuance of the Wells Notices, the carrier informally advised that it may reimburse expenses incurred by the Company after the commencement of the formal SEC investigation in June 2008 on behalf of current officers of the Company who received Wells Notices and Mr. Fraser, but excluding the Company's own expenses, and possibly excluding expenses incurred by the Company on behalf of Eric Bur, former

Chief Financial Officer of the Company. With respect to expenses incurred after the issuance of the Wells Notices, the carrier informally advised that it would reimburse reasonable defense costs incurred by the Company, the current officers of the Company who received Wells Notices, Mr. Fraser and Mr. Bur, subject to certain conditions as described above. During the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2010, the Company reduced selling & administrative expenses by approximately \$1.2 million and \$1.6 million, respectively, following reimbursement from its insurance carrier. There can be no assurance that all future expenses incurred by the Company in connection with the SEC investigation will be covered by applicable insurance policies. Any penalties, including the \$500,000 liability recorded in the third quarter of 2010 in anticipation of a civil penalty that may be part of a settlement with the SEC, incurred by the Company or any other person would not be covered under applicable insurance policies.

As a percentage of total revenues, selling & administrative expenses were 16% and 18%, respectively, in the current quarter and year-to-date periods compared to 17% and 20% in the prior year periods. The decrease in selling & administrative expenses as a percentage of total revenues in the current periods was primarily a result of reimbursements from the Company's directors' and officers' liability insurance carrier, as further discussed above, and significant incremental revenues from the New Texas Contract.

**NONRECURRING GAIN ON ACQUISITION OF BUSINESS (NET OF TAX).** For the nine-month period ended September 30, 2009, we recognized a nonrecurring gain of approximately \$2.2 million (net of tax) on the acquisition of the Acquired Texas Contracts, as further discussed in Note 3 in the Notes to the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements included in this Form 10-Q.

**AMORTIZATION OF ACQUISITION-RELATED INTANGIBLE ASSETS.** Amortization of acquisition-related intangible asset expense in the current quarter and year-to-date periods decreased approximately \$1.7 million and \$2.2 million, respectively, from the prior year periods due to lower amortization expense from the Acquired Texas Contracts (see Note 5 in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, filed with the SEC on March 16, 2010).

**DEPRECIATION & AMORTIZATION.** Depreciation & amortization expense in the current quarter and year-to-date periods increased 7% and 10%, respectively, or approximately \$0.1 million and \$0.3 million, over the prior year periods. This increase was primarily attributable to capital expenditures for normal fixed asset additions in our outsourced portal business, including Web servers, purchased software and office furniture, and equipment to support and enhance corporate-wide information technology security and portal operations, and amortization of capitalized internal use computer software that has been placed in service.

As a percentage of total revenues, depreciation & amortization expense was 3% for all periods presented. We currently expect depreciation and amortization expense as a percentage of total revenues to be approximately 3% in 2010, as we will continue to make key information technology infrastructure and security investments to support the long-term expansion of our portal business.

**INCOME TAXES.** Our effective tax rate was approximately 35% and 38%, respectively, for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2010, compared to 37% and 36%, respectively, in the prior year periods. Our effective tax rate for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2010 includes a favorable benefit related to the federal research and development tax credit for fiscal year 2009 totaling approximately \$0.5 million and a decrease in the liability for uncertain tax positions totaling approximately \$0.2 million, as further discussed in Note 5 in the Notes to the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements included in this Form 10-Q. Legislation extending the research and development tax credit beyond December 31, 2009 has not yet been enacted. These favorable tax benefits were partially offset and we did not record a tax benefit on the \$500,000 liability recorded in the third quarter of 2010 in anticipation of a civil penalty that may be part of a settlement relating to an ongoing SEC investigation, as further discussed in Note 7 in the Notes to the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements included in this Form 10-Q. Such penalties are typically not deductible from an income tax standpoint.

Our effective tax rate for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2009 includes a decrease in the liability for uncertain tax positions totaling approximately \$0.1 million, as further discussed in Note 5 in the Notes to the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements included in this Form 10-Q. Our effective tax rate for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2009 was lower than the rate customarily expected due primarily to the nonrecurring gain on acquisition of business being presented net of taxes (of approximately \$1.2 million) in operating income, as required by authoritative accounting guidance for business acquisitions. Including the tax impact related to the nonrecurring gain on acquisition of business, our effective tax rate would have been approximately 40% for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2009.

#### Liquidity and Capital Resources

##### Operating Activities

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$12.5 million in the current period as compared to \$27.8 million in the prior year period. The decrease in cash flow from operations in the current period was the result of timing of payments to our government partners, which reduced accounts payable, in addition to the timing of payments in the current period for sales commissions and an increase in quarterly estimated income tax payments. Accounts payable at the end of fiscal 2009 was temporarily high due in part to an increase in fourth quarter 2009 tax payment processing from tax filing applications, primarily in Hawaii. Such tax payments are frequently made via ACH or credit cards at the end of the year. The majority of these year-end tax receipts were remitted to our government partners in early January 2010.

Post-acquisition activity related to the Acquired Texas Contracts contributed approximately \$4.0 million of the increase in accounts payable and \$3.2 million of the increase in accrued expenses in the prior year period.

We had a history of unprofitable operations prior to 2003 primarily due to operating losses incurred in our software & services businesses. These losses generated significant federal and state tax net operating losses, or NOLs. The change in net deferred income taxes in the prior year period is mainly attributable to a decrease in NOL carryforwards due to the utilization of such deferred tax assets.

As a result of our NOL carryforwards and alternative minimum tax credits, we paid only a minor amount of federal income taxes in 2009, and paid income taxes in only certain states. This positively impacted our operating cash flow during the prior year period. The Company fully utilized its federal NOL carryforwards in 2009 and made significantly higher estimated quarterly tax payments in the nine-month period ended September 30, 2010. For the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2010 and 2009, combined federal and state income tax payments totaled approximately \$8.4 million and \$0.8 million, respectively.

##### Investing Activities

Investing activities in the current period primarily reflect \$3.0 million of capital expenditures for normal fixed asset additions in our outsourced portal business, including Web servers, purchased software and office equipment. In addition, we capitalized approximately \$0.4 million of internal-use software development costs related to the standardization of customer management, billing and payment processing systems that support our portal operations and accounting systems. Investing activities in the prior year period primarily reflect \$1.5 million in cash paid for the Acquired Texas Contracts and \$2.5 million of capital expenditures for normal fixed asset additions in our outsourced portal business. In addition, we capitalized approximately \$0.4 million of internal-use software development costs in the prior year period.

#### Financing Activities

Financing activities in the current period primarily reflect payment of a \$19.3 million special cash dividend in February 2010, partially offset by the receipt of \$0.7 million in proceeds from our employee stock purchase program and tax deductions of approximately \$0.1 million related to stock-based compensation (see Note 12 in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, filed with the SEC on March 16, 2010). Financing activities in the prior year period primarily reflect the payment of a \$19.2 million special cash dividend in February 2009, partially offset by tax deductions of approximately \$1.4 million related to stock-based compensation and the receipt of \$0.5 million in proceeds from our employee stock purchase program.

#### Liquidity

We recognize revenue primarily from providing outsourced government portal services net of the transaction fees due to the government when the services are provided. The fees that we must remit to the government are accrued as accounts payable and accounts receivable at the time services are provided. As a result, trade accounts payable and accounts receivable reflect the gross amounts outstanding at the balance sheet dates. Gross billings for the three-months ended September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009 were approximately \$593.9 million and \$453.5 million, respectively. The Company calculates days sales outstanding by dividing trade accounts receivable at the balance sheet date by gross billings for the period and multiplying the resulting quotient by the number of days in that period. Days sales outstanding for the three-month periods ended September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009 were 6 and 8, respectively.

We believe that working capital is an important measure of our short-term liquidity. Working capital, defined as current assets minus current liabilities, decreased to \$53.1 million at September 30, 2010, from \$55.2 million at December 31, 2009. Our current ratio, defined as current assets divided by current liabilities, was 2.0 at both September 30, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

At September 30, 2010, our total cash and cash equivalent balance was \$59.2 million compared to \$68.6 million at December 31, 2009. We believe that our currently available liquid resources and cash generated from operations will be sufficient to meet our operating requirements, capital expenditure requirements, current growth initiatives and special dividend payments (if any) for at least the next twelve months without the need of additional capital. We have a \$10 million unsecured revolving credit facility with a bank. This revolving credit facility is available to finance working capital, issue letters of credit and finance general corporate purposes. We can obtain letters of credit in an aggregate amount of \$5 million, which reduces the maximum amount available for borrowing under the facility.

We issue letters of credit as collateral for performance on certain of our outsourced government portal contracts and as collateral for certain office leases. These irrevocable letters of credit are generally in force for one year. We had unused outstanding letters of credit totaling approximately \$2.1 million at September 30, 2010. We are not currently required to cash collateralize these letters of credit. However, even though we currently expect to be profitable in fiscal 2010 and beyond, we may not be able to sustain or increase profitability on a quarterly or annual basis. We will need to generate sufficient revenues while containing costs and operating expenses if we are to achieve sustained profitability. If we are not able to sustain profitability, our cash collateral requirements may increase.

In total, we had \$2.9 million in available capacity to issue additional letters of credit and \$7.9 million of unused borrowing capacity at September 30, 2010 under the facility. The credit facility expires in May 2011. However, letters of credit may have an expiration date of up to one year beyond the expiration date of the credit agreement.

At September 30, 2010, we were bound by performance bond commitments totaling approximately \$4.5 million on certain government portal outsourcing contracts. We have never had any defaults resulting in draws on performance bonds or letters of credit. Had we been required to post 100% cash collateral at September 30, 2010 for the face value of all performance bonds, letters of credit and our line of credit in conjunction with a corporate credit card agreement, unrestricted cash would have decreased by approximately \$7.6 million and would have been classified as restricted cash.

On February 1, 2010, our Board of Directors declared a special cash dividend of \$0.30 per share, payable to stockholders of record as of February 16, 2010. On February 26, 2010, we paid the special cash dividend totalling approximately \$19.3 million out of available cash. We do not believe that this dividend will have a significant effect on our future liquidity. However, we may need to raise additional capital within the next twelve months to further:

- fund operations if unforeseen costs arise;
- support our expansion into other states and government agencies beyond what is contemplated if unforeseen opportunities arise;
  - expand our product and service offerings beyond what is contemplated if unforeseen opportunities arise;
  - respond to unforeseen competitive pressures; and
  - acquire technologies beyond what is contemplated.

Any projections of future earnings and cash flows are subject to substantial uncertainty. If our cash, cash generated from operations and the unused portion of our line of credit are insufficient to satisfy our liquidity requirements, we may seek to sell additional equity securities or issue debt securities. The sale of additional equity securities could result in dilution to the Company's stockholders. In recent years, credit and capital markets experienced unusual volatility and disruption. There can be no assurance that equity or debt financing will be available in amounts or on terms acceptable to the Company, if at all.

#### Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements, Contractual Obligations and Income Tax Uncertainties

We do not have off-balance sheet arrangements that are not recorded or disclosed in our financial statements. While we have significant operating lease commitments for office space, those commitments are generally tied to the period of performance under related contracts. We have recorded a liability for income tax uncertainties of approximately

\$0.3 million at September 30, 2010. This obligation is classified as non-current liabilities on our consolidated balance sheet, as resolution is expected to take more than a year. We estimate that these matters could be resolved in one to three years. However, the ultimate timing of resolution is uncertain.

#### RECENT ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

Refer to Note 1 in the Notes to the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements included in this Form 10-Q for a description of recent accounting pronouncements.



### ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

**INTEREST RATE RISK.** Our cash and cash equivalents are subject to market risk due to changes in interest rates. Cash held in sweep accounts is invested primarily in U.S. government money market accounts that purchase U.S. agency instruments or direct obligations of the U.S. Treasury or repurchase agreements secured by U.S. agency instruments. Interest rates related to these floating rate securities may produce less income than expected if interest rates fall. Current yields associated with these securities have decreased significantly due to the increased demand for more conservative investments in light of the current credit crisis. Due in part to these factors, our future interest income may fall short of expectations due to changes in interest rates, but is not expected to materially impact results of operations.

Borrowings under our line of credit bear interest at a floating rate. Interest on amounts borrowed is payable at a base rate equal to the higher of the Federal Funds Rate plus 0.5% or the bank's prime rate. We currently have no principal amounts of indebtedness outstanding under our line of credit.

We do not use derivative financial instruments. A 10% change in interest rates would not have a material effect on our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

### ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

#### a) EVALUATION OF DISCLOSURE CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

The Company maintains disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act")) that are designed to ensure that material information required to be disclosed in its filings under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms. Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by an issuer in the reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to the issuer's management, including its principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, we conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. Based on this evaluation, our principal executive officer and our principal financial officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of such date.

#### b) CHANGES IN INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

There have been no changes in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during our third fiscal quarter of 2010 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

## PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

### ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

As discussed in Note 7 in the Notes to the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements in this Form 10-Q and Item 1A, Item 3 and Note 9 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, filed with the SEC on March 16, 2010, we have been the subject of a formal SEC

investigation of expense reporting by certain officers of our Company and certain potentially related matters. In connection with that investigation, a review has been undertaken by the Audit Committee of the Company's Board of Directors, with the assistance of outside, independent counsel, focused on such expense reporting. The Audit Committee has completed its review for the period from 2004 through June 2007 and is further reviewing expense reimbursement to Jeffery Fraser, former Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, for 1999 through 2003. The Company and Harry H. Herington, the Company's Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Stephen M. Kovzan, the Company's Chief Financial Officer, and William F. Bradley, Jr., the Company's Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel, and certain other former officers of the Company, have received "Wells Notices" from the staff of the Division of Enforcement of the SEC. A Wells Notice provides recipients with an opportunity to respond to issues raised in an investigation prior to any decision by the SEC on bringing an enforcement action, and is neither a formal allegation nor a finding of wrongdoing. The Company and the officers have provided their responsive Wells Submissions to the SEC. As discussed in Note 7 in the Notes to the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements in this Form 10-Q, the Company, Mr. Herington and Mr. Kovzan have each engaged in settlement discussions with the SEC staff.

A purported shareholder derivative action was filed against the Company (solely as a nominal defendant), and its directors and certain officers on August 23, 2010, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas, titled Gene Sidore, derivatively on behalf of NIC Inc. v. William F. Bradley, Jr., John L. Bunce, Jr., Art N. Burtscher, Daniel J. Evans, Jeffery S. Fraser, Ross C. Hartley, Harry H. Herington, Alexander C. Kemper, Stephen M. Kovzan, William M. Lyons, Pete Wilson, and NIC Inc. (as nominal defendant), case no. 2:10-cv-02466. The complaint alleges that the individual defendants breached certain fiduciary duties to the Company in connection with the Company's handling of certain business expenses claimed by former Chief Executive Officer Jeffery Fraser and the internal and SEC investigations of such expenses. Plaintiff seeks unspecified damages, disgorgement of stock awards and bonuses from Messrs. Herington, Bradley and Kovzan, and an award of plaintiffs' attorney fees and costs. The litigation is in its early stages, and the Company and the individual defendants are preparing their responses to the complaint.

#### ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

The following risk factor disclosure is in addition to the risks in "FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS" in Part I, Item 2 of this Form 10-Q and in "CAUTIONS ABOUT FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS" in Part I and "RISK FACTORS" in Part I, Item 1A of NIC's 2009 Annual Report on Form 10-K filed on March 16, 2010 with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and should be read in conjunction with those disclosures.

We may become subject to liability under rules and standards for processing electronic direct debit payments from bank accounts and credit card payments.

Our electronic check processing for online payments made by direct debit to a bank account is governed by rules and standards promulgated by the National Automated Clearing House Association, or NACHA, an industry trade association of banking institutions and regional automated clearing house associations. Under those rules, we may become potentially liable for failing to handle transactions in accordance with those rules, or for failing to return funds within the prescribed time frame to the bank account of the person or entity disputing our authorization to debit those funds, before the dispute regarding our authorization is resolved. Our agreements with governmental agencies at the state, federal, and local levels transfer this obligation for rapid funds return during dispute resolution to the government agencies affected, but in the event that such return does not happen, we may be potentially liable notwithstanding the government's failure, and we may not be able to obtain reimbursement from the government involved or from the individual user or entity that initiated the debit without authorization. If this were to happen, our business, results of operations, cash flows and financial condition may be adversely affected. Our credit and debit card processing is also subject to the applicable rules of the particular card association or clearinghouse and applicable law. If our interpretations, or those of our government partners, of any laws, rules, regulations or standards are incorrect, we could be exposed to significant financial liability, substantial fines and penalties, cease and desist orders, and other sanctions that could restrict or eliminate our ability to provide certain of our services in one or more states or

accept certain types of transactions in one or more states, or could force us to make costly changes to our business practices. Even if we are not forced to change our business practices, the costs of compliance and obtaining necessary licenses and regulatory approvals, could be substantial.

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

(c) During the third quarter of 2010, the Company acquired shares of common stock surrendered by employees to pay income taxes due upon the vesting of restricted stock or the exercise of options as follows:

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Maximum Number (or Approximate Dollar Value) of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs
July 24, 2010	1,271	\$ 7.40	N/A	N/A
July 28, 2010	46,354	\$ 7.67	N/A	N/A
July 30, 2010	2,286	\$ 7.42	N/A	N/A
August 1, 2010	17,545	\$ 7.42	N/A	N/A
August 6, 2010	23,631	\$ 6.92	N/A	N/A

## ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

- 31.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
- 31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
- 32.1 Section 906 Certifications of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer

SIGNATURES

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

NIC INC.

Dated: November 4, 2010  
Stephen M. Kovzan  
Chief Financial Officer

/s/Stephen M. Kovzan

NIC Inc.  
EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Number	Description of Exhibit
31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
31.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
32.1	Section 906 Certifications of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer

CERTIFICATION

I, Harry Herington, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of NIC Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: November 4, 2010

/s/ Harry Herington  
Harry Herington  
Chief Executive Officer

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CERTIFICATION

I, Stephen M. Kovzan, certify that

1. I have reviewed this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of NIC Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: November 4, 2010

/s/ Stephen M. Kovzan  
Stephen M. Kovzan  
Chief Financial Officer

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Certification Pursuant to 18 U.S.C Section 1350,  
As Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the  
Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

The undersigned Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of NIC Inc. (the “Company”) each hereby certifies, pursuant to 18 U.S.C Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

(1) the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of the Company for the quarter ended September 30, 2010 (the “Report”) fully complies with the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m or 78o(d)); and

(2) the information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Dated: November 4, 2010

/s/ Harry Herington  
Harry Herington  
Chief Executive Officer

/s/ Stephen M. Kovzan  
Stephen M. Kovzan  
Chief Financial Officer