

Accenture plc
Form 10-Q
June 25, 2010
Table of Contents

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

**QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**
FOR THE QUARTERLY PERIOD ENDED May 31, 2010

OR

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

Commission File Number: 001-34448

Accenture plc

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Ireland
*(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)*

**1 Grand Canal Square,
Grand Canal Harbour,
Dublin 2, Ireland**

98-0627530
*(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)*

Edgar Filing: Accenture plc - Form 10-Q

(Address of principal executive offices)

(353) (1) 646-2000

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting filer 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 Exchange Act). Yes No

The number of shares of the registrant's Class A ordinary shares, par value \$0.0000225 per share, outstanding as of June 18, 2010 was 637,270,034 (which number does not include 55,313,988 issued shares held by the registrant). The number of shares of the registrant's Class X ordinary shares, par value \$0.0000225 per share, outstanding as of June 18, 2010 was 68,639,826.

Table of Contents

ACCENTURE PLC

INDEX

| | Page |
|---|-------------|
| <u>Part I. Financial Information</u> | 3 |
| <u>Item 1. Financial Statements</u> | 3 |
| <u>Consolidated Balance Sheets as of May 31, 2010 (Unaudited) and August 31, 2009</u> | 3 |
| <u>Consolidated Income Statements (Unaudited) for the three and nine months ended May 31, 2010 and 2009</u> | 4 |
| <u>Consolidated Cash Flows Statements (Unaudited) for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 and 2009</u> | 5 |
| <u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)</u> | 6 |
| <u>Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u> | 17 |
| <u>Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u> | 32 |
| <u>Item 4. Controls and Procedures</u> | 32 |
| <u>Part II. Other Information</u> | 32 |
| <u>Item 1. Legal Proceedings</u> | 32 |
| <u>Item 1A. Risk Factors</u> | 33 |
| <u>Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u> | 33 |
| <u>Item 3. Defaults upon Senior Securities</u> | 35 |
| <u>Item 4. (Removed and Reserved)</u> | 35 |
| <u>Item 5. Other Information</u> | 35 |
| <u>Item 6. Exhibits</u> | 35 |
| <u>Signatures</u> | 36 |

Table of Contents**PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION****ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****ACCENTURE PLC****CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

May 31, 2010 and August 31, 2009

(In thousands of U.S. dollars, except share and per share amounts)

| | May 31, 2010 (Unaudited) | August 31, 2009 |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 4,312,111 | \$ 4,541,662 |
| Short-term investments | 8,094 | 7,904 |
| Receivables from clients, net | 2,350,493 | 2,251,341 |
| Unbilled services, net | 1,165,857 | 1,110,444 |
| Deferred income taxes, net | 510,065 | 479,662 |
| Other current assets | 496,770 | 599,501 |
| Total current assets | 8,843,390 | 8,990,514 |
| NON-CURRENT ASSETS: | | |
| Unbilled services, net | 57,507 | 94,496 |
| Investments | 39,590 | 29,011 |
| Property and equipment, net | 625,534 | 701,144 |
| Goodwill | 805,282 | 825,152 |
| Deferred contract costs | 502,313 | 531,777 |
| Deferred income taxes, net | 707,193 | 745,228 |
| Other non-current assets | 336,849 | 338,412 |
| Total non-current assets | 3,074,268 | 3,265,220 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$ 11,917,658 | \$ 12,255,734 |
| LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES: | | |
| Current portion of long-term debt and bank borrowings | \$ 573 | \$ 594 |
| Accounts payable | 683,094 | 717,379 |
| Deferred revenues | 1,688,069 | 1,725,179 |
| Accrued payroll and related benefits | 2,409,544 | 2,423,883 |
| Accrued consumption taxes | 159,576 | 231,501 |
| Income taxes payable | 241,405 | 261,058 |
| Deferred income taxes, net | 25,906 | 21,053 |
| Other accrued liabilities | 620,887 | 858,312 |
| Total current liabilities | 5,829,054 | 6,238,959 |
| NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES: | | |

Edgar Filing: Accenture plc - Form 10-Q

| | | |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Long-term debt | 198 | 361 |
| Deferred revenues relating to contract costs | 475,770 | 536,065 |
| Retirement obligation | 673,661 | 678,333 |
| Deferred income taxes, net | 72,008 | 71,941 |
| Income taxes payable | 1,198,083 | 1,102,589 |
| Other non-current liabilities | 207,484 | 241,280 |
| Total non-current liabilities | 2,627,204 | 2,630,569 |
| COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES | | |
| SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY: | | |
| Ordinary shares, par value 1.00 euros per share, 40,000 shares authorized, 40,000 and zero shares issued as of May 31, 2010 and August 31, 2009, respectively | 57 | |
| Class A ordinary shares, par value \$0.0000225 per share, 20,000,000,000 shares authorized, 691,975,223 and 677,019,865 shares issued as of May 31, 2010 and August 31, 2009, respectively | 16 | 15 |
| Class X ordinary shares, par value \$0.0000225 per share, 1,000,000,000 shares authorized, 68,639,826 and 89,918,808 issued and outstanding as of May 31, 2010 and August 31, 2009, respectively | 2 | 2 |
| Restricted share units | 971,150 | 870,699 |
| Additional paid-in capital | | |
| Treasury shares, at cost: Ordinary, 40,000 and zero shares as of May 31, 2010 and August 31, 2009, respectively; Class A Ordinary, 55,458,457 and 54,063,555 shares as of May 31, 2010 and August 31, 2009, respectively | (1,876,222) | (1,755,446) |
| Retained earnings | 4,180,885 | 3,947,129 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | (279,258) | (227,178) |
| Total Accenture plc shareholders' equity | 2,996,630 | 2,835,221 |
| Noncontrolling interests | 464,770 | 550,985 |
| Total shareholders' equity | 3,461,400 | 3,386,206 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY | \$ 11,917,658 | \$ 12,255,734 |

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

Table of Contents**ACCENTURE PLC****CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENTS****Three and Nine Months Ended May 31, 2010 and 2009****(In thousands of U.S. dollars, except share and per share amounts)****(Unaudited)**

| | Three Months Ended May 31, | | Nine Months Ended May 31, | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| | 2010 | 2009 | 2010 | 2009 |
| REVENUES: | | | | |
| Revenues before reimbursements (Net revenues) | \$ 5,571,017 | \$ 5,145,093 | \$ 16,129,987 | \$ 16,430,914 |
| Reimbursements | 404,478 | 392,255 | 1,131,018 | 1,234,605 |
| Revenues | 5,975,495 | 5,537,348 | 17,261,005 | 17,665,519 |
| OPERATING EXPENSES: | | | | |
| Cost of services: | | | | |
| Cost of services before reimbursable expenses | 3,639,367 | 3,474,466 | 10,724,052 | 11,250,154 |
| Reimbursable expenses | 404,478 | 392,255 | 1,131,018 | 1,234,605 |
| Cost of services | 4,043,845 | 3,866,721 | 11,855,070 | 12,484,759 |
| Sales and marketing | 714,487 | 524,879 | 1,959,733 | 1,607,297 |
| General and administrative costs | 410,057 | 410,532 | 1,235,513 | 1,355,912 |
| Reorganization costs (benefits), net | 3,276 | 3,176 | 9,478 | (6,728) |
| Total operating expenses | 5,171,665 | 4,805,308 | 15,059,794 | 15,441,240 |
| OPERATING INCOME | 803,830 | 732,040 | 2,201,211 | 2,224,279 |
| (Loss) gain on investments, net | (3) | (157) | 29 | 1,084 |
| Interest income | 7,401 | 8,649 | 21,375 | 42,000 |
| Interest expense | (2,061) | (3,285) | (11,061) | (9,899) |
| Other (expense) income, net | (5,887) | 10,524 | (13,779) | (2,210) |
| INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES | 803,280 | 747,771 | 2,197,775 | 2,255,254 |
| Provision for income taxes | 239,761 | 211,242 | 647,579 | 623,084 |
| NET INCOME | 563,519 | 536,529 | 1,550,196 | 1,632,170 |
| Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests in Accenture SCA and Accenture Canada Holdings Inc. | (66,899) | (87,858) | (199,350) | (283,326) |
| Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests other | (6,023) | (4,702) | (15,672) | (13,573) |
| NET INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO ACCENTURE PLC | \$ 490,597 | \$ 443,969 | \$ 1,335,174 | \$ 1,335,271 |
| Weighted average Class A ordinary shares: | | | | |
| Basic | 641,355,607 | 623,649,189 | 637,199,756 | 622,108,212 |
| Diluted | 766,597,090 | 784,047,232 | 768,992,565 | 788,801,388 |
| Earnings per Class A ordinary share: | | | | |
| Basic | \$ 0.76 | \$ 0.71 | \$ 2.10 | \$ 2.15 |
| Diluted | \$ 0.73 | \$ 0.68 | \$ 2.00 | \$ 2.05 |
| Cash dividends per share | \$ 0.375 | \$ | \$ 1.125 | \$ 0.50 |

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

Table of Contents**ACCENTURE PLC****CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOWS STATEMENTS****Nine Months Ended May 31, 2010 and 2009****(In thousands of U.S. dollars)****(Unaudited)**

| | 2010 | 2009 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Net income | \$ 1,550,196 | \$ 1,632,170 |
| Adjustments to reconcile Net income to Net cash provided by operating activities | | |
| Depreciation, amortization and asset impairments | 349,730 | 371,009 |
| Reorganization costs (benefits), net | 9,478 | (6,728) |
| Share-based compensation expense | 326,629 | 342,835 |
| Deferred income taxes, net | (24,287) | 1,354 |
| Other, net | (9,507) | 79,240 |
| Change in assets and liabilities, net of acquisitions | | |
| Receivables from clients, net | (268,290) | 445,037 |
| Unbilled services, current and non-current | (134,891) | 188,061 |
| Other current and non-current assets | (21,472) | (98,119) |
| Accounts payable | (13,173) | (334,408) |
| Deferred revenues, current and non-current | 126,536 | (126,124) |
| Accrued payroll and related benefits | 129,865 | (389,602) |
| Income taxes payable, current and non-current | 85,369 | 70,461 |
| Other current and non-current liabilities | (266,168) | (61,798) |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 1,840,015 | 2,113,388 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Proceeds from maturities and sales of available-for-sale investments | 9,380 | 20,175 |
| Purchases of available-for-sale investments | (11,165) | (1,677) |
| Proceeds from sales of property and equipment | 3,083 | 3,269 |
| Purchases of property and equipment | (136,613) | (168,134) |
| Purchases of businesses and investments, net of cash acquired | (28,530) | (5,388) |
| Proceeds from sale of business, net of cash transferred | | 2,163 |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (163,845) | (149,592) |
| CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Proceeds from issuance of ordinary shares | 391,185 | 341,623 |
| Purchases of shares | (1,332,479) | (1,330,256) |
| Repayments of long-term debt, net | (550) | (1,477) |
| Proceeds (repayments) of short-term borrowings, net | 393 | (4,788) |
| Cash dividends paid | (824,148) | (378,446) |
| Excess tax benefits from share-based payment arrangements | 55,851 | 30,856 |
| Other, net | (12,872) | (44,412) |
| Net cash used in financing activities | (1,722,620) | (1,386,900) |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents | (183,101) | (177,197) |

Edgar Filing: Accenture plc - Form 10-Q

| | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| NET (DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | (229,551) | 399,699 |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, beginning of period | 4,541,662 | 3,602,760 |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, end of period | \$ 4,312,111 | \$ 4,002,459 |

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

Table of Contents

ACCENTURE PLC

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(In thousands of U.S. dollars, except share and per share amounts or as otherwise disclosed)

(Unaudited)

1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying unaudited interim Consolidated Financial Statements of Accenture plc and its controlled subsidiary companies (collectively, the Company) have been prepared pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and do not include all of the information and note disclosures required by U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (U.S. GAAP) for complete financial statements. These Consolidated Financial Statements should therefore be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes thereto for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2009 included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on October 19, 2009.

The accompanying unaudited interim Consolidated Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP, which requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect amounts reported in the Consolidated Financial Statements and accompanying disclosures. Although these estimates are based on management's best knowledge of current events and actions that the Company may undertake in the future, actual results may be different from those estimates. The Consolidated Financial Statements reflect all adjustments of a normal, recurring nature that are, in the opinion of management, necessary for a fair presentation of results for these interim periods. The results of operations for the three and nine months ended May 31, 2010 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2010.

Certain prior-period amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current-period presentation. In addition, on September 1, 2009, the Company streamlined its approach to capturing time spent on business-development activities. This resulted in a greater amount of payroll costs for the Company's client-services personnel being recorded in Sales and marketing rather than Cost of services. The Company has not reclassified fiscal 2009 amounts to conform to the fiscal 2010 presentation, as it would be impractical to do so.

The Company has evaluated events and transactions subsequent to the balance sheet date. Based on this evaluation, the Company is not aware of any events or transactions that occurred subsequent to the balance sheet date but prior to filing that would require recognition or disclosure in its Consolidated Financial Statements.

Allowances for Client Receivables and Unbilled Services

As of May 31, 2010 and August 31, 2009, total allowances for client receivables and unbilled services were \$103,074 and \$101,517, respectively.

Accumulated Depreciation

As of May 31, 2010 and August 31, 2009, total accumulated depreciation was \$1,653,187 and \$1,639,873, respectively.

Recently Adopted Accounting Pronouncements

On September 1, 2009, the Company adopted guidance issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) on business combinations. The guidance establishes principles and requirements for: recognizing and measuring the identifiable assets acquired, the liabilities assumed and any noncontrolling interest in the acquiree; recognizing and measuring the goodwill acquired in the business combination or a gain from a bargain purchase; expensing acquisition-related costs as incurred; and determining what information to disclose to enable users of the financial statements to evaluate the nature and financial effects of the business combination. The adoption of the guidance on business combinations did not have a material impact on the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements.

On September 1, 2009, the Company adopted guidance issued by the FASB on noncontrolling interests, which establishes accounting and reporting standards requiring the noncontrolling interest in a subsidiary (previously referred to as minority interest) to be presented as a separate component in the shareholders' equity section of the Consolidated Balance Sheet. As required, the guidance on noncontrolling interests was

Edgar Filing: Accenture plc - Form 10-Q

applied prospectively with the exception of presentation and disclosure requirements, which were applied retrospectively for all periods presented. For additional information, see Note 6 (Shareholders' Equity) to these Consolidated Financial Statements.

Table of Contents

ACCENTURE PLC

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

(In thousands of U.S. dollars, except share and per share amounts or as otherwise disclosed)

(Unaudited)

2. EARNINGS PER SHARE

Basic and diluted earnings per share are calculated as follows:

| | Three Months Ended May 31, | | Nine Months Ended May 31, | |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| | 2010 | 2009 | 2010 | 2009 |
| Basic Earnings per share | | | | |
| Net income attributable to Accenture plc | \$ 490,597 | \$ 443,969 | \$ 1,335,174 | \$ 1,335,271 |
| Basic weighted average Class A ordinary shares | 641,355,607 | 623,649,189 | 637,199,756 | 622,108,212 |
| Basic earnings per share | \$ 0.76 | \$ 0.71 | \$ 2.10 | \$ 2.15 |
| Diluted Earnings per share | | | | |
| Net income attributable to Accenture plc | \$ 490,597 | \$ 443,969 | \$ 1,335,174 | \$ 1,335,271 |
| Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests in Accenture SCA and Accenture Canada Holdings Inc. (1) | 66,899 | 87,858 | 199,350 | 283,326 |
| Net income for diluted earnings per share calculation | \$ 557,496 | \$ 531,827 | \$ 1,534,524 | \$ 1,618,597 |
| Basic weighted average Class A ordinary shares | 641,355,607 | 623,649,189 | 637,199,756 | 622,108,212 |
| Class A ordinary shares issuable upon redemption/exchange of noncontrolling interests (1) | 87,477,337 | 123,382,539 | 95,289,033 | 131,730,635 |
| Diluted effect of employee compensation related to Class A ordinary shares (2) | 37,681,645 | 36,959,029 | 36,429,776 | 34,878,190 |
| Diluted effect of employee share purchase plan related to Class A ordinary shares | 82,501 | 56,475 | 74,000 | 84,351 |
| Diluted weighted average Class A ordinary shares | 766,597,090 | 784,047,232 | 768,992,565 | 788,801,388 |
| Diluted earnings per share | \$ 0.73 | \$ 0.68 | \$ 2.00 | \$ 2.05 |

- (1) Diluted earnings per share assumes the redemption of all Accenture SCA Class I common shares owned by holders of noncontrolling interests and the exchange of all Accenture Canada Holdings Inc. exchangeable shares for Accenture plc Class A ordinary shares, on a one-for-one basis. The income effect does not take into account Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests other, since those shares are not redeemable or exchangeable for Accenture plc Class A ordinary shares.

Edgar Filing: Accenture plc - Form 10-Q

- (2) Fiscal 2009 diluted weighted average Accenture plc Class A ordinary shares and earnings per share amounts have been restated to reflect the impact of the issuance of additional restricted share units to holders of restricted share units in connection with the payment of cash dividends.

3. INCOME TAXES

Effective Tax Rate

The Company's effective tax rates for the three months ended May 31, 2010 and 2009 were 29.8% and 28.2%, respectively. The Company's effective tax rates for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 and 2009 were 29.5% and 27.6%, respectively. The effective tax rate for the three months ended May 31, 2010 includes lower benefits related to final determinations of prior-year tax liabilities, compared with the third quarter of fiscal 2009. This was partially offset by benefits related to changes in the geographic mix of income. The effective tax rate for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 is higher than the effective tax rate for the nine months ended May 31, 2009 primarily as a result of higher benefits related to final determinations and other adjustments to prior-year tax liabilities recorded during the nine months ended May 31, 2009. This was partially offset by benefits related to changes in the geographic mix of income.

Table of Contents**ACCENTURE PLC****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****(In thousands of U.S. dollars, except share and per share amounts or as otherwise disclosed)****(Unaudited)****4. RESTRUCTURING AND REORGANIZATION COSTS, NET****Restructuring**

The Company's restructuring activity was as follows:

| | 2009 Workforce Realignment | 2009 Space Abandonment | Other Space Abandonment (1) | Nine Months Ended May 31, 2010 |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Restructuring liability, beginning of period | \$ 142,068 | \$ 88,811 | \$ 34,764 | \$ 265,643 |
| Payments made | (120,288) | (24,688) | (3,152) | (148,128) |
| Other (2) | (12,978) | (3,706) | (946) | (17,630) |
| Restructuring liability, end of period | \$ 8,802 | \$ 60,417 | \$ 30,666 | \$ 99,885 |

(1) Relates to 2002 and 2004 restructurings.

(2) Other represents changes in estimates, imputed interest and foreign currency translation.

The restructuring liabilities as of May 31, 2010 were \$99,885, of which \$33,268 was included in Other accrued liabilities and \$66,617 was included in Other non-current liabilities. The Company expects to pay the remaining workforce realignment liabilities within nine months. The remaining space abandonment liabilities represent the net present value of estimated obligations for operating leases on abandoned office space.

Reorganization

In fiscal 2001, the Company accrued reorganization liabilities in connection with its transition to a corporate structure. These liabilities included certain non-income tax liabilities, such as stamp taxes, as well as liabilities for certain individual income tax exposures related to the transfer of interests in certain entities to the Company as part of the reorganization. These primarily represent unusual and disproportionate individual income tax exposures assumed by certain, but not all, of the Company's shareholders and partners in certain tax jurisdictions specifically related to the transfer of their partnership interests in certain entities to the Company as part of the reorganization. (Prior to fiscal 2005, the Company referred to its highest-level employees with the partner title and the Company continues to use the term partner to refer to these persons in certain situations related to its reorganization and the period prior to its incorporation.) The Company identified certain shareholders and partners who may incur such unusual and disproportionate financial damage in certain jurisdictions. These include shareholders and partners who were subject to tax in their jurisdiction on items of income arising from the reorganization transaction that were not taxable for most other shareholders and partners. In addition, certain other shareholders and partners were subject to a different rate or amount of tax than other shareholders or partners in the same jurisdiction. When additional taxes are assessed on these shareholders or partners in connection with these transfers, the Company has made and intends to make payments, and in one country has contractually committed, to reimburse certain costs associated with the assessment either to the shareholder or partner, or to the taxing authority. The Company has recorded reorganization expense and the related liability where such liabilities are probable. Interest accruals are made to cover reimbursement of interest on such tax assessments.

Table of Contents**ACCENTURE PLC****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****(In thousands of U.S. dollars, except share and per share amounts or as otherwise disclosed)****(Unaudited)**

The Company's reorganization activity was as follows:

| | Three Months Ended May 31, | | Nine Months Ended May 31, | |
|---|-------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|------------|
| | 2010 | 2009 | 2010 | 2009 |
| Reorganization liability, beginning of period | \$ 288,118 | \$ 258,354 | \$ 296,104 | \$ 308,694 |
| Final determinations (1) | | | (743) | (23,479) |
| Changes in estimates | | | | 7,297 |
| Benefits recorded | | | (743) | (16,182) |
| Interest expense accrued | 3,276 | 3,176 | 10,221 | 9,454 |
| Payments | | | | |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments | (26,823) | 25,167 | (41,011) | (15,269) |
| Reorganization liability, end of period | \$ 264,571 | \$ 286,697 | \$ 264,571 | \$ 286,697 |

(1) Includes final agreements with tax authorities and expirations of statutes of limitations.

As of May 31, 2010, reorganization liabilities of \$255,067 were included in Other accrued liabilities because expirations of statutes of limitations or other final determinations could occur within 12 months, and reorganization liabilities of \$9,504 were included in Other non-current liabilities. Timing of the resolution of tax audits or the initiation of additional litigation and/or criminal tax proceedings may delay final resolution. Final resolution, through settlement, conclusion of legal proceedings or a tax authority's decision not to pursue a claim, will result in payment by the Company of amounts in settlement or judgment of these matters and/or recording of a reorganization benefit or cost in the Company's Consolidated Income Statement. It is possible the aggregate amount of such payments in connection with resolution of all such proceedings could exceed the currently recorded amounts. As of May 31, 2010, only a small number of jurisdictions remain that have active audits/investigations or open statutes of limitations, and only one is significant. In that jurisdiction, current and former partners, and the Company, are engaged in disputes with tax authorities in connection with the corporate reorganization in 2001, some of which are expected to result in litigation. These individuals and the Company intend to vigorously defend their positions.

5. BUSINESS COMBINATIONS AND GOODWILL

The changes in the carrying amount of goodwill by reportable operating segment were as follows:

| | August 31, 2009 | Additions/ Adjustments (2) | Foreign Currency Translation Adjustments | May 31, 2010 |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Communications & High Tech | \$ 154,903 | \$ 992 | \$ (11,347) | \$ 144,548 |
| Financial Services | 140,364 | 1,601 | (4,017) | 137,948 |
| Health & Public Service (1) | 274,912 | 5,511 | (3,759) | 276,664 |

Edgar Filing: Accenture plc - Form 10-Q

| | | | | |
|--------------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| Products (1) | 182,442 | 1,057 | (9,151) | 174,348 |
| Resources | 72,531 | 812 | (1,569) | 71,774 |
| Total | \$ 825,152 | \$ 9,973 | \$ (29,843) | \$ 805,282 |

- (1) On September 1, 2009, the Company formed the Health & Public Service operating group by combining various healthcare-related components of its Products operating group with its Public Service operating group. Prior-period amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current-period presentation.
- (2) Additions/Adjustments primarily relate to immaterial acquisitions made during the nine months ended May 31, 2010.

Table of Contents

ACCENTURE PLC

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

(In thousands of U.S. dollars, except share and per share amounts or as otherwise disclosed)

(Unaudited)

6. SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

Accenture plc

On September 1, 2009, all of the outstanding Class A and Class X common shares of Accenture Ltd were cancelled and Accenture plc issued Class A and Class X ordinary shares on a one-for-one basis to the holders of the cancelled Accenture Ltd Class A and Class X common shares, as applicable. As a result, Accenture SCA Class I common shares and Accenture Canada Holdings Inc. exchangeable shares, which were redeemable for, at the Company's election, cash or Accenture Ltd Class A common shares based on the market price of an Accenture Ltd Class A common share at the time of the redemption, are now redeemable for, at the Company's election, cash or Accenture plc Class A ordinary shares based on the market price of an Accenture plc Class A ordinary share at the time of redemption.

Equity of Subsidiaries Redeemable or Exchangeable for Accenture plc Class A Ordinary Shares

On November 16, 2009, the shareholders of Accenture SCA approved amendments to Accenture SCA's articles of association that reclassified all of the Class II common shares and Class III common shares (including the Class III letter shares) of Accenture SCA, which were all held by the Company, into Class I common shares. The Class I common shares into which these Class II and III common shares were reclassified have the same rights as the Class I common shares that existed prior to November 16, 2009, including being entitled to the payment of cash dividends.

Table of Contents**ACCENTURE PLC****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

(In thousands of U.S. dollars, except share and per share amounts or as otherwise disclosed)

(Unaudited)

Material Transactions Affecting Shareholders' Equity

The Company's shareholders' equity activity for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 was as follows:

| | Ordinary Shares, Restricted Share Units and Additional Paid-in Capital | Treasury Shares | Retained Earnings | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss | Total Accenture plc Shareholders Equity | Noncontrolling Interests (1) | Total Shareholders Equity |
|---|--|-----------------|----------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Balance as of August 31, 2009 (As reported) | \$ 870,716 | \$ (1,755,446) | \$ 3,998,501 | \$ (227,178) | \$ 2,886,593 | \$ 587,191 | \$ 3,473,784 |
| Adoption of FASB guidance on noncontrolling interests (1) | | | (51,372) | | (51,372) | (36,206) | (87,578) |
| Balance as of August 31, 2009 (As adjusted) | 870,716 | (1,755,446) | 3,947,129 | (227,178) | 2,835,221 | 550,985 | 3,386,206 |
| Net income | | | 1,335,174 | | 1,335,174 | 215,022 | 1,550,196 |
| Other comprehensive loss, net of tax and reclassification adjustments | | | | (52,080) | (52,080) | (8,924) | (61,004) |
| Purchases of shares (2) | (420,139) | (425,459) | (325,523) | | (1,171,121) | (161,358) | (1,332,479) |
| Share transactions related to employee share programs, net | 417,846 | 304,740 | | | 722,586 | 37,653 | 760,239 |
| Dividends (3) | 52,351 | | (762,644) | | (710,293) | (113,855) | (824,148) |
| Other, net | 50,451 | (57) | (13,251) | | 37,143 | (54,753) | (17,610) |
| Balance as of May 31, 2010 | \$ 971,225 | \$ (1,876,222) | \$ 4,180,885 | \$ (279,258) | \$ 2,996,630 | \$ 464,770 | \$ 3,461,400 |

- (1) On September 1, 2009 the Company adopted guidance issued by the FASB on noncontrolling interests. As a result, the Company decreased Retained earnings by \$51,372 and Noncontrolling interests by \$36,206 related to the fair value of its Avanade Inc. subsidiary's (Avanade) redeemable common stock and the intrinsic value of the options on redeemable common stock as of August 31, 2009, which are now classified as Other accrued liabilities. For additional information, see Note 9 (Commitments and Contingencies) to these Consolidated Financial Statements.
- (2) During the nine months ended May 31, 2010, the Company repurchased in the open market 7,850,000 Class A ordinary shares for \$319,327; acquired primarily via share withholding 2,803,385 Class A ordinary shares for \$106,138; and repurchased 22,185,409 Accenture SCA Class I common shares and Accenture Canada Holdings Inc. exchangeable shares for \$907,014.

Edgar Filing: Accenture plc - Form 10-Q

(3) The Company's dividend activity for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 was as follows:

| Dividend Payment Date | Dividend Per Share | Accenture plc Class A ordinary shares | | Accenture SCA Class I common shares & Accenture Canada Holdings Inc. exchangeable shares | | Total Cash Outlay |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | Record Date | Cash Outlay | Record Date | Cash Outlay | |
| November 16, 2009 | \$ 0.75 | October 16, 2009 | \$ 470,874 | October 13, 2009 | \$ 80,568 | \$ 551,442 |
| May 14, 2010 | \$ 0.375 | April 16, 2010 | 239,419 | April 13, 2010 | 33,287 | 272,706 |
| Total Dividends | | | \$ 710,293 | | \$ 113,855 | \$ 824,148 |

The payment of the cash dividends also resulted in the issuance of additional restricted share units to holders of restricted share units. Diluted weighted average Accenture plc Class A ordinary share amounts have been restated for all periods presented to reflect this issuance.

On September 30, 2009, the Board of Directors of Accenture plc approved \$4,000,000 in additional share repurchase authority, resulting in a total outstanding authority of \$4,851,725. As of May 31, 2010, the Company's aggregate available authorization for its publicly announced open-market share purchase program and the other share purchase programs was \$3,625,384.

Other Share Redemptions

During the nine months ended May 31, 2010, the Company issued 1,770,602 Accenture plc Class A ordinary shares upon redemptions of an equivalent number of Accenture SCA Class I common shares pursuant to its registration statement on Form S-3 (the registration statement). The registration statement allows the Company, at its option, to issue freely tradable Accenture plc Class A ordinary shares in lieu of cash upon redemptions of Accenture SCA Class I common shares held by senior executives, former executives and their permitted transferees.

Table of Contents**ACCENTURE PLC****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****(In thousands of U.S. dollars, except share and per share amounts or as otherwise disclosed)****(Unaudited)****Comprehensive Income**

The components of comprehensive income were as follows:

| | May 31, | |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| | 2010 | 2009 |
| Net income attributable to Accenture plc | \$ 1,335,174 | \$ 1,335,271 |
| Unrealized gains (losses) on cash flow hedges, net of tax | 18,606 | (11,318) |
| Unrealized (losses) gains on marketable securities, net | (292) | 121 |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments, net of tax | (77,007) | (130,388) |
| Defined benefit plans, net of tax | 6,613 | (872) |
| Comprehensive income attributable to Accenture plc | 1,283,094 | 1,192,814 |
| Comprehensive income attributable to noncontrolling interests | 206,098 | 263,474 |
| Total comprehensive income | \$ 1,489,192 | \$ 1,456,288 |

Comprehensive income for the three months ended May 31, 2010 and 2009 was \$469,112 and \$743,496, respectively.

The activity related to the change in net unrealized gains (losses) on cash flow hedges, net of tax, in Accumulated other comprehensive loss was as follows:

| | May 31, | |
|--|-------------|------------|
| | 2010 | 2009 |
| Net unrealized (losses) gains on cash flow hedges, net of tax, beginning of period | \$ (10,575) | \$ 11,381 |
| Change in fair value, net of tax | 30,288 | (24,114) |
| Reclassification adjustments into earnings, net of tax | (9,226) | 10,630 |
| Net unrealized gains (losses) on cash flow hedges, net of tax, end of period | \$ 10,487 | \$ (2,103) |

7. DERIVATIVE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

In the normal course of business, the Company uses derivative financial instruments to manage foreign currency exchange rate risk. Derivative transactions are governed by a uniform set of policies and procedures covering areas such as authorization, counterparty exposure and hedging practices. Positions are monitored using techniques such as market value and sensitivity analyses. The Company does not enter into derivative transactions for trading purposes.

Certain derivatives also give rise to credit risks from the possible non-performance by counterparties. Credit risk is generally limited to the fair value of those contracts that are favorable to the Company, and the maximum amount of loss due to credit risk, based on the gross fair value of all of the Company's derivative financial instruments, was approximately \$40,533 as of May 31, 2010. The Company has limited its credit risk by entering into derivative transactions only with highly-rated global financial institutions, limiting the amount of credit exposure with any one

Edgar Filing: Accenture plc - Form 10-Q

financial institution and conducting ongoing evaluation of the creditworthiness of the financial institutions with which it does business.

The Company also utilizes standard counterparty master agreements containing provisions for the netting of certain foreign currency transaction obligations and for set-off of certain obligations in the event of an insolvency of one of the parties to the transaction. These provisions may reduce the Company's potential overall loss resulting from the insolvency of a counterparty and reduce a counterparty's potential overall loss resulting from the insolvency of the Company. Additionally, these agreements contain early termination provisions triggered by adverse changes in a counterparty's credit rating, thereby enabling the Company to accelerate settlement of a transaction prior to its contractual maturity and potentially decrease the Company's realized loss on an open transaction. Similarly, a decrement in the Company's credit rating could trigger a counterparty's early termination rights, thereby enabling a counterparty to accelerate settlement of a transaction prior to its contractual maturity and potentially increase the Company's realized loss on an open transaction. The aggregate fair value of the Company's derivative instruments with credit-risk-related contingent features that are in a liability position as of May 31, 2010 was \$22,783.

Table of Contents**ACCENTURE PLC****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****(In thousands of U.S. dollars, except share and per share amounts or as otherwise disclosed)****(Unaudited)**

The Company classifies cash flows from its derivative programs as cash flows from operating activities in the Consolidated Cash Flows Statement. The notional and fair values of all derivative instruments were as follows:

| | May 31, 2010 | | August 31, 2009 | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|
| | Notional Value | Fair Value | Notional Value | Fair Value |
| Foreign currency forward contracts: | | | | |
| To buy | \$ 2,550,490 | \$ 20,142 | \$ 1,913,263 | \$ (17,018) |
| To sell | 291,908 | (2,392) | 106,962 | (403) |

Cash Flow Hedges

Certain of the Company's subsidiaries are exposed to currency risk through their use of resources supplied by the Company's Global Delivery Network. To mitigate this risk, the Company uses foreign currency forward exchange contracts to hedge the foreign exchange risk of the forecasted intercompany expenses denominated in foreign currencies for up to three years in the future. The Company has designated these derivatives as cash flow hedges. As of May 31, 2010, the Company held no derivatives that were designated as fair value or net investment hedges.

For a cash flow hedge, the effective portion of the change in estimated fair value of a hedging instrument is recorded in Accumulated other comprehensive loss as a separate component of Shareholders' Equity and is reclassified into Cost of services in the Consolidated Income Statement during the period in which the hedged transaction is recognized. Amounts reclassified into Cost of services for the three and nine months ended May 31, 2010 were gains of \$5,756 and \$9,226, respectively, net of taxes. The ineffective portion of the change in fair value of a cash flow hedge is recognized immediately in Other expense, net in the Consolidated Income Statement and for the three and nine months ended was not material. As of May 31, 2010, gains related to derivatives designated as cash flow hedges and recorded in Accumulated other comprehensive loss totaled \$10,487 net of taxes, of which \$6,701 is expected to be reclassified into earnings in the next 12 months. In addition, the Company did not discontinue any cash flow hedges during the nine months ended May 31, 2010.

The fair values of derivative instruments designated as cash flow hedges are recorded in the Consolidated Balance Sheet as follows:

| | May 31, 2010 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Assets | |
| Other current assets | \$ 15,660 |
| Other non-current assets | 7,519 |
| Total | \$ 23,179 |
| Liabilities | |
| Other accrued liabilities | \$ 6,828 |
| Other non-current liabilities | 2,182 |

Total \$ 9,010

Other Derivatives

The Company also uses foreign currency forward exchange contracts, which have not been designated as hedges, to hedge balance sheet exposures, such as intercompany loans. These instruments are generally short-term in nature, with typical maturities of less than one year, and are subject to fluctuations in foreign exchange rates. Realized gains or losses and changes in the estimated fair value of these derivatives, which are recorded in Other (expense) income, net in the Consolidated Income Statement, were a net loss of \$(51,532) and net loss of \$(12,583), respectively, for the three and nine months ended May 31, 2010.

Table of Contents**ACCENTURE PLC****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****(In thousands of U.S. dollars, except share and per share amounts or as otherwise disclosed)****(Unaudited)**

The fair values of other derivative instruments are recorded in the Consolidated Balance Sheet as follows:

| | May 31, 2010 |
|--|-------------------------|
| Other current assets | \$ 17,354 |
| Other accrued liabilities | 13,773 |
| For additional information related to derivative financial instruments, see Note 6 (Shareholders' Equity) and Note 8 (Fair Value Measurements) to these Consolidated Financial Statements. | |

8. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

The Company's financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of May 31, 2010 were as follows:

| | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Total |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Assets | | | | |
| Short-term investments | | | | |
| Equity securities | \$ | \$ 3,694 | \$ | \$ 3,694 |
| Foreign government debt securities | | | | |
| Corporate debt securities | | 4,400 | | 4,400 |
| Total short-term investments | | 8,094 | | 8,094 |
| Investments | | | | |
| Equity securities | | 1,386 | | 1,386 |
| Foreign government debt securities | | 3,144 | | 3,144 |
| Corporate debt securities | | 2,747 | | 2,747 |
| Total investments | | 7,277 | | 7,277 |
| Derivative financial instruments | | | | |
| Foreign currency forward exchange contracts | | 40,533 | | 40,533 |
| Total Assets | \$ | \$ 55,904 | \$ | \$ 55,904 |
| Liabilities | | | | |
| Derivative financial instruments | | | | |
| Foreign currency forward exchange contracts | \$ | \$ 22,783 | \$ | \$ 22,783 |

9. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES**Commitments**

Edgar Filing: Accenture plc - Form 10-Q

The Company has the right to purchase or may be required to purchase substantially all of the remaining outstanding shares of Avanade not owned by the Company at fair value if certain events occur. Holders of Avanade common stock and options to purchase the stock have put rights that, under certain circumstances and conditions, would require Avanade to redeem shares of its stock at fair value. As of May 31, 2010 and August 31, 2009, the Company has reflected the fair value of \$100,828 and \$87,578, respectively, related to Avanade's redeemable common stock and the intrinsic value of the options on redeemable common stock in Other accrued liabilities on the Consolidated Balance Sheet.

Indemnifications and Guarantees

In the normal course of business and in conjunction with certain client engagements, the Company has entered into contractual arrangements through which it may be obligated to indemnify clients with respect to certain matters. These arrangements with clients can include provisions whereby the Company has joint and several liability in relation to the performance of certain contractual obligations along with third parties also providing services and products for a specific project. Indemnification provisions are also included in arrangements under which the Company agrees to hold the indemnified party harmless with respect to third-party claims related to such matters as title to assets sold or licensed or certain intellectual property rights.

Table of Contents

ACCENTURE PLC

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

(In thousands of U.S. dollars, except share and per share amounts or as otherwise disclosed)

(Unaudited)

Typically, the Company has contractual recourse against third parties for certain payments made by the Company in connection with arrangements where third-party nonperformance has given rise to the client's claim. Payments by the Company under any of the arrangements described above are generally conditioned on the client making a claim, which may be disputed by the Company typically under dispute resolution procedures specified in the particular arrangement. The limitations of liability under these arrangements may be expressly limited or may not be expressly specified in terms of time and/or amount.

As of May 31, 2010 and August 31, 2009, the Company's aggregate potential liability to its clients for expressly limited guarantees involving the performance of third parties was approximately \$473,000 and \$508,000, respectively, of which all but approximately \$32,000 and \$24,000, respectively, may be recovered from the other third parties if the Company is obligated to make payments to the indemnified parties that are the consequence of a performance default by the other third parties. For arrangements with unspecified limitations, the Company cannot reasonably estimate the aggregate maximum potential liability, as it is inherently difficult to predict the maximum potential amount of such payments, due to the conditional nature and unique facts of each particular arrangement.

To date, the Company has not been required to make any significant payment under any of the arrangements described above. The Company has assessed the current status of performance/payment risk related to arrangements with limited guarantees, unspecified limitations and/or indemnification provisions and believes that any potential payments would be immaterial to the Consolidated Financial Statements, as a whole.

Legal Contingencies

As of May 31, 2010, the Company or its present personnel had been named as a defendant in various litigation matters. The Company and/or its personnel also from time to time are involved in investigations by various regulatory or legal authorities concerning matters arising in the course of its business around the world. Based on the present status of these matters, management believes these matters will not ultimately have a material effect on the Company's results of operations or financial condition.

Table of Contents**ACCENTURE PLC****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

(In thousands of U.S. dollars, except share and per share amounts or as otherwise disclosed)

(Unaudited)

10. SEGMENT REPORTING

The Company's reportable operating segments are the five operating groups, which are Communications & High Tech, Financial Services, Health & Public Service, Products and Resources. Information regarding the Company's reportable operating segments is as follows:

| | Three Months Ended May 31, | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | 2010 | | 2009 | |
| | Net Revenues | Operating Income | Net Revenues | Operating Income |
| Communications & High Tech | \$ 1,178,355 | \$ 168,166 | \$ 1,155,599 | \$ 173,178 |
| Financial Services | 1,149,863 | 201,235 | 1,026,946 | 134,384 |
| Health & Public Service (1) | 926,618 | 74,530 | 901,729 | 123,414 |
| Products (1) | 1,307,903 | 183,780 | 1,150,489 | 164,016 |
| Resources | 1,004,056 | 176,119 | 904,699 | 137,048 |
| Other | 4,222 | | 5,631 | |
| Total | \$ 5,571,017 | \$ 803,830 | \$ 5,145,093 | \$ 732,040 |

| | Nine Months Ended May 31, | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| | 2010 | | 2009 | |
| | Net Revenues | Operating Income | Net Revenues | Operating Income |
| Communications & High Tech | \$ 3,447,815 | \$ 454,179 | \$ 3,713,073 | \$ 504,486 |
| Financial Services | 3,330,779 | 581,117 | 3,305,729 | 387,791 |
| Health & Public Service (1) | 2,724,693 | 246,291 | 2,721,132 | 386,005 |
| Products (1) | 3,717,538 | 441,023 | 3,731,059 | 497,826 |
| Resources | 2,897,528 | 478,601 | 2,937,194 | 448,171 |
| Other | 11,634 | | 22,727 | |
| Total | \$ 16,129,987 | \$ 2,201,211 | \$ 16,430,914 | \$ 2,224,279 |

- (1) On September 1, 2009, the Company formed the Health & Public Service operating group by combining various healthcare-related components of its Products operating group with its Public Service operating group. Prior-period amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current-period presentation.

Table of Contents

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

The following discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with our Consolidated Financial Statements and related Notes included elsewhere in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 31, 2009, and with the information under the heading Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 31, 2009.

We use the terms Accenture, we, the Company, our and us in this report to refer to Accenture plc and its subsidiaries. All references to years, unless otherwise noted, refer to our fiscal year, which ends on August 31. For example, a reference to fiscal 2009 means the 12-month period that ended on August 31, 2009. All references to quarters, unless otherwise noted, refer to the quarters of our fiscal year.

We use the term in local currency so that certain financial results may be viewed without the impact of foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations, thereby facilitating period-to-period comparisons of business performance. Financial results in local currency are calculated by restating current period activity into U.S. dollars using the comparable prior-year period's foreign currency exchange rates. This approach is used for all results where the functional currency is not the U.S. dollar.

Disclosure Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act) relating to our operations, results of operations and other matters that are based on our current expectations, estimates, assumptions and projections. Words such as may, will, should, likely, anticipates, expects, intends, plans, projects, believes, estimates and similar expressions are used to identify these forward-looking statements. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are difficult to predict. Forward-looking statements are based upon assumptions as to future events that may not prove to be accurate. Actual outcomes and results may differ materially from what is expressed or forecast in these forward-looking statements. Risks, uncertainties and other factors that might cause such differences, some of which could be material, include, but are not limited to:

Our results of operations could be adversely affected by economic and political conditions and the effects of these conditions on our clients' businesses and levels of business activity.

Our results of operations could be negatively affected if we cannot expand and develop our services and solutions in response to changes in technology and client demand.

The consulting, systems integration and technology, and outsourcing markets are highly competitive, and we might not be able to compete effectively.

Our reported revenues and earnings could be lower if the U.S. dollar strengthens against other currencies, particularly the Euro and British pound.

Our work with government clients exposes us to additional risks inherent in the government contracting environment.

Our business could be adversely affected if our clients are not satisfied with our services.

Our results of operations could be adversely affected if our clients terminate their contracts with us.

Edgar Filing: Accenture plc - Form 10-Q

Outsourcing services are a significant part of our business and subject us to operational and financial risk.

Our results of operations may be affected by the rate of growth in the use of technology in business and the type and level of technology spending by our clients.

The pricing environment continues to remain competitive, particularly in several markets within Europe, and our profitability could suffer if we are not able to maintain favorable pricing rates.

Our profitability could suffer if we are not able to maintain a favorable utilization rate.

Our business could be negatively affected if we incur legal liability in connection with providing our solutions and services.

If our pricing structures do not accurately anticipate the cost and complexity of performing our work, then our contracts could be unprofitable.

Many of our contracts utilize performance pricing that links some of our fees to the attainment of various performance or business targets. This could increase the variability of our revenues and margins.

Our alliance relationships may not be successful.

Our global operations are subject to complex risks, some of which might be beyond our control.

We could have liability or our reputation could be damaged if we do not protect client data or information systems or if our information systems are breached.

Our profitability could suffer if we are not able to control our costs.

Table of Contents

If we are unable to keep our supply of skills and resources in balance with client demand, including if we are unable to hire sufficient employees with the skills and background where they are needed, our business and financial results may be adversely affected.

We could be subject to liabilities if our subcontractors or the third parties with whom we partner cannot deliver their project contributions on time or at all.

If we are unable to collect our receivables or unbilled services, our results of operations and cash flows could be adversely affected.

Our services or solutions could infringe upon the intellectual property rights of others or we might lose our ability to utilize the intellectual property of others.

We have only a limited ability to protect our intellectual property rights, which are important to our success.

Legislative or regulatory action could materially and adversely affect us.

We may be subject to criticism and negative publicity related to our incorporation in Ireland.

If we are unable to manage the organizational challenges associated with our size, we might be unable to achieve our business objectives.

We may not be successful at identifying, acquiring or integrating other businesses or technologies.

Consolidation in the industries that we serve could adversely affect our business.

Our ability to attract and retain business may depend on our reputation in the marketplace.

Our share price has fluctuated in the past and could continue to fluctuate, including in response to variability in revenues, operating results and profitability, and as a result our share price could be difficult to predict.

Our share price could be adversely affected if we are unable to maintain effective internal controls.

We are incorporated in Ireland and a significant portion of our assets are located outside the United States. As a result, it might not be possible for shareholders to enforce civil liability provisions of the federal or state securities laws of the United States.

Irish law differs from the laws in effect in the United States and might afford less protection to shareholders.

We might be unable to access additional capital on favorable terms or at all. If we raise equity capital, it may dilute our shareholders ownership interest in us.

Edgar Filing: Accenture plc - Form 10-Q

For a more detailed discussion of these factors, see the information under the heading "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 31, 2009. We undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements.

Table of Contents

Overview

Our results of operations are affected by economic conditions, including macroeconomic conditions, credit market conditions and levels of business confidence. Revenues are driven by the ability of our executives to secure new contracts and to deliver solutions and services that add value relevant to our clients' current needs and challenges. We add value to clients and drive revenues based on our ability to deliver market-leading service offerings and to deploy skilled teams of professionals quickly and on a global basis.

Revenues before reimbursements (net revenues) for the third quarter of fiscal 2010 were \$5.57 billion, compared with \$5.15 billion for the third quarter of fiscal 2009, an increase of 8% in U.S. dollars and 4% in local currency. Although some industries and geographies where we operate continue to be impacted by the economic downturn that began to adversely affect our business in January 2009, overall market demand for our services has improved. Looking forward, based on new contract bookings recorded in the second and third quarters of fiscal 2010, we expect recoveries to continue in many areas of our business. In the third quarter of fiscal 2010 and for the first time this fiscal year, three of our five operating groups, including Products, Financial Services and Resources, experienced quarterly year-over-year revenue growth in local currency. We anticipate that the level of growth and degree of recovery will vary across segments and geographic regions and between consulting and outsourcing services.

Net revenues for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 were \$16.13 billion, compared with \$16.43 billion for the nine months ended May 31, 2009, a decrease of 2% in U.S. dollars and 6% in local currency. During the nine months ended May 31, 2010, many of the industries and geographies where we operate were impacted by the economic downturn, which adversely affected our consulting and outsourcing revenue growth, compared with the nine months ended May 31, 2009.

In our consulting business, net revenues for the third quarter of fiscal 2010 were \$3.22 billion, compared with \$2.95 billion for the third quarter of fiscal 2009, an increase of 9% in U.S. dollars and 4% in local currency. Consulting net revenues for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 were \$9.28 billion, compared with \$9.64 billion for the nine months ended May 31, 2009, a decrease of 4% in U.S. dollars and 8% in local currency. Although the changes and challenges since January 2009 have been significant and consulting revenue growth continues to be challenged in some industries and geographies, overall market demand for our consulting services has improved. In the third quarter of fiscal 2010, and for the first time since the economic downturn began to adversely affect our consulting business in the second quarter of fiscal 2009, we experienced quarterly year-over-year consulting revenue growth in local currency, with significant growth in Financial Services. We continue to work with our systems integration consulting clients to reduce their costs through increased use of lower-cost resources in our Global Delivery Network. This trend is resulting in work volume growing faster than revenues, and we expect this to continue in the medium term. Some clients continue to focus on initiatives designed to deliver near- and medium-term cost savings and performance improvement, and some clients continue to remain cautious, seeking flexibility by shifting to a more phased approach to contracting work. In addition, the pricing environment continues to remain competitive, particularly in several markets within Europe.

In our outsourcing business, net revenues for the third quarter of fiscal 2010 were \$2.35 billion, compared with \$2.19 billion for the third quarter of fiscal 2009, an increase of 7% in U.S. dollars and 3% in local currency. Outsourcing net revenues for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 were \$6.85 billion, compared with \$6.79 billion for the nine months ended May 31, 2009, an increase of 1% in U.S. dollars and a decrease of 3% in local currency. Overall market demand for our outsourcing services has improved. In the third quarter of fiscal 2010, and for the first time this fiscal year, we experienced quarterly year-over-year outsourcing revenue growth in local currency, with significant growth in Products. The higher volume of contract terminations and restructurings that affected our business after the first quarter of fiscal 2009 continued to adversely impact our outsourcing revenue growth during the nine months ended May 31, 2010, primarily in Financial Services, and to a lesser extent in Communications & High Tech and Resources. In addition, our outsourcing revenues continued to be affected by our clients' needs to reduce overall costs through shifting to lower-cost resources at reduced price levels.

As we are a global company, our revenues are denominated in multiple currencies and may be significantly affected by currency exchange-rate fluctuations. If the U.S. dollar weakens against other currencies, resulting in favorable currency translation, our revenues and revenue growth in U.S. dollars may be higher. If the U.S. dollar strengthens against other currencies, resulting in unfavorable currency translation, our revenues and revenue growth in U.S. dollars may be lower. When compared to the first nine months of fiscal 2009, the U.S. dollar has weakened against many currencies. This resulted in a favorable currency translation and U.S. dollar revenue results that were approximately 5% and 4% better than our results in local currency for the third quarter of fiscal 2010 and the nine months ended May 31, 2010, respectively. In recent months, the U.S. dollar has strengthened against other currencies. Assuming that exchange rates stay within recent ranges for the remainder of fiscal 2010, we estimate the foreign-exchange impact on our full fiscal 2010 revenues will result in revenue growth that is approximately 2% higher in U.S. dollars than in local currency.

The primary categories of operating expenses include cost of services, sales and marketing and general and administrative costs. Cost of services is primarily driven by the cost of client-service personnel, which consists mainly of compensation, sub-contractor and other personnel costs, and non-payroll outsourcing costs. Cost of services as a percentage of revenues is driven by the prices we obtain for our solutions and services, the

utilization of our client-service personnel and the level of non-payroll costs associated with new

Table of Contents

outsourcing contracts. Utilization represents the percentage of our consulting professionals' time spent on billable work. Utilization for the third quarter of fiscal 2010 was approximately 88%, flat with the second quarter of fiscal 2010 and above our target range. This strong utilization continues to reflect increased demand for resources in our Global Delivery Network as well as an increase in demand in certain countries, including the United States. We are actively hiring to meet current and projected future demand. Utilization for the third quarter of fiscal 2009 was approximately 83%.

Our cost-management strategies include anticipating changes in demand for our services and executing cost-management initiatives. We aggressively plan and manage our payroll costs and take actions as needed to address changes in the anticipated demand for our services, given that payroll costs are the most significant portion of our operating expenses. These cost-management strategies also include executing an increasing amount of our client delivery from our Global Delivery Network in lower-cost locations. Based on current and projected future demand, we increased our headcount, the majority of which serve our clients, to approximately 190,000 as of May 31, 2010, compared with approximately 177,000 as of August 31, 2009. Annualized attrition, excluding involuntary terminations, for the third quarter of fiscal 2010 was 17%, compared with 15% in the second quarter of fiscal 2010 and 8% in the third quarter of fiscal 2009. We adjust levels of new hiring, evaluate voluntary attrition and use involuntary terminations as means to keep our supply of skills and resources in balance with client demand. Our ability to grow and our margins could be adversely affected if we are unable to recruit new employees with relevant skills, manage attrition, recover increases in compensation and/or effectively assimilate and utilize new employees.

Gross margin (Net revenues less Cost of services before reimbursable expenses as a percentage of Net revenues) for the third quarter of fiscal 2010 was 34.7%, compared with 32.5% for the third quarter of fiscal 2009. Gross margin for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 was 33.5%, compared with 31.5% for the nine months ended May 31, 2009. As discussed more fully below, the primary driver for the increase in gross margin for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 was a change related to the implementation of our sales-effectiveness model, which directed a higher percentage of resource capacity to selling and other business-development activities and streamlined our approach to capturing time spent on business-development activities.

Sales and marketing and general and administrative costs as a percentage of net revenues were 20.2% for the third quarter of fiscal 2010, compared with 18.2% for the third quarter of fiscal 2009. Sales and marketing and general and administrative costs as a percentage of net revenues were 19.8% for nine months ended May 31, 2010, compared with 18.0% for the nine months ended May 31, 2009. Sales and marketing is driven primarily by compensation costs for business-development activities, the development of new service offerings and client-targeting, image-development and brand-recognition activities. General and administrative costs primarily include costs for non-client-facing personnel, information systems and office space. We continuously implement cost-management actions to maintain or lower our sales and marketing and general and administrative costs as a percentage of revenues. These actions include performing a greater proportion of these activities in lower-cost locations. During the nine months ended May 31, 2010, we directed a higher percentage of resource capacity to selling and other business-development activities and we streamlined our approach to capturing time spent on business-development activities. The combination of these two factors has resulted in a greater amount of payroll costs for our client-services personnel being directed to sales and marketing rather than to other activities, which are typically captured in cost of services. We have not reclassified fiscal 2009 amounts to conform to the fiscal 2010 presentation, as it would be impractical to do so. The increase in sales and marketing was partially offset by a decrease in general and administrative costs as a percentage of net revenues, primarily due to expense savings resulting from the global consolidation of office space in fiscal 2009. In addition, in the first quarter of fiscal 2009, we recorded a bad debt provision of \$72 million, which reflected our best estimate of collectibility risks on outstanding receivables, particularly from clients in high-risk industries or with potential liquidity issues. Our margins could be adversely affected if our cost management actions are not sufficient to maintain sales and marketing and general and administrative costs at or below current levels as a percentage of net revenues.

Operating income for the third quarter of fiscal 2010 was \$804 million, compared with \$732 million for the third quarter of fiscal 2009. Operating income for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 was \$2,201 million, compared with \$2,224 million for the nine months ended May 31, 2009. Operating margin (Operating income as a percentage of net revenues) for the third quarter of fiscal 2010 was 14.4%, compared with 14.2% for the third quarter of fiscal 2009. Operating margin for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 was 13.6%, compared with 13.5% for the nine months ended May 31, 2009.

Our Operating income and Earnings per share are also affected by currency exchange-rate fluctuations on revenues and costs. Most of our costs are incurred in the same currency as the related net revenues. Where practical, we also seek to manage foreign currency exposure for costs not incurred in the same currency as the related net revenues by using currency protection provisions in our customer contracts and through our hedging programs. We estimate that the aggregate percentage impact of foreign exchange rates on our operating expenses is similar to that disclosed for net revenues.

Bookings and Backlog

Edgar Filing: Accenture plc - Form 10-Q

New contract bookings for the third quarter of fiscal 2010 were \$6.43 billion, with consulting bookings of \$3.18 billion and outsourcing bookings of \$3.25 billion. New contract bookings for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 were \$18.48 billion, with consulting bookings of \$10.08 billion and outsourcing bookings of \$8.40 billion.

Table of Contents

We provide information regarding our new contract bookings because we believe doing so provides useful trend information regarding changes in the volume of our new business over time. However, new bookings can vary significantly quarter to quarter depending in part on the timing of the signing of a small number of large outsourcing contracts. Information regarding our new bookings is not comparable to, nor should it be substituted for, an analysis of our revenues over time. There are no third-party standards or requirements governing the calculation of bookings. New contract bookings involve estimates and judgments regarding new contracts as well as renewals, extensions and changes to existing contracts. We do not update our new bookings for material subsequent terminations or reductions related to bookings originally recorded in prior fiscal years. New contract bookings are recorded using then-existing currency exchange rates and are not subsequently adjusted for currency fluctuations.

The majority of our contracts are terminable by the client on short notice or without notice. Accordingly, we do not believe it is appropriate to characterize bookings attributable to these contracts as backlog. Normally, if a client terminates a project, the client remains obligated to pay for commitments we have made to third parties in connection with the project, services performed and reimbursable expenses incurred by us through the date of termination.

Revenues by Segment/Operating Group

Our five reportable operating segments are our operating groups, which are Communications & High Tech, Financial Services, Health & Public Service (formed on September 1, 2009, by combining various healthcare-related components of our Products operating group with our Public Service operating group), Products and Resources. Operating groups are managed on the basis of net revenues because our management believes net revenues are a better indicator of operating group performance than revenues. In addition to reporting net revenues by operating group, we also report net revenues by two types of work: consulting and outsourcing, which represent the services sold by our operating groups. Consulting net revenues, which include management and technology consulting and systems integration, reflect a finite, distinct project or set of projects with a defined outcome and typically a defined set of specific deliverables. Outsourcing net revenues typically reflect ongoing, repeatable services or capabilities provided to transition, run and/or manage operations of client systems or business functions.

From time to time, our operating groups work together to sell and implement certain contracts. The resulting revenues and costs from these contracts may be apportioned among the participating operating groups. Generally, operating expenses for each operating group have similar characteristics and are subject to the same factors, pressures and challenges. However, the economic environment and its effects on the industries served by our operating groups affect revenues and operating expenses within our operating groups to differing degrees. The mix between consulting and outsourcing is not uniform among our operating groups. Local currency fluctuations also tend to affect our operating groups differently, depending on the geographic concentrations and locations of their businesses.

While we provide discussion about our results of operations below, we cannot measure how much of our revenue growth in a particular period is attributable to changes in price or volume. Management does not track standard measures of unit or rate volume. Instead, our measures of volume and price are extremely complex, as each of our services contracts is unique, reflecting a customized mix of specific services that does not fit into standard comparability measurements. Pricing for our services is a function of the nature of each service to be provided, the skills required and outcome sought, as well as estimated cost, risk, contract terms and other factors.

Table of Contents**Results of Operations for the Three Months Ended May 31, 2010 Compared to the Three Months Ended May 31, 2009**

Net revenues (by operating group, geographic region and type of work) and reimbursements were as follows:

| | Three Months Ended May 31, | | Percent Increase U.S. Dollars | Percent (Decrease) Increase Local Currency | Percent of Total Net Revenues for the Three Months Ended May 31, | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|-------------|
| | 2010 | 2009 | | | 2010 | 2009 |
| OPERATING GROUPS | | | | | | |
| | (In millions of U.S. dollars) | | | | | |
| Communications & High Tech | \$ 1,178 | \$ 1,156 | 2% | (3%) | 21% | 22% |
| Financial Services | 1,150 | 1,027 | 12 | 7 | 21 | 20 |
| Health & Public Service (1) | 927 | 902 | 3 | | 17 | 18 |
| Products (1) | 1,308 | 1,150 | 14 | 9 | 23 | 22 |
| Resources | 1,004 | 905 | 11 | 5 | 18 | 18 |
| Other | 4 | 6 | n/m | n/m | | |
| TOTAL Net Revenues (2) | 5,571 | 5,145 | 8% | 4% | 100% | 100% |
| Reimbursements | 404 | 392 | 3 | | | |
| TOTAL REVENUES | \$ 5,975 | \$ 5,537 | 8% | | | |
| GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS | | | | | | |
| Americas | \$ 2,513 | \$ 2,265 | 11% | 8% | 45% | 44% |
| EMEA (3) | 2,433 | 2,342 | 4 | | 44 | 46 |
| Asia Pacific | 625 | 539 | 16 | 3 | 11 | 10 |
| TOTAL Net Revenues (2) | \$ 5,571 | \$ 5,145 | 8% | 4% | 100% | 100% |
| TYPE OF WORK | | | | | | |
| Consulting | \$ 3,225 | \$ 2,955 | 9% | 4% | 58% | 57% |
| Outsourcing | 2,346 | 2,190 | 7 | 3 | 42 | 43 |
| TOTAL Net Revenues | \$ 5,571 | \$ 5,145 | 8% | 4% | 100% | 100% |

n/m = not meaningful

- (1) On September 1, 2009, we formed the Health & Public Service operating group by combining various healthcare-related components of our Products operating group with our Public Service operating group. Prior-period amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current-period presentation.
- (2) May not total due to rounding.
- (3) EMEA includes Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Net Revenues

Operating Groups

The following net revenues by operating group commentary discusses local currency net revenues changes for the third quarter of fiscal 2010, compared with the third quarter of fiscal 2009.

Communications & High Tech net revenues decreased 3% in local currency. Consulting revenues declined slightly in local currency, primarily due to declines across all industry groups in EMEA and in Communications in Asia Pacific, partially offset by growth in Communications and Electronics & High Tech in Americas. The year-over-year consulting revenue decline, which moderated significantly in the third quarter of fiscal 2010 compared with the first half of fiscal 2010, reflected some clients continuing to seek flexibility by shifting to a more phased approach to contracting work and focusing on managing the scope of existing projects. Outsourcing revenues declined modestly in local currency, primarily due to declines in Communications in Americas, partially offset by growth in Electronics & High Tech in Americas and Asia Pacific. Client strategy changes, which began in fiscal 2009, particularly in Communications, resulted in a number of contract modifications, which had a negative impact on outsourcing revenues in the third quarter of fiscal 2010, and we expect this trend to continue in the near term.

Financial Services net revenues increased 7% in local currency, reflecting positive quarterly year-over-year growth for the first time since the first quarter of fiscal 2009. Consulting revenues increased significantly in local currency, primarily driven by growth across all geographic regions in Banking and Capital Markets. Outsourcing revenues decreased in local currency, primarily due to declines in Banking in EMEA, partially offset by growth in Insurance in EMEA. Client consolidations and strategy changes that resulted in contract terminations in fiscal 2009 continued to have a negative impact on our outsourcing revenues in the third quarter of fiscal 2010, and we expect this trend to continue for the remainder of fiscal 2010.

Table of Contents

Health & Public Service net revenues were flat in local currency. Consulting revenues declined modestly in local currency, primarily due to declines in Americas in Public Service. Outsourcing revenues increased in local currency, primarily driven by growth in Americas in Public Service and Health, partially offset by a decline in EMEA in Public Service. In addition, the growing uncertainty and challenges in the public sector, particularly in the United States and the United Kingdom, continued to have a significant impact on demand in our public service business throughout the world. The uncertainty of the economic situation resulted in longer sales cycles and a shift to a more phased approach to contracting work, with a focus on near-term cost savings rather than large transformational projects. These trends had a negative impact on our revenues and new contract bookings during the third quarter of fiscal 2010, and we expect this trend to continue.

Products net revenues increased 9% in local currency, reflecting positive quarterly year-over-year growth for the first time since the second quarter of fiscal 2009. Consulting revenues increased in local currency, led by growth in Consumer Goods & Services in Americas and EMEA. Outsourcing revenues increased significantly in local currency across all geographic regions and in most industry groups.

Resources net revenues increased 5% in local currency, reflecting positive quarterly year-over-year growth for the first time since the third quarter of fiscal 2009. Consulting revenues increased modestly in local currency, primarily due to significant growth across all industry groups in Americas, partially offset by declines in Utilities in EMEA and Asia Pacific. Outsourcing revenues increased in local currency, primarily due to growth in Energy in Americas and EMEA, partially offset by a decline in Utilities in Americas.

Geographic Regions

Americas net revenues for the third quarter of fiscal 2010 were \$2,513 million, compared with \$2,265 million for the third quarter of fiscal 2009, an increase of 11% in U.S. dollars and 8% in local currency. This increase reflected positive quarterly year-over-year growth for the first time since the second quarter of fiscal 2009. Growth was led by our business in the United States.

EMEA net revenues for the third quarter of fiscal 2010 were \$2,433 million, compared with \$2,342 million for the third quarter of fiscal 2009, an increase of 4% in U.S. dollars and flat in local currency. Declines in our business in the Netherlands, Germany and Norway were offset by growth in several countries across the remainder of the region, led by the United Kingdom, Sweden and South Africa.

Asia Pacific net revenues for the third quarter of fiscal 2010 were \$625 million, compared with \$539 million for the third quarter of fiscal 2009, an increase of 16% in U.S. dollars and 3% in local currency. This increase reflected positive quarterly year-over-year growth for the first time this fiscal year. Growth was principally driven by our business in Singapore and Japan, partially offset by a decline in Australia.

Operating Expenses

Operating expenses for the third quarter of fiscal 2010 were \$5,172 million, an increase of \$366 million, or 8%, over the third quarter of fiscal 2009, and decreased as a percentage of revenues to 86.5% from 86.8% during this period. Operating expenses before reimbursable expenses for the third quarter of fiscal 2010 were \$4,767 million, an increase of \$354 million, or 8%, over the third quarter of fiscal 2009, and decreased as a percentage of net revenues to 85.6% from 85.8% during this period.

Cost of Services

Cost of services for the third quarter of fiscal 2010 was \$4,044 million, an increase of \$177 million, or 5%, over the third quarter of fiscal 2009, and decreased as a percentage of revenues to 67.7% from 69.8% during this period. Cost of services before reimbursable expenses for the third quarter of fiscal 2010 was \$3,639 million, an increase of \$165 million, or 5%, over the third quarter of fiscal 2009, and decreased as a percentage of net revenues to 65.3% from 67.5% during this period. Gross margin for the third quarter of fiscal 2010 increased to 34.7% from 32.5% for the third quarter of fiscal 2009. For additional information on Gross margin, see Overview.

Sales and Marketing

Edgar Filing: Accenture plc - Form 10-Q

Sales and marketing for the third quarter of fiscal 2010 was \$714 million, an increase of \$190 million, or 36%, over the third quarter of fiscal 2009, and increased as a percentage of net revenues to 12.8% from 10.2% over this period. This increase was primarily driven by increased selling and other business-development activities. See [Overview](#).

General and Administrative Costs

General and administrative costs for the third quarter of fiscal 2010 were \$410 million, flat with the third quarter of fiscal 2009, and decreased as a percentage of net revenues to 7.4% from 8.0% during this period. The decrease as a percentage of net revenues was primarily due to expense savings resulting from the global consolidation of office space in fiscal 2009. See [Overview](#).

Table of Contents**Operating Income and Operating Margin**

Operating income for the third quarter of fiscal 2010 was \$804 million, an increase of \$72 million, or 10%, over the third quarter of fiscal 2009, and increased as percentage of net revenues to 14.4% from 14.2% during this period. Operating income and operating margin for each of the operating groups were as follows:

| | 2010 | | 2009 | | (Decrease) Increase (2) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| | Operating Income | Operating Margin | Operating Income | Operating Margin | |
| | (In millions of U.S. dollars) | | | | |
| Communications & High Tech | \$ 168 | 14% | \$ 173 | 15% | \$ (5) |
| Financial Services | 201 | 18 | 134 | 13 | 67 |
| Health & Public Service (1) | 75 | 8 | 123 | 14 | (49) |
| Products (1) | 184 | 14 | 164 | 14 | 20 |
| Resources | 176 | 18 | 137 | 15 | 39 |
| Total (2) | \$ 804 | 14.4% | \$ 732 | 14.2% | \$ 72 |

(1) On September 1, 2009, we formed the Health & Public Service operating group by combining various healthcare-related components of our Products operating group with our Public Service operating group. Prior-period amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current-period presentation.

(2) May not total due to rounding.

We estimate that the aggregate percentage impact of foreign-exchange rates on our operating income during the third quarter of fiscal 2010 was similar to that disclosed for net revenues. General and administrative costs as a percentage of net revenues decreased in the third quarter of fiscal 2010, compared with the third quarter of fiscal 2009, primarily due to expense savings resulting from the global consolidation of office space in fiscal 2009. The commentary below provides additional insight into operating group performance and operating margin for the third quarter of fiscal 2010, compared with the third quarter of fiscal 2009, exclusive of this impact.

Communications & High Tech operating income decreased, primarily due to higher selling costs as a percentage of net revenues.

Financial Services operating income increased, primarily due to significant consulting revenue growth and improved utilization, partially offset by outsourcing revenue declines.

Health & Public Service operating income decreased due to higher selling costs as a percentage of net revenues and lower contract profitability.

Products operating income increased due to revenue growth and improved utilization, partially offset by lower contract profitability.

Resources operating income increased due to revenue growth and improved utilization.

Interest Income

Edgar Filing: Accenture plc - Form 10-Q

Interest income for the third quarter of fiscal 2010 was \$7 million, compared with \$9 million for the third quarter of fiscal 2009. The change was primarily due to lower interest rates.

Other (Expense) Income, net

Other expense, net for the third quarter of fiscal 2010 was \$6 million, compared with Other income, net of \$11 million for the third quarter of fiscal 2009. The change was driven by net foreign exchange losses during the third quarter of fiscal 2010, compared with net foreign exchange gains during the third quarter of fiscal 2009.

Provision for Income Taxes

The effective tax rate for the third quarter of fiscal 2010 was 29.8%, compared with 28.2% for the third quarter of fiscal 2009. The effective tax rate for the third quarter of fiscal 2010 includes lower benefits related to final determinations of prior-year tax liabilities as compared with the third quarter of fiscal 2009. This was partially offset by benefits related to changes in the geographic mix of income.

Our provision for income taxes is based on many factors and subject to volatility year to year. We expect the fiscal 2010 annual effective tax rate to be in the range of 29% to 30%. The fiscal 2009 annual effective tax rate was 27.6%.

Table of Contents

Net Income Attributable to Noncontrolling Interests

Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests for the third quarter of fiscal 2010 was \$73 million, a decrease of \$20 million, or 21%, from the third quarter of fiscal 2009. The decrease was due to a reduction in the Accenture SCA Class I common shares and Accenture Canada Holdings Inc. exchangeable shares average noncontrolling ownership interest to 12% for the third quarter of fiscal 2010 from 17% for the third quarter of fiscal 2009.

Earnings Per Share

Diluted earnings per share were \$0.73 for the third quarter of fiscal 2010, compared with \$0.68 for the third quarter of fiscal 2009. The \$0.05 increase in our earnings per share was primarily due to increases of \$0.03 from higher revenues and operating results in local currency, \$0.03 from favorable foreign currency exchange rates and \$0.02 from lower weighted average shares outstanding. These increases were partially offset by decreases of \$0.02 from a higher effective tax rate and \$0.01 from lower non-operating income. For information regarding our earnings per share calculations, see Note 2 (Earnings Per Share) to our Consolidated Financial Statements under Item 1, Financial Statements.

Table of Contents**Results of Operations for the Nine Months Ended May 31, 2010 Compared to the Nine Months Ended May 31, 2009**

Net revenues (by operating group, geographic region and type of work) and reimbursements were as follows:

| | Nine Months Ended May 31, | | Percent (Decrease) Increase | Percent Decrease Local Currency | Percent of Total Net Revenues for the Nine Months Ended | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|--|--|------|
| | 2010 | 2009 | U.S. Dollars | | 2010 | 2009 |
| | (In millions of U.S. dollars) | | | | | |
| OPERATING GROUPS | | | | | | |
| Communications & High Tech | \$ 3,448 | \$ 3,713 | (7%) | (11%) | 21% | 23% |
| Financial Services | 3,331 | 3,306 | 1 | (3) | 21 | 20 |
| Health & Public Service (1) | 2,725 | 2,721 | | (3) | 17 | 16 |
| Products (1) | 3,718 | 3,731 | | (4) | 23 | 23 |
| Resources | 2,898 | 2,937 | (1) | (6) | 18 | 18 |
| Other | 12 | 23 | n/m | n/m | | |
| TOTAL Net Revenues (2) | 16,130 | 16,431 | (2%) | (6%) | 100% | 100% |
| Reimbursements | 1,131 | 1,235 | (8) | | | |
| TOTAL REVENUES | \$ 17,261 | \$ 17,666 | (2%) | | | |
| GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS | | | | | | |
| Americas | \$ 6,946 | \$ 7,139 | (3%) | (5%) | 43% | 44% |
| EMEA | 7,370 | 7,629 | (3) | (7) | 46 | 46 |
| Asia Pacific | 1,814 | 1,662 | 9 | (1) | 11 | 10 |
| TOTAL Net Revenues (2) | \$ 16,130 | \$ 16,431 | (2%) | (6%) | 100% | 100% |
| TYPE OF WORK | | | | | | |
| Consulting | \$ 9,277 | \$ 9,642 | (4%) | (8%) | 58% | 59% |
| Outsourcing | 6,853 | 6,789 | 1 | (3) | 42 | 41 |
| TOTAL Net Revenues | \$ 16,130 | \$ 16,431 | (2%) | (6%) | 100% | 100% |

n/m = not meaningful

(1) On September 1, 2009, we formed the Health & Public Service operating group by combining various healthcare-related components of our Products operating group with our Public Service operating group. Prior-period amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current-period presentation.

(2) May not total due to rounding.
Net Revenues

Operating Groups

Edgar Filing: Accenture plc - Form 10-Q

The following net revenues by operating group commentary discusses local currency net revenues changes for the nine months ended May 31, 2010, compared with the nine months ended May 31, 2009.

Communications & High Tech net revenues decreased 11% in local currency. Consulting revenues declined significantly in local currency due to declines across all geographic regions and industry groups. The year-over-year consulting revenue decline, which moderated significantly in the third quarter of fiscal 2010, reflected some clients continuing to seek flexibility by shifting to a more phased approach to contracting work and focusing on managing the scope of existing projects. Outsourcing revenues declined in local currency, primarily due to a significant decline in Communications in Americas, partially offset by growth in Electronics & High Tech in Americas and Asia Pacific. Client strategy changes, which began in fiscal 2009, particularly in Communications, resulted in a number of contract modifications, which had a negative impact on outsourcing revenues during the nine months ended May 31, 2010, and we expect this trend to continue in the near term.

Financial Services net revenues decreased 3% in local currency. While year-to-date net revenues reflected a decline, quarterly year-over-year positive growth in the third quarter partially offset negative growth in the first half of fiscal 2010. Consulting revenues increased modestly in local currency, primarily due to growth across all geographic regions in Banking and in EMEA and Asia Pacific in Capital Markets, partially offset by declines in Insurance in EMEA and Americas. Outsourcing revenues declined significantly in local currency, primarily due to declines in EMEA and Americas in Banking and Capital Markets, partially offset by growth in Insurance in EMEA. Client consolidations and strategy changes that resulted in contract terminations in fiscal 2009 continued to have a negative impact on our outsourcing revenues for the nine months ended May 31, 2010, and we expect this trend to continue for the remainder of fiscal 2010.

Table of Contents

Health & Public Service net revenues declined 3% in local currency. Consulting revenues declined in local currency, primarily due to the impact of inefficient delivery on a contract in Public Service in Americas and a decline in Health across all geographic regions, partially offset by growth in EMEA in Public Service. Outsourcing revenues increased modestly in local currency, primarily driven by growth in Americas in Health. In addition, the growing uncertainty and challenges in the public sector, particularly in the United States and the United Kingdom, continued to have a significant impact on demand in our public service business throughout the world. The uncertainty of the economic situation resulted in longer sales cycles and a shift to a more phased approach to contracting work, with a focus on near-term cost savings rather than large transformational projects. These trends had a negative impact on our revenues and new contract bookings during the nine months ended May 31, 2010, and we expect this trend to continue.

Products net revenues decreased 4% in local currency. While year-to-date net revenues reflected a decline, quarterly year-over-year positive growth in the third quarter partially offset negative growth in the first half of fiscal 2010. Consulting revenues declined significantly in local currency, primarily due to declines in EMEA and Americas across all industry groups except Consumer Goods & Services in Americas, which experienced significant growth. Consulting revenues reflected the continuation of the more conservative spending patterns of our clients, which began in the second quarter of fiscal 2009. In addition, consulting revenues were negatively impacted by a significant reduction in revenues in the first quarter of fiscal 2010 at two large clients as a result of completing several large projects and transitioning from front-end consulting to outsourcing services. Outsourcing revenues increased in local currency, primarily driven by growth in EMEA and Americas across all industry groups except Retail in Americas.

Resources net revenues decreased 6% in local currency. While year-to-date net revenues reflected a decline, quarterly year-over-year positive growth in the third quarter partially offset negative growth in the first half of fiscal 2010. Consulting revenues declined in local currency, primarily in EMEA across all industry groups and in Utilities in Americas and Asia Pacific, partially offset by growth in Energy in Americas. Consulting revenues were impacted by our clients' continued caution in launching new programs as well as their focus on slowing the pace of existing projects. Outsourcing revenues were flat in local currency, as growth in Energy in Americas and Natural Resources in Asia Pacific was offset by declines in Utilities and Chemicals in Americas.

Geographic Regions

Americas net revenues for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 were \$6,946 million, compared with \$7,139 million for the nine months ended May 31, 2009, a decrease of 3% in U.S. dollars and 5% in local currency. While year-to-date net revenues reflected a decline, quarterly year-over-year positive growth in the third quarter partially offset negative growth in the first half of fiscal 2010. We experienced declines in local currency across most countries in Americas, led by decreases in the United States and Brazil.

EMEA net revenues for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 were \$7,370 million, compared with \$7,629 million for the nine months ended May 31, 2009, a decrease of 3% in U.S. dollars and 7% in local currency. The year-over-year decline moderated significantly in the third quarter of fiscal 2010 compared with the first half of fiscal 2010. We experienced declines in local currency across most countries in EMEA, led by decreases in the Netherlands, Spain, Germany, Italy and France.

Asia Pacific net revenues for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 were \$1,814 million, compared with \$1,662 million for the nine months ended May 31, 2009, an increase of 9% in U.S. dollars and a decrease of 1% in local currency. While year-to-date net revenues reflected a decline, quarterly year-over-year positive growth in the third quarter partially offset negative growth in the first half of fiscal 2010. We experienced declines in local currency in Japan and Australia, offset by significant growth in Singapore and Malaysia.

Operating Expenses

Operating expenses for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 were \$15,060 million, a decrease of \$381 million, or 2%, from the nine months ended May 31, 2009, and decreased as a percentage of revenues to 87.2% from 87.4% during this period. Operating expenses before reimbursable expenses for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 were \$13,929 million, a decrease of \$278 million, or 2%, from the nine months ended May 31, 2009 and decreased as a percentage of net revenues to 86.4% from 86.5% during this period.

Cost of Services

Edgar Filing: Accenture plc - Form 10-Q

Cost of services for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 was \$11,855 million, a decrease of \$630 million, or 5%, from the nine months ended May 31, 2009, and decreased as a percentage of revenues to 68.7% from 70.7% during this period. Cost of services before reimbursable expenses for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 was \$10,724 million, a decrease of \$526 million, or 5%, from the nine months ended May 31, 2009, and decreased as a percentage of net revenues to 66.5% from 68.5% during this period. Gross margin for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 increased to 33.5% from 31.5% for the nine months ended May 31, 2009. For additional information on Gross margin, see Overview.

Table of Contents**Sales and Marketing**

Sales and marketing for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 was \$1,960 million, an increase of \$352 million, or 22%, over the nine months ended May 31, 2009, and increased as a percentage of net revenues to 12.1% from 9.8% over this period. This increase was primarily driven by increased selling and other business-development activities. See Overview.

General and Administrative Costs

General and administrative costs for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 were \$1,236 million, a decrease of \$120 million, or 9%, from the nine months ended May 31, 2009, and decreased as a percentage of net revenues to 7.7% from 8.2% during this period. This decrease was primarily due to the bad debt provision of \$72 million recorded in the first quarter of fiscal 2009, as well as expense savings resulting from the global consolidation of office space in fiscal 2009.

Operating Income and Operating Margin

Operating income for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 was \$2,201 million, a decrease of \$23 million, or 1%, from the nine months ended May 31, 2009, and increased as a percentage of net revenues to 13.6% from 13.5% during this period. Operating income and operating margin for each of the operating groups were as follows:

| | 2010 | | 2009 | | (Decrease) Increase |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| | Operating Income | Operating Margin | Operating Income | Operating Margin | |
| | (In millions of U.S. dollars) | | | | |
| Communications & High Tech | \$ 454 | 13% | \$ 504 | 14% | \$ (50) |
| Financial Services | 581 | 17 | 388 | 12 | 193 |
| Health & Public Service (1) | 246 | 9 | 386 | 14 | (140) |
| Products (1) | 441 | 12 | 498 | 13 | (57) |
| Resources | 479 | 17 | 448 | 15 | 31 |
| Total | \$ 2,201 | 13.6% | \$ 2,224 | 13.5% | \$ (23) |

- (1) On September 1, 2009, we formed the Health & Public Service operating group by combining various healthcare-related components of our Products operating group with our Public Service operating group. Prior-period amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current-period presentation.

We estimate that the aggregate percentage impact of foreign-exchange rates on our operating income during the nine months ended May 31, 2010 was similar to that disclosed for net revenues. General and administrative costs as a percentage of net revenues decreased during the nine months ended May 31, 2010, compared with the nine months ended May 31, 2009, primarily due to expense savings resulting from the global consolidation of office space in fiscal 2009. In addition, during the nine months ended May 31, 2009, each operating group recorded a portion of the \$72 million bad debt provision. The commentary below provides additional insight into operating group performance and operating margin for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 compared with the nine months ended May 31, 2009, exclusive of these impacts.

Communications & High Tech operating income decreased, primarily due to revenue declines and higher selling costs as a percentage of net revenues, offset by improved outsourcing contract profitability.

Financial Services operating income increased, primarily due to consulting revenue growth and improved utilization, partially offset by outsourcing revenue declines.

Edgar Filing: Accenture plc - Form 10-Q

Health & Public Service operating income decreased, primarily due to inefficient delivery on a consulting contract and higher selling costs as a percentage of net revenues. In addition, results for the nine months ended May 31, 2009 were favorably impacted by the resolution of a contract termination.

Products operating income decreased due to consulting revenue declines, lower consulting contract profitability and higher selling costs as a percentage of net revenues.

Resources operating income increased due to improved utilization, partially offset by consulting revenue declines.

Interest Income

Interest income for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 was \$21 million, compared with \$42 million for the nine months ended May 31, 2009. The change was primarily due to lower interest rates.

Table of Contents

Other (Expense) Income, net

Other expense, net for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 was \$14 million, compared with \$2 million for the nine months ended May 31, 2009. The change was driven by higher net foreign exchange losses during the nine months ended May 31, 2010, compared with the nine months ended May 31, 2009.

Provision for Income Taxes

The effective tax rate for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 was 29.5%, compared with 27.6% for the nine months ended May 31, 2009. The effective tax rate for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 includes lower benefits related to final determinations and other adjustments to prior-year tax liabilities as compared with the nine months ended May 31, 2009. This was partially offset by benefits related to changes in the geographic mix of income.

Our provision for income taxes is based on many factors and subject to volatility year to year. We expect the fiscal 2010 annual effective tax rate to be in the range of 29% to 30%. The fiscal 2009 annual effective tax rate was 27.6%.

Net Income Attributable to Noncontrolling Interests

Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 was \$215 million, a decrease of \$82 million, or 28%, from the nine months ended May 31, 2009. The decrease was due to a reduction in the Accenture SCA Class I common shares and Accenture Canada Holdings Inc. exchangeable shares average noncontrolling ownership interest to 13% for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 from 17% for the nine months ended May 31, 2009.

Earnings Per Share

Diluted earnings per share were \$2.00 for the nine months ended May 31, 2010, compared with \$2.05 for the nine months ended May 31, 2009. The \$0.05 decrease in our earnings per share was primarily due to decreases of \$0.09 from lower revenues and operating results in local currency, \$0.05 from a higher effective tax rate, \$0.03 from lower non-operating income and \$0.01 related to reorganization benefits recorded in fiscal 2009. These decreases were partially offset by increases of \$0.08 from favorable foreign currency exchange rates and \$0.05 from lower weighted average shares outstanding. For information regarding our earnings per share calculations, see Note 2 (Earnings Per Share) to our Consolidated Financial Statements under Item 1, Financial Statements.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Our primary sources of liquidity are cash flows from operations, debt capacity available under various credit facilities and available cash reserves. We may also be able to raise additional funds through public or private debt or equity financings in order to:

take advantage of opportunities, including more rapid expansion;

acquire other businesses or technologies;

develop new services and solutions;

respond to competitive pressures; or

facilitate purchases, redemptions and exchanges of Accenture shares.

As of May 31, 2010, cash and cash equivalents totaled \$4.3 billion, compared with \$4.5 billion as of August 31, 2009, a decrease of approximately \$200 million.

Table of Contents

Cash flows from operating, investing and financing activities, as reflected in the Consolidated Cash Flows Statements, are summarized in the following table:

| | Nine Months Ended May 31, | | |
|--|-------------------------------|----------|----------|
| | 2010 | 2009 | Change |
| | (In millions of U.S. dollars) | | |
| Net cash provided by (used in): | | | |
| Operating activities | \$ 1,840 | \$ 2,113 | \$ (273) |
| Investing activities | (164) | (150) | (14) |
| Financing activities | (1,723) | (1,387) | (336) |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents | (183) | (177) | (6) |
| Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents (1) | \$ (230) | \$ 400 | \$ (629) |

(1) May not total due to rounding.

Operating Activities. The \$273 million decrease in cash provided by operating activities was primarily due to lower net income, as well as changes in operating assets and liabilities.

Investing Activities. The \$14 million increase in cash used was primarily due to an increase in spending on business acquisitions and lower net proceeds from available-for-sale investments, partially offset by a decrease in spending on property and equipment.

Financing Activities. The \$336 million increase in cash used was primarily due to an increase in cash dividends paid, partially offset by an increase in proceeds from share issuances. For additional information, see Note 6 (Shareholders' Equity) to our Consolidated Financial Statements under Item 1, Financial Statements.

We believe that our available cash balances and the cash flows we expect from operations will be sufficient to satisfy our current and planned working capital and investment needs for the next twelve months. We also believe that our longer-term working capital and other general corporate funding requirements will be satisfied through cash flows from operations and, to the extent necessary, from our borrowing facilities and future financial market activities.

Borrowing Facilities

As of May 31, 2010, we had the following borrowing facilities and related borrowings, including the issuance of letters of credit, for general working capital purposes:

| | Facility Amount | Borrowings Under Facilities |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | (In millions of U.S. dollars) | |
| Syndicated loan facility | \$ 1,200 | \$ |
| Separate bilateral, uncommitted, unsecured multicurrency revolving credit facilities | 350 | |
| Local guaranteed and non-guaranteed lines of credit | 149 | |
| Total | \$ 1,699 | \$ |

Under the borrowing facilities described above, we had an aggregate of \$135 million of letters of credit outstanding as of May 31, 2010. In addition, we had total outstanding debt of \$0.8 million as of May 31, 2010.

Share Purchases and Redemptions

The Board of Directors of Accenture plc has authorized funding for our publicly announced open-market share purchase program for acquiring Accenture plc Class A ordinary shares and for purchases and redemptions of Accenture plc Class A ordinary shares, Accenture SCA Class I common shares and Accenture Canada Holdings Inc. exchangeable shares held by our current and former senior executives and their permitted transferees.

On September 30, 2009, the Board of Directors of Accenture plc approved \$4.0 billion in additional share repurchase authority, bringing Accenture's total outstanding authority to approximately \$4.9 billion. During the first nine months of fiscal 2010, Accenture repurchased or redeemed 30,035,409 shares for a total of \$1,226 million, including \$319 million for 7,850,000 shares repurchased in the open market; these transactions reduced our available authorization. As of May 31, 2010, Accenture's aggregate available authorization was approximately \$3.6 billion for Accenture's publicly announced open-market share purchase program and the other share purchase programs. Additionally, Accenture acquired 2,803,385 Class A ordinary shares for \$106 million, primarily via share withholding; these transactions had no impact on our available authorization.

Table of Contents

Other Share Redemptions

During the nine months ended May 31, 2010, we issued 1,770,602 Accenture plc Class A ordinary shares upon redemptions of an equivalent number of Accenture SCA Class I common shares pursuant to our registration statement on Form S-3 (the registration statement). The registration statement allows us, at our option, to issue freely tradable Accenture plc Class A ordinary shares in lieu of cash upon redemptions of Accenture SCA Class I common shares held by our senior executives, former executives and their permitted transferees.

For a complete description of all share purchase and redemption activity for the third quarter of fiscal 2010, see Part II, Item 2, Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

In the normal course of business and in conjunction with some client engagements, we have entered into contractual arrangements through which we may be obligated to indemnify clients with respect to certain matters. These arrangements with clients can include provisions whereby we have joint and several liability in relation to the performance of certain contractual obligations along with third parties also providing services and products for a specific project. Indemnification provisions are also included in arrangements under which we agree to hold the indemnified party harmless with respect to third-party claims related to such matters as title to assets sold or licensed or certain intellectual property rights.

Typically, we have contractual recourse against third parties for certain payments made by us in connection with arrangements where third-party nonperformance has given rise to the client's claim. Payments by us under any of the arrangements described above are generally conditioned on the client making a claim, which may be disputed by us typically under dispute resolution procedures specified in the particular arrangement. The limitations of liability under these arrangements may be expressly limited or may not be expressly specified in terms of time and/or amount.

For arrangements with unspecified limitations, we cannot reasonably estimate the aggregate maximum potential liability, as it is inherently difficult to predict the maximum potential amount of such payments, due to the conditional nature and unique facts of each particular arrangement.

To date, we have not been required to make any significant payment under any of the arrangements described above. For further discussion of these transactions, see Note 9 (Commitments and Contingencies) to our Consolidated Financial Statements under Item 1, Financial Statements.

Recently Adopted Accounting Pronouncements

On September 1, 2009, we adopted guidance issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) on business combinations. The guidance establishes principles and requirements for: recognizing and measuring the identifiable assets acquired, the liabilities assumed and any noncontrolling interest in the acquiree; recognizing and measuring the goodwill acquired in the business combination or a gain from a bargain purchase; expensing acquisition-related costs as incurred; and determining what information to disclose to enable users of the financial statements to evaluate the nature and financial effects of the business combination. The adoption of the guidance on business combinations did not have a material impact on our Consolidated Financial Statements under Item 1, Financial Statements.

On September 1, 2009, we adopted guidance issued by the FASB on noncontrolling interests, which establishes accounting and reporting standards requiring the noncontrolling interest in a subsidiary, previously referred to as minority interest, to be presented as a separate component in the shareholders' equity section of the Consolidated Balance Sheet. As required, the guidance on noncontrolling interests was applied prospectively with the exception of presentation and disclosure requirements, which were applied retrospectively for all periods presented. For additional information, see Note 6 (Shareholders' Equity) to our Consolidated Financial Statements under Item 1, Financial Statements.

New Accounting Pronouncements

In September 2009, the FASB issued amended revenue recognition guidance for arrangements with multiple deliverables. The new guidance eliminates the residual method of allocation in previous guidance and requires that arrangement considerations be allocated at the inception of the arrangement to all deliverables using the relative selling price. The new guidance requires that a vendor use estimates of a selling price developed in a manner that is consistent with that used to determine the price to sell the deliverable on a standalone basis for all deliverables that meet the remaining separation criteria when vendor-specific objective evidence and third-party evidence, respectively, do not exist as estimates of selling price. This guidance is effective prospectively for revenue arrangements entered into or materially modified in fiscal years beginning on or after June 15, 2010. We are currently assessing the potential impact of this new guidance; however, we do not expect a material impact on

Edgar Filing: Accenture plc - Form 10-Q

our Consolidated Financial Statements under Item 1, Financial Statements.

Table of Contents

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

During the nine months ended May 31, 2010, there were no material changes in our market risk exposure. For a discussion of our market risk associated with foreign currency risk, interest rate risk and equity price risk as of August 31, 2009, see Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk in Part II, Item 7A, of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 31, 2009.

ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

An evaluation was performed under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our chief executive officer and our chief financial officer, of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Exchange Act) as of the end of the period covered by this report. Any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving the desired control objectives. Based on that evaluation, the chief executive officer and the chief financial officer of Accenture plc have concluded that, as of the end of the period covered by this report, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at the reasonable assurance level.

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

There has been no change in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the third quarter of fiscal 2010 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

We are involved in a number of judicial and arbitration proceedings concerning matters arising in the ordinary course of our business. We and/or our personnel also from time to time are involved in investigations by various regulatory or legal authorities concerning matters arising in the course of our business around the world. We do not expect that any of these matters, individually or in the aggregate, will have a material impact on our results of operations or financial condition.

As previously reported, in April 2007, the U.S. Department of Justice (the DOJ) intervened in a civil qui tam action previously filed under seal by two private individuals in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas against Accenture and several of its indirect subsidiaries. The complaint as amended alleges that, in connection with work we undertook for the U.S. federal government, we received payments, resale revenue or other benefits as a result of, or otherwise acted improperly in connection with, alliance agreements we maintain with technology vendors and others in violation of our contracts with the U.S. government and/or applicable law or regulations. Similar suits were brought against other companies in our industry. The suit alleges that these amounts and relationships were not disclosed to the government in violation of the Federal False Claims Act and the Anti-Kickback Act, among other statutes. The DOJ complaint seeks various remedies including treble damages, statutory penalties and disgorgement of profits. While the complaint does not allege damages with specificity, the amount sought by the DOJ will depend on the theories it pursues and could be significant. The suit could lead to other related proceedings and actions by various agencies of the U.S. government, including potential suspension or debarment proceedings. We intend to defend such matters vigorously and do not believe they will have a material impact on our results of operations or financial condition.

As previously reported, in July 2003, we became aware of an incident of possible noncompliance with the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and/or with Accenture's internal controls in connection with certain of our operations in the Middle East. In 2003, we voluntarily reported the incident to the appropriate authorities in the United States promptly after its discovery. Shortly thereafter, the SEC advised us it would be undertaking an informal investigation of this incident, and the DOJ indicated it would also conduct a review. Since that time, there have been no further developments. We do not believe that this incident will have any material impact on our results of operations or financial condition.

We currently maintain the types and amounts of insurance customary in the industries and countries in which we operate, including coverage for professional liability, general liability and management liability. We consider our insurance coverage to be adequate both as to the risks and amounts for the businesses we conduct.

Table of Contents**ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS**

For a discussion of our potential risks and uncertainties, see the information under the heading "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 31, 2009. There have been no material changes to risk factors disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 31, 2009.

ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS**Purchases and redemptions of Accenture plc Class A ordinary shares and Class X ordinary shares**

The following table provides information relating to our purchases of Accenture plc Class A ordinary shares and redemptions of Accenture plc Class X ordinary shares during the third quarter of fiscal 2010.

| Period | Total Number of Shares Purchased | Average Price Paid per Share (1) | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs (2) | Approximate Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under Publicly Announced Plans or Programs (3) (In millions of U.S. dollars) |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| March 1, 2010 – March 31, 2010 | | | | |
| Class A ordinary shares | 104,863 | \$ 41.62 | | \$4,045 |
| Class X ordinary shares | 268,767 | \$ 0.0000225 | | |
| April 1, 2010 – April 30, 2010 | | | | |
| Class A ordinary shares | 13,601 | \$ 42.17 | | \$3,879 |
| Class X ordinary shares | 3,177,880 | \$ 0.0000225 | | |
| May 1, 2010 – May 31, 2010 | | | | |
| Class A ordinary shares | 5,319,489 | \$ 41.14 | 5,200,000 | \$3,625 |
| Class X ordinary shares | 885,887 | \$ 0.0000225 | | |
| Total | | | | |
| Class A ordinary shares (4) | 5,437,953 | \$ 41.15 | 5,200,000 | |
| Class X ordinary shares (5) | 4,332,534 | \$ 0.0000225 | | |

- (1) Average price per share reflects the total cash outlay for the period, divided by the number of shares acquired, including those acquired by redemption or purchase and any acquired by means of employee share forfeiture.
- (2) Since August 2001, the Board of Directors of Accenture plc has authorized and periodically confirmed a publicly announced open-market share purchase program for acquiring Accenture plc Class A ordinary shares. During the third quarter of fiscal 2010, we repurchased 5,200,000 Accenture plc Class A ordinary shares under this program for an aggregate price of \$213.3 million. The open-market purchase program does not have an expiration date.
- (3) As of May 31, 2010, our aggregate available authorization for share repurchases and redemptions was \$3,625 million, which management has the discretion to use for either our publicly announced open-market share purchase program or the other share purchase programs. As of May 31, 2010, the Board of Directors of Accenture plc has authorized an aggregate of \$15.1 billion for repurchases and redemptions of Accenture plc Class A ordinary shares, Accenture SCA Class I common shares or Accenture Canada Holdings Inc. exchangeable shares.
- (4) During the third quarter of fiscal 2010, we purchased 237,953 Accenture plc Class A ordinary shares in transactions unrelated to publicly announced share plans or programs. These transactions primarily consisted of acquisitions of Accenture plc Class A ordinary shares via share withholding for payroll tax obligations due from employees and former employees in connection with the delivery of Accenture plc Class A ordinary shares under our various employee equity share plans.

Edgar Filing: Accenture plc - Form 10-Q

- (5) During the third quarter of fiscal 2010, we redeemed 4,332,534 Accenture plc Class X ordinary shares pursuant to our articles of association. Accenture plc Class X ordinary shares are redeemable at their par value of \$0.0000225 per share.

Table of Contents**Purchases and redemptions of Accenture SCA Class I common shares and Accenture Canada Holdings Inc. exchangeable shares**

The following table provides additional information relating to our purchases and redemptions of Accenture SCA Class I common shares and Accenture Canada Holdings Inc. exchangeable shares during the third quarter of fiscal 2010. We believe that the following table and footnotes provide useful information regarding the share purchase and redemption activity of Accenture. Generally, purchases and redemptions of Accenture SCA Class I common shares and Accenture Canada Holdings Inc. exchangeable shares reduce shares outstanding for purposes of computing diluted earnings per share.

| Period | Total Number of Shares Purchased (1) | Average Price Paid per Share (2) | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs | Approximate Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under Publicly Announced Plans or Programs |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Accenture SCA | | | | |
| March 1, 2010 – March 31, 2010 | | | | |
| Class I common shares | 374,622 | \$42.08 | | |
| April 1, 2010 – April 30, 2010 | | | | |
| Class I common shares | 3,778,472 | \$43.36 | | |
| May 1, 2010 – May 31, 2010 | | | | |
| Class I common shares | 961,371 | \$41.02 | | |
| Total | | | | |
| Class I common shares (3) | 5,114,465 | \$42.82 | | |
| Accenture Canada Holdings Inc. | | | | |
| March 1, 2010 – March 31, 2010 | | | | |
| Exchangeable shares | 20,000 | \$41.97 | | |
| April 1, 2010 – April 30, 2010 | | | | |
| Exchangeable shares | 57,300 | \$43.52 | | |
| May 1, 2010 – May 31, 2010 | | | | |
| Exchangeable shares | 19,500 | \$41.21 | | |
| Total | | | | |
| Exchangeable shares (3) | 96,800 | \$42.74 | | |

- (1) During the third quarter of fiscal 2010, we acquired a total of 5,114,465 Accenture SCA Class I common shares and 96,800 Accenture Canada Holdings Inc. exchangeable shares from current and former senior executives and their permitted transferees. This includes acquisitions by means of redemption or purchase, or employee share forfeiture, as applicable.
- (2) Average price per share reflects the total cash outlay for the period, divided by the number of shares acquired, including those acquired by purchase and any acquired by means of employee share forfeiture.
- (3) As of May 31, 2010, our aggregate available authorization for share purchases and redemptions was \$3,625 million, which management has the discretion to use for either our publicly announced open-market share purchase program or the other share purchase programs. To date, the Board of Directors of Accenture plc has authorized an aggregate of \$15.1 billion for purchases and redemptions of Accenture plc Class A ordinary shares, Accenture SCA Class I common shares or Accenture Canada Holdings Inc. exchangeable shares.

Table of Contents

ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES

None.

ITEM 4. (REMOVED AND RESERVED)

ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION

(a) None.

(b) None.

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

Exhibit Index:

Exhibit

| Number | Exhibit |
|---------------|--|
| 3.1 | Memorandum and Articles of Association of Accenture plc (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Accenture plc's 8-K12B filed on September 1, 2009) |
| 10.1 | Form of Articles of Association of Accenture SCA, updated as of November 16, 2009 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the November 30, 2009 10-Q) |
| 31.1 | Certification of the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 31.2 | Certification of the Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 32.1 | Certification of the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 32.2 | Certification of the Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 101 | The following financial information from Accenture plc's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended May 31, 2010, formatted in XBRL (eXtensible Business Reporting Language): (i) Consolidated Balance Sheets as of May 31, 2010 (Unaudited) and August 31, 2009, (ii) Consolidated Income Statements (Unaudited) for the three and nine months ended May 31, 2010 and 2009, (iii) Consolidated Cash Flows Statements (Unaudited) for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 and 2009, and (iv) the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, tagged as blocks of text |

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

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

Date: June 25, 2010

ACCENTURE PLC

By: /s/ Pamela J. Craig
Name: Pamela J. Craig
Title: Chief Financial Officer

Table of Contents

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit

| Number | Exhibit |
|---------------|--|
| 3.1 | Memorandum and Articles of Association of Accenture plc (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Accenture plc s 8-K12B filed on September 1, 2009) |
| 10.1 | Form of Articles of Association of Accenture SCA, updated as of November 16, 2009 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the November 30, 2009 10-Q) |
| 31.1 | Certification of the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 31.2 | Certification of the Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 32.1 | Certification of the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 32.2 | Certification of the Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 101 | The following financial information from Accenture plc s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended May 31, 2010, formatted in XBRL (eXtensible Business Reporting Language): (i) Consolidated Balance Sheets as of May 31, 2010 (Unaudited) and August 31, 2009, (ii) Consolidated Income Statements (Unaudited) for the three and nine months ended May 31, 2010 and 2009, (iii) Consolidated Cash Flows Statements (Unaudited) for the nine months ended May 31, 2010 and 2009, and (iv) the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, tagged as blocks of text |