



Billing Services Group Limited

ANNUAL REPORT 2009



POWERFUL, INNOVATIVE PAYMENT SOLUTIONS

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DIRECTORS, OFFICERS & ADVISORS

Directors, Officers and Advisors

DIRECTORS

Patrick D. Heneghan, Chairman
 Leighton W. Smith, Vice Chairman
 Greg M. Carter, CEO/Executive Director
 J. Alan Lindauer, Non-Executive Director

OFFICERS

Greg M. Carter, Chief Executive Officer
 Norman M. Phipps, Chief Financial Officer

COMPANY SECRETARY

Katherine Aleman
 c/o Appleby Services (Bermuda) Ltd.
 Canon's Court
 22 Victoria Street
 Hamilton, HM 12
 Bermuda

ASSISTANT COMPANY SECRETARY

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 Hamilton, HM 12
 Bermuda

REGISTERED OFFICE

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 Hamilton, HM 12
 Bermuda

NOMINATED ADVISOR AND BROKER

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UK LEGAL ADVISOR

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BERMUDIAN LEGAL ADVISOR

Appleby
 Canon's Court
 22 Victoria Street
 Hamilton, HM 12
 Bermuda

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

Ernst & Young LLP
 1800 Frost Bank Tower
 100 West Houston Street
 San Antonio, Texas 78205

BRANCH REGISTRAR

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 12 Castle Street
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 Jersey JE2 3RT

DEPOSITORY INTEREST REGISTRAR

Capita Registrars
 The Registry
 34 Beckenham Road
 Beckenham
 Kent BR3 4TU
 United Kingdom



FINANCIAL & OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Financial Highlights

	2009	2008
EBITDA⁽¹⁾ increased by 5%	\$38.9 million	\$37.2 million
Net income	Net income of \$16.9 million	Net income of \$7.9 million
Capital	Reduced long term debt by \$13.5 million, or 14%, to \$80.1 million from \$93.6 million, inclusive of all unamortized original discount	Reduced long-term debt by \$18.9 million, or 17%, to \$93.6 million, inclusive of all unamortized original discount

⁽¹⁾ EBITDA (a non-GAAP measure) is computed as earnings before interest expense, income taxes, depreciation, amortization and other non-cash and/or non-recurring expenses

Operational Highlights

2009

Expanded Bill2Phone™ Business Development Management team.

Continued the Texas consolidation plan with the decommissioning of an East Coast third party verification data center.

Established a new process to address consumer and telecommunications partner inquiries on enhanced service charges in order to mitigate complaints.

BSG was named #1 Top Work Places for 2009 for mid-sized companies by the *San Antonio Express News* (April 2009).



CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Chairman's Statement

Patrick D. Heneghan

I want to recognize the employees of BSG for executing superbly against economic headwinds, market challenges and changing industry dynamics in 2009. Due to maintaining laser-like focus on the fundamentals of customer care and expense controls, we were able to produce another year of solid performance, including improvements in EBITDA and net income.



To counteract trends favoring displacement of the wireline industry with wireless alternatives, BSG has successfully introduced new services and a broader array of innovative payment solutions, including Bill2Phone™. At the same time, management reduced operational costs and personnel expenses. The result has been consecutive year-over-year improvements in revenue and earnings, which have allowed meaningful debt repayments.

The key financial performance metrics in 2009 were:

- increase in revenue of 3% to \$146.5 million;
- \$1.7 million reduction in operating expenses;
- \$38.9 million of EBITDA generated (up 5% from last year);
- generated \$7.7 million of non-operating income and \$2.1 million of revenue from reductions of third party payables and accruals for a cash cost of \$0.3 million; and
- comfortably serviced our debt and reduced our outstanding loan balance by \$13.5 million.

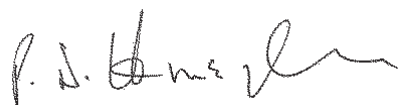
Our success in 2009 was due to our intense focus on the fundamentals of the business, the introduction of complementary payment services and aggressive actions to reduce liabilities on favorable terms. While still early in the process, we are encouraged by the level of receptivity from large, well-known merchants and their interest in adding the Bill2Phone payment option. Our concentration on driving revenue growth and expense reduction across all of BSG's products remains unabated. Also, we are in the process of initiating new programs and procedures to address and mitigate the concerns of our LEC partners and consumers about enhanced billing services, and to improve overall customer satisfaction.

Chairman's Statement (continued)

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the employees at BSG for their service excellence, professionalism and teamwork, which continue to make the company an industry leader. These fundamental aspects of our culture at BSG, along with our innovation, technology and expertise will enable us to be successful as we build our business for the future.

As always, I would also like to thank you, our shareholders, for your continued support.

Most sincerely,



Patrick D. Heneghan
Chairman of the Board

Executive and Non Executive Directors and Dividend Policy

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greg M. Carter assumed the role of Chief Executive Officer on May 1, 2008 after serving as President, Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President of Sales beginning in August 2004. Mr. Carter began his telecommunications career in 1988 when he joined Teleconnect, an Iowa-based long distance, database marketing and operator services company. Mr. Carter was recruited to San Antonio in 1991 by BSG's predecessor company, US Long Distance and served in numerous sales and marketing management roles. Mr. Carter has also served as Vice President of Sales for Billing Concepts (dba Aptis Software), Qwest Communications, and nii communications.

NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Patrick D. Heneghan is the founder (retired) of Heneghan PR. In recent years he has been involved in some of Ireland's most high-profile public relations issues, including the Beef Industry Tribunal, the Tribunal of Inquiry into Certain Planning Matters, the restructuring of Irish Steel and the crisis in the Catholic Church. He has advised Irish Distillers Group (including the takeover by Pernod Ricard), Irish Food Processors and Mutual of America. He was formerly Public Relations Manager and a Director of the tobacco firm P.J. Carroll & Co. Ltd., where he was responsible for Ireland's largest public relations and marketing programs, including the Irish Open Golf Championship and the Irish Open Tennis Championship. He is a Fellow of the Public Relations Institute of Ireland, a founding member of the US-Ireland Council for Commerce & Industry, a former Director of the state-owned National Concert Hall.

Leighton W. Smith Admiral, United States Navy, retired from the U.S. Navy on October 1, 1996. Admiral Smith is President of Leighton Smith Associates, Inc., consulting for a variety of companies and corporations for over ten years. Admiral Smith is a Distinguished Fellow at the Center for Naval Analysis. He is a former chairman of the board of Trustees of both the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation and U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association, and sits on the boards of several publicly traded corporations. Admiral Smith was previously the Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Commander in Chief Allied Forces Southern Europe and concurrently assumed command of the NATO-led Implementation Force in Bosnia. Admiral Smith has received numerous awards and decorations, including being made an Honorary Knight of the British Empire.

Executive and Non Executive Directors and Dividend Policy (continued)

J. Alan Lindauer is currently a Director of Towne Bank, and a member of the bank's Executive Committee and Compensation Committee. He is a Director of the Towne Bank Norfolk Board and is Chairman of the Loan Committee. Mr. Lindauer also serves as vice chairman of Towne Bank Financial Services and is a member of the Towne Bank Financial Services Executive Committee. Mr. Lindauer also serves on various boards including Old Dominion University Business School and the Virginia Maritime Heritage Foundation. He served as President of Waterside Capital Corporation and Waterside Management, Inc., a business consulting firm, from 1986 to 2007. Mr. Lindauer served as a director of Commerce Bank of Virginia from 1986 to 1999, and served as chairman of its Loan Committee, Norfolk Division, and a member of the Executive, Trust, Marketing, Compensation, and Mergers & Acquisition Committees. Mr. Lindauer served as chairman of BB&T Holdings Co. of Va., Inc. from 1986 to 1999, and as director of Citizens Trust Bank from 1982 to 1985, as well as a member of its Trust and Loan Committees. Mr. Lindauer founded Minute-Man Fuels in 1963 and managed Minute-Man Fuels until 1985.

The Board considers the Non Executive Directors to be independent.

DIVIDEND POLICY

It is not the Directors' current intention that the company will pay a dividend for the financial year ended December 31, 2009. The declaration and payment by the company of any future dividends and the amount of any such dividends will depend upon the Group's results, financial condition, future prospects, profits being available for distribution, limitations under its credit agreement and any other factors deemed by the Directors to be relevant at the time, subject always to the requirement of the Companies Act 1981 of Bermuda.

Report on Directors' Remuneration

The remuneration of the Executive Director is determined by the Remuneration Committee which consists of two Non-Executive Directors. The role of the Committee is to review the scale and structure of the remuneration of the Executive Director and other senior executives and the terms of their respective employment agreements.

REMUNERATION POLICY

The objectives of the remuneration policy are to ensure that the salaries and incentives are aligned with the performance of the company and the interests of shareholders and to enable the company to attract, retain and motivate the Executive Director, senior executives and employees of the highest caliber. In framing the remuneration policy, full consideration has been given to Principle B of Section 1 of the Combined Code.

DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION

The normal remuneration arrangements for the Executive Director and senior executives consist of basic salary, annual performance-related bonuses and non-qualified stock options. In addition, they receive private medical insurance and contributions to a 401(k) plan at the company's discretion.

No Director is involved in deciding his own remuneration. The remuneration of the Non-Executive Directors is determined by the Board. All Directors have service contracts and certain senior executives of the company have employment agreements.

AUDITABLE INFORMATION

Executive Director remuneration for the year to December 31, 2009 was as follows:

	2009 Salary	2009 Bonus	2009 Medical Insurance	2009 401(k)	2009 Total	2008 Total
Greg M. Carter	\$ 375,000	\$ 275,000	\$ 14,049	\$ 12,250	\$ 676,299	\$ 657,070

Report on Directors' Remuneration (continued)

Share Option Plan

	Options at 01-Jan-09	Cancelled in 2009	Issued in 2009	Exercised in 2009	Options at 31-Dec-09	Exercise Price	Earliest Exercise Date ⁽¹⁾	Option Termination Date
Greg M. Carter	4,000,000	-	-	2,000,000	2,000,000	10.34 p	18-Aug-10	18-Aug-18
Patrick D. Heneghan	913,022	-	-	456,511	456,511	10.34 p	18-Aug-10	18-Aug-18
J. Alan Lindauer	913,022	-	-	456,511	456,511	10.34 p	18-Aug-10	18-Aug-18
Leighton W. Smith	913,022	-	-	456,511	456,511	10.34 p	18-Aug-10	18-Aug-18

⁽¹⁾ Subject to the provisions of the plan, including but not limited to provisions covering a change in control

Corporate Governance Statement

The policy of the Board is to manage the affairs of the company in accordance with the Principles of Good Governance and Code of Best Practice as set out in Section I of the Combined Code on Corporate Governance. The Directors support the principles underlying the requirements insofar as is appropriate for a company of the size of Billing Services Group Limited.

The Board met for regular business six times during the period under review. In addition, further meetings are held if circumstances require. The Board has agreed to a schedule of items that are specifically reserved for its consideration, which is reviewed on an annual basis. The schedule includes setting and monitoring strategy, reviewing trading performance, guiding business development, examining acquisition possibilities and approving reports to shareholders. In addition, the Board approves the annual budget and any budget updates. Procedures are established to ensure that appropriate information is communicated to the Board in a timely manner to enable it to fulfill its duties.

Details of the Directors are set out on page 10. At December 31, 2009, the Board was comprised of one Executive and three Non-Executive Directors.

The Board has separate roles for Chairman and Chief Executive.

The Board has established an Audit Committee, which includes J. Alan Lindauer (chairman), and Leighton W. Smith. The Audit Committee meets at least two times a year. It is responsible for meeting the auditors, reviewing the annual report and accounts and the interim results before their submission to the Board, ensuring that the financial performance of the company is properly reported on and monitored, reviewing the recommendations of the auditors on accounting policies, internal control and other findings and making recommendations to the Board on the scope of the audit and the appointment of the auditors. The Audit Committee met twice during the period of review, with both meetings being fully attended.

The Board has established a Remuneration Committee, which includes Leighton W. Smith (chairman) and Patrick D. Heneghan. The Remuneration Committee meets as necessary to review the performance of the Executive Director, senior executives and the scale and structure of their remuneration, having due regard to the interests of the shareholders. The Committee also approves any performance-based company incentive

Corporate Governance Statement (continued)

plans and the granting of share options. The Remuneration Committee met twice during the period of review, with both meetings being fully attended.

The Board established a Nomination Committee which includes Patrick D. Heneghan (chairman), Leighton W. Smith and J. Alan Lindauer. The Nomination Committee meets when necessary to consider and make recommendations to the Board concerning the composition of the Board, including proposed appointees to the Board and whether to fill any vacancies that may arise or to change the number of Board members. The Nomination Committee is chaired by Patrick D. Heneghan except when it is dealing with the appointment of a successor to the Chairmanship of the company. The Nomination Committee did not hold a meeting during the period of review.

From time to time, the Board establishes special committees to address particular business issues. Such committees are not intended to be permanent.

COMMUNICATION WITH SHAREHOLDERS

The Board encourages regular dialogue with shareholders. All shareholders will be invited to the AGM at which Directors will be available for questioning. The notice of AGM will be sent to all shareholders at least 20 working days before the meeting. Other information about the company is available on the company's website at www.bsgclearing.com.

INTERNAL CONTROL

The Directors are responsible for the company's system of internal control and for reviewing its effectiveness. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and it can only provide the Directors with reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The Board recognizes the importance of both financial and non-financial controls and has reviewed the company's control environment, including the Company's SAS 70 Type II Report, and any related shortfalls during the period. Specific controls are subject to continuous review as the company implements new systems and practices. The company seeks to continuously assess the risks to which it is exposed and to take appropriate steps to mitigate or eliminate those risks wherever possible.

Corporate Governance Statement (continued)

The independent auditors' responsibilities are to express an opinion on the financial statements. The independent auditors are not engaged to perform an audit of the company's internal control over financial reporting. Their audits include consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control over financial reporting. They report their findings to the Board.

No weaknesses in internal controls have resulted in any material losses, contingencies or uncertainty which would require disclosure as recommended by the guidance for Directors on reporting on internal controls.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

It is the objective of the company to ensure the health and safety of its employees and of any other persons who could be affected by its operations. It is the company's policy to provide working environments which are safe and without risk to health and provide information, instruction, training and supervision to ensure the health and safety of its employees.

INVESTMENT APPRAISAL

The Board approves proposals for the acquisition of new businesses.

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report in accordance with applicable law and generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") in the United States. In preparing those financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are responsible and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements comply with GAAP in the United States; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

The Directors confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

Report of Independent Auditors



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The Board of Directors
Billing Services Group Limited

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Billing Services Group Limited (the "Company") as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the related consolidated statements of operations, changes in shareholders' equity, and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. We were not engaged to perform an audit of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Billing Services Group Limited as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the consolidated results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Ernst & Young LLP

March 26, 2010



CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Billing Services Group Limited
Years Ended December 31, 2008 and 2009

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Consolidated Balance Sheets

(In thousands, except shares)

December 31	2009	2008
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 14,425	\$ 27,354
Accounts receivable	19,005	22,188
Purchased receivables	19,390	18,259
Income tax receivable	1,262	-
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	588	535
Deferred taxes - current	1,433	3,752
Total current assets	56,103	72,088
Property, equipment and software	38,576	35,352
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	19,470	14,710
Net property, equipment and software	19,106	20,642
Deferred finance costs, net of accumulated amortization of \$659 and \$375 at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively	687	971
Intangible assets, net of accumulated amortization of \$50,964 and \$42,322 at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively	42,811	51,453
Goodwill	34,492	34,739
Other assets	534	534
Total assets	\$ 153,733	\$ 180,427



Consolidated Balance Sheets (continued)

(In thousands, except shares)

December 31	2009	2008
Liabilities and shareholders' equity		
Current liabilities:		
Trade accounts payable	\$ 12,447	\$ 13,409
Third-party payables	24,197	45,247
Accrued liabilities	2,392	4,923
Income tax payable	-	1,064
Current portion of long-term debt	11,250	8,562
Total current liabilities	50,286	73,205
Long-term debt, net of current portion and unamortized original issue discount of \$2,319 and \$3,273 at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively	66,509	81,769
Deferred taxes - noncurrent	5,560	5,428
Other liabilities	6,114	11,362
Total liabilities	128,469	171,764
Commitments and contingencies		
Shareholders' equity:		
Common stock, \$0.59446 par value; 350,000,000 shares authorized and 279,863,248 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2009 and 2008	166,368	166,368
Additional paid-in capital (deficit)	(175,786)	(174,611)
Retained earnings	36,396	19,538
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(1,714)	(2,632)
Total shareholders' equity	25,264	8,663
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$ 153,733	\$ 180,427

See accompanying notes.

Consolidated Statements of Operations

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

Years Ended December 31	2009	2008
Operating revenues	\$ 146,458	\$ 142,611
Cost of services	86,462	82,635
Gross profit	59,996	59,976
Selling, general, and administrative expenses	21,109	22,769
Depreciation and amortization expense	13,402	13,664
Impairment loss	-	120
Restructuring expense	-	2,808
Stock-based compensation expense	628	213
Other nonrecurring expenses	-	182
Operating income	24,857	20,220
Other income (expense):		
Interest expense, net of \$86 and \$99 capitalized in 2009 and 2008, respectively	(7,365)	(10,354)
Settlement and mark-to-market of derivatives	(633)	(813)
Interest income	932	1,626
Other income, net	7,745	1,777
Total other income (expense), net	679	(7,764)
Income before income taxes	25,536	12,456
Income tax expense	8,678	4,595
Net income	\$ 16,858	\$ 7,861



Consolidated Statements of Operations (continued)

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

Years Ended December 31	2009	2008
Net income per basic and diluted share:		
Basic net income per share	\$ 0.06	\$ 0.03
Diluted net income per share	0.06	0.03
Net income per share	\$ 0.06	\$ 0.03
Basic weighted-average shares outstanding	279,863	279,863
Diluted weighted-average shares outstanding	280,872	279,863

See accompanying notes.

Consolidated Statements of Changes in Shareholders' Equity

(In thousands)

	Number of Shares	Common Stock	Additional Paid - In Capital (Deficit)	Retained Earnings	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	Total
Shareholders' equity, December 31, 2007	279,863	\$ 166,368	\$ (174,824)	\$ 11,677	\$ (53)	\$ 3,168
Stock-based compensation expense recognized in earnings	-	-	213	-	-	213
Translation adjustment	-	-	-	-	9	9
Net income	-	-	-	7,861	-	7,861
Derivative loss, net of taxes of \$1,395	-	-	-	-	(2,588)	(2,588)
Total comprehensive income						5,282
Shareholders' equity, December 31, 2008	279,863	166,368	(174,611)	19,538	(2,632)	8,663
Stock-based compensation expense recognized in earnings	-	-	628	-	-	628
Repurchase and cancellation of exercised options	-	-	(1,803)	-	-	(1,803)
Translation adjustment	-	-	-	-	10	10
Net income	-	-	-	16,858	-	16,858
Derivative gain, net of taxes of \$796	-	-	-	-	908	908
Total comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	-	17,776
Shareholders' equity, December 31, 2009	279,863	\$ 166,368	\$ (175,786)	\$ 36,396	\$ (1,714)	\$ 25,264

See accompanying notes.



Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

(In thousands)

Years Ended December 31	2009	2008
Operating activities		
Net income	\$ 16,858	\$ 7,861
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	4,760	4,323
Amortization of intangibles	8,642	9,341
Amortization of deferred finance costs	1,050	1,386
Impairment loss	-	120
Stock-based compensation expense	628	213
Gain on extinguishment of debt	(185)	(83)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable	3,183	(1,524)
(Increase) decrease in income taxes receivable, net	(421)	4,725
Increase in prepaid expenses and other assets	(53)	(12)
(Decrease) increase in trade accounts payable	(962)	1,845
Decrease in third-party payables	(26,014)	(14,408)
Decrease in accrued liabilities	(2,531)	(5,915)
Provision for deferred taxes	1,853	(873)
Increase (decrease) in other liabilities	633	(885)
Net cash provided by operating activities	7,441	6,114
Investing activities		
Purchases of property, equipment and software, including \$86 and \$99 of capitalized interest in 2009 and 2008, respectively	(3,224)	(2,789)
Net (advances) receipts on purchased receivables	(1,131)	1,673
Net cash used in investing activities	(4,355)	(1,116)

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (continued)

(In thousands)

Years Ended December 31	2009	2008
Financing activities		
Borrowings of long-term debt	\$ (13,154)	\$ (18,640)
Payments on settlement of derivative contracts	(835)	-
Repurchase of exercised options	(2,036)	-
Restricted cash	-	7,858
Net cash used in financing activities	(16,025)	(10,782)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash	10	9
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(12,929)	(5,775)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	27,354	33,129
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$ 14,425	\$ 27,354
Supplemental cash information		
Cash paid during the year for:		
Interest	\$ 5,811	\$ 9,073
Taxes	\$ 6,900	\$ 2,950
Noncash investing and financing activities		
Adjustment to goodwill, third-party payables, accrued liabilities and other liabilities, net of tax effect	\$ 185	\$ 5,324
Derivative gain (loss), net of tax (expense) benefit of \$(796) and \$1,395	\$ 908	\$ (2,588)

See accompanying notes.



Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2009 and 2008

1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Organization

Billing Services Group Limited (the “Company” or “BSG Limited”) commenced operations effective with the completion of its admission to AiM (a market operated by the London Stock Exchange plc) on June 15, 2005. The Company was formed to succeed to the business of Billing Services Group, LLC and its subsidiaries. The Company is a leading provider of clearing and settlement, payment services, and financial risk management solutions to communications service providers. The Company was incorporated and registered in Bermuda on May 13, 2005.

Principles of Consolidation

The Company’s consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its subsidiary, Billing Services Group North America, Inc. (“BSG North America”), and its respective subsidiaries. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include all cash and highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less. The Company holds cash and cash equivalents at several major financial institutions in amounts which often exceed Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation insured limits for United States deposit accounts. The Company has entered into control agreements with its lenders and certain financial institutions covering certain of its deposit accounts.

Purchased Receivables

The Company offers advance funding arrangements to certain of its customers. Under the terms of the arrangements, the Company purchases the customer’s accounts receivable for an amount equal to the face amount of the call record value submitted to the local exchange carriers (“LECs”) by the Company, less various items, including financing fees, LEC charges, rejects, and other similar items. The Company advances 15% to 80% of the purchased amount to the customer and charges financing fees at rates up to 8% per annum over prime (prime was 3.25% per annum at December 31, 2009) until the funds are received from the LECs. The face amount of the call record value is recorded as purchased receivables in the consolidated balance sheets.

Financial Instruments

Due to their short maturity, the carrying amounts of accounts and purchased receivables, accounts payable and accrued liabilities approximated their fair values at December 31, 2009 and 2008. The fair value of long-term debt approximates its face value and is based on the amounts at which the debt could be settled (either transferred or paid back) in a current transaction exclusive of transaction costs.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(continued)

1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Concentration of Credit Risk and Significant Customers

At December 31, 2009, ten customers represented approximately 31% of accounts receivable, and ten customers represented approximately 80% of outstanding purchased receivables. At December 31, 2008, ten customers represented approximately 27% of accounts receivable, and ten customers represented approximately 70% of outstanding purchased receivables. Credit risk with respect to trade accounts receivable generated through billing services is limited as the Company collects its fees through receipt of cash directly from the LECs. The credit risk with respect to the purchase of accounts receivable is reduced as the Company only advances 15% to 80% of the gross accounts receivable purchased. Management evaluates accounts receivable balances on an ongoing basis and provides allowances as necessary for amounts estimated to eventually become uncollectible. In the event of complete nonperformance of accounts receivable, the maximum exposure to the Company is the recorded amount shown on the balance sheet. For the year ended December 31, 2009, twenty customers represented approximately 41% of consolidated revenues. For the year ended December 31, 2008, twenty customers represented approximately 46% of consolidated revenues.

Property, Equipment and Software

Property, equipment and software are primarily composed of furniture and fixtures, office equipment, computer equipment and software, and leasehold improvements, including capitalized interest, which are recorded at cost. The cost of additions and substantial improvements to property and equipment, including software being developed for internal use, is capitalized. The cost of maintenance and repairs of property and equipment is charged to operating expenses. Property, equipment and software are depreciated using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives, which range from three to seven years. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of the lease term or the estimated useful life of the asset. Upon disposition, the cost and related accumulated depreciation are removed from the accounts, and the resulting gain or loss is reflected in other income (expense) for that period.

The Company accounts for the impairment of long-lived assets in accordance with the provisions of ASC 360, *Property, Plant and Equipment*. The Company tests for possible impairment of long-lived assets whenever events or changes in circumstances, such as a reduction in operating cash flow or a dramatic change in the manner for which the asset is intended to be used, indicate that the carrying amount of the asset may not be recoverable. If indicators exist, the Company compares the estimated undiscounted future cash flows related to the asset to the carrying value of the asset. If the carrying value is greater than the estimated undiscounted future cash flow amount, an impairment charge is recorded in depreciation and amortization expense in the statement of operations for amounts necessary to reduce the carrying value of the asset to fair value. The impairment loss calculations require management to apply judgment in estimating future cash flows and the discount rates that reflect the risk inherent in future cash flows.



Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(continued)

1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Capitalized Software Costs

The Company capitalizes the cost of internal-use software that has a useful life in excess of one year. These costs consist of payments made to third parties and the salaries of employees working on such software development. Subsequent additions, modifications, or upgrades to internal-use software are capitalized only to the extent that they allow the software to perform a task it previously did not perform. Software maintenance and training costs are expensed in the period in which they are incurred.

The Company also develops software used in providing services. The related software development costs are capitalized once technological feasibility of the software has been established. Costs incurred prior to establishing technological feasibility are expensed as incurred. Technological feasibility is established when the Company has completed all planning and high-level design activities that are necessary to determine that a product can be produced to meet its design specifications, including functions, features, and technical performance requirements. Capitalization of costs ceases when a product is available for general use.

Capitalized software development costs for completed software development projects, including capitalized interest, are transferred to computer software and are then depreciated using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives, which generally range from four to seven years. For the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, the Company capitalized \$2.7 million and \$2.6 million, respectively, of software development costs. During 2009 and 2008, the Company transferred \$2.7 million and \$4.2 million, respectively, of software development costs to computer software. Additionally, in 2008, the Company wrote-off \$0.1 million related to the impairment of certain software. Depreciation expense on computer software was \$3.7 million and \$3.2 million for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively. At December 31, 2009 and 2008, the Company had unde depreciated software costs of \$17.5 million and \$18.5 million, respectively.

Purchase Accounting

The Company accounts for its business combinations under the acquisition method of accounting and in accordance with the provisions of ASC 805, *Business Combinations*. The total cost of an acquisition is allocated to the underlying identifiable net assets, based on their respective estimated fair values generally resulting from a third-party valuation performed at the Company's request. The excess of the purchase price over the estimated fair values of the net assets acquired is recorded as goodwill. Determining the fair value of assets acquired and liabilities assumed requires management's judgment and often involves the use of significant estimates and assumptions, including assumptions with respect to future cash inflows and outflows, discount rates, asset lives, and market multiples, among other items. In addition, reserves have been established on the Company's balance sheets related to acquired liabilities based on assumptions made at the time of acquisition. The Company evaluates the reserves on a regular basis to determine the adequacies of the amounts.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(continued)

1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Intangible Assets and Goodwill

The Company classifies intangible assets as definite-lived, indefinite-lived or goodwill. The Company accounts for its intangible assets and goodwill in accordance with the provisions of ASC 350, *Intangibles - Goodwill and Other*.

Definite-lived intangible assets consist of local exchange carrier and customer contracts, both of which are amortized over the respective lives of the agreements. The Company periodically reviews the appropriateness of the amortization periods related to its definite-lived assets. These assets are recorded at cost.

The Company tests for possible impairment of definite-lived intangible assets whenever events or changes in circumstances, such as a reduction in operating cash flow or a dramatic change in the manner for which the asset is intended to be used, indicate that the carrying amount of the asset may not be recoverable. If indicators exist, the Company compares the undiscounted cash flows related to the asset to the carrying value of the asset. If the carrying value is greater than the undiscounted cash flow amount, an impairment charge is recorded in amortization expense in the statement of operations for amounts necessary to reduce the carrying value of the asset to fair value.

The Company's indefinite-lived intangible assets consist of trademarks which are recorded at cost. The Company's indefinite-lived intangible assets are not subject to amortization, but are tested for impairment at least annually.

Goodwill represents the excess of the purchase price over the fair value of identifiable net assets acquired in business combinations. Goodwill is not subject to amortization, but is tested for impairment at least annually. Impairment may exist when the carrying amount of net assets exceeds its implied fair value. Assessing the recoverability of goodwill requires the Company to make estimates and assumptions about sales, operating margins, growth rates and discount rates based on its budgets, business plans, economic projections, anticipated future cash flows and marketplace data. There are inherent uncertainties related to these factors and management's judgment in applying these factors.

Third-Party Payables

The Company provides clearing, settlement, payment, and financial risk management solutions to telecommunications and other service providers through billing agreements with LECs, which maintain the critical database of end-user names and addresses of the billed parties. The Company receives individual call records from various telecommunications and other service providers and processes and sorts the records for transmittal to various LECs.



Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(continued)

1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Invoices to end-users are generated by the LECs, and the collected funds are remitted to the Company, which in turn remits these funds to its customers, net of fees, reserves, taxes and other charges.

Reserves represent cash withheld from customers to satisfy future obligations on behalf of the customers. The obligations consist of bad debt, customer service, and other miscellaneous charges. The Company records trade accounts receivable and service revenue for fees charged to process the call records. When the Company collects funds from the LECs, the Company's trade receivables are reduced by the amount corresponding to the processing fees, which are retained by the Company.

The remaining funds due to its customers are recorded as liabilities and reported in third-party payables in the consolidated balance sheets. The Company also retains a reserve from its customers' settlement proceeds to cover the LECs' billing fees.

Revenue Recognition

The Company provides its services to telecommunications and other service providers through billing arrangements with network operators. Within its clearing and settlement business, the Company recognizes revenue from its services when its customers' records are processed and accepted by the Company. For its third-party verification business, the Company recognizes revenue when services are rendered.

Earnings Per Share

The Company computes earnings per share under the provisions of ASC 260, *Earnings per Share*, whereby basic earnings per share are computed by dividing net income or loss attributable to common shareholders by the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the applicable period. Diluted earnings per share are determined in the same manner as basic earnings per share except that the number of shares is increased to assume exercise of potentially dilutive stock options using the treasury stock method, unless the effect of such increase would be anti-dilutive. For each of the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, the diluted earnings per share amounts equal basic earnings per share because the exercise price of the outstanding stock options is greater than the weighted-average market price over the measurement period, or the exercisability of the outstanding stock options is based upon market conditions that have not been met as of the end of the reporting year.

Income Taxes

The Company accounts for income taxes in accordance with the provisions of ASC 740, *Income Taxes*, utilizing the liability method. Under this method, deferred tax assets and liabilities are determined based on differences between the financial reporting bases and tax

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(continued)

1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

bases of assets and liabilities and are measured using the enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the periods in which the deferred tax asset or liability is expected to be realized or settled.

Stock-Based Compensation

Under the fair value recognition provisions of ASC 718-10, stock-based compensation cost is measured at the grant date based on the value of the award and is recognized as expense on a straight-line basis over the vesting period. Determining the fair value of share based awards at the grant date requires assumptions and judgments about expected volatility and forfeiture rates, among other factors. If actual results differ significantly from these estimates, the Company's results of operations could be materially impacted.

Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities

The provisions of ASC 815, Derivatives and Hedging, require the Company to recognize all of its derivative instruments as either assets or liabilities in the consolidated balance sheet at fair value. The accounting for changes in the fair value of a derivative instrument depends on whether it has been designated and qualifies as part of a hedging relationship, and further, on the type of hedging relationship. For derivative instruments that are designated and qualify as hedging instruments, the Company must designate the hedging instrument, based upon the exposure being hedged, as a fair value hedge, cash flow hedge, or a hedge of a net investment in a foreign operation. The Company formally documents all relationships between hedging instruments and hedged items, as well as its risk management objectives and strategies for undertaking various hedge transactions. The Company formally assesses both at inception and at least quarterly thereafter, whether the derivatives that are used in hedging transactions are highly effective in offsetting changes in either the fair value or cash flows of the hedged item. If a derivative ceases to be a highly effective hedge, the Company discontinues hedge accounting. The Company does not enter into derivative instruments for speculation or trading purposes.

Foreign Currency

Results of operations of the Company, as appropriate, are translated into U.S. dollars using the average exchange rates during the year. The assets and liabilities of those entities are translated into U.S. dollars using the exchange rates at the balance sheet date. The related translation adjustments are recorded in a separate component of shareholders' equity, "Accumulated other comprehensive loss." Foreign currency transaction gains and losses are included in operations.

Advertising Costs

The Company records advertising expense as it is incurred. The Company incurred \$0.1 million in advertising costs for each of the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008.



Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(continued)

1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Use of Estimates

The preparation of the consolidated financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) requires management to make estimates, judgments, and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes. The Company bases its estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

New Accounting Standards and Disclosures

Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 168, *The FASB Accounting Standards Codification and the Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles*, codified in ASC 105-10, was issued in June 2009. ASC 105-10 identifies the sources of accounting principles and the framework for selecting the principles used in the preparation of financial statements of non-governmental entities that are presented in conformity with GAAP in the United States. ASC 105-10 establishes the ASC as the source of authoritative GAAP recognized by the FASB to be applied by nongovernmental entities. Following this statement, the FASB will issue new standards in the form of ASUs. ASC 105-10 is effective for financial statements issued for interim and annual periods ending after September 15, 2009. The Company adopted the provisions of ASC 105-10 during 2009.

FASB Staff Position No. FAS 157-2, *Effective Date of FASB Statement No. 157*, codified in ASC 820-10, was issued in February 2008. ASC 820-10 delays the effective date of FASB Statement No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements*, for nonfinancial assets and liabilities, except for items that are recognized or disclosed at fair value in the financial statements on a recurring basis (at least annually), to fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2008. The Company adopted the provisions of ASC 820-10 on January 1, 2009 with no material impact to its financial position or results of operations.

FASB Staff Position No. FAS 157-4, *Determining Fair Value When the Volume and Level of Activity for the Asset or Liability Have Significantly Decreased and Identifying Transactions That Are Not Orderly*, codified in ASC 820-10-35, was issued in April 2009. ASC 820-10-35 provides additional guidance for estimating fair value when the volume and level of activity for the asset or liability have significantly decreased. ASC 820-10-35 also includes guidance on identifying circumstances that indicate a transaction is not orderly. This guidance is effective for interim and annual reporting periods ending after June 15, 2009, and shall be applied prospectively. Early adoption is permitted for periods ending after March 15, 2009. Earlier adoption for periods ending before March 15, 2009 is not permitted. The Company adopted the provisions of ASC 820-10-35 on December 31, 2009 with no material impact to its financial position or results of operations.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(continued)

1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

In August 2009, the FASB issued ASU No. 2009-05, *Measuring Liabilities at Fair Value*. The update is to ASC Subtopic 820-10, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures-Overall*, for the fair value measurement of liabilities. The purpose of this update is to reduce ambiguity in financial reporting when measuring the fair value of liabilities. The guidance provided in this update is effective for the first reporting period beginning after the date of issuance. The Company adopted the amendment on December 31, 2009 with no material impact to its financial position or results of operations.

Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 161, *Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*, codified in ASC 815 was issued on March 19, 2008 and requires additional disclosures about how and why an entity uses derivative instruments, how derivative instruments and related hedged items are accounted for and how derivative instruments and related hedged items affect an entity's financial position, results of operations and cash flows. It is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after November 15, 2008, with early application encouraged. The Company adopted the disclosure requirements beginning January 1, 2009.

Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 165, *Subsequent Events*, codified in ASC 855-10, was issued in May 2009. The provisions of ASC 855-10 are effective for interim and annual periods ending after June 15, 2009 and are intended to establish general standards of accounting for and disclosure of events that occur after the balance sheet date but before financial statements are issued or are available to be issued. ASC 855-10 requires the disclosure of the date through which an entity has evaluated subsequent events and the basis for that date—that is, whether that date represents the date the financial statements were issued or were available to be issued. This disclosure should alert all users of financial statements that an entity has not evaluated subsequent events after that date in the set of financial statements being presented. In accordance with the provisions of ASC 855-10, the Company currently evaluates subsequent events through March 26, 2010.



Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(continued)

2. Property, Equipment and Software

Property, equipment and software consisted of the following at December 31, 2009 and 2008:

December 31	(In thousands)	
	2009	2008
Furniture and fixtures	\$ 236	\$ 236
Telecommunication equipment	1,839	1,839
Computer equipment	4,654	4,000
Computer software	29,175	26,628
Software development, including \$134 and \$48 of capitalized interest at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively	500	477
Leasehold improvements	2,172	2,172
	<u>38,576</u>	<u>35,352</u>
Less accumulated depreciation	19,470	14,710
Net property, equipment and software	<u>\$ 19,106</u>	<u>\$ 20,642</u>

Depreciation expense was \$4.8 million and \$4.3 million for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively. During 2008, the Company recorded a non-cash impairment charge of \$0.1 million on capitalized software associated with one of its product offerings as the Company determined that its carrying value was no longer recoverable.

3. Intangible Assets and Goodwill

Definite-lived intangible assets consist of local exchange carrier contracts and customer contracts, which are amortized over their respective estimated lives. The weighted-average amortization period is approximately 11 years.

Indefinite-lived intangible assets consist of trademarks. Trademarks are not subject to amortization, but are tested for impairment at least annually.

The following table presents the gross carrying amount and accumulated amortization for each major class of intangible assets:

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(continued)

3. Intangible Assets and Goodwill (continued)

(In thousands)

	2009		2008		
	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Amortization Period
Local exchange					
carrier contracts	\$ 11,310	\$ 4,555	\$ 11,310	\$ 3,801	15 years
Customer contracts	77,065	46,409	77,065	38,521	10 years
Trademarks	5,400	-	5,400	-	N/A
	<u>\$ 93,775</u>	<u>\$ 50,964</u>	<u>\$ 93,775</u>	<u>\$ 42,322</u>	

Total amortization expense from definite-lived intangibles was \$8.6 million and \$9.3 million for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively. The estimate of amortization expense for each of the five succeeding fiscal years for definite-lived intangibles is \$8.6 million for the years 2010 through 2012, \$7.7 million for the year 2013 and \$0.1 million for the year 2014.

The Company tests goodwill for impairment using a two-step impairment process. The first step, used to screen for potential impairment, compares the fair value of the reporting unit with its carrying amount, including goodwill. If the fair value of the reporting unit exceeds its carrying value, goodwill of the reporting unit is considered not impaired, thus the second step of the impairment test is not necessary. If the carrying amount of a reporting unit exceeds its fair value, the second step of the goodwill impairment test shall be performed to measure the amount of impairment loss, if any. The second step of the goodwill impairment test compares the implied fair value of the reporting unit with the carrying amount of that goodwill. If the carrying amount of the reporting unit goodwill exceeds the implied fair value of that goodwill, an impairment loss is recognized in an amount equal to that excess. The loss recognized cannot exceed the carrying amount of goodwill. After a goodwill impairment loss is recognized, the adjusted carrying amount of goodwill becomes its new accounting basis. Subsequent reversal of a previously recognized goodwill impairment loss is prohibited.

The Company performs its annual goodwill impairment test on October 1 of each year. In 2008 and 2009, the first step of the goodwill impairment test resulted in the fair value of the Company being in excess of the carrying amount of the Company. Therefore, the second step of the goodwill impairment test was not required. The Company may incur impairment charges in the future to the extent the Company does not achieve its expected financial performance,



Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(continued)

3. Intangible Assets and Goodwill (continued)

and to the extent that market values and long-term interest rates, in general, decrease and increase, respectively.

During 2009, the Company made an adjustment to reduce goodwill by \$0.2 million related to the amortization of tax goodwill in excess of book goodwill related to a prior acquisition.

The following table presents the change in carrying amount of goodwill for the year ended December 31, 2009:

(In thousands)

	Total
Balance as of December 31, 2008	\$ 34,739
Adjustment	(247)
Balance as of December 31, 2009	<u>\$ 34,492</u>

4. Debt

Long-term debt is as follows:

(In thousands)

December 31	2009	2008
Term Loan Facility, net of unamortized original issue discount of \$2,319 at December 31, 2009 and \$3,273 at December 31, 2008	\$ 77,759	\$ 90,331
Less current portion	11,250	8,562
	<u>\$ 66,509</u>	<u>\$ 81,769</u>

On December 19, 2007, the Company refinanced its debt and entered into a new credit agreement totaling \$112.5 million. The new credit agreement consists of a \$112.5 million term loan (the "Term Loan Facility"). The Term Loan Facility is secured by all of BSG North America's assets and guarantees from most of the Company's subsidiaries. At December 31, 2009 and 2008, borrowings under the Term Loan Facility, including unamortized original issue discount, were \$80.1 million and \$93.6 million, respectively.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(continued)

4. Debt (continued)

Loans under the Term Loan Facility were issued net of an original issue discount of \$4.5 million. Interest is charged, at the Company's option, at the U.S. prime rate plus 3.25% per annum, or the London Interbank Offered Rate ("LIBOR") plus 4.25% per annum. At December 31, 2009, the nominal interest rate on outstanding loans was 4.5625% per annum, but the effective interest rate, including the impact of interest rate swap contracts (see Note 5), was 6.82% per annum.

The Term Loan Facility requires quarterly principal payments of \$2.8 million through September 2014 and a payment of \$36.6 million at its maturity in December 2014. It also requires mandatory prepayments relating to (i) 75% of the Company's excess cash flow, as defined; and (ii) certain other occurrences for which mandatory prepayment is a usual and customary consequence in credit agreements of this nature. Outstanding loans may be prepaid at any time without prepayment premium or penalty.

During 2009, the Company extinguished \$5.0 million of principal amount of debt through the repurchase of a portion of the Term Loan Facility which resulted in a gain of \$185,000, net of accumulated amortization of original issue discount of \$144,000.

During 2008, the Company extinguished \$5.0 million of principal amount of debt through the repurchase of a portion of the Term Loan Facility which resulted in a gain of \$84,000, net of accumulated amortization of original issue discount of \$171,000.

The credit agreement includes covenants requiring the Company to maintain certain minimum levels of interest coverage and maximum levels of leverage and capital expenditures. The agreement also includes various representations, restrictions, and other terms and conditions which are usual and customary in transactions of this nature.



Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(continued)

5. Financial Instruments

Interest Rate Swaps

In connection with the Term Loan Facility, the Company entered into a series of interest rate swap contracts during December 2007. Under the contracts outstanding at December 31, 2009, the Company will pay fixed rates of 4.00% per annum to 4.18% per annum, thereby fixing the LIBOR portion of the interest rate on the notional amounts. The table below sets forth the interest rate swap contracts outstanding at December 31, 2009:

Contract Notional Amount	Contract Period	Contract Fixed Rate
\$ 13,000,000	12/31/07 to 12/31/10	4.00%
15,000,000	12/31/07 to 12/31/11	4.11%
20,000,000	12/31/07 to 12/31/12	4.18%
<u>\$ 48,000,000</u>		

During the first quarter of 2009, the Company terminated \$22 million of notional principal amount in interest rate swaps for a cost of \$0.8 million.

The Company's interest rate swap contracts are designated as a cash flow hedge, and the effective portion of the gain or loss on the swap is reported as a component of other comprehensive income. Ineffective portions of a cash flow hedging derivative's change in fair value are recognized currently in earnings. No ineffectiveness was recorded in earnings related to these interest rate swaps.

The Company entered into the swaps to effectively convert a portion of its floating-rate debt to a fixed basis, thus reducing the impact of interest rate changes on future interest expense. The Company assesses at inception, and on an ongoing basis, whether its interest rate swap agreements are highly effective in offsetting changes in the interest expense of its floating rate debt. A derivative that is not a highly effective hedge does not qualify for hedge accounting.

The Company continually monitors its positions with, and credit quality of, the financial institutions which are counterparties to its interest rate swaps. The Company may be exposed to credit loss in the event of nonperformance by the counterparties to the interest rate swaps. However, the Company considers this risk to be low. If a derivative instrument no longer qualifies as a cash flow hedge, hedge accounting is discontinued and the gain or loss that was recorded in other comprehensive income is recognized currently in income.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(continued)

5. Financial Instruments (continued)

In connection with certain former debt, the Company entered into an interest rate swap contract in 2005 (the “2005 Swap”) for a notional amount of \$70 million. The 2005 Swap contract remained in place after the December 19, 2007 refinancing, and it supplemented the contracts described above to satisfy the requirements of the Term Loan Facility. The Company canceled the entire 2005 Swap during 2008, and paid \$1.9 million in connection with the cancellation. This payment is reflected in settlement and mark-to-market of derivatives in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations. As the 2005 Swap did not qualify for hedge accounting, changes in its fair market value were recorded as expense in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations. In 2008, the Company recorded a loss of \$0.8 million related to the additional decline in value of the 2005 Swap.

The Company adopted ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures* on January 1, 2008 and began to apply its recognition and disclosure provisions to its financial assets and financial liabilities that are remeasured at fair value at least annually. ASC 820-10-35 establishes a three-tier fair value hierarchy, which prioritizes the inputs used in measuring fair value. These tiers include: Level 1, defined as observable inputs such as quoted prices in active markets; Level 2, defined as inputs other than quoted prices in active markets that are either directly or indirectly observable; and Level 3, defined as unobservable inputs in which little or no market data exist, therefore requiring an entity to develop its own assumptions.

Due to the fact that the inputs to the model used to estimate fair value of the Company’s interest rate swaps are either directly or indirectly observable, the Company classified the fair value measurements of these agreements as Level 2.

The table below shows the balance sheet classification and fair value of the Company’s interest rate swaps designated as hedging instruments (in thousands):

Classification at December 31, 2009	Fair Value	Classification at December 31, 2008	Fair Value
Other liabilities	\$ 2,545	Other liabilities	\$ 4,253



Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(continued)

5. Financial Instruments (continued)

The following table details the beginning and ending accumulated other comprehensive loss and the current period activity related to the interest rate swap contracts:

(In thousands)

Accumulated other comprehensive loss

Balance at January 1, 2009	\$ (2,588)
Other comprehensive gain, net of taxes	908
Balance at December 31, 2009	\$ (1,680)

6. Income Taxes

The components of the Company's income tax expense (benefit) are as follows:

(In thousands)

December 31	2009	2008
Current expense:		
Federal	\$ 6,480	\$ 5,153
State	345	315
	6,825	5,468
Deferred expense (benefit):		
Federal	1,838	(905)
State	15	32
	1,853	(873)
Total income tax expense	\$ 8,678	\$ 4,595

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(continued)

6. Income Taxes (continued)

The income tax provision differs from amounts computed by applying the U.S. federal statutory tax rate to income before income taxes as follows:

December 31	(In thousands)	
	2009	2008
Estimated federal tax expense (benefit) at 35%	\$ 8,938	\$ 4,362
Increases (reductions) from:		
State tax	405	226
Settlement of state audit	(165)	-
Permanent deduction for adjustment of liabilities assumed in an acquisition	(2,474)	-
Deferred true-up related to cancelation of non-qualified stock options	469	-
Valuation allowance on capital loss carryover	122	-
Foreign tax rate differential	11	75
Unrecognized tax benefits	1,425	-
Other	(53)	(68)
Income tax expense	<u>\$ 8,678</u>	<u>\$ 4,595</u>



Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(continued)

6. Income Taxes (continued)

Deferred income taxes result from temporary differences between the bases of assets and liabilities for financial statement purposes and income tax purposes. The net deferred tax assets and liabilities reflected in the balance sheets include the following amounts:

(In thousands)

December 31	2009	2008
Deferred tax assets:		
Reserve for bad debts	\$ 102	\$ 98
Accrued liabilities	321	573
State taxes	385	400
Stock-based compensation expense	1	756
Prepaid expense	(206)	-
Capital loss carryover	122	122
Derivatives	830	1,487
Valuation allowance on capital loss carryover	(122)	-
Intangible assets	-	316
Total deferred tax assets	1,433	3,752
Deferred tax liabilities:		
Property, equipment and software	(3,640)	(3,904)
Intangible assets	587	-
Capitalized interest	(1,335)	(1,335)
Cancellation of debt deferral	(1,172)	-
Other	-	(189)
Total deferred tax liabilities	(5,560)	(5,428)
Net deferred tax liabilities	\$ (4,127)	\$ (1,676)

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(continued)

6. Income Taxes (continued)

At December 31, 2009, the Company had state net operating loss credit carry forwards of approximately \$0.6 million which will expire in 2026 and \$0.1 million of capital loss carry forwards which will expire in 2013. Realization of deferred tax assets is dependent upon, among other things, the ability to generate taxable income of the appropriate character in the future. At December 31, 2009, management established a valuation allowance related to the capital loss carryforward, as they do not believe the benefit will be realized in the future. Management is of the opinion that it is more likely than not that all other deferred tax assets will be fully realized.

During the year ended December 31, 2008, the Company established a reserve on unrecognized tax benefits of \$0.9 million related to an adjustment of liabilities assumed in a prior acquisition and during the year ended December 31, 2009, the Company established a reserve of \$0.9 million related to an additional adjustment of liabilities assumed in a prior acquisition. In 2009, the Company also established a reserve of \$0.4 million related to tax positions taken on a prior year return. During 2009, the reserve was decreased by \$0.3 million related to the settlement of the Texas state audit. The total reserve as of December 31, 2009 is \$2.2 million. The Company does not expect the recorded liability to change significantly over the next twelve months. It is the Company's policy to recognize interest and penalties related to uncertain tax positions in the provision for income taxes in the consolidated statement of operations. At December 31, 2009 and 2008, the Company recorded \$0.1 million and \$0, respectively, in interest and penalties.

A reconciliation of the beginning and ending amounts of unrecognized tax benefits follows:

Balance at December 31, 2007	\$ 255
Additions based on tax positions related to the current year	885
	<hr/>
Balance at December 31, 2008	1,140
Additions based on tax positions related to the current year	876
Additions based on tax positions related to prior years	422
Settlements	(255)
	<hr/>
Balance at December 31, 2009	<u><u>\$ 2,183</u></u>

Of the amounts reflected in the table above at December 31, 2009, there were \$2.2 million of tax benefits, that if recognized in 2009, would reduce the Company's annual effective tax rate.



Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(continued)

6. Income Taxes (continued)

The Company's tax returns for 2004 through 2009 tax years generally remain subject to examination by the federal and most state tax authorities. The Internal Revenue Service is currently examining the consolidated tax returns of BSG North America for the years ended December 31, 2004 to 2006.

7. Earnings Per Share

Earnings per share are calculated based on the weighted average number of shares of the Company's common stock outstanding during the period.

The following is a summary of the elements used in calculating basic and diluted income per share:

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

December 31	2009	2008
Numerator:		
Net income	\$ 16,858	\$ 7,861
Denominator:		
Weighted-average shares – basic	279,863	279,863
Effect of diluted securities:		
Options	1,009	–
Weighted-average shares – diluted	280,872	279,863
Net income per common share:		
Basic and diluted	\$ 0.06	\$ 0.03

Options at December 31, 2008 have not been included in the calculation of earnings per share because these options were not in the money as calculated over the measurement period during 2008.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(continued)

8. Commitments

The Company leases certain office space and equipment under various operating leases. Annual future minimum lease commitments as of December 31, 2009, are as follows (in thousands):

Year Ending December 31:	
2010	\$ 926
2011	950
2012	524

Rental expense under these operating leases approximated \$0.9 million for each of the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008.

9. Contingencies

The Company is involved in various claims, legal actions, and regulatory proceedings arising in the ordinary course of business. The Company believes it is unlikely that the final outcome of any of the claims, litigation, or proceedings to which the Company is a party will have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position or results of operations; however, due to the inherent uncertainty of litigation, there can be no assurance that the resolution of any particular claim or proceeding would not have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position and results of operations for the fiscal period in which such resolution occurs.

10. Employee Benefit Plan

The Company's subsidiaries sponsor a 401(k) Retirement Plan (the "Retirement Plan"), which is offered to eligible employees. Generally, all employees who are 21 years of age or older and who have completed six months of service during which they worked at least 500 hours are eligible for participation in the Retirement Plan. The Retirement Plan is a defined contribution plan, which provides that participants may make voluntary salary deferral contributions, on a pretax basis, of between 1% and 19% of their compensation in the form of voluntary payroll deductions, subject to annual Internal Revenue Service limitations. The Company matches a defined percentage of a participant's contributions, subject to certain limits, and may make additional discretionary contributions. During the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008,



Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(continued)

10. Employee Benefit Plan (continued)

the Company's matching contributions totaled approximately \$0.3 million in each period. No discretionary contributions were made.

11. Stock Option Plans

2008 Amended and Restated Stock Option Plans

On August 15, 2008, the Board of Directors adopted resolutions to amend and restate both the Billing Services Group Limited Stock Option Plan and the BSG Clearing Solutions North America, Inc. Stock Option Plan (the "Amended and Restated BSG Plan" and the "Amended and Restated BSG North America Plan," respectively).

Options may be granted at the discretion of the remuneration committee to any director or employee and are generally granted with an exercise price equal to the market price of the Company's stock at the grant date. Directors may be granted options in the Amended and Restated BSG Plan and employees may be granted options in the Amended and Restated BSG North America Plan. Options granted under the Amended and Restated BSG North America Plan are exercisable into shares of the Company. The options granted are limited, in the aggregate, to 10% of the issued common shares of capital stock at the time of grant.

On August 18, 2008, the Board of Directors granted 22,926,566 options at an exercise price of 10.34 pence, representing the fair market value of the Company's common stock on the date of grant, to all employees and directors of the Company. One-quarter of the total number of options vested on the grant date, and the remaining 75% of options vest in equal tranches on the first, second and third anniversary of the grant. Generally, an option is exercisable only if the holder is in the employment of the Company or one of its affiliates (or for a period of time following employment subject to the discretion of the remuneration committee), or in the event of a change in control of the Company. Upon a change in control, generally, all options vest immediately. The options have a contractual life of ten years.

The fair value of the options is computed using the Black-Scholes option pricing model. The weighted-average grant-date fair value of options granted during 2009 amounted to 6.0 pence per share. The following assumptions were used in arriving at the fair value of options granted during 2009: risk-free interest rate of 3.2%; dividend yield of 0%; expected volatility of 55.81%; and expected lives of five years and nine months. Risk free interest rates reflect the yield on the ten-year U.S. Treasury note. Expected dividend yield presumes no set dividend paid. Expected volatility is based on implied volatility from historical market data for the Company. The expected option lives are based on a mathematical average with respect to vesting and contractual terms.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(continued)

11. Stock Option Plans (continued)

The following is a summary of option activity:

	Options Outstanding	Weighted Average Exercise Price
Options outstanding at December 31, 2008	22,926,566	10.34 pence
Granted	410,000	
Exercised	(10,470,783)	
Forfeited	(2,160,000)	
	<hr/>	
Options outstanding at December 31, 2009	10,705,783	
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Options exercisable at December 31, 2009	24,375	
	<hr/> <hr/>	
Options available for grant at December 31, 2009	6,809,759	
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All of the options granted during 2009 were granted under the Amended and Restated BSG North America Plan.

As of December 31, 2009, there was \$1.0 million of total unrecognized noncash compensation cost related to nonvested share based compensation arrangements granted under the BSG Plan and the BSG North America Plan. That cost is expected to be recognized during 2010 and 2011.

During 2009, options covering 10,470,783 shares were exercised by employees and non-executive directors of the Company. Of this amount, options covering 9,101,250 shares were exercised by employees and options covering 1,369,533 shares were exercised by non-executive directors of the Company. All options were exercised on a 'cashless' basis; accordingly, no cash was received by the Company. The underlying shares were purchased by the Company and immediately retired. No options were exercised during 2008, and accordingly, there were neither cash receipts received nor tax benefits realized for the tax deductions from option exercise.



Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(continued)

12. Restructuring Expense and Other Income

Restructuring Expense

In 2008, following the disposition of the Company's businesses outside of the United States, the Company implemented cost reduction actions largely designed to reduce corporate overhead expenses. In connection with this plan, the Company recorded a \$2.8 million restructuring charge, principally to cover severance and related compensation costs for terminated employees. Of this amount, \$1.7 million was paid during 2008 and \$0.8 million was paid in 2009. The Company anticipates paying the remaining \$0.3 million in 2010.

Other Income

Other income for the year ended December 31, 2009 consists primarily of the reduction of certain liabilities based on changes in the estimation process.



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