CANADIAN NATURAL RESOURCES LTD Form 6-K

December 08, 2003

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

FORM 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13A-16 OR 15D-16 OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Press Release December 1, 2003

Commission File Number: 1-8795

CANADIAN NATURAL RESOURCES LIMITED (Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

2500, 855 - 2ND STREET S.W., CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA T2P 4J8 (Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F [_] Form 40-F [X]

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1). $\underline{}$

Note: Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1) only permits the submission in paper of a Form 6-K if submitted solely to provide an attached annual report to security holders.

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7):____

Note: Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7) only permits the submission in paper of a Form 6-K if submitted to furnish a report or other document that the registrant foreign private issuer must furnish and make public under the laws of the jurisdiction in which the registrant is incorporated, domiciled or legally organized (the registrant's "home country"), or under the rules of the home country exchange on which the registrant's securities are traded, as long as the report or other document is not a press release, is not required to be and has not been distributed to the registrant's security holders, and, if discussing a material event, has already been the subject of a Form 6-K submission or other Commission filing on EDGAR.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2 (b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes [_] No [X]

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82-_____

EXHIBIT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION

99.1 Canadian Natural Resources Limited Announces

International Exploration Drilling Results

December 1, 2003

SIGNATURE

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

CANADIAN NATURAL RESOURCES LIMITED (Registrant)

Date: December 4, 2003 By: /s/ B.E. McGrath

B.E. McGrath
Corporate Secretary

right">71,708

Comprehensive Income

The Company s comprehensive income is comprised of net income, foreign currency translation adjustments, and unrealized gains and losses on marketable securities classified as available for sale. Comprehensive income for the three months ended May 31, 2010 and May 31, 2009 was as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended	
	May 31, 2010	May 31, 2009
Comprehensive income:		
Net income	\$ 24,071	\$ 18,514
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(1,858)	(7,405)
Change in unrealized gains (losses) on investments in debt and equity securities available for sale	(1,418)	9,293
Total comprehensive income, net of taxes	\$ 20,795	\$ 20,402

As of May 31, 2010 the Company holds investments in debt securities available for sale with an accumulated unrealized gain of \$0.6 million and investments in equity securities available for sale with an accumulated unrealized gain of \$3.4 million, respectively. As of February 28, 2010, the Company held investments in debt securities available for sale with an accumulated unrealized gain of \$1.7 million and investments in equity securities available for sale with an accumulated unrealized gain of \$4.4 million.

RED HAT, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

(Unaudited)

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In January 2010, the FASB issued amended guidance to improve disclosure requirements related to Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures-Overall Subtopic 820-10 of the FASB Accounting Standards Codification (ASC 820-10) originally issued as FASB Statement No. 157, Fair value Measurements. The amended guidance requires companies to disclose separately the amounts of significant transfers in and out of Level 1 and Level 2 fair value measurements and describe the reasons for such transfers. These additional disclosure requirements were effective for reporting periods beginning March 1, 2010. For the three months ended May 31, 2010, the Company did not have any transfers in and out of Level 1 and Level 2 fair value measurements. The amended guidance also requires additional disclosures related to Level 3 fair value measurements. The Company does not currently have Level 3 fair value measurements.

NOTE 3 Identifiable Intangible Assets

Identifiable intangible assets consist primarily of purchased technologies, customer and reseller relationships, trademarks, copyrights and patents, which are amortized over the estimated useful life, generally on a straight line basis with the exception of customer contracts and relationships which are generally amortized over the greater of straight-line or the related asset s pattern of economic benefit. Useful lives range from three to twelve years for purchased technologies and customer and reseller relationships and three to ten years for trademarks, copyrights and patents. As of May 31, 2010 and February 28, 2010, trademarks with an indefinite estimated useful life totaled \$9.0 million. Amortization expense associated with identifiable intangible assets was \$4.5 million and \$5.0 million for the three months ended May 31, 2010 and May 31, 2009, respectively. The following is a summary of identifiable intangible assets (in thousands):

	Gross Amount	Acc	ny 31, 2010 cumulated ortization	Net Amount	Gross Amount	Acc	uary 28, 2010 cumulated ortization	Net Amount
Trademarks, copyrights and patents	\$ 52,954	\$	(14,315)	\$ 38,639	\$ 52,204	\$	(13,504)	\$ 38,700
Purchased technologies	42,236		(24,801)	17,435	42,444		(23,593)	18,851
Customer and reseller relationships	80,686		(32,371)	48,315	80,760		(30,098)	50,662
Total identifiable intangible assets	\$ 175.876	\$	(71,487)	\$ 104,389	\$ 175.408	\$	(67,195)	\$ 108.213

NOTE 4 Income Taxes

Income Tax Expense

During the three months ended May 31, 2010 and May 31, 2009, the Company recorded \$13.0 million and \$10.0 million, respectively of income tax expense, which resulted in an estimated annual effective tax rate of 35% for each of the three months ended May 31, 2010 and May 31, 2009. The Company s estimated annual effective tax rate, which equaled the U.S. federal statutory rate of 35%, includes state income taxes which were offset by foreign income taxed at different rates.

Deferred Taxes

As of May 31, 2010, the net deferred tax asset balance was \$72.3 million, of which \$6.2 million was offset by a valuation allowance. The Company continues to maintain a valuation allowance against its deferred tax assets with respect to certain foreign NOLs.

19

RED HAT, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

(Unaudited)

As of May 31, 2010, the Company had U.S. state NOL carryforwards of approximately \$27.5 million. As of May 31,2010, the Company had a U.S. federal research tax credit carryforward of approximately \$31.2 million and a U.S. foreign tax credit carryforward of approximately \$9.1 million. These NOL and tax credit carryforwards are scheduled to expire in varying amounts beginning in 2011.

Unrecognized tax benefits

The Company s unrecognized tax benefits were \$43.9 million as of May 31, 2010 and \$43.4 million as of February 28, 2010. The Company s unrecognized tax benefits at May 31, 2010 and February 28, 2010, which, if recognized, would affect the Company s effective tax rate, were \$36.6 million and \$36.1 million, respectively.

During the three months ended May 31, 2010, the amount of unrecognized tax benefits increased \$0.5 million, primarily as a result of increases with respect to tax positions taken during prior periods. The Company does not currently anticipate any significant changes in its unrecognized tax benefits for the next 12 months. No settlements of uncertain income tax positions or reductions in long-term obligations related to unrecognized tax benefits occurred during the three months ended May 31, 2010.

It is the Company s policy to recognize interest and penalties related to uncertain tax positions as income tax expense. Accrued interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits totaled \$1.4 million and \$1.1 million as of May 31, 2010 and February 28, 2010, respectively.

The Company or one of its subsidiaries files income tax returns in the U.S. federal jurisdiction and various states and foreign jurisdictions. The following table summarizes the tax years in the Company s major tax jurisdictions that remain subject to income tax examinations by tax authorities as of May 31, 2010. Due to NOL carryforwards, in some cases the tax years continue to remain subject to examination with respect to such NOLs:

Tax Jurisdiction	Years Subject to Income Tax Examination
U.S. federal	1994 Present
North Carolina	1999 Present
Ireland	2006 Present
Japan*	2008 Present

^{*} The Company has been examined for income tax for years through February 28, 2007. However, the statute of limitations remains open for 5 years.

The Company is currently undergoing an income tax examination by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service with respect to its fiscal year ended February 28, 2007.

The Company or one of its subsidiaries is currently undergoing income tax examinations in Argentina, Germany and India.

The Company believes it has adequately provided for any reasonably foreseeable outcomes related to tax audits.

RED HAT, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

(Unaudited)

NOTE 5 Commitments and Contingencies

As of May 31, 2010, the Company leased office space and certain equipment under various non-cancelable operating leases. Rent expense under operating leases was \$5.4 million for each of the three months ended May 31, 2010 and May 31, 2009.

In January 2002, the Company assumed the lease obligation of an unrelated third party for an office building which serves as the Company s headquarters. This lease terminates in June 2020. As compensation to the Company for assuming this obligation, the third party paid rent on the Company s behalf from the commencement of the sublease until February 2003, is allowing the Company the use of all furniture and fixtures, including building improvements, that were in the building at the time of the commencement of the sublease, and paid the Company a certain monthly amount through October 2002, to offset the operating expenses of this building, all of which was valued in the aggregate at \$5.9 million. Included in the aggregate amount was \$3.6 million representing the fair value of furniture and fixtures. This credit balance began to amortize, as a reduction to related rent expense, in fiscal 2004 and will continue to do so until the lease terminates in June 2020. The furniture and fixtures were depreciated over a period of seven years. As of May 31, 2010 and February 28, 2010, the carrying amount of the long-term deferred lease credit was \$3.7 million and \$3.8 million, respectively.

Product Indemnification

The Company is a party to a variety of agreements pursuant to which it may be obligated to indemnify the other party from losses arising in connection with the Company s services or products, or from losses arising in connection with certain events defined within a particular contract, which may include litigation or claims relating to intellectual property infringement, certain losses arising from damage to property or injury to persons or other matters. In each of these circumstances, payment by the Company is conditioned on the other party making a claim pursuant to the procedures specified in the particular contract, which procedures typically allow the Company to challenge the other party s claims. Further, the Company s obligations under these agreements may in certain cases be limited in terms of time and/or amount, and in some instances, the Company may have recourse against third-parties for certain payments made by the Company.

It is not possible to predict the maximum potential amount of future payments under these or similar agreements due to the conditional nature of the Company s obligations and the facts and circumstances involved in each particular agreement. The Company does not record a liability for claims related to indemnification unless the Company concludes that the likelihood of a material claim is probable and estimable. Historically, payments pursuant to these indemnifications have been immaterial.

NOTE 6 Share Repurchase Program

On March 24, 2010, the Company announced that its Board of Directors had authorized the repurchase of up to an aggregate of \$300.0 million of the Company s common stock from time to time in open market or privately negotiated transactions, as applicable. The program will expire on the earlier of (i) March 31, 2012 or (ii) a determination by the Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officer or Chief Financial Officer to discontinue the program.

As of May 31, 2010, the amount available under the program for the repurchase of the Company's common stock was \$235.3 million. See NOTE 9 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for a discussion of shares repurchased under the program subsequent to May 31, 2010.

RED HAT, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

(Unaudited)

NOTE 7 Foreign Currency Exchange Rate Risk

The Company transacts business in various foreign countries and is, therefore, subject to risk of foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations. The Company from time to time enters into forward contracts to economically hedge transactional exposure associated with commitments arising from trade accounts receivable, trade accounts payable and fixed purchase obligations denominated in a currency other than the functional currency of the respective operating entity. All derivative instruments are recorded on the Consolidated Balance Sheets at their respective fair market values. The Company has elected not to prepare and maintain the documentation required to qualify for hedge accounting treatment and, therefore, changes in fair value are recorded in the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

The effects of derivative instruments on the Company s Consolidated Financial Statements are as follows as of May 31, 2010 and for the three months then ended (in thousands):

	As of May	Three Months End Location of Gain (Loss) Recognized	Amount	May 31, 2010 Amount of Gain (Loss) Recognized		
	Balance Sheet Location	Fair Value	Notional Value	in Income on Derivative	in Inco	ome on vative
Assets foreign currency forward contracts not						
designated as hedges	Other current assets	\$ 73	\$ 8,835	Other income, net	\$	155
Liabilities foreign currency forward contracts not designated as hedges	Accrued expenses	\$ (141)	\$ 14,497	Other income, net	\$	(663)
TOTAL		\$ (68)	\$ 23,332		\$	(508)

The aggregate notional amount of outstanding forward contracts at February 28, 2010 was \$3.9 million. The fair value of these outstanding contracts at February 28, 2010 was gross, a \$0.1 million asset and a less than \$0.1 million liability, and is recorded in other current assets and accrued expenses, respectively on the Consolidated Balance Sheet.

NOTE 8 Legal Proceedings

Commencing on or about March 2001, the Company and certain of its officers and directors were named as defendants in a series of purported class action suits arising out of the Company's initial public offering and secondary offering. Approximately 310 other IPO issuers were named as defendants in similar class action complaints (together, the IPO Allocation Actions). On August 8, 2001, Chief Judge Michael Mukasey of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York issued an order that transferred all of the IPO Allocation Actions, including the complaints involving the Company, to one judge for coordinated pre-trial proceedings (Case No. 21 MC 92). The plaintiffs contend that the defendants violated federal securities laws by issuing registration statements and prospectuses that contained materially false and misleading information and failed to disclose material information. Plaintiffs also challenge certain IPO allocation practices by underwriters and the lack of disclosure thereof in initial public offering documents. On April 19, 2002, plaintiffs filed amended complaints in each of the 310 consolidated actions, including the Red Hat action. The relief sought consists of unspecified damages, attorneys and expert fees and other unspecified costs. In October of 2002, the individual director and officer defendants of the Company were dismissed from the case without prejudice. In October of 2004, the District Court certified a class in six of the 310 actions (the focus cases) and noted that

RED HAT, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

(Unaudited)

the decision is intended to provide strong guidance to all parties regarding class certification in the remaining cases. The Company s action is not one of the focus cases. On December 5, 2006, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit vacated the District Court s class certification with respect to the focus cases and remanded the matter for further consideration. In September 2007, discovery moved forward in the focus cases and plaintiff filed and amended complaints against the focus case issuer and underwriter defendants. Defendants in the focus cases filed motions to dismiss the second amended complaints in November 2007 and filed their oppositions to plaintiffs motion for class certification in December 2007. The motions to dismiss in the focus cases were granted in part and denied in part, and the issue of class certification is currently pending before the Court. On April 2, 2009, the plaintiffs filed a motion for preliminary approval of a settlement agreement to resolve the lawsuit, to which the Company has consented and for which payments called for by the settlement agreement are to be paid by the defendant insurers. The trial court heard arguments on September 10, 2009 on the fairness of the settlement. In an opinion and order filed October 5, 2009, the trial court granted plaintiffs motion for approval of the settlement and directed the clerk of the court to close the action. Notices of appeal in the matter have been filed, and the appeal is pending before the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

In the summer of 2004, 14 class action lawsuits were filed against the Company and several of its former officers on behalf of investors who purchased the Company s securities during various periods from June 19, 2001 through July 13, 2004. All 14 suits were filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina. In each of the actions, plaintiffs sought to represent a class of purchasers of the Company s common stock during some or all of the period from June 19, 2001 through July 13, 2004. All of the claims arose in connection with the Company s announcement on July 13, 2004 that it would restate certain of its financial statements (the Restatement). One or more of the plaintiffs asserted that certain former officers (the Individual Defendants) and the Company violated Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Securities Exchange Act), and Rule 10b-5 thereunder by issuing the financial statements that the Company subsequently restated. One or more of the plaintiffs sought unspecified damages, interest, costs, attorneys and experts fees, an accounting of certain profits obtained by the Individual Defendants from trading in the Company s common stock, disgorgement by the Company s former chief executive officer and former chief financial officer of certain compensation and profits from trading in the Company s common stock pursuant to Section 304 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and other relief. As of September 8, 2004, all of these class action lawsuits were consolidated into a single action referenced as Civil Action No. 5:04-CV-473BR and titled In re Red Hat, Inc. Securities Litigation. On May 6, 2005, the plaintiffs filed an amended consolidated class action complaint. On July 29, 2005, the Company, on behalf of itself and the Individual Defendants, filed a motion to dismiss the action for failure to state a claim upon which relief may be granted. Also on that date, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC), another defendant, filed a separate motion to dismiss. On May 12, 2006, the Court issued an order granting the motion to dismiss the Securities Exchange Act claims against several of the Individual Defendants, but denying the motion to dismiss the Securities Exchange Act claims against the Company, its former chief executive officer and former chief financial officer. The Court dismissed the claims under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act in their entirety, and also granted PwC s motion to dismiss. On November 6, 2006, the plaintiffs filed a motion for class certification. Subsequent to the filing of that motion, several plaintiffs withdrew as potential class representatives, and the Company opposed the certification of the remaining proposed class representatives. On May 11, 2007, the Court entered an order denying class certification and denying all other pending motions as moot. Thereafter, on July 13, 2007 Charles Gilbert filed a renewed motion for appointment as lead plaintiff and approval of selection of lead counsel. On November 13, 2007, the Court entered an Order allowing Gilbert s motion, appointing him lead plaintiff, adding him as a party plaintiff and appointing lead counsel. On January 14, 2008, Gilbert s counsel filed a motion to certify the action as a class action. On August 28, 2009, the Court entered an Order certifying the action as a class action, appointing Gilbert as the class representative, and defining the class as all purchasers of the common stock of Red Hat, Inc.

RED HAT, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

(Unaudited)

between December 17, 2002, and July 12, 2004, inclusive and who were damaged thereby, excluding Company insiders. On December 15, 2009, the Company announced that it had reached an agreement in principle to settle this matter, subject, among other matters, to completion of a final written settlement agreement and court approval. The Company recorded, for its quarter ended November 30, 2009, an estimated liability in the amount of \$8.8 million for its portion of the proposed settlement. On March 29, 2010, counsel for the class filed a Motion for Preliminary Approval of the Settlement and, on June 11, 2010, a United States Magistrate Judge issued a Memorandum and Recommendation to the presiding judge that the motion be approved. Should the efforts to settle this matter not be successful, the Company intends to vigorously defend itself in this matter. There can be no assurance, however, that the Company would be successful, and an adverse resolution of the lawsuit could have a material adverse effect on the Company s financial position and results of operations in the period in which the lawsuit is resolved.

On October 9, 2007, IP Innovation, LLC and Technology Licensing Corporation filed a complaint in the Eastern District of Texas (Civil Action No. 2-07CV-447) against Red Hat, Inc. and Novell, Inc., alleging direct and indirect infringement of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,072,412, 5,394,521 and 5,533,183 with regard to aspects of the Company s Linux-based products. The complaint seeks, among other relief, compensatory damages. The Company answered the complaint on February 1, 2008, including counterclaims against plaintiffs for declaratory judgment of invalidity, unenforceability and noninfringement of the patents-in-suit, and the plaintiffs filed a reply to those counterclaims on February 11, 2008. The court issued a memorandum opinion and order denying defendants motion for partial summary judgment for invalidity due to indefiniteness and construing disputed claim terms on August 10, 2009. The trial in the case began on April 26 and concluded on April 30 with a jury verdict that the patent in suit was invalid and not infringed. Post trial motions are currently pending, and the plaintiffs time for appeal has not expired.

On March 3, 2009, Software Tree LLC filed a complaint in the Eastern District of Texas (Civil Action No. 6:09-cv-00097-LED) against Red Hat, Inc., Hewlett-Packard Co., Genuitec, L.L.C., and Dell, Inc. alleging direct and indirect infringement of U.S. Patent No. 6,163,776 with regard to aspects of the Company s JBoss Hibernate product, among other products of the Defendants. The complaint seeks, among other relief, compensatory damages, enhanced damages and injunctive relief. The Company answered the complaint on April 7, 2009 and denied the allegations of direct and indirect infringement, asserted affirmative defenses and filed a counterclaim seeking a declaration that the patent was invalid, unenforceable and not infringed. Discovery in the case is proceeding, and trial has been scheduled for October 12, 2010. Based on the Company s efforts to date, it believes it has meritorious defenses to this matter, and intends to vigorously defend itself. There can be no assurance, however, that the Company will be successful in its defense, and an adverse resolution of the lawsuit could have a material adverse effect on its business, financial position and results of operation, including its ability to continue to commercialize the technologies implicated in the litigation.

On December 9, 2009, the Company filed a complaint in the Eastern District of Texas (Civil Action No. 6:09-cv-00549) against Bedrock Computer Technologies LLC (Bedrock) seeking a declaratory judgment that United States Patent No. 5,893,120 (120 Patent) is invalid, unenforceable and not infringed. The complaint states that Bedrock brought an action in which it wrongly accused some customers of the Company of infringing the 120 Patent based on their use of computer equipment configured with or utilizing software based on various versions of the Linux operating system. The complaint seeks a declaration that anyone s use, sale, or offer for sale of the Linux kernel distributed by the Company has not and does not in any manner infringe any claim of the patent or otherwise infringe or violate any rights of Bedrock and that the 120 Patent is invalid and unenforceable. On January 29, 2010, Bedrock responded denying the contentions in the complaint and asserting a counterclaim alleging that Red Hat has directly and indirectly infringed the 120 Patent. On February 22, 2010,

RED HAT, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

(Unaudited)

Red Hat replied to the counterclaim denying the allegations of infringement and asserting affirmative defenses. On March 26, 2010, Bedrock filed its first amended answer and counterclaim with crossclaims against fifteen parties. Trial in the case has been scheduled for October 11, 2011. Based on information available to date, the Company believes it has meritorious defenses to the counterclaims and does not anticipate that the counterclaims will have a material adverse effect on its business, financial position and results of operations. There can be no assurance, however, that the Company will be successful in its defense.

On January 21, 2010, JuxtaComm-Texas Software, LLC filed a complaint in the Eastern District of Texas (Civil Action No. 6 10-CV-00011-LED) against twenty-two defendants, including Red Hat, Inc., alleging direct and indirect infringement of U.S. Patent No. 6,195,662. The complaint seeks, among other relief, compensatory damages, enhanced damages, and injunctive relief. On May 6, 2010, the Company answered the amended complaint and denied the allegations of direct and indirect infringement, asserted affirmative defenses and filed a counterclaim seeking a declaration that the patent was invalid, unenforceable and not infringed. Based on the Company s efforts to date, it believes it has meritorious defenses to this matter, and intends to vigorously defend itself. There can be no assurance, however, that the Company will be successful in its defense, and an adverse resolution of the lawsuit could have a material adverse effect on its business, financial position and results of operation, including its ability to continue to commercialize the technologies implicated in the litigation.

On February 19, 2010, Implicit Networks, Inc. filed a complaint in the Northern District of California (Civil Action CV 10 720) against Red Hat, Inc. and VMWare, Inc. alleging direct and indirect infringement of U.S. Patent No. 6,324,685 and No. 6,976,248 with regard to the Company's JBoss Application Server product family, as well as products of the other defendant. The complaint seeks, among other relief, compensatory damages, enhanced damages, and injunctive relief. The Company's response to the complaint is due July 29, 2010. Based on the Company s efforts to date, it believes it has meritorious defenses to this matter, and intends to vigorously defend itself. There can be no assurance, however, that the Company will be successful in its defense, and an adverse resolution of the lawsuit could have a material adverse effect on its business, financial position and results of operation, including its ability to continue to commercialize the technologies implicated in the litigation.

The Company also experiences routine litigation in the normal course of its business, including patent litigation. The Company presently believes that the outcome of this routine litigation will not have a material adverse effect on its financial position and results of operations.

NOTE 9 Subsequent Events

From June 1, 2010 through July 08, 2010, the Company repurchased an aggregate of 175,600 shares of its common stock for \$5.0 million. These repurchases were made pursuant to the Company s previously announced repurchase program. See NOTE 6 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for further discussion of the repurchase program. As of July 08, 2010, the amount available for repurchase of common stock under the program was \$230.3 million.

25

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

We are a global leader in providing open source software solutions to the enterprise, including our core enterprise operating system platform, Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL), our enterprise middleware platform, JBoss Enterprise Middleware, our virtualization solutions and other Red Hat enterprise technologies.

Open source software is an alternative to proprietary software and represents a different model for the development and licensing of commercial software code than that typically used for proprietary software. Because open source software code is freely shared, there are customarily no licensing fees for the distribution of open source software. Therefore, we do not recognize revenue from the licensing of the code itself. We provide value to our customers through the aggregation, integration, testing, certification, delivery, maintenance and support of our Red Hat enterprise technologies, and by providing a level of scalability, stability and accountability for the enterprise technologies we package and distribute. Moreover, because communities of developers not employed by us assist with the creation of our open source offerings, opportunities for further innovation of our offerings are supplemented by these communities.

We sell our enterprise technologies through subscriptions, and we recognize revenue over the period of the subscription agreements with our customers. In addition, we generally provide certain managed services for each of our enterprise technologies, through Red Hat Network (RHN), Red Hat Network Satellite (RHN Satellite), JBoss Operations Network (JBoss ON) and JBoss Customer Support Portal (JBoss CSP), as a component of our subscriptions. We market our offerings primarily to enterprise customers including large enterprises, government organizations, small- and medium-size businesses and educational institutions.

We have focused on introducing and gaining acceptance for Red Hat enterprise technologies that comprise our open source architecture. Since introducing our initial enterprise open source operating system platform, Red Hat Enterprise Linux, it has gained widespread independent software vendor (ISV) and independent hardware vendor (IHV) support. We have continued to build our open source architecture by expanding our enterprise offerings and introducing new systems management services, middleware, integrated virtualization and clustering capability, file management systems, directory and certificate technologies and enhanced security functionality. We intend to bring the value of open source technology to other key areas of the enterprise infrastructure as the development community efforts support and customer needs dictate.

We derive our revenue and generate cash from customers primarily from two sources: (i) subscription revenue and (ii) training and services revenue. The arrangements with our customers that produce this revenue and cash are explained in further detail under Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates below and in NOTE 2 to the Consolidated Financial Statements. These arrangements typically involve subscriptions to Red Hat enterprise technologies. Our revenue is affected by, among other factors, corporate, government and consumer spending levels. In evaluating the performance of our business, we consider a number of factors, including total revenue, deferred revenue, operating income, operating margin and cash flows from operations.

Revenue. For the three months ended May 31, 2010 total revenue increased 19.9% or \$34.8 million to \$209.1 million from \$174.4 million for the three months ended May 31, 2009. Subscription revenue increased 20.4% or \$30.3 million, driven primarily by additional subscriptions related to our principal RHEL technologies, which continue to gain broader market acceptance in mission-critical areas of computing, and our international expansion. The increase is, in part, a result of the continued migration of enterprises in industries such as telecommunications, government and financial services to our open source platform from a proprietary Unix platform. Training and services revenue increased 17.5% or \$4.5 million for the three months ended May 31, 2010 as compared to the same period ended May 31, 2009. The increase is driven primarily by an improving economic environment in which enterprises are increasing discretionary spending in areas such as IT training and consulting.

26

We believe the success of our business model is influenced by:

- · the extent to which we can expand the breadth and depth of our technology and service offerings;
- · our ability to enhance the value of subscriptions for Red Hat enterprise technologies through frequent and continuous innovations to these technologies;
- the acceptance and widespread deployment of open source solutions by small, medium and large enterprises and government agencies;
- · our ability to generate subscription revenue for Red Hat enterprise technologies; and
- · our ability to provide customers with consulting and training services that generate additional revenue.

Deferred Revenue. Our deferred revenue, current and long-term, balance at May 31, 2010 was \$625.6 million. Because of our subscription model and revenue recognition policies, deferred revenue improves predictability of future revenue. Deferred revenue at May 31, 2010 decreased \$20.2 million or 3.1% as compared to the balance at February 28, 2010 of \$645.9 million. The decrease was driven primarily by changes in foreign currency exchange rates, which accounted for \$19.2 million of the decrease. The remaining decrease of \$1.0 million results from shift in mix in which a number of our largest deals included an initial consulting component resulting in lower-upfront invoicing.

Subscriptions. Our enterprise technologies are sold under subscription agreements. These agreements typically have a one- or three-year subscription period. The subscription entitles the end user to maintenance, which generally consists of a specified level of support, as well as security updates, bug fixes, functionality enhancements and upgrades to the technology, when and if available, during the term of the subscription through our integrated management technologies, RHN, RHN Satellite, JBoss ON and JBoss CSP. Our customers have the ability to purchase higher levels of subscriptions that increase the level of support the customer is entitled to receive. Subscription revenue increased sequentially for the first quarter of 2010 and each quarter of fiscal 2010, 2009 and 2008 and is being driven primarily by the increased market acceptance and use of open source software by the enterprise and our expansion of sales channels and geographic footprint during these periods.

Revenue by geography. We operate our business in three geographic regions: the Americas (U.S., Latin America and Canada); EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa); and Asia Pacific (principally Japan, Singapore, India, Australia, South Korea and China). In the three months ended May 31, 2010, approximately \$89.9 million or 43.0% of our revenue was generated outside the United States compared to approximately \$71.8 million or 41.2% for the three months ended May 31, 2009. Our international operations are expected to continue to grow as our international sales force and channels become more mature and as we enter new locations or expand our presence in existing locations. As of May 31, 2010 we had offices in more than 65 locations throughout the world.

Gross profit margin. Primarily as a result of investments made in process and technology infrastructure enhancements to support the delivery of our subscriptions and services, gross profit margin decreased to 84.1% for the three months ended May 31, 2010 from 84.8% for the three months ended May 31, 2009.

Income from operations. Operating income was 16.4% and 14.4% of total revenue for the three months ended May 31, 2010 and the three months ended May 31, 2009, respectively. The increase in operating income as a percentage of revenue is a result of the decrease in operating expenses relative to revenue as we continued to focus on managing discretionary spending and leveraging existing resources within corporate functions. Overall operating expenses as a percentage of revenue decreased to 67.7% for the three months ended May 31, 2010 from 70.5% for the three months ended May 31, 2009.

Cash, cash equivalents, investments in debt and equity securities and cash flow from operations. Cash, cash equivalents and short-term and long-term available-for-sale investments in securities balances at May 31, 2010 totaled \$967.8 million. During the three months ended May 31, 2010, we repurchased \$74.4 million of our

27

Table of Contents

common stock, which was partially offset by employees exercise of stock options which generated \$37.7 million of cash proceeds. Cash generated from operating activities for the three months ended May 31, 2010 totaled \$60.6 million, primarily as a result of the increase in subscription revenue and billings during the same period. Our significant cash balance gives us a measure of flexibility to take advantage of opportunities such as acquisitions, increasing investment in international areas and repurchasing our own common stock.

Foreign currency exchange rates impact on results of operations. Approximately 43.0% of our revenue for the three months ended May 31, 2010 was produced by sales outside the United States. We are exposed to significant risks of foreign currency fluctuation primarily from receivables denominated in foreign currency and are subject to transaction gains and losses, which are recorded as a component in determining net income. The income statements of our non-U.S. operations are translated into U.S. dollars at the average exchange rates for each applicable month in a period. To the extent the U.S. dollar weakens against foreign currencies, the translation of these foreign-currency-denominated transactions results in increased revenue and operating expenses from operations for our non-U.S. operations. Similarly, our revenue and operating expenses will decrease for our non-U.S. operations if the U.S. dollar strengthens against foreign currencies.

Using the average foreign currency exchange rates from the first quarter of our prior fiscal year ended February 28, 2010, our revenue and operating expenses from non-U.S. operations for the three months ended May 31, 2010 would have been lower than we reported using the average exchange rates for the first quarter of our current fiscal year ending February 28, 2011 by approximately \$2.9 million and \$2.9 million, respectively, which would have resulted in income from operations being unchanged.

In our fiscal year ended February 28, 2010, we focused on, and expect in our fiscal year ending February 28, 2011 to continue to focus on, among other things, (i) gaining widespread acceptance and deployment of Red Hat enterprise technologies by enterprise users globally, (ii) generating increasing revenue from our existing customer base by renewing existing subscriptions and providing additional value to our customers and by growing the number of enterprise technologies that comprise our open source architecture, (iii) generating increased revenue by providing additional systems management, developer support and other targeted services and (iv) generating increasing revenue from additional market penetration through a broader and deeper set of channel partner relationships, including OEMs, VARs and systems integrators and our own international expansion, among other means.

28

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES

Our critical accounting policies and estimates include the following:

- Revenue recognition;
- · Impairment of goodwill and other long-lived assets;
- Share-based compensation; and
- Deferred taxes and uncertain tax positions.

Revenue recognition

We recognize revenue in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Section 985-605 (formerly referenced as Statement of Position No. 97-2, Software Revenue Recognition). We establish persuasive evidence of an arrangement for each type of revenue transaction based on either a signed contract with the end customer, a click-through contract on our website whereby the customer agrees to our standard subscription terms, signed or click-through distribution contracts with OEMs and other resellers, or, in the case of individual training seats, through receipt of payment which indicates acceptance of our training agreement terms.

Subscription revenue

Subscription revenue is comprised of direct and indirect sales of Red Hat enterprise technologies. Accounts receivable and deferred revenue are recorded at the time a customer enters into a binding subscription agreement for the purchase of a subscription, subscription services are made available to the customer and the customer is billed. The deferred revenue amount is recognized as revenue ratably over the life of the subscription. Red Hat enterprise technologies are generally offered with either one or three-year base subscription periods; the majority of our subscriptions have one-year terms. Under these subscription agreements, renewal rates are generally specified for one or three-year renewal terms. The base subscription generally entitles the end user to the technology itself and post-contract customer support (PCS), generally consisting of a specified level of customer support and security errata, bug fixes, functionality enhancements to the technology and upgrades to new versions of the technologies, each on a when-and-if available basis, during the term of the subscription. We sell our open source technologies through two principal channels: (1) direct, which includes sales by our sales force as well as web store sales, and (2) indirect, which includes distributors, resellers and OEMs. We recognize revenue from the sale of Red Hat enterprise technologies ratably over the period of the subscription beginning on the commencement date of the subscription agreement.

Subscription arrangements with large enterprise customers often have contracts with multiple elements (e.g., software technology, maintenance, training, consulting and other services). We allocate revenue to each element of the arrangement based on vendor-specific objective evidence of each element s fair value when we can demonstrate sufficient evidence of the fair value of at least those elements that are undelivered. The fair value of each element in multiple element arrangements is created by either (i) providing the customer with the ability during the term of the arrangement to renew that element at the same rate paid for the element included in the initial term of the agreement or (ii) selling the element on a stand-alone basis.

Training and services revenue

Training and services revenue is comprised of revenue for consulting, engineering and customer training and education services. Consulting services consist of time-based arrangements, and revenue is recognized as these services are performed. Engineering services represent revenue earned under fixed fee arrangements with our OEM partners and other customers to provide for significant modification and customization of our Red Hat enterprise technologies. We recognize revenue for these fixed fee engineering services using the percentage of

16

Table of Contents

completion basis of accounting, provided we have the ability to make reliable estimates of progress towards completion, the fee for such services is fixed or determinable and collection of the resulting receivable is probable. Under the percentage of completion method, earnings under the contract are recognized based on the progress toward completion as estimated using the ratio of labor hours incurred to total expected project hours. Changes in estimates are recognized in the period in which they are known. Revenue for customer training and education services is recognized on the dates the services are complete.

Impairment of goodwill and other long-lived assets

We test goodwill for impairment annually and whenever events or circumstances indicate an impairment may exist. We test goodwill at least annually using a two-step process that begins with identifying any potential impairment. Potential impairment is identified if the fair value of the reporting unit to which goodwill applies is less than the recognized or book value of the related reporting entity, including such goodwill. Where the book value of a reporting entity, including related goodwill, is greater than the reporting entity s fair value, the second step of the goodwill impairment test is performed to measure the amount of impairment loss, if any. For the three months ended May 31, 2010 and May 31, 2009, we did not identify any potential impairment related to our goodwill or potential risk related to the underlying reporting unit.

We evaluate the recoverability of our property and equipment and other long-lived assets whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that an impairment may have occurred. An impairment loss is recognized when the net book value of such assets exceeds the estimated future undiscounted cash flows attributable to the assets or the business to which the assets relate. Impairment losses are measured as the amount by which the carrying value exceeds the fair value of the assets. For the three months May 31, 2010 and May 31, 2009, no significant impairment losses related to our long-lived assets were identified. For further discussion, see NOTE 2 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Share-based compensation

Effective March 1, 2006, we adopted the fair value recognition provisions of FASB ASC Section 718 Compensation-Stock Compensation (formerly referenced as Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123 (revised 2004), Share-Based Payment) (ASC 718), using the modified-prospective transition method. Under the modified-prospective method, compensation costs include (a) compensation cost for all share-based awards granted prior to, but not yet vested as of, March 1, 2006 based on the grant date fair value estimated in accordance with the original provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123, Accounting for Stock-based Compensation (SFAS 123) and (b) compensation costs for all share-based awards granted or modified on or subsequent to March 1, 2006, based on the grant date fair value estimated in accordance with the provisions of ASC 718.

In applying ASC 718, we are required to make estimates and assumptions with regards to the number of share-based awards that we expect will ultimately vest and the amount of tax benefits we expect will ultimately be realized, among other things. The amount of share-based awards that actually vest and the amount of tax benefits from share-based awards actually realized may differ significantly from our estimates. For further discussion, see NOTE 2 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Deferred taxes and uncertain tax positions

We account for income taxes using the liability method in which deferred tax assets or liabilities are recognized for the temporary differences between financial reporting and tax bases of our assets and liabilities and for tax carryforwards at enacted statutory tax rates in effect for the years in which the differences are expected to reverse.

We continue to assess the realizability of our deferred tax assets, which primarily consist of share-based compensation expense deductions, tax credit carryforwards and deferred revenue. In assessing the realizability of

30

Table of Contents

these deferred tax assets, management considers whether it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will be realized. As of May 31, 2010, the net deferred tax asset balance was \$72.3 million, of which \$6.2 million was offset by a valuation allowance. We continue to maintain a valuation allowance against our deferred tax assets with respect to certain foreign net operating loss (NOL) carryforwards.

With respect to foreign earnings, it is our policy to invest the earnings of foreign subsidiaries indefinitely outside the U.S. From time to time, however, we may remit a portion of these earnings to the extent we incur no additional U.S. tax and it is otherwise feasible.

Because tax laws are complex and subject to different interpretations, significant judgment is required. As a result, we make certain estimates and assumptions, in (i) calculating our income tax expense, deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities, (ii) determining any valuation allowance recorded against deferred tax assets and (iii) evaluating the amount of unrecognized tax benefits, as well as the interest and penalties related to such uncertain tax positions. Our estimates and assumptions may differ significantly from tax benefits ultimately realized.

31

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Three months ended May 31, 2010 and May 31, 2009

The following table is a summary of our results of operations for the three months ended May 31, 2010 and May 31, 2009 (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended (Unaudited)					
	May 31, 2010	May 31, 2009	\$ Change	% Change		
Revenue:						
Subscriptions	\$ 179,076	\$ 148,790	\$ 30,286	20.4%		
Training and services	30,068	25,598	4,470	17.5		
Total subscription and training and services revenue	209,144	174,388	34,756	19.9		
Cost of subscription and training and services revenue:						
Cost of subscriptions	12,664	10,050	2,614	26.0		
As a % of subscription revenue	7.1%	6.8%				
Cost of training and services	20,574	16,418	4,156	25.3		
As a % of training and services revenue	68.4%	64.1%				
Total cost of subscription and training and services revenue	33,238	26,468	6,770	25.6		
As a % of total revenue	15.9%	15.2%				
Total gross profit	175,906	147,920	27,986	18.9		
Operating expense:						
Sales and marketing	74,564	63,977	10,587	16.5		
Research and development	40,658	35,102	5,556	15.8		
General and administrative	26,445	23,785	2,660	11.2		
Total operating expense	141,667	122,864	18,803	15.3		
Income from operations	34,239	25,056	9,183	36.6		
Interest income	1,663	3,430	(1,767)	(51.5)		
Other income (expense), net	1,130	(3)	1,133			
Income before provision for income taxes	37,032	28,483	8,549	30.0		
Provision for income taxes	12,961	9,969	2,992	30.0		
Net income	\$ 24,071	\$ 18,514	\$ 5,557	30.0%		
Gross profit margin-subscriptions	92.9%	93.2%				
Gross profit margin-training and services	31.6%	35.9%				
Gross profit margin	84.1%	84.8%				
As a % of total revenue:						
Subscription revenue	85.6%	85.3%				
Training and services revenue	14.4%	14.7%				
Sales and marketing expense	35.7%	36.7%				
Research and development expense	19.4%	20.1%				
General and administrative expense	12.6%	13.6%				
Total operating expenses	67.7%	70.5%				

Income from operations	16.4% 14.4%
Income before provision for income taxes	17.7% 16.3%
Net income	11.5% 10.6%
Estimated annual effective income tax rate	35.0% 35.0%

Revenue

Subscription revenue

Subscription revenue, which is primarily comprised of direct and indirect sales of Red Hat enterprise technologies, increased by 20.4% or \$30.3 million to \$179.1 million for the three months ended May 31, 2010 from \$148.8 million for the three months ended May 31, 2009. The increase in subscription revenue is primarily due to increases in volumes sold, including additional subscriptions attributable to geographic expansion, and continuing innovation, which attracts new customers and helps to drive renewals from existing customers.

Training and services revenue

Training revenue includes fees paid by our customers for delivery of educational materials and instruction. Services revenue includes fees received from customers for consulting services regarding our offerings, deployment of Red Hat enterprise technologies and for delivery of added functionality to Red Hat enterprise technologies for our major customers and OEM partners. Total training and services revenue increased by 17.5% or \$4.5 million to \$30.1 million for the three months ended May 31, 2010 from \$25.6 million for the three months ended May 31, 2009. Training revenue increased 6.6% or \$0.6 million as some enterprises begin to increase overall spending on discretionary items such as training and related travel in response to a better overall economic environment. Our services revenue increased by 23.7% or \$3.9 million as a result of both increased subscription sales and a better overall economic environment. Combined training and services revenue decreased as a percentage of total revenue to 14.4% for the three months ended May 31, 2010 from 14.7% for the three months ended May 31, 2009.

Cost of revenue

Cost of subscription revenue

The cost of subscription revenue primarily consists of expenses we incur to support, distribute, manufacture and package Red Hat enterprise technologies. These costs include labor related cost to provide technical support and maintenance, as well as cost for fulfillment, physical media, literature, packaging and shipping. Cost of subscription revenue increased by 26.0% or \$2.6 million to \$12.7 million for the three months ended May 31, 2010 from \$10.1 million for the three months ended May 31, 2009. The increase is partially the result of continued additions to our technical support staff to meet the demands of our growing subscriber base for support and maintenance, and includes additional compensation of \$1.0 million. The remaining increase relates primarily to process and technology infrastructure investments which, including depreciation and amortization, increased by \$1.1 million. As the number of open source technology subscriptions continues to increase, we expect associated support cost will continue to increase, although we anticipate this will occur at a rate slower than that of subscription revenue growth due to economies of scale. As a result of the process and technology infrastructure investments, gross profit margin on subscriptions decreased to 92.9% for the three months ended May 31, 2010 from 93.2% for the three months ended May 31, 2009.

Cost of training and services revenue

Cost of training and services revenue is mainly comprised of personnel and third-party consulting costs for the design, development and delivery of custom engineering, training courses and professional services provided to various customers. Cost of training and services revenue increased by 25.3% or \$4.2 million to \$20.6 million for the three months ended May 31, 2010 from \$16.4 million for the three months ended May 31, 2009. The cost to deliver training increased 21.6% or \$1.3 million to \$7.6 million for the three months ended May 31, 2010 compared to \$6.3 million for the three months ended May 31, 2009. The increase in training costs was related to both increased training revenue and investments in process and technology infrastructure enhancements which, including depreciation and amortization, totaled approximately \$1.2 million. Costs to deliver our services revenue increased by 27% or \$2.8 million and primarily relates to increased services revenue. As a result of the process and technology infrastructure investments, total costs to deliver training and services as a percentage of training and services revenue increased to 68.4% for the three months ended May 31, 2010 from 64.1% for the three months ended May 31, 2009.

33

Table of Contents

Gross profit

Primarily as a result of investments made in process and technology infrastructure enhancements to support the delivery of our subscriptions and services, gross profit margin decreased to 84.1% for the three months ended May 31, 2010 from 84.8% for the three months ended May 31, 2009.

Operating expenses

Sales and marketing

Sales and marketing expense consists primarily of salaries and other related costs for sales and marketing personnel, sales commissions, travel, public relations and marketing materials and trade shows. Sales and marketing expense increased by 16.5% or \$10.6 million to \$74.6 million for the three months ended May 31, 2010 from \$64.0 million for the three months ended May 31, 2009. This increase was primarily due to an \$8.9 million increase in selling costs, which includes \$5.8 million of additional employee compensation expense attributable to the expansion of our sales force from the prior year. The remaining increase primarily relates to marketing costs, which grew \$1.7 million or 12.8% for the three months ended May 31, 2010 as compared to the three months ended May 31, 2009. The increase in marketing costs includes \$1.0 million related to increased headcount to support our expanding marketing efforts. Sales and marketing expense as a percentage of revenue decreased to 35.7% for the three months ended May 31, 2010 from 36.7% for the three months ended May 31, 2009 as we continue to leverage our existing infrastructure to generate increased sales.

Research and development

Research and development expense consists primarily of personnel and related costs for development of software technologies and systems management offerings. Research and development expense increased by 15.8% or \$5.6 million to \$40.7 million for the three months ended May 31, 2010 from \$35.1 million for the three months ended May 31, 2009. The increase in research and development costs primarily resulted from the expansion of our engineering group through direct hires. Employee compensation increased by \$4.3 million. The remaining increase in research and development costs relates primarily to process and technology infrastructure enhancements, which increased \$1.5 million. Research and development expense was 19.4% and 20.1% of total revenue for the three months ended May 31, 2010 and May 31, 2009, respectively.

General and administrative

General and administrative expense consists primarily of personnel and related costs for general corporate functions, including information systems, finance, accounting, legal, human resources and facilities expense. General and administrative expense increased by 11.2% or \$2.7 million to \$26.4 million for the three months ended May 31, 2010 from \$23.8 million for the three months ended May 31, 2009. The increase in general and administrative expenses of \$2.7 million for the three months ended May 31, 2010 as compared to the three months ended May 31, 2009, relates to increased outside services fees, which were primarily for outside legal services. General and administrative expense decreased as a percentage of revenue to 12.6% for the three months ended May 31, 2010 from 13.6% for the three months ended May 31, 2009 as we continued to leverage our corporate functions.

Interest income

Interest income decreased by 51.5% or \$1.8 million to \$1.7 million for the three months ended May 31, 2010 from \$3.4 million for the three months ended May 31, 2010 is attributable to lower yields on our investments due to an overall lower interest rate environment.

34

Table of Contents

Other income (expense), net

Other income (expense), net increased \$1.1 million for the three months ended May 31, 2010 as compared to the three months ended May 31, 2009. The increase includes gains realized from the sale of our investments in available-for-sale equity securities of \$0.5 million and \$0.6 million in gains resulting from changes in foreign currency exchange rates.

Income taxes

During the three months ended May 31, 2010 and May 31, 2009, we recorded \$13.0 million and \$10.0 million, respectively of income tax expense, which resulted in an estimated annual effective tax rate of 35%. Our annual effective tax rate of 35%, which equals the U.S. federal statutory rate of 35%, includes state income taxes which are offset by foreign income taxed at different rates.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

We have historically derived a significant portion of our liquidity and operating capital from cash flows from operations as well as the sale of equity securities, including private sales of preferred stock and the sale of common stock in our initial and follow-on public offerings, the issuance of convertible debentures and borrowings under working capital lines of credit. At May 31, 2010, we had total cash and investments of \$967.8 million, which was comprised of \$478.4 million in cash and cash equivalents, \$338.4 million of short-term, available-for-sale fixed-income investments, \$3.7 million of available-for-sale equity securities, \$144.0 million of long-term, available-for-sale fixed-income investments, and \$3.3 million in certificates of deposit with maturity dates greater than 30 days. This compares to total cash and investments of \$970.2 million at February 28, 2010.

We believe that we currently have sufficient liquidity with \$478.4 million in cash and cash equivalents on hand, and we presently do not intend to liquidate our short and long-term investments in debt securities prior to their scheduled maturity dates. However, in the event that we did liquidate these investments prior to their scheduled maturities and there were adverse changes in market interest rates or the overall economic environment, we could be required to recognize a realized loss on those investments when we liquidate. At May 31, 2010, we have accumulated unrealized gains of \$0.6 million on our investments in debt securities compared to an accumulated unrealized gain of \$1.7 million at February 28, 2010. At May 31, 2010 and February 28, 2010, accumulated unrealized gains related to short-term equity securities available for sale totaled \$3.4 million and \$4.4 million, respectively.

Three months ended May 31, 2010

Cash flows overview

At May 31, 2010, cash and cash equivalents totaled \$478.4 million, an increase of \$90.3 million as compared to February 28, 2010. The increase in cash and cash equivalents for the three months ended May 31, 2010 is a result of net cash provided by operations and investing activities. During the three months ended May 31, 2010, maturities of available-for-sale debt securities, net of purchases provided cash of \$88.0 million. Cash generated from operating activities totaled \$60.6 million. Partially offsetting cash provided by operating and investing activities was cash used to repurchase 2,492,675 shares of our common stock at a total cost of \$74.4 million. Net cash generated by operating activities and used for investing and financing activities is further described below.

Cash flows from operations

Cash provided by operations of \$60.6 million during the three months ended May 31, 2010 includes net income of \$24.1 million, adjustments to exclude the impact of non-cash revenues and expenses, which totaled a

35

Table of Contents

\$21.5 million net source of cash, and changes in working capital, which totaled a \$15.1 million net source of cash. Cash provided by changes in operating assets and liabilities for the three months ended May 31, 2010 was primarily the result of collections on our prior quarter s significant billings which generated operating cash flow of \$19.5 million. The difference between the decrease in deferred revenue as reported on our Consolidated Balance Sheet of \$20.2 million and the cash used in operating activities related to deferred revenue as reported on our Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows of \$1.1 million is due to differences between the exchange rates in effect as of the end of the quarter used for translating balance sheet items and the average exchange rates during the quarter used for translating cash flows.

Cash flows from investing

Cash provided by investing activities of \$80.2 million for the three months ended May 31, 2010 includes net maturities of investments in debt securities of \$88.0 million. Investments in property and equipment, primarily related to process and information technology infrastructure enhancements, totaled \$6.7 million for the three months ended May 31, 2010. Investments in patents and externally developed technology totaled \$1.6 million for the three months ended May 31, 2010.

Cash flows from financing

Cash used in financing activities of \$33.6 million for the three months ended May 31, 2010 includes \$74.4 million used to repurchase 2,492,675 shares of our common stock at an average price of \$29.83 per share, including transaction costs. Payments made in return for common shares received from employees to satisfy employees minimum tax withholding obligations related to restricted share awards vesting during the three months ended May 31, 2010 totaled \$7.1 million. Partially offsetting financing activities using cash were proceeds from excess tax benefits related to share-based employee compensation which totaled \$11.0 million and proceeds from employees exercise of common stock options which totaled \$37.7 million. Payments on other borrowings totaled \$0.9 million for the three months ended May 31, 2010.

Investments in debt and equity securities

Our investments are comprised primarily of debt securities that are classified as available for sale and recorded at their fair market values. At May 31, 2010 and February 28, 2010, the vast majority of our investments were priced by pricing vendors. These pricing vendors use the most recent observable market information in pricing these securities or, if specific prices are not available for these securities, use other observable inputs. In the event observable inputs are not available, we assess other factors to determine the securities market value, including broker quotes or model valuations. Independent price verifications of all of our holdings are performed by the pricing vendors, which we review. In the event a price fails a pre-established tolerance check, it is researched so that we can assess the cause of the variance to determine what we believe is the appropriate fair market value.

Capital requirements

We have experienced a substantial increase in our operating expenses since our inception in connection with the growth of our operations, the development of our enterprise technologies, the expansion of our services operations and our acquisition activity. Our capital requirements during the year ending February 28, 2011 will depend on numerous factors, including the amount of resources we devote to:

- · funding the continued development of our enterprise technology offerings;
- · accelerating the development of our systems management services;
- · improving and extending our services and the technologies used to deliver these services to our customers and support our business;

36

Table of Contents

- · pursuing strategic acquisitions and alliances; and
- · investing in businesses, products and technologies.

We have utilized, and will continue from time to time to utilize, cash and investments to fund, among other potential uses, purchases of our common stock, purchases of fixed assets and mergers and acquisitions.

Given our historically strong operating cash flow and the \$967.8 million of cash and investments held at May 31, 2010, we do not presently anticipate the need to raise cash to fund our operations, either through the sale of additional equity or through the issuance of debt, in the foreseeable future. However, we may take advantage of favorable capital market situations that may arise from time to time to raise additional capital.

We believe that cash flow from operations will continue to improve; however, there can be no assurances that we will improve our cash flow from operations from the current rate or that such cash flows will be adequate to fund other investments or acquisitions that we may choose to make. We may choose to accelerate the expansion of our business from our current plans, which may require us to raise additional funds through the sale of equity or debt securities or through other financing means. There can be no assurances that any such financing would occur in amounts or on terms favorable to us, if at all.

Off-balance sheet arrangements

As of May 31, 2010 and February 28, 2010, we have no off-balance sheet financing arrangements and do not utilize any structured debt, special purpose or similar unconsolidated entities for liquidity or financing purposes.

37

RECENT ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

In January 2010 the FASB issued amended guidance to improve disclosure requirements related to Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures-Overall Subtopic 820-10 of the FASB Accounting Standards Codification (ASC 820-10) originally issued as FASB Statement No. 157, Fair Value Measurements. The amended guidance requires companies to disclose separately the amounts of significant transfers in and out of Level 1 and Level 2 fair value measurements and describe the reasons for such transfers. These additional disclosure requirements were effective for reporting periods beginning March 1, 2010. For the three months ended May 31, 2010, we did not have any transfers in and out of Level 1 and Level 2 fair value measurements. The amended guidance also requires additional disclosures related to Level 3 fair value measurements. We do not currently have Level 3 fair value measurements.

Table of Contents

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

We are exposed to the impact of interest rate changes, foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations and changes in the market value of our investments.

Interest Rate Risk

Our exposure to market rate risk for changes in interest rates relates primarily to our investment portfolio. The primary objective of our investment activities is to preserve principal and liquidity while at the same time maximizing yields without significantly increasing risk. To achieve this objective, we maintain our portfolio of cash equivalents and short-term and long-term investments in a variety of fixed-income securities, including both government and corporate obligations and money market funds. Investments in both fixed rate and floating rate interest earning instruments carry a degree of interest rate risk. Fixed rate securities may have their fair market value adversely impacted due to a rise in prevailing interest rates, while floating rate securities may produce less income than expected if interest rates fall. Due in part to these factors, our future investment income may fall short of expectations due to changes in interest rates, or we may suffer losses in principal if forced to sell securities which have declined in market value due to changes in interest rates or perceived credit risk related to the securities issuers. A hypothetical one percentage point change in interest rates would result in a \$6.7 million change in interest income on an annual basis.

Investment Risk

The fair market value of our investment portfolio is subject to interest rate risk. Based on a sensitivity analysis performed on this investment portfolio, a hypothetical one percentage point increase in prevailing interest rates would result in an approximate \$2.5 million decrease in the fair value of our available-for-sale investment securities as of May 31, 2010.

Credit Risk

The fair market values of our investment portfolio and cash balances are exposed to counterparty credit risk. Accordingly, while we periodically review our portfolio for risk mitigation, the principal values of our cash balances, money market accounts and investments in available-for-sale securities could suffer a loss of value.

Derivative Instruments

We transact business in various foreign countries and are, therefore, subject to risk of foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations. We sometimes enter into forward contracts to economically hedge transactional exposure associated with commitments arising from trade accounts receivable, trade accounts payable and fixed purchase obligations denominated in a currency other than the functional currency of the respective operating entity. All derivative instruments are recorded on the Consolidated Balance Sheets at their respective fair market values in accordance with FASB ASC Section 815 (formerly referenced as Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 133, Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities). The Company has elected not to prepare and maintain the documentation required to qualify as an accounting hedge and, therefore, changes in fair value are recorded in the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

The aggregate notional amount of outstanding forward contracts at May 31, 2010 was \$23.3 million. The fair value of these outstanding contracts at May 31, 2010 was, gross, a less than \$0.1 million asset and a \$0.1 million liability, and is recorded in prepaid expenses and other current assets and accrued expenses, respectively on the Consolidated Balance Sheets. The forward contracts generally expire within three months of the period ended May 31, 2010. The forward contracts will settle in Euro dollars, Japanese yen, Swiss francs, Swedish krona, Czech koruna, Canadian dollars, Indian rupees, British pounds, South Korean won and Norwegian kroner.

39

Table of Contents

The aggregate notional amount of outstanding forward contracts at February 28, 2010 was \$8.4 million. The fair value of these outstanding contracts at February 28, 2010 was, gross, a less than \$0.1 million asset and a less than \$0.1 million liability, and is recorded in prepaid expenses and other current assets and accrued expenses, respectively on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Foreign Currency Risk

Approximately 43.0% of our revenue for the three months ended May 31, 2010 was produced by sales outside the United States. We are exposed to significant risks of foreign currency fluctuation primarily from receivables denominated in foreign currency and are subject to transaction gains and losses, which are recorded as a component in determining net income. The income statements of our non-U.S. operations are translated into U.S. dollars at the average exchange rates for each applicable month in a period. To the extent the U.S. dollar weakens against foreign currencies, the translation of these foreign currency statements results in increased revenue and operating expenses for our non-U.S. operations. Similarly, our revenue and operating expenses for our non-U.S. operations decreases if the U.S. dollar strengthens against foreign currencies.

Impact on results of operations for the three months ended May 31, 2010:

Using the average foreign currency exchange rates from the first quarter of our prior fiscal year ended February 28, 2010, our revenue and operating expenses from non-U.S. operations for the three months ended May 31, 2010 would have been lower than we reported using the average exchange rates for the first quarter of our current fiscal year ending February 28, 2011 by approximately \$2.9 million and \$2.9 million, respectively, which would have resulted in income from operations being unchanged. For further discussion, see NOTE 2 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

40

ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES Role of Controls and Procedures

Our management, including our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, does not expect that our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act) or our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act) will prevent all errors and all fraud. A control system, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the control system s objectives will be met. Further, the design of a control system must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints, and the benefits of the controls must be considered relative to their costs. Because of the inherent limitations in all control systems, no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, within a company have been detected. These inherent limitations include the realities that judgments in decision-making can be faulty and that breakdowns can occur because of simple error and mistake. Controls can also be circumvented by the individual acts of some persons, by collusion of two or more people, or by management override of the controls. The design of any system of controls is based in part on certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events. Because of the inherent limitations in a cost-effective control system, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected. Also projections of any evaluation of effectiveness of controls and procedures to future periods are subject to the risk that the controls and procedures may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the controls and procedures may have deteriorated.

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Our management, with the participation of our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based on this evaluation, our chief executive officer and chief financial officer concluded that, as of the end of the period covered by this report, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at a reasonable assurance level.

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

No changes in our internal control over financial reporting occurred during the fiscal quarter covered by this report that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

41

PART II

ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Commencing on or about March 2001, the Company and certain of its officers and directors were named as defendants in a series of purported class action suits arising out of the Company s initial public offering and secondary offering. Approximately 310 other IPO issuers were named as defendants in similar class action complaints (together, the IPO Allocation Actions). On August 8, 2001, Chief Judge Michael Mukasey of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York issued an order that transferred all of the IPO Allocation Actions, including the complaints involving the Company, to one judge for coordinated pre-trial proceedings (Case No. 21 MC 92). The plaintiffs contend that the defendants violated federal securities laws by issuing registration statements and prospectuses that contained materially false and misleading information and failed to disclose material information. Plaintiffs also challenge certain IPO allocation practices by underwriters and the lack of disclosure thereof in initial public offering documents. On April 19, 2002, plaintiffs filed amended complaints in each of the 310 consolidated actions, including the Red Hat action. The relief sought consists of unspecified damages, attorneys and expert fees and other unspecified costs. In October of 2002, the individual director and officer defendants of the Company were dismissed from the case without prejudice. In October of 2004, the District Court certified a class in six of the 310 actions (the focus cases) and noted that the decision is intended to provide strong guidance to all parties regarding class certification in the remaining cases. The Company s action is not one of the focus cases. On December 5, 2006, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit vacated the District Court s class certification with respect to the focus cases and remanded the matter for further consideration. In September 2007, discovery moved forward in the focus cases and plaintiff filed and amended complaints against the focus case issuer and underwriter defendants. Defendants in the focus cases filed motions to dismiss the second amended complaints in November 2007 and filed their oppositions to plaintiffs motion for class certification in December 2007. The motions to dismiss in the focus cases were granted in part and denied in part, and the issue of class certification is currently pending before the Court. On April 2, 2009, the plaintiffs filed a motion for preliminary approval of a settlement agreement to resolve the lawsuit, to which the Company has consented and for which payments called for by the settlement agreement are to be paid by the defendant insurers. The trial court heard arguments on September 10, 2009 on the fairness of the settlement. In an opinion and order filed October 5, 2009, the trial court granted plaintiffs motion for approval of the settlement and directed the clerk of the court to close the action. Notices of appeal in the matter have been filed, and the appeal is pending before the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

In the summer of 2004, 14 class action lawsuits were filed against the Company and several of its former officers on behalf of investors who purchased the Company s securities during various periods from June 19, 2001 through July 13, 2004. All 14 suits were filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina. In each of the actions, plaintiffs sought to represent a class of purchasers of the Company s common stock during some or all of the period from June 19, 2001 through July 13, 2004. All of the claims arose in connection with the Company s announcement on July 13, 2004 that it would restate certain of its financial statements (the Restatement). One or more of the plaintiffs asserted that certain former officers (the Individual Defendants) and the Company violated Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Securities Exchange Act), and Rule 10b-5 thereunder by issuing the financial statements that the Company subsequently restated. One or more of the plaintiffs sought unspecified damages, interest, costs, attorneys and experts fees, an accounting of certain profits obtained by the Individual Defendants from trading in the Company s common stock, disgorgement by the Company s former chief executive officer and former chief financial officer of certain compensation and profits from trading in the Company s common stock pursuant to Section 304 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and other relief. As of September 8, 2004, all of these class action lawsuits were consolidated into a single action referenced as Civil Action No. 5:04-CV-473BR and titled In re Red Hat, Inc. Securities Litigation. On May 6, 2005, the plaintiffs filed an amended consolidated class action complaint. On July 29, 2005, the Company, on behalf of itself and the Individual Defendants, filed a motion to dismiss the action for failure to state a claim upon which relief may be granted. Also on that date, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC), another defendant, filed a separate motion to dismiss. On May 12, 2006, the Court issued an order granting the motion to dismiss the Securities Exchange Act claims against several of

the Individual Defendants, but denying the motion to dismiss the Securities Exchange Act claims against the Company, its former chief executive officer and former chief financial officer. The Court dismissed the claims under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act in their entirety, and also granted PwC s motion to dismiss. On November 6, 2006, the plaintiffs filed a motion for class certification. Subsequent to the filing of that motion, several plaintiffs withdrew as potential class representatives, and the Company opposed the certification of the remaining proposed class representatives. On May 11, 2007, the Court entered an order denying class certification and denying all other pending motions as moot. Thereafter, on July 13, 2007 Charles Gilbert filed a renewed motion for appointment as lead plaintiff and approval of selection of lead counsel. On November 13, 2007, the Court entered an Order allowing Gilbert s motion, appointing him lead plaintiff, adding him as a party plaintiff and appointing lead counsel. On January 14, 2008, Gilbert s counsel filed a motion to certify the action as a class action. On August 28, 2009, the Court entered an Order certifying the action as a class action, appointing Gilbert as the class representative, and defining the class as all purchasers of the common stock of Red Hat, Inc. between December 17, 2002, and July 12, 2004, inclusive and who were damaged thereby, excluding Company insiders. On December 15, 2009, the Company announced that it had reached an agreement in principle to settle this matter. subject, among other matters, to completion of a final written settlement agreement and court approval. The Company recorded, for its quarter ended November 30, 2009, an estimated liability in the amount of \$8.8 million for its portion of the proposed settlement. On March 29, 2010, counsel for the class filed a Motion for Preliminary Approval of the Settlement and, on June 11, 2010, a United States Magistrate Judge issued a Memorandum and Recommendation to the presiding judge that the motion be approved. Should the efforts to settle this matter not be successful, the Company intends to vigorously defend itself in this matter. There can be no assurance, however, that the Company would be successful, and an adverse resolution of the lawsuit could have a material adverse effect on the Company s financial position and results of operations in the period in which the lawsuit is resolved.

On October 9, 2007, IP Innovation, LLC and Technology Licensing Corporation filed a complaint in the Eastern District of Texas (Civil Action No. 2-07CV-447) against Red Hat, Inc. and Novell, Inc., alleging direct and indirect infringement of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,072,412, 5,394,521 and 5,533,183 with regard to aspects of the Company s Linux-based products. The complaint seeks, among other relief, compensatory damages. The Company answered the complaint on February 1, 2008, including counterclaims against plaintiffs for declaratory judgment of invalidity, unenforceability and noninfringement of the patents-in-suit, and the plaintiffs filed a reply to those counterclaims on February 11, 2008. The court issued a memorandum opinion and order denying defendants motion for partial summary judgment for invalidity due to indefiniteness and construing disputed claim terms on August 10, 2009. The trial in the case began on April 26 and concluded on April 30 with a jury verdict that the patent in suit was invalid and not infringed. Post trial motions are currently pending, and the plaintiffs' time for appeal has not expired.

On March 3, 2009, Software Tree LLC filed a complaint in the Eastern District of Texas (Civil Action No. 6:09-cv-00097-LED) against Red Hat, Inc., Hewlett-Packard Co., Genuitec, L.L.C., and Dell, Inc. alleging direct and indirect infringement of U.S. Patent No. 6,163,776 with regard to aspects of the Company s JBoss Hibernate product, among other products of the Defendants. The complaint seeks, among other relief, compensatory damages, enhanced damages and injunctive relief. The Company answered the complaint on April 7, 2009 and denied the allegations of direct and indirect infringement, asserted affirmative defenses and filed a counterclaim seeking a declaration that the patent was invalid, unenforceable and not infringed. Discovery in the case is proceeding, and trial has been scheduled for October 12, 2010. Based on the Company s efforts to date, it believes it has meritorious defenses to this matter, and intends to vigorously defend itself. There can be no assurance, however, that the Company will be successful in its defense, and an adverse resolution of the lawsuit could have a material adverse effect on its business, financial position and results of operation, including its ability to continue to commercialize the technologies implicated in the litigation.

On December 9, 2009, the Company filed a complaint in the Eastern District of Texas (Civil Action No. 6:09-cv-00549) against Bedrock Computer Technologies LLC (Bedrock) seeking a declaratory judgment that United States Patent No. 5,893,120 (120 Patent) is invalid, unenforceable and not infringed. The

43

Table of Contents

complaint states that Bedrock brought an action in which it wrongly accused some customers of the Company of infringing the 120 Patent based on their use of computer equipment configured with or utilizing software based on various versions of the Linux operating system. The complaint seeks a declaration that anyone s use, sale, or offer for sale of the Linux kernel distributed by the Company has not and does not in any manner infringe any claim of the patent or otherwise infringe or violate any rights of Bedrock and that the 120 Patent is invalid and unenforceable. On January 29, 2010, Bedrock responded denying the contentions in the complaint and asserting a counterclaim alleging that Red Hat has directly and indirectly infringed the 120 Patent. On February 22, 2010, Red Hat replied to the counterclaim denying the allegations of infringement and asserting affirmative defenses. On March 26, 2010, Bedrock filed its first amended answer and counterclaim with crossclaims against fifteen parties. Trial in the case has been scheduled for October 11, 2011. Based on information available to date, the Company believes it has meritorious defenses to the counterclaims and does not anticipate that the counterclaims will have a material adverse effect on its business, financial position and results of operations. There can be no assurance, however, that the Company will be successful in its defense.

On January 21, 2010, JuxtaComm-Texas Software, LLC filed a complaint in the Eastern District of Texas (Civil Action No. 6 10-CV-00011-LED) against twenty-two defendants, including Red Hat, Inc., alleging direct and indirect infringement of U.S. Patent No. 6,195,662. The complaint seeks, among other relief, compensatory damages, enhanced damages, and injunctive relief. On May 6, 2010, the Company answered the amended complaint and denied the allegations of direct and indirect infringement, asserted affirmative defenses and filed a counterclaim seeking a declaration that the patent was invalid, unenforceable and not infringed. Based on the Company s efforts to date, it believes it has meritorious defenses to this matter, and intends to vigorously defend itself. There can be no assurance, however, that the Company will be successful in its defense, and an adverse resolution of the lawsuit could have a material adverse effect on its business, financial position and results of operation, including its ability to continue to commercialize the technologies implicated in the litigation.

On February 19, 2010, Implicit Networks, Inc. filed a complaint in the Northern District of California (Civil Action CV 10 720) against Red Hat, Inc. and VMWare, Inc. alleging direct and indirect infringement of U.S. Patent No. 6,324,685 and No. 6,976,248 with regard to the Company's JBoss Application Server product family, as well as products of the other defendant. The complaint seeks, among other relief, compensatory damages, enhanced damages, and injunctive relief. The Company's response to the complaint is due July 29, 2010. Based on the Company s efforts to date, it believes it has meritorious defenses to this matter, and intends to vigorously defend itself. There can be no assurance, however, that the Company will be successful in its defense, and an adverse resolution of the lawsuit could have a material adverse effect on its business, financial position and results of operation, including its ability to continue to commercialize the technologies implicated in the litigation.

The Company also experiences routine litigation in the normal course of its business, including patent litigation. The Company presently believes that the outcome of this routine litigation will not have a material adverse effect on its financial position and results of operations.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

Set forth below are certain risks and cautionary statements, which supplement other disclosures in this report.

Moreover, certain statements contained in this report and the documents incorporated by reference in this report, including in Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements provide current expectations of future events based on certain assumptions and include any statement that is not strictly a historical statement (for example, statements regarding current or future financial performance, management s plans and objectives for future operations, product plans and performance, management s expectations regarding market risk and market penetration, management s assessment of market factors or strategies, objectives and plans of Red Hat and its partners). Words such as

44

anticipates, believes, expects, estimates, intends, plans, projects, and similar expressions, may also identify such forward-looking state Investors are cautioned that these forward-looking statements are not guarantees of Red Hat's future performance and are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause Red Hat's actual results to differ materially from those found in the forward-looking statements and from historical trends. These risks and uncertainties include the risks and cautionary statements detailed below and elsewhere in this report as well as in Red Hat's other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), copies of which may be accessed through the SEC's web site at http://www.sec.gov. Readers are urged to carefully review these risks and cautionary statements. The forward-looking statements included in this report represent our views as of the date of this report. We specifically disclaim any obligation to update these forward-looking statements in the future. These forward-looking statements should not be relied upon as representing our views as of any date subsequent to the date of this report.

RISKS RELATED TO BUSINESS UNCERTAINTY

Ongoing uncertainty regarding the duration and extent of the recent economic downturn and in global economic and market conditions generally could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Economic weakness and uncertainty and constrained IT spending from time to time contribute to slowdowns in the technology industry, as well as in the specific segments and markets in which we operate, which may result in reduced demand and increased price competition for our products and services. Our operating results in one or more geographic regions may also be affected by uncertain or changing economic conditions within that region, such as the challenges that are currently affecting economic conditions in the United States and elsewhere. Continuing uncertainty about future economic conditions may, among other things, negatively impact our current and prospective customers and result in delays or reductions in technology purchases or lengthen our sales cycle. Adverse economic conditions also may negatively impact our ability to obtain payment for outstanding debts owed to us by our customers or other parties with whom we do business. In addition, these conditions may impact our investment portfolio, and we could determine that some of our investments have experienced an other-than-temporary decline in fair value, requiring an impairment charge that could adversely impact our financial condition and results of operations. Also, these conditions may make it more difficult to forecast operating results. If global economic and market conditions, or economic conditions in the United States or other key markets, remain uncertain or persist, spread or deteriorate further, companies may delay or reduce their IT spending, which could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

If we fail to continue to establish and maintain strategic distribution and other collaborative relationships with industry-leading companies, we may not be able to attract and retain a larger customer base.

Our success depends in part on our ability to continue to establish and maintain strategic distribution and other collaborative relationships with industry-leading hardware manufacturers, distributors, software vendors and enterprise solutions providers such as SAP AG (SAP), Dell Inc. (Dell), Hewlett-Packard Co. (HP), International Business Machines Corporation (IBM), Fujitsu Limited (Fujitsu), NEC Corporation (NEC) others. These relationships allow us to offer our products and services to a much larger customer base than we would otherwise be able through our direct sales and marketing efforts. We may not be able to maintain these relationships or replace them on attractive terms. In addition, our existing strategic relationships do not, and any future strategic relationships may not, afford us any exclusive marketing or distribution rights. As a result, many of the companies with which we have strategic alliances pursue alternative technologies and develop alternative products and services in addition to or in lieu of our products and services, either on their own or in collaboration with others, including our competitors. Moreover, we cannot guarantee that the companies with which we have strategic relationships will market our products effectively or continue to devote the resources necessary to provide us with effective sales, marketing and technical support.

45

Table of Contents

We have entered into and may continue to enter into or seek to enter into business combinations and acquisitions, which may be difficult to complete and integrate, disrupt our business, divert management s attention, adversely affect our financial condition or results of operations and dilute stockholder value.

As part of our business strategy, we have in the past entered into business combinations and acquisitions (for example, our acquisition of JBoss in June 2006 and our acquisition of Qumranet in September 2008), and we may continue to do so in the future. We have limited experience in making acquisitions, and acquisitions present significant challenges and risks, including:

- · The difficulty of integrating the operations, systems and personnel of the acquired companies;
- · The difficulty of gathering full information regarding the target business prior to the acquisition;
- · The maintenance of acceptable standards, controls, procedures and policies;
- · The potential disruption of our ongoing business and distraction of management;
- · The impairment of relationships with employees and customers as a result of any integration of new management and other personnel;
- · The inability to maintain a relationship with customers of the acquired business;
- · The potential loss of key employees of the acquired business;
- · Challenges in maintaining good and effective relations with existing business partners or of those of the acquired business, including as a result of the changes in the competitive landscape effected by the acquisition;
- The difficulty of incorporating acquired technology and rights into our products and services and of maintaining quality standards consistent with our brand;
- · The potential failure to achieve the expected benefits of the combination or acquisition;
- · Expenses related to the acquisition;
- · Potential unknown liabilities associated with the acquired businesses;
- Unanticipated expenses related to acquired technology and its integration into existing technology; and

Table of Contents 34

•

The dilutive impact on our current stockholders percentage of ownership as a result of issuing shares of our common stock in connection with an acquisition or business combination.

There can be no assurance that we will manage these challenges and risks successfully. Moreover, if we are not successful in completing acquisitions that we have pursued or may pursue, our business may be adversely affected, and we may incur substantial expenses and divert significant management time and resources. In addition, in pursuing such acquisitions, we could use substantial portions of our available cash as all or a portion of the purchase price. We could also issue additional securities as consideration for these acquisitions, which could cause our stockholders to suffer significant dilution, or we may incur substantial debt. Any acquisition may not generate additional revenue or profit for us, which may adversely affect our operating results.

If we fail to effectively manage our growth, our operations and financial results could be adversely affected.

We have expanded our operations rapidly in recent years. For example, our total revenue increased from \$652.6 million for the fiscal year ended February 28, 2009 to \$748.2 million for the fiscal year ended February 28, 2010. Moreover, the total number of our employees increased from over 2,800 as of February 28, 2009 to over 3,200 as of February 28, 2010 and is expected to generally increase in the foreseeable future. In addition, we continue to explore ways to extend our product and service offerings and geographic reach. Our growth has placed and will likely continue to place a strain on our management systems, information systems, resources and internal controls. Our ability to successfully offer products and services and implement our

46

business plan requires adequate information systems and resources and oversight from our senior management. As we grow, we must also continue to hire, train, supervise and manage new employees. As we grow and expand globally, controls and oversight functions will become more complex and distributed and may in part be outsourced. We may not be able to adequately screen and hire or adequately train, supervise and manage sufficient personnel or develop management, or effectively manage and develop our controls and oversight functions and information systems to adequately manage our expansion effectively. If we are unable to adequately manage our growth and expansion, our business, operating results and financial condition could be materially adversely affected.

We rely, to a significant degree, on an indirect sales channel for distribution of our products and services, and disruption of any part of this channel could adversely affect the sales of our products.

We use a variety of different distribution methods to sell our products and services, including indirect channel partners, such as third-party OEMs, resellers and distributors. A number of these partners in turn distribute via their own networks of channel partners (e.g., distributors and resellers), with whom we have no direct relationship. We rely, to a significant degree, on our channel partners to, among other activities, select, screen and maintain relationships with our indirect distribution network and for the distribution of our products and services in a manner that is consistent with Red Hat s quality standards. Our indirect distribution channel could be affected by disruptions in the relationships of and with our channel partners and their networks, including their customers or suppliers. As a result, we may be required to devote greater support and professional services resources to distribute our products and support our customers, which could drive up costs and may not be as effective. We cannot guarantee that our channel partners will market our products effectively. Disruptions in our distribution channel or poor marketing support by channel partners could lead to decreased sales or slower than expected growth or increased distribution and support costs.

We rely on software licensed from other parties, the loss of which could increase our costs and delay software shipments.

We utilize various types of software licensed from unaffiliated third parties. Aspects of our business could be disrupted if any of the software we license from others or functional equivalents of this software were either no longer available to us or no longer offered to us on commercially reasonable terms. In either case, we would be required to either redesign our products to function with software available from other parties, develop these components ourselves or eliminate the functionality, which would result in increased costs, delays in our product shipments and the release of new product offerings and limit the features available in our current or future products.

We may not be able to continue to attract and retain capable management personnel.

Our ability to retain key management personnel or hire capable new management personnel as we grow may be challenged to the extent the technology sector performs well and/or if companies with more generous compensation packages or greater perceived growth opportunities compete for the same personnel. In addition, historically we have used share-based compensation as a key component of our compensation packages. Changes in the accounting for share-based compensation could adversely affect our earnings or force us to use more cash compensation to attract and retain capable personnel. If the price of our common stock falls, the value of our share-based awards to the recipient is reduced. Such events, or if we are unable to secure shareholder approval for increases in the number of shares eligible for share-based compensation grants, could adversely affect our ability to successfully attract and retain key management personnel.

We depend on our key personnel that we employ, the loss of which could adversely affect our business or stock price and diminish the Red Hat brand.

Our future success depends on the continued services and effectiveness of a number of key officers and employees, including our CEO, who assumed his role on January 1, 2008. The loss of the technical knowledge

47

Table of Contents

and industry expertise of any of these individuals could seriously impede our success. Moreover, the loss of these individuals, particularly to a competitor, some of which may be in a position to offer greater compensation, and any resulting loss of customers could reduce our market share and diminish the Red Hat brand and adversely affect our business or stock price.

A number of our key employees have become, or will soon become, vested in a significant amount of their equity compensation awards. Employees may be more likely to leave us after a significant portion of their equity compensation awards fully vest, especially if the shares underlying the equity awards have significantly appreciated in value. If we do not succeed in retaining and motivating our CEO and key employees and attracting new key personnel, our business, its financial performance and our stock price may decline.

Our corporate culture has contributed to our success, and if we cannot maintain this culture as we grow, we could lose the innovation, creativity and teamwork fostered by our culture, and our business may be harmed.

We believe that a critical contributor to our success has been our corporate culture, which we believe fosters innovation, creativity and teamwork. As our organization grows, and we are required to implement more complex organizational management structures, we may find it increasingly difficult to maintain beneficial aspects of our corporate culture. If we are unable to maintain our corporate culture, we may find it difficult to attract and retain motivated employees.

Our subscription-based contract model may encounter customer resistance or we may experience a decline in the demand for our products.

The subscription agreement used for many of our products, including Red Hat Enterprise Linux, requires customers to agree to a subscription for our services for each installed system on which they deploy our subscription based products. At the same time, the subscription agreement places no restriction on the customer s right to redistribute the products. While we believe this practice complies with the requirements of the GNU General Public License, and while we have reviewed this practice with the Free Software Foundation, the organization that maintains and provides interpretations of the GNU General Public License, we may still encounter customer resistance to this distribution model or customers may fail to honor the terms of our subscription agreements. To the extent we are unsuccessful in promoting or defending this distribution model, our business and operating results could be materially and adversely affected. Additionally, as technologies and the markets for our enterprise offerings change, our subscription-based contract model may no longer meet the needs of our customers. If we are unable to adapt our contract model to changes in the marketplace, our business and operating results could be adversely impacted.

If our current and future customers do not renew their subscription agreements with us, our operating results may be adversely impacted.

Our customers may not renew their subscriptions for our service after the expiration of their subscription agreements and in fact, some customers elect not to do so. In addition, our customers may opt for a lower priced edition of our services or for fewer subscriptions. We have limited historical data with respect to rates of customer subscription renewals, so we cannot accurately predict customer renewal rates. Our customers renewal rates may decline or fluctuate as a result of a number of factors, including their level of satisfaction with our services and their ability to continue their operations and spending levels. Government contracts could be subject to future funding that may affect the extension or termination of programs and generally are subject to the right of the government to terminate for convenience or non-appropriation. If we experience a decline in the renewal rates for our customers or they opt for lower priced editions of our offerings or fewer subscriptions, our operating results may be adversely impacted.

48

If open source software programmers, most of whom we do not employ, do not continue to develop and enhance open source technologies, we may be unable to develop new products, adequately enhance our existing products or meet customer requirements for innovation, quality and price.

We rely to a significant degree on a number of largely informal communities of independent open source software programmers to develop and enhance our products. For example, Linus Torvalds, a prominent open source software developer, and a relatively small group of software engineers, many of whom are not employed by us, are primarily responsible for the development and evolution of the Linux kernel, which is the heart of the Red Hat Enterprise Linux operating system. If these groups of programmers fail to adequately further develop and enhance open source technologies, we would have to rely on other parties to develop and enhance our products or we would need to develop and enhance our products with our own resources. We cannot predict whether further developments and enhancements to these technologies would be available from reliable alternative sources. In either event, our development expenses could be increased and our product release and upgrade schedules could be delayed. Moreover, if third-party software programmers fail to adequately further develop and enhance open source technologies, the development and adoption of these technologies could be stifled and our products could become less competitive. Delays in developing, completing or shipping new or enhanced products could result in delayed or reduced revenue for those products and could also adversely affect customer acceptance of those offerings.

If third-party enterprise hardware and software providers do not continue to make offerings compatible with our offerings, our software will cease to be competitive.

Our products will not be competitive unless third-party enterprise hardware and software offerings are compatible with our offerings. We intend to encourage the development of additional applications that operate on both current and new versions of our offerings by, among other means, attracting third-party developers to the Linux platform, providing open source tools to create these applications and maintaining our existing developer relationships through marketing and technical support. We intend to encourage the compatibility of our software with various hardware platforms by maintaining and expanding our relationships, both business and technical, with relevant independent hardware vendors. If we are not successful in achieving these goals, however, our products will not be competitive and our sales growth will be adversely affected.

We may be unable to predict the future course of open source technology development, which could reduce the market appeal of our products and damage our reputation.

We do not exercise control over many aspects of the development of open source technology. Different groups of open source software programmers compete with one another to develop new technology. Typically, the technology developed by one group will become more widely used than that developed by others. If we acquire or adopt new technology and incorporate it into our products but competing technology becomes more widely used or accepted, the market appeal of our products may be reduced and that could harm our reputation, diminish the Red Hat brand and result in decreased revenue.

Because of the characteristics of open source software, there are few technology barriers to entry in the open source market by new competitors and it may be relatively easy for new competitors with greater resources than we have to enter our markets and compete with us.

One of the characteristics of open source software is that anyone can modify the existing software or develop new software that competes with existing open source software. Such competition can develop without the degree of overhead and lead time required by traditional proprietary software companies. It is possible for new competitors with greater resources than ours to develop their own open source solutions, potentially reducing the demand for, and putting price pressure on, our solutions. For example, in October 2006 Oracle Corporation (Oracle) announced plans to sell support for its version of the Linux operating system. In addition, some competitors make their open source software available for free download and use on an ad hoc basis or may

Table of Contents

position their open source software as a loss leader. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to compete successfully against current and future competitors or that competitive pressure and/or the availability of open source software will not result in price reductions, reduced operating margins and loss of market share, any one of which could seriously harm our business.

Industry consolidation may lead to increased competition and may harm our operating results.

There has been a trend in industry consolidation in our markets for several years. We expect this trend to continue as companies attempt to strengthen or hold their market positions in an evolving industry and as companies are acquired or are unable to continue operations. For example, in early 2010, Oracle Corporation (Oracle) completed its acquisition of Sun Microsystems, Inc. (Sun). Oracle s acquisition of Sun creates a large, integrated supplier of enterprise software that may also provide hardware optimized for these software products. We believe that industry consolidation may result in stronger competitors that are better able to compete as sole-source vendors for customers. This could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our continued success depends on our ability to adapt to a rapidly changing industry as well as maintaining a strong brand. Investment in new business strategies and initiatives could disrupt our ongoing business and may present risks not originally contemplated.

We must continue to invest significant resources in research and development in order to enhance our existing products and services and introduce new high-quality products and services and technology infrastructure. If we are unable to ensure that our users and customers have a high quality experience with our products and services, then they may become dissatisfied and move to competitors products and services. In addition, if we are unable to predict user preferences or industry changes, or if we are unable to modify our products and services on a timely basis, we may lose customers.

We believe that the brand identity that we have developed has contributed significantly to the success of our business. We also believe that maintaining and enhancing the Red Hat brand is important to expanding our customer base and attracting talented employees. In order to maintain and enhance our brand, we may be required to make substantial investments that may or may not be successful. If we fail to promote and maintain our brand, or if we incur excessive costs in doing so, our business, operating results and financial condition may be materially and adversely affected. Maintaining our brand will depend in part on our ability to remain a leader in open source technology and our ability to continue to provide high quality products and services.

Our future success will depend on our ability to adapt to rapidly changing technologies, to adapt our services to evolving industry standards and to improve the performance and reliability of our services. Our failure to adapt to such changes would harm our business. In addition, the widespread adoption of other technological changes could require substantial expenditures to modify or adapt our services or infrastructure.

Moreover, we believe that our continued success depends on our investing in new business strategies or initiatives that complement our strategic direction and product road map. Such endeavors may involve significant risks and uncertainties, including distraction of management s attention away from other business operations, and insufficient revenue generation to offset liabilities and expenses undertaken with such strategies and initiatives. Because these endeavors may be inherently risky, no assurance can be given that such endeavors will not materially adversely affect our business, operating results or financial condition.

We must effectively develop, deliver and stimulate demand for new products and technologies in order to remain competitive.

We operate in highly competitive markets that are characterized by rapid technological change and frequent new product and service announcements. To retain and grow our market share, we must continually introduce

50

Table of Contents

new and innovative offerings and technologies, enhance and adapt existing offerings and technologies and effectively stimulate customer demand for our new offerings. Delays in developing, completing or shipping new or enhanced offerings and technologies could result in delayed or reduced revenue for those offerings and could also adversely affect customer acceptance of those offerings and technologies. The success of new and enhanced offering introductions depend on several factors, including our ability to develop and complete new products in a timely manner, successfully promote the offerings, manage the risks associated with the offerings, make sufficient resources available to support them and address any quality or other defects in the early stages of introduction. Our failure to deliver new and enhanced offerings and technologies in a timely and cost-effective manner and to effectively stimulate demand for them may harm our reputation as a leader in open source technology, diminish the Red Hat brand and adversely affect our business, operating results and financial condition.

Our Red Hat Enterprise Virtualization offerings are based on an emerging technology area, and the potential market for these offerings remains uncertain.

Our Red Hat Enterprise Virtualization products and related services are based on an emerging technology area, the success of which will depend on the perceived technological and operational benefits and cost savings associated with the adoption of this technology, virtualization solutions and the acceptance of cloud computing environments. The market for these products and services remains uncertain. To the extent that the adoption of virtualization solutions occurs more slowly or less pervasively than we expect, the revenue growth associated with these products and services may be slower than currently expected, which could adversely affect our business, operating results and financial condition.

If our growth rate slows, our stock price could be adversely impacted.

As the markets for our products mature and the scale of our business increases, the rate of growth in our product sales will likely be lower than those we have experienced in earlier periods. In addition, to the extent that the adoption of Red Hat Enterprise technologies occurs more slowly or is less pervasive than we expect, our revenue growth rates may slow materially or our revenue may decline substantially, which could adversely affect our stock price.

Security and privacy breaches may expose us to liability and harm our reputation and business.

Our security and testing measures may not prevent security breaches that could harm our business. Advances in computer capabilities, new discoveries in the field of cryptography, inadequate technology or facility security measures or other factors may result in a compromise or breach of our systems and the data we process. Any compromise of our systems or the data we process could harm our reputation or financial condition and, therefore, our business. In addition, a party who is able to circumvent our security measures or exploit inadequacies in our security measures, could, among other effects, misappropriate proprietary information, cause interruptions in our operations or expose customers to computer viruses or other disruptions or vulnerabilities. Actual or perceived vulnerabilities may lead to claims against us by customers, partners or other third-parties, which could be material. While our customer agreements typically contain provisions that seek to limit our liability, there is no assurance these provisions will be enforceable and effective under applicable law.

We are vulnerable to system failures, which could harm our reputation and business.

We rely on our technology infrastructure, among other functions, to sell our products and services, support our partners, fulfill orders and bill, collect and make payments. Our systems are vulnerable to damage or interruption from natural disasters, power loss, telecommunication failures, terrorist attacks, computer intrusions and viruses, computer denial-of-service attacks and other events. A significant number of our systems are not redundant, and our disaster recovery planning is not sufficient for every eventuality. Our systems are also subject to break-ins, sabotage and intentional acts of vandalism by internal employees, contractors and third-parties.

51

Table of Contents

Despite any precautions we may take, such problems could result in, among other consequences, interruptions in our services, which could harm our reputation, business and financial condition. We do not carry business interruption insurance sufficient to protect us from all losses that may result from interruptions in our services as a result of system failures or to cover all contingencies. Any interruption in the availability of our websites and on-line interactions with customers and partners would create a large volume of user questions and complaints that would need to be addressed by our support personnel rather than by self-help. If our support personnel cannot meet this demand, customer and partner satisfaction levels may fall, which in turn could cause additional claims, reduced revenue or loss of customers.

If we fail to comply with our customer contracts or government contracting regulations, our business could suffer.

Our contracts with our customers may include unique and specialized performance requirements. In particular, our contracts with federal, state, provincial and local governmental customers are subject to various procurements regulations, contract provisions and other requirements relating to their formation, administration and performance. Any failure by us to comply with the specific provisions in our customer contracts or any violation of government contracting regulations could result in the imposition of various civil and criminal penalties, which may include termination of contracts, forfeiture of profits, suspension of payments and, in the case of our government contracts, fines and suspension from future government contracting. In addition, we may be subject to *qui tam* litigation, the process by which a private individual sues or prosecutes on behalf of the government relating to government contracts and shares in the proceeds of any successful litigation or settlement, which could include claims for up to treble damages. Further, any negative publicity related to our customer contracts or any proceedings surrounding them, regardless of its accuracy, may damage our business and affect our ability to compete for new contracts. If our customer contracts are terminated, if we are suspended from government work, or if our ability to compete for new contracts is adversely affected, we could suffer an adverse effect on our business, operating results or financial condition.

RISKS RELATED TO LEGAL UNCERTAINTY

If our products are found or alleged to infringe third-party intellectual property rights, we could be required to redesign our products, replace components of our products, enter into license agreements with third parties and provide infringement indemnification.

We regularly commit to our subscription customers that if portions of our enterprise products are found to infringe any third-party intellectual property rights we will, at our expense and option: (i) obtain the right for the customer to continue to use the product consistent with their subscription agreement with us; (ii) modify the product so that it is non-infringing; or (iii) replace the infringing component with a non-infringing component, and indemnify them against specified infringement claims. Although we cannot predict whether we will need to satisfy these commitments and often have limitations on these commitments, satisfying the commitments could be costly and time consuming and could materially and adversely affect our operating results and financial condition. In addition, our insurance policies would likely not adequately cover our exposure to this type of claim.

We are vulnerable to claims that our products infringe third-party intellectual property rights because our products are comprised of software components, many of which are developed by numerous independent parties, and an adverse legal decision affecting our intellectual property could materially harm our business.

We are vulnerable to claims that our products infringe third-party intellectual property rights, including patent, copyright and trade secrets because our products are comprised of software components, many of which are developed by numerous independent parties. Moreover, because the scope of software patent protection is often not well defined or readily determinable, patent applications in the United States are not publicly disclosed

52

Table of Contents

at the time of filing, and the number of software patents that are issued each year is significant and growing, we may be unable to assess the relevance of patents to our products, or take appropriate responsive action, in a timely or economic manner. We expect that our products could increasingly be subject to intellectual property infringement claims as the size of our business and market share grow, the number of products and competitors in our industry segment grows and the functionality of products in different industry segments overlaps. Defending patent infringement, copyright infringement and/or trade secret claims, even claims without significant merit, can be expensive.

The SCO Group, Inc. (SCO) as well as others have publicly alleged that Linux may infringe certain third-party intellectual property rights. SCO filed suit against IBM, alleging, among other things, that certain Linux kernels wrongfully include SCO s intellectual property. Uncertainty concerning allegations of this type, regardless of their merit, could adversely affect our reputation and business. If those asserting such claims were to prevail in this or other actions related to their claims regarding Linux or other products, our operating results and financial condition could be materially and adversely affected.

An adverse legal decision regarding the intellectual property in and to our technology and other offerings could harm our business and may do so materially. See Legal Proceedings .

We could be prevented from selling or developing our software if the GNU General Public License and similar licenses under which our products are developed and licensed are not enforceable or are modified so as to become incompatible with other open source licenses.

A number of our offerings, including Red Hat Enterprise Linux, have been developed and licensed under the GNU General Public License and similar open source licenses. These licenses state that any program licensed under them may be liberally copied, modified and distributed. It is possible that a court would hold these licenses to be unenforceable or that someone could assert a claim for proprietary rights in a program developed and distributed under them. Any ruling by a court that these licenses are not enforceable, or that open source components of our product offerings may not be liberally copied, modified or distributed, may have the effect of preventing us from distributing or developing all or a portion of our products. In addition, licensors of open source software employed in our offerings may, from time to time, modify the terms of their license agreements in such a manner that those license terms may no longer be compatible with other open source licenses in our offerings or our end user license agreement, and thus could, among other consequences, prevent us from continuing to distribute the software code subject to the modified license.

Our products may contain defects that may be costly to correct, delay market acceptance of our products and expose us to claims and litigation.

Despite our testing procedures, errors have been and will continue to be found in our products after commencement of commercial shipments. This risk is exacerbated by the fact that much of the code in our products is developed by independent parties over whom we exercise no supervision or control. If errors are discovered, we may have to make significant expenditures of capital and devote significant technical resources to analyze, correct, eliminate or work around them and may not be able to successfully do so in a timely manner or at all. Errors and failures in our products could result in a loss of, or delay in, market acceptance of our products, loss of existing or potential customers and delayed or lost revenue and could damage our reputation and our ability to convince commercial users of the benefits of Linux-based operating systems and other open source software products.

In addition, failures in our products could cause system or other failures for our customers who may assert warranty and other claims for substantial damages against us. Although our license agreements with our customers often contain provisions which seek to limit our exposure to potential product liability claims, it is possible that these provisions may not be effective or enforceable under the laws of some jurisdictions. In addition, our insurance policies may not adequately limit our exposure to this type of claim. These claims, even if unsuccessful, could be costly and time consuming to defend and could materially harm our business.

53

Our efforts to protect our trademarks may not be adequate to prevent third-parties from misappropriating our intellectual property rights in our trademarks.

Our collection of trademarks is valuable and important to our business. The protective steps we have taken in the past have been, and may in the future continue to be, inadequate to protect and deter misappropriation of, our trademark rights. We may be unable to detect the unauthorized use of, or take appropriate steps to enforce, our trademark rights in a timely manner. We have registered some of our trademarks in countries in North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia and have other trademark applications pending in various countries around the world. Effective trademark protection may not be available in every country in which we offer or intend to offer our products and services. Failure to adequately protect our trademark rights could damage or even destroy the Red Hat brand and impair our ability to compete effectively. Furthermore, defending or enforcing our trademark rights could result in the expenditure of significant financial and managerial resources.

Efforts to assert intellectual property ownership rights in our products could impact our standing in the open source community, which could limit our product innovation capabilities and adversely affect our business.

When we undertake actions to protect and maintain ownership and control over our intellectual property, including patents, copyrights and trademark rights, our standing in the open source community could be adversely affected, which in turn could limit our ability to continue to rely on this community, upon which we are dependent, as a resource to help develop and improve our products and further our research and development efforts, and could adversely affect our business.

We are, and may become, involved in disputes and lawsuits that could have a material adverse affect on our performance or stock price.

Lawsuits or legal proceedings may be commenced against us. These disputes and proceedings may involve significant expense and divert management s attention. If we do not prevail in these matters, we could be required to pay substantial damages or settlement costs, which could have a material adverse affect on our financial condition or results of operations. See Legal Proceedings for additional information on this and other certain matters that may affect our performance or stock price.

Our business is subject to a variety of U.S. and international laws regarding data protection.

Our business is subject to federal, state and international laws regarding privacy and protection of user data. We post, on our website, our privacy policies and practices concerning the use and disclosure of user data. Any failure by us to comply with our posted privacy policies or other federal, state or international privacy-related or data protection laws and regulations could result in proceedings against us by governmental entities or others which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

It is possible that these laws may be interpreted and applied in a manner that is inconsistent with our data practices. If so, in addition to the possibility of fines and penalties, a governmental order requiring that we change our data practices could result, which in turn could have a material adverse effect on our business. Compliance with these regulations may involve significant costs or require changes in business practices that result in reduced revenue. Noncompliance could result in penalties being imposed on us or orders that we cease conducting the noncompliant activity.

RISKS RELATED TO FINANCIAL UNCERTAINTY

Our quarterly operating results may not be a reliable indicator of our future operating results.

Due to the unpredictability of the technology spending environment, among other reasons, our revenue and operating results have fluctuated and may continue to fluctuate. We base our current and projected future expense levels, in part, on our estimates of future revenue. Our expenses are, to a large extent, fixed in the short term. Accordingly, we may not be able to adjust our spending quickly enough to protect our projected operating

Table of Contents

results for a quarter if our revenue in that quarter falls short of our expectations. If, among other considerations, our future operating results fall below expectations of securities analysts or investors or we are unable to increase or maintain profitability, the market price of our common stock may decline.

Our stock price has been volatile historically and may continue to be volatile. Further, the sale of our common stock by significant stockholders may cause the price of our common stock to decrease.

The trading price of our common stock has been and may continue to be subject to wide fluctuations. Our stock price may fluctuate in response to a number of events and factors, such as quarterly variations in operating results, announcements of technological innovations or new products by us or our competitors, announcements relating to strategic decisions, announcements related to key personnel, customer purchase delays, service disruptions, changes in financial estimates and recommendations by securities analysts, the operating and stock price performance of other companies that investors may deem comparable to us and news reports relating to trends in our markets or general economic conditions.

In addition, several of our stockholders own significant portions of our common stock. If these stockholders were to sell all or a portion of their holdings of our common stock, then the market price of our common stock could be negatively impacted. The effect of such sales, or of significant portions of our stock being offered or made available for sale, could result in strong downward pressure on our stock price. Investors should be aware that they could experience significant short-term volatility in our stock if such stockholders decide to sell all or a portion of their holdings of our common stock at once or within a short period of time.

We may lack the financial and operational resources needed to increase our market share and compete effectively.

In the market for operating systems, we face significant competition from larger companies with greater financial, operational and technical resources and name recognition than we have. Competitors, which offer hardware-independent multi-user operating systems for Intel platforms and/or Linux and UNIX-based operating systems, include Microsoft Corporation (Microsoft), Oracle, Novell, Inc. (Novell), IBM, HP and Sun.

In the market for middleware offerings, we face significant competition from larger companies with greater financial, operational and technical resources and name recognition than we have. These competitors include, but are not limited to, IBM, Microsoft, Oracle and Sun, all of which offer broad portfolios of enterprise Java and non-Java middleware products. IBM and Oracle bundle hardware and software for their customers, making it more difficult to penetrate these customer bases.

In the market for virtualization offerings, we face significant competition from larger companies with greater financial, operational and technical resources and name recognition than we have. These competitors include, but are not limited to, VMware, Inc. (VMware), Microsoft, Citrix Systems, Inc. (Citrix), Novell and Oracle.

In the market for services offerings, we face significant competition from larger companies with greater financial, operational and technical resources and name recognition than we have, including those that currently provide service and training related to the Linux operating system as well as other operating systems, particularly UNIX-based operating systems, due to the fact that Linux-and UNIX-based operating systems share many common features. These larger companies, including IBM, Oracle, Novell and HP, may be able to leverage their existing service organizations and provide higher levels of consulting and training on a more cost-effective basis than we can.

We may lack the resources needed to compete successfully with our current competitors as well as potential new competitors. Moreover, we compete in certain areas with our strategic partners and potential strategic partners, and this may adversely impact our relationship with an individual partner or a number of partners.

55

Table of Contents

Competitive pressures could affect prices or demand for our products and services, resulting in reduced profit margins and loss of market opportunity. We may have to lower the prices of our products and services to stay competitive, which could affect our margins and financial condition. In addition, if our pricing and other factors are not sufficiently competitive, we may lose market share. Industry consolidation may also effect competition by creating larger and potentially stronger competitors in the markets in which we compete, which may have an adverse effect on our business.

During fiscal 2007, several of our largest competitors made announcements relevant to markets in which we operate, including an announcement by Oracle to offer Linux support services and an announcement by Novell regarding an agreement with Microsoft to collaborate on technology, a cross covenant not to sue the other party—s customers for patent infringement and an agreement by Microsoft to purchase and distribute coupons for SUSE Linux maintenance and support. Microsoft and Novell announced an extension of their partnership and the purchase and distribution of an additional \$100 million in coupons for SUSE Linux by Microsoft in August 2008.

We may not be able to meet the financial and operational challenges that we will encounter as our international operations, which represented approximately 43.4% of our total revenue for the fiscal year ended February 28, 2010, continue to expand.

Our international operations accounted for approximately 43.4% of total revenue for the fiscal year ended February 28, 2010. As we expand our international operations, we may have difficulty managing and administering a globally-dispersed business and we may need to expend additional funds to, among other activities, reorganize our sales force and technical support services team, outsource or supplement general and administrative functions, staff key management positions, obtain additional information technology infrastructure and successfully localize software products for a significant number of international markets, which may negatively affect our operating results.

Additional challenges associated with the conduct of our business overseas that may negatively affect our operating results include:

- · Fluctuations in exchange rates;
- · Longer payment cycles and less financial stability of customers;
- · Compliance with a wide variety of foreign laws;
- · Difficulty selecting and monitoring channel partners outside of the United States;
- · Difficulty protecting our intellectual property rights overseas due to, among other reasons, the uncertainty of laws and enforcement in certain countries relating to the protection of intellectual property rights;
- · Difficulty maintaining quality standards consistent with the Red Hat brand;
- · Export control regulations could prevent us from shipping our products into and out of certain markets;
- Changes in import/export duties, quotas or other trade barriers could affect the competitive pricing of our products and services and reduce our market share in some countries; and
- Economic or political instability or terrorist acts in some international markets could result in the loss or forfeiture of some foreign assets and the loss of sums spent developing and marketing those assets and the revenue associated with them.

Moreover, in many foreign countries, particularly in certain developing economies, it is not uncommon to engage in business practices that are prohibited by regulations applicable to us, such as the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and similar laws. Although we have policies and procedures designed to promote compliance with these laws, our employees, contractors and agents, as well as those companies to which we outsource certain of

56

Table of Contents

our business operations, may take actions in violation of our policies and procedures. Any such violation, even if prohibited by our policies and procedures or the law, could have a material adverse effect on our business. Any failure by us to effectively manage the challenges associated with the international expansion of our operations could adversely affect our business, operating results and financial condition.

We may be subject to greater tax liabilities.

We are subject to income and other taxes in the U.S. and in numerous foreign jurisdictions. Our domestic and foreign tax liabilities are subject to the allocation of revenue and expenses in different jurisdictions. Additionally, the amount of taxes paid is subject to our interpretation of applicable tax laws in the jurisdictions in which we operate. We are regularly subject to audits by tax authorities. While we endeavor to comply with all applicable tax laws, there can be no assurance that a governing tax authority will not have a different interpretation of the law than we do or that we will comply in all respects with applicable tax laws, which could result in additional taxes. There can be no assurance that the outcomes from these audits will not have an adverse effect on our results of operations in the period for which the review is made.

Because we recognize revenue from subscriptions for our service over the term of the subscription, downturns or upturns in sales may not be immediately reflected in our operating results.

We generally recognize subscription revenue from customers ratably over the term of their subscription agreements, which are generally 12 to 36 months. As a result, much of the revenue we report in each quarter is deferred revenue from subscription agreements entered into during previous quarters. Consequently, a decline in subscriptions in any one quarter will not necessarily be fully reflected in the revenue in that quarter and will negatively affect our revenue in future quarters. In addition, we may be unable to adjust our cost structure to reflect this reduced revenue. Accordingly, the effect of significant downturns in sales and market acceptance of our service may not be fully reflected in our results of operations until future periods. Our subscription model also makes it difficult for us to rapidly increase our revenue through additional sales in any period, as revenue from new customers must be recognized over the applicable subscription term.

If our goodwill or amortizable intangible assets become impaired, we may be required to record a significant charge to earnings.

Under generally accepted accounting principles, we review our amortizable intangible assets for impairment when events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable. Goodwill is required to be tested for impairment at least annually. Factors that may be considered a change in circumstances indicating that the carrying value of our goodwill or amortizable intangible assets may not be recoverable include a decline in stock price and market capitalization, future cash flows and slower growth rates in our industry. We may be required to record a significant charge to earnings in our financial statements during the period in which any impairment of our goodwill or amortizable intangible assets is determined resulting in an adverse impact on our results of operations.

We may be exposed to potential risks if we do not have an effective system of disclosure controls or internal controls or fail on an ongoing basis to properly address Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

We must comply, on an on-going basis, with the requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (SOX), including those provisions that establish the requirements for both management and auditors of public companies with respect to reporting on internal control over financial reporting. We cannot be certain that measures we have taken, and will take, will be sufficient or timely completed to meet the Section 404 requirements on an on-going basis, or that we will be able to implement and maintain adequate disclosure controls and controls over our financial processes and reporting in the future, particularly in light of our rapid growth, international expansion and changes in our products and services, which are expected to result in on-going changes to our control systems and areas of potential risk.

57

Table of Contents

If we fail to maintain an effective system of disclosure controls or internal control over financial reporting, including satisfaction of the requirements of Section 404 of SOX, we may not be able to accurately or timely report on our financial results or adequately identify and reduce fraud. As a result, the financial position of our business could be harmed; current and potential future shareholders could lose confidence in us and/or our reported financial results, which may cause a negative effect on our trading price; and we could be exposed to litigation or regulatory proceedings, which may be costly or divert management attention.

Our investment portfolio is subject to credit and illiquidity risks and fluctuations in the market value of our investments and interest rates. These risks may result in an impairment in or the loss of all or a portion of the value of our investments, an inability to sell our investments and a decline in interest income.

We maintain an investment portfolio of various holdings, types and maturities. Our portfolio as of February 28, 2010 consisted primarily of money market funds, U.S. government securities, certificates of deposit, agency securities, corporate securities and equity securities. Although we follow an established investment policy and seek to minimize the risks associated with our investments by investing primarily in investment grade, highly liquid securities and by limiting the amounts invested with any one institution, type of security or issuer, we cannot give assurances that the assets in our investment portfolio will not lose value or become impaired, or that our interest income will not decline.

We may be required to record impairment charges for other-than-temporary declines in fair market value in our investments. Future fluctuations in economic and market conditions could adversely affect the market value of our investments, and we could record additional impairment charges and lose some or all of the principal value of investments in our portfolio. A total loss of an investment or a significant decline in the value of our investment portfolio could adversely affect our operating results and financial condition. For information regarding the sensitivity of and risks associated with the market value of portfolio investments and interest rates, see Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk .

Our investments in private companies are subject to risk of loss of investment capital. These investments are inherently risky because the markets for the technologies they have under development are typically in the early stages and may never materialize. We could lose the value of our entire investment in these companies.

We are subject to risks of currency fluctuations and related hedging operations.

A portion of our business is conducted in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. Changes in exchange rates among other currencies and the U.S. dollar will affect our net revenue, operating expenses and operating margins. We cannot predict the impact of future exchange rate fluctuations. We use financial instruments, primarily forward purchase contracts, to economically hedge U.S. dollar and other currency commitments arising from trade accounts receivable, trade accounts payable and fixed purchase obligations. If these hedging activities are not successful or we change or reduce these hedging activities in the future, we may experience significant unexpected expenses from fluctuations in exchange rates. For information regarding our hedging activity, see Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk .

58

ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

The table below sets forth information regarding the Company s purchases of its Common Stock during its first fiscal quarter ended May 31, 2010:

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

	Total Number of Shares	Weighted Average Price Paid	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans	Maximum Number (or Approximate Dollar Value) of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or	
Period	Purchased (1)	per Share	or Programs (2)	Programs (2)	
March 1, 2010 March 31, 2010	763,023	\$ 29.31	762,860	\$	287.3 million
April 1, 2010 April 30, 2010	1,444,563	\$ 30.68	1,216,203	\$	250.0 million
May 1, 2010 May 31, 2010	513,815	\$ 28.66	513,612	\$	235.3 million
Total	2,721,401	\$ 29.92	2,492,675	\$	235.3 million

- (1) During the three months ended May 31, 2010, the Company withheld an aggregate of 228,726 shares of Common stock from employees to satisfy minimum tax withholding obligations relating to the vesting of restricted share awards. These shares were not withheld pursuant to the program described in Note 2 below.
- (2) On November 17, 2008, the Company announced that its Board of Directors had amended the repurchase program that was announced in October 2006 to authorize the repurchase of up to an aggregate of \$250.0 million of Common Stock, without regard to amounts previously repurchased. The amended program expires on the earlier of (i) October 31, 2010 or (ii) a determination by the Board of Directors, the Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Financial Officer to discontinue the program. As of February 28, 2010 the amount available under the program for the repurchase of common stock was \$9.7 million. On March 24, 2010, the Company announced that its Board of Directors had authorized the repurchase of up to an aggregate of \$300.0 million of the Company s common stock from time to time in open market or privately negotiated transactions, as applicable. The program will expire on the earlier of (i) March 31, 2012 or (ii) a determination by the Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officer or Chief Financial Officer to discontinue the program. See Note 9 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for a discussion of shares repurchased under the program subsequent to May 31, 2010.

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

(a) List of Exhibits

Exhibit No.	Description of Exhibit
10.1*+	Executive Base Salaries and Target Award Amounts under Red Hat, Inc. s Executive Variable Compensation Plan for the Fiscal Year Ending February 28, 2011 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the registrant s Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 25, 2010 (File No. 001-33162)).
10.2*+	Form of Performance Share Unit Agreement (Fiscal Year 2011 Operating Performance Form) adopted May 19, 2010 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.2 to the registrant s Current Report filed on Form 8-K with the SEC on May 25, 2010 (File No. 001-33162)).
10.3*+	

Form of Performance Share Unit Agreement (Fiscal Year 2011 Share Price Performance Form) adopted May 19, 2010 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.3 to the registrant s Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 25, 2010 (File No. 001-33162)).

10.4*+

Form of Performance Restricted Stock Agreement adopted May 19, 2010 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.4 to the registrant s Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 25, 2010 (File No. 001-33162)).

59

Table of Contents

Exhibit No.	Description of Exhibit
31.1	Certification of the registrant s Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)/Rule 15(d)-14(a) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
31.2	Certification of the registrant s Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)/Rule 15(d)-14(a) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
32.1	Certification of the registrant s Principal Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350

^{*} Indicates a management contract or compensatory plan, contract or arrangement.

+ Previously filed.

60

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.

RED HAT, INC.

Date: August 20, 2010 By: /s/ James M. Whitehurst

James M. Whitehurst

President and Chief Executive Officer

(Duly Authorized Officer on Behalf of the Registrant)

RED HAT, INC.

Date: August 20, 2010 By: /s/ Charles E. Peters, Jr.

Charles E. Peters, Jr.

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

(Principal Financial Officer)

RED HAT, INC.

Date: August 20, 2010 By: /s/ Mark E. Cook

Mark E. Cook

Vice President and Controller

(Principal Accounting Officer)

61