

NORTECH SYSTEMS INC  
Form 10-K  
March 19, 2009

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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D. C. 20549

**FORM 10-K**

(Mark  
One)

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

**For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008**

**OR**

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

**For the transition period from to**

**NORTECH SYSTEMS INCORPORATED**

**Commission file number 0-13257**

State of Incorporation: **Minnesota**

IRS Employer Identification No. **41-1681094**

Executive Offices: **1120 Wayzata Blvd E., Suite 201, Wayzata, MN 55391**

Telephone number: **(952) 345-2244**

**Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:**

None

**Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:**

**Title of Each Class**

Common Stock, Par Value \$.01 Per Share

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes ☐ No ☒

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Act. Yes ☐ No ☒

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. ☒

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in

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Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. Yes ☐ No ☐

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

|                                                     |                                               |                                                   |                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Large Accelerated<br>Filer <input type="checkbox"/> | Accelerated<br>Filer <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-accelerated<br>Filer <input type="checkbox"/> | Smaller Reporting<br>Company <input type="checkbox"/> |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|

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

The aggregate market value of voting stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant, based on the closing price of \$9.37 per share, was \$11,042,508 on June 30, 2008.

Shares of common stock outstanding at March 10, 2009: 2,738,955.

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**DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

Portions of the registrant's Proxy Statement for the 2008 Annual Shareholders' Meeting to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission no later than May 31, 2009 are incorporated by reference into Part III.

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**ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10K**

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### **NORTECH SYSTEMS INCORPORATED FORM 10-K For the Year Ended December 31, 2008**

#### **PART I**

#### **ITEM 1. BUSINESS**

##### **DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS**

We are a Minnesota corporation organized in December 1990, filing annual reports, quarterly reports, proxy statements, and other documents with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Exchange Act). Prior to December 1990, we operated as DSC Nortech, Inc., who filed a petition for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code during 1990. The business and assets of DSC Nortech, Inc. were transferred to us during 1990.

The public may read and copy any materials that we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 340 Fifth Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Also, the SEC maintains an Internet website that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers, including us, who file electronically with the SEC. The public can obtain any documents that we file with the SEC at <http://www.sec.gov>.

We make available free of charge through our Internet website (<http://www.nortechsys.com>) our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Press Releases, and Current Reports on Form 8-K.

##### **GENERAL**

We are an EMS (Electronic Manufacturing Service) contract manufacturing company with our headquarters in Wayzata, Minnesota, a suburb of Minneapolis, Minnesota. We maintain manufacturing facilities in Minnesota including Bemidji, Fairmont, Blue Earth, Baxter, and Merrifield as well as Augusta, Wisconsin; Garner, Iowa; and Monterrey, Mexico. We manufacture wire harness and cable assemblies, electronic sub-assemblies, and printed circuit board assemblies. We provide value added services and technical support including design, testing, prototyping and supply chain management. The vast majority of our revenue is derived from products built to the customer's design specifications.

We provide a high degree of manufacturing expertise using statistical process controls to ensure product quality, total supply chain solution techniques and the systems necessary to effectively manage the business. This level of sophistication enables us to attract major original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and to expand and diversify our customer base. Our strategy is to develop a customer base across several markets to avoid the effects of fluctuations within a given industry. The markets we focus on are Industrial Equipment, Vision, Medical, Military/Defense and Transportation.

We believe the growth and expansion trends for contract manufacturing and the EMS industry will continue once the macro economy improves. OEM outsourcing will continue as companies focus their investments on marketing and development of their products and rely more on EMS providers for their production and supply chain requirements.

##### **ACQUISITIONS**

On February 4, 2007, we acquired the business assets of a Garner, Iowa printed circuit board operation. This acquisition has strengthened our capabilities in printed circuit board assemblies and high level complete box build assemblies while opening new market segments in the agriculture and oil and gas industries. See Note 12 to the consolidated financial statements for further information on this acquisition.

##### **BUSINESS SEGMENT**

All of our operations fall under the Contract Manufacturing segment within the Electronic Manufacturing Services industry. We strategically direct production between our various manufacturing facilities based on a number of considerations to best meet our customers' requirements. We share resources for sales, marketing, cash and risk management, banking, credit and collections, human resources, payroll, internal control, audit, taxes, SEC reporting and corporate accounting.

##### **BUSINESS STRATEGY**

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The Electronic Manufacturing Services industry has evolved into a dynamic, high tech global electronics contract services industry. We continue to expand our capabilities to better meet these changing market requirements. Along with offering technical expertise in our quality processes, design applications and testing, we are also increasing our focus on supplier-managed inventory services and the cost drivers throughout the supply chain. Our international operations and international partnerships allow us to take advantage of

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lower-cost alternatives for our customers and to remain competitive in the marketplace.

We continue to pursue acquisitions, mergers, and/or joint ventures of companies in the EMS industry to remain competitive, grow our customer base and increase revenues. Our strategic objectives and our history have been based on both organic and acquired growth.

Our quality systems and processes are based on ISO standards with all facilities certified to the latest version of the ISO 9001 standards. We also have ISO 13485 certification which recognizes our quality management systems applicable to contract design, manufacture and repair of assemblies for the medical industry. We believe these certifications benefit our customer base and increase our chances of attracting new business opportunities.

We are committed to quality, cost effectiveness and responsiveness to customer requirements. To achieve these objectives we have invested in ROHS (lead free) processing, equipment, additional plant capacity, people, systems and we have adopted lean manufacturing and supply chain management techniques at our facilities. We are committed to continuous improvement in order to provide competitive and complete manufacturing service solutions to our customers. We will continue to maintain a diversified customer base, and expand into other capabilities and services when they fit our core competencies and strategic vision.

## **MARKETING**

We concentrate our marketing efforts in the industrial equipment, vision, medical, military/defense, transportation, agriculture, oil, and gas industries. Our marketing strategy emphasizes the breadth of our manufacturing, supply chain and engineering services and reflects the complete turnkey solution for meeting our customers' current and future requirements.

Our potential customer emphasis continues to be on mature companies, which require a contract manufacturer with a high degree of manufacturing and quality sophistication, including statistical process control (SPC), statistical quality control (SQC), International Standards Organization (ISO), Military Specifications (Mill Spec) and Aerospace Systems 9100 (AS). We continue efforts to penetrate our existing customer base and expand new market opportunities in Mexico, Asia and Europe, in addition to participation in industry publications and selected trade shows. We target customers who value proven manufacturing performance, design and application engineering expertise and who value the flexibility to manage the supply chain of a high mix of products and services. We market our products and services through our employee sales force and independent manufacturers' representatives.

## **SOURCES AND AVAILABILITY OF MATERIALS**

On occasion some of our components may be placed on a stringent allocation basis; however, due to the excess manufacturing capacity currently available at most component manufacturers, we do not anticipate any major material purchasing or availability problems occurring in the foreseeable future.

## **PATENTS AND LICENSES**

We are not presently dependent on a proprietary product requiring licensing, patent, copyright or trademark protection. There are no revenues derived from a service-related business for which patents, licenses, copyrights and trademark protection are necessary for successful operations.

## **COMPETITION**

The contract manufacturing EMS industry competitive makeup includes small closely held contract manufacturing companies, large global full-service contract manufacturers, company-owned in-house manufacturing facilities and foreign contract manufacturers. We do not believe that the small closely held operations pose a significant competitive threat in the markets and customers we serve, as they generally do not have the complete manufacturing services or capabilities required by our target customers. We believe the larger global full service and foreign manufacturers do provide a substantial competitive environment while the company-owned operations create an increasing opportunity as the trend of more outsourcing continues. Technical support from foreign competition has improved greatly along with their ability to be more responsive to engineering and schedule changes. The willingness of foreign manufacturers to "stock" finished product at warehouse locations in the United States is another of their competitive advantages, however, their inability to react to engineering, product or schedule changes is a disadvantage and plays into our strength. To mitigate foreign competition, we operate a manufacturing operation in Mexico and have other sourcing solutions to



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support our customers with a "Low Cost" supply chain solution.

### **BACKLOG**

Our 90 day backlog as of December 31, 2008 was approximately \$18.2 million compared to approximately \$27.3 million on December 31, 2007. The majority of the backlog change comes from a reduction of past dues, order mix, and the overall slow down in the global economy.

Our backlog does consist of firm purchase orders and although we normally expect a major portion of the current 90 day backlog to be realized as revenue during the following quarter, the current macro economic conditions could change the historical trends. We have seen increased customer order cancellations and reschedules over the past several months.

### **MAJOR CUSTOMERS**

Two divisions of General Electric, Co. (G.E.) combined accounted for 10% or more of our net sales during the past two years. G.E.'s Medical and Transportation Divisions together accounted for 20% and 17% of net sales for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Accounts receivable from G.E.'s Medical and Transportation Divisions at December 31, 2008 and 2007 represented 19% and 10% of total accounts receivable, respectively. Additionally, Northrop Grumman Corp. accounted for 18% and 16% of net sales for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Accounts receivable from Northrop Grumman at December 31, 2008 and 2007 represented 8% and 21% of total accounts receivable, respectively. Historically, we have not experienced significant losses on customer receivable collections in any particular industry or geographic area.

### **RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

We perform research and development for customers on an as requested and program basis for development of conceptual engineering and design activities prior to manufacturing the products. We did not expend significant dollars in 2008 and 2007 on company-sponsored product research and development.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL LAW COMPLIANCE**

We believe that our manufacturing facilities are currently operating under compliance with local, state, and federal environmental laws. We have incurred and plan to continue incurring, the necessary expenditures for compliance with applicable laws. Any environmental-oriented equipment is capitalized and depreciated over a seven-year period. The annualized depreciation expense for this type of environmental equipment is insignificant.

### **EMPLOYEES**

We have 976 full-time and 20 part-time/temporary employees as of December 31, 2008. Manufacturing personnel, including direct, indirect support and sales functions, comprise 954 employees, while general administrative employees total 42.

### **FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND EXPORT SALES**

We have a leased manufacturing facility in Monterrey, Mexico with approximately \$297,000 in long-term assets at December 31, 2008. Export sales represent 4% of net sales for both of the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007.

### **FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This Annual Report on Form 10-K, including "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in Item 7, contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. We may also make forward-looking statements in other reports filed with the SEC, in materials delivered to stockholders and in press releases. Such statements generally will be accompanied by words such as "anticipate," "believe," "estimate," "expect," "forecast," "intend," "possible," "potential," "predict," "project," or other similar words that convey the uncertainty of future events or outcomes. Although we believe these forward-looking statements are reasonable, they are based upon a number of assumptions concerning future conditions, any or all of which may ultimately prove to be inaccurate. Forward-looking statements involve a number of risks and uncertainties. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements include, without limitation:

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Volatility in the marketplace which may affect market supply and demand of our products;

Increased competition;

Changes in the reliability and efficiency of our operating facilities or those of third parties;

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Risks related to availability of labor;

Increase in certain raw material costs such as copper;

Commodity and Energy cost instability;

General economic, financial and business conditions that could affect our financial condition and results of operations.

The factors identified above are believed to be important factors (but not necessarily all of the important factors) that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in any forward-looking statement made by us. Discussion of these factors is also incorporated in Part I, item 1A, "Risk Factors", and should be considered an integral part of Part II, Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations". Unpredictable or unknown factors not discussed herein could also have material adverse effects on forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements included in this Form 10-K are expressly qualified in their entirety by the forgoing cautionary statements. We undertake no obligations to update publicly any forward-looking statement (or its associated cautionary language) whether as a result of new information or future events.

**ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS**

In evaluating us as a company, careful consideration should be given to the following risk factors, in addition to the other information included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. Each of these risk factors could adversely affect our business, operating results and/or financial condition, as well as adversely affect the value of an investment in our common stock. In addition to the following disclosures, please refer to the other information contained in this report, including our consolidated financial statements and the related notes.

***The economic conditions in the United States and around the world could adversely affect our financial results.***

Demand for our products and services depends upon worldwide economic conditions, including but not limited to overall economic growth rates, construction, consumer spending, financing availability, employment rates, interest rates, inflation, consumer confidence, defense spending levels, and the profits, capital spending, and liquidity of industrial companies. A continued recession in the economy and in the markets that we serve could further cause our OEM consumers to reduce spending levels resulting in reschedules, program delays or cancelled orders of our products and services having an adverse effect on our business and our financial results.

***We operate in the highly competitive EMS (Electronic Manufacturing Services) industry.***

We compete against many EMS companies. The larger global competitors have more resources and greater economies of scale. We also compete with OEM in-house operations that are continually evaluating manufacturing products internally against the advantages of outsourcing. We may also be at a competitive disadvantage with respect to price when compared to manufacturers with excess capacity, lower cost structures and availability of lower cost labor.

The availability of excess manufacturing capacity of our competitors also creates competitive pressure on price and winning new business. We must continue to provide a quality product, be responsive and flexible to customers' requirements, and deliver to customers' expectations. Our lack of execution could have an adverse effect on our operations.

***A large percentage of our sales have been made to a small number of customers, and the loss of a major customer, if not replaced, would adversely affect us.***

We have several customers that are responsible for a significant portion of our net sales. General Electric Co.'s (G.E.) Medical and Transportation Divisions together accounted for 20% and 17% of net sales for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Additionally, Northrop Grumman Corp. accounted for 18% and 16% of net sales for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. If there is a loss of one or more major customers or a significant decline in sales to our major customers it could have an adverse effect on our results from operations. We will continue to expand our customer base through our in-house sales efforts and target acquisitions to reduce the dependence.

*We are dependent on suppliers for electronic components and may experience shortages, cost premiums and shipment delays that would adversely affect our customers and us.*

We purchase raw materials, commodities and components for use in our production. Increased costs of these materials could have an adverse effect on our production costs if we are unable to pass along price increases or reduce the other cost of goods produced through cost improvement initiatives. Fuel and energy

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cost increases could also adversely affect our freight and operating costs. Due to customer specifications and requirements, we are dependent on suppliers to provide critical electronic components and materials for our operations that could result in shortages of some of the electronic components needed for their production. Component shortages may result in expedited freight, overtime premiums and increased component costs. In addition to the financial impact on operations from lost revenue and increased cost, there could potentially be harm to our customer relationships.

***Our customers cancel orders, change order quantity, timing and specifications that if not managed would have an adverse effect on inventory carrying costs.***

We do face, through the normal course of business, customer cancellations and rescheduled orders and are not always successful in recovering the costs of such cancellations or rescheduling. In addition, excess and obsolete inventory losses as a result of customer order changes, cancellations, product changes and contract termination could have an adverse effect on our operations. We estimate and reserve for any known or potential impact from these possibilities.

***The manufacture and sale of our products carries potential risk for product liability claims.***

We represent and warrant the goods and services we deliver are free from defects in material and workmanship for one year from ship date. We make no other guarantees or warranties, expressed or implied, of any nature whatsoever as to the goods including without limitation, warranties to merchantability, fit for a particular purpose or non-infringement of patent or the like unless agreed upon in writing. If a product liability claim results in our being liable and the amount is in excess of our insurance coverage or there is no insurance coverage for the claim then it could have an adverse effect on our business and financial position.

***We depend heavily on our people and may from time to time have difficulty attracting and retaining skilled employees.***

Our operations depend upon the continued contributions of our key management, marketing, technical, financial, accounting, product development engineers, sales people and operational personnel. We also believe that our continued success will depend upon our ability to attract, retain and develop highly skilled managerial and technical resources within the highly competitive EMS industry. Not being able to attract or retain these employees could have a material adverse effect on revenues and earnings.

***Operating in foreign countries expose our operations to risks that could adversely affect our operating results.***

We've operated a manufacturing facility in Mexico since 2002 and we may expand into other foreign countries in the future. The benefits projected for our Mexico operation have taken more time than expected to integrate into our marketing strategies. Our operation there is subject to risks that could adversely impact our financial results, such as economic or political volatility, employee turnover, staffing, managing personnel in diverse culture, labor instability, transportation delays, and foreign currency fluctuations.

***Non-compliance with environmental laws may result in restrictions and could adversely affect operations.***

Our operations are regulated under a number of federal, state, and foreign environmental and safety laws and regulations that govern the discharge of hazardous materials into the air and water, as well as the handling, storage, and disposal of such materials. These laws and regulations include the Clean Air Act; the Clean Water Act; the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act; as well as analogous state and foreign laws. Compliance with these environmental laws is a major consideration for us due to our manufacturing processes and materials. It is possible we may be subject to potential financial liability for costs associated with the investigation and remediation at our sites; this may have an adverse effect on operations. We have not incurred significant costs related to compliance with environmental laws and regulations, and we believe that our operations comply with all applicable environmental laws.

Environmental laws could also become more stringent over time, imposing greater compliance costs and increasing risks and penalties associated with violation. We operate in environmentally sensitive locations and are subject to potentially conflicting and changing regulatory agendas of political, business, and environmental groups. Changes or restrictions on discharge limits; emissions levels; or material storage, handling, or disposal might require a high level of unplanned capital investment or relocation. It is possible that environmental compliance costs and penalties from new or existing regulations may



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harm our business, financial condition, and results of operations.

***We may be subject to risks associated with our acquisitions, and the risks could adversely affect our operating results.***

Our strategy is to grow our business organically and through acquisitions, alliances and joint venture arrangements. We will continue to pursue and acquire additional businesses in the EMS industry that fit our long-term objectives for growth and profitability. The success of our acquisitions will depend on our ability to integrate the new operations with the existing operations. In February 2007, we purchased a printed circuit board operation in Garner, Iowa with the expectation that the results will be accretive to the overall business.

***If we fail to comply with the covenants contained in our revolving credit facility we may be unable to secure additional financing and repayment obligations on our outstanding indebtedness may be accelerated.***

Our revolving credit facility and debt agreements contain financial and operating covenants with which we must comply. As of December 31, 2008, we were in compliance with these covenants. However, among other factors, our continued compliance with these covenants is dependent on our financial results, which are subject to fluctuation as described elsewhere in these risk factors. If we fail to comply with the covenants in the future or if our lender does not agree to waive any future non-compliance, we may be unable to borrow funds and any outstanding indebtedness could become immediately due and payable, which could materially harm our business.

***We are dependent on our management information systems for order, inventory and production management, financial reporting, communications and other functions. If our information systems fail or experience major interruptions, our business and our financial results could be adversely affected.***

We rely on our management information systems to effectively manage our operational and financial functions. Our computer systems, Internet web sites, telecommunications, and data networks are also vulnerable to damage or interruption from power loss, natural disasters and attacks from viruses or hackers. These types of system failures or interruption could adversely affect our business and operating results.

***Our business may be impacted by natural disasters.***

Tornadoes, blizzards and other natural disasters could negatively impact our business and supply chain. In countries that we rely on for operations and materials, such as Mexico, China and Thailand, potential natural disasters could disrupt our manufacturing operations; reduce demand for our customers' products and increase supply chain costs.

## **ITEM 2. PROPERTIES**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Our Corporate Headquarters consists of approximately 5,000 square feet located in Wayzata, Minnesota, a western suburb of Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Corporate Headquarters has a lease with a five-year term that expires on July 31, 2010. A portion of the Bemidji facility is used for corporate financial and information systems shared services.

### **MANUFACTURING FACILITIES**

Our manufacturing facilities as described below, are in reasonably good operating condition and are suitable for our needs. We believe our overall productive capacity is sufficient to handle our foreseeable manufacturing needs.

We own our Bemidji, Minnesota facility consisting of eight acres of land and a building of approximately 69,000 square feet consisting of 56,000 square feet designated for manufacturing space, and the remaining space is used for offices.

We own three buildings in Fairmont, Minnesota, which together contain approximately 51,000 square feet consisting of 38,000 square feet designated for manufacturing space. The remaining space is used for offices.

We own a building in Blue Earth, Minnesota, of approximately 140,000 square feet consisting of 92,000 square feet designated for manufacturing space. The remaining space is being used for offices and warehouse.

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We own a building in Merrifield, Minnesota, consisting of approximately 46,000 square feet consisting of 34,000 square feet designated for manufacturing; the remaining space is used for offices and warehouse.

In Baxter, Minnesota we lease 9,000 square feet in one building and 8,000 square feet in another building. Together the buildings contain 13,000 square feet

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designated for electronic board repair of medical equipment with the remaining space being used for offices and warehouse. We are leasing these buildings on a month-to-month basis.

We own our Augusta, Wisconsin facility consisting of five acres of land and a building of approximately 20,000 square feet. 15,000 square feet are designated for manufacturing space, and the remaining space is used for offices.

We lease a 15,000 square foot building in Monterrey, Mexico consisting of 14,000 square feet designated for manufacturing space with the remaining space being used for offices. We are leasing this building on a month-to-month basis.

In Garner, Iowa we lease a 38,000 square foot building with designated manufacturing space of 30,000 square feet. The remaining space is used for offices. The lease expires on June 30, 2011.

**ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

From time to time, we are involved in ordinary, routine or regulatory legal proceedings incidental to the business. When a loss is deemed probable and reasonably estimable an amount is recorded in our financial statements. We currently are not a party to any material legal proceeding.

**ITEM 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS**

None.

**PART II**

**ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES**

As of March 13, 2009, there were 768 shareholders of record. Our stock is listed on the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation System ("NASDAQ") Small Cap Market under the symbol "NSYS". We intend to invest our profits into the growth of our operations and, therefore, do not plan to pay out dividends to shareholders in the foreseeable future. We did not declare or pay a cash dividend in 2008 or 2007. Future dividend policy and payments, if any, will depend upon earnings and our financial condition, our need for funds, any limitations on payments of dividends present in our current or future debt agreements, and other factors. Stock price comparisons follow.

Stock price comparisons (NASDAQ):

| <b>During the Three Months Ended</b> | <b>Low</b> | <b>High</b> |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| March 31, 2008                       | \$ 5.25    | \$ 6.80     |
| June 30, 2008                        | \$ 6.05    | \$ 9.40     |
| September 30, 2008                   | \$ 5.05    | \$ 14.50    |
| December 31, 2008                    | \$ 3.80    | \$ 6.17     |
| March 31, 2007                       |            |             |
|                                      | \$ 7.51    | \$ 8.48     |
| June 30, 2007                        | \$ 7.03    | \$ 8.59     |
| September 30, 2007                   | \$ 7.15    | \$ 8.16     |
| December 31, 2007                    | \$ 6.24    | \$ 7.84     |

Sales of Unregistered Securities:

We did not have any unregistered sales of equity securities in 2008.

Purchases of Equity Securities by the Issuer and Affiliated Purchasers:

We did not make any purchases of our equity securities in 2008.

**EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION**

Certain information with respect to our equity compensation plans are contained in Part III, Item 12 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

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**ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

**OVERVIEW**

We are a Wayzata, Minnesota based full-service Electronics Manufacturing Services (EMS) contract manufacturer of wire and cable assemblies, printed circuit board assemblies, higher-level assemblies and box builds for a wide range of industries. Markets served include industrial equipment, transportation, vision, medical, military/defense, agriculture, oil and gas. In Minnesota, we have facilities in Baxter, Bemidji, Blue Earth, Fairmont and Merrifield. We also have facilities in Augusta, Wisconsin, Garner, Iowa and Monterrey, Mexico.

The vast majority of our revenue is derived from products that are built to the customer's design specifications. We provide a high degree of manufacturing sophistication. During 2008, we continued our supply chain initiatives designed to reduce costs, improve asset utilization and increase responsiveness to customers. Our strategy has been to expand and diversify our customer base, and we are focusing our sales and marketing approach to target greater value-added service opportunities. Our market strength is low-volume, high-mix production, particularly with complex products. Our continued investment in our Mexico operation allows for expansion into medium volume, medium mix and lower cost production and our contractual arrangements with Chinese manufacturers allow us to meet higher volume, lower mix and lower cost customer requirements.

During 2008, we experienced growth in our Sales, Gross Profit, and Net Income. For the years ended December 31, 2008 we had sales of \$121.9 million, compared to \$118.1 million for 2007. The 2008 increase of \$3.8 million was a 3.2% improvement over 2007. For the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, we had gross profit of \$16.9 million and \$16.2 million, respectively. Gross profits as a percentage of net sales were 13.8% and 13.7% for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Our net income in 2008 was \$1,753,849 or \$0.64 per diluted common share compared to \$1,579,013 or \$0.58 per diluted common share in 2007.

The global economy is currently experiencing a broad recession. Although we have not been significantly impacted through December 31, 2008, we are now experiencing increased customer order cancellations and delays.

**CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES**

Our significant accounting policies and estimates are summarized in the footnotes to our annual consolidated financial statements. Some of the accounting policies require us to exercise significant judgment in selecting the appropriate assumptions for calculating financial estimates. Such judgments are subject to an inherent degree of uncertainty. These judgments are based on historical experience, known trends in the industry, terms of existing contracts and other information from outside sources, as appropriate. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions and conditions. Certain of the most critical estimates that require significant judgment are as follows.

**Revenue Recognition:**

We recognize revenue upon shipment of manufactured products to customers, when title has passed, all contractual obligations have been satisfied and collection of the resulting receivable is reasonably assured. We also provide engineering services separate from the manufacture of a product. Revenue for engineering services is recognized upon completion of the engineering process, providing standalone fair value to our customers. Our engineering services are short-term in nature. In addition, we have another separate source of revenue that comes from short-term repair services, which are recognized upon completion of the repairs, and the repaired products are shipped back to the customer. Shipping and handling costs charged to our customers are included in net sales, while the corresponding shipping expenses are included in cost of goods sold.

**Allowance for Uncollectible Accounts:**

When evaluating the adequacy of the allowance for doubtful accounts, we analyze accounts receivable, historical write-offs of bad debts, customer concentrations, customer credit-worthiness, current economic trends and changes in customer payment terms. We maintain an allowance for doubtful accounts at an amount estimated to be sufficient to provide adequate protection against losses resulting from collecting less than full payment on receivables. A considerable amount of judgment is required when assessing the realizability of receivables, including assessing the probability of

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collection and the current credit-worthiness of each customer. If the financial condition of our customers was to deteriorate, resulting in an impairment of their ability to make payments, an additional provision for uncollectible accounts may be required. We have historically not experienced significant bad debts expense and believe the reserve is adequate for any exposure to loss in the December 31, 2008 accounts receivable.

**Inventory Reserves:**

Inventory reserves are maintained for the estimated value of the inventory that may have a lower value than stated or quantities in excess of future production needs. We have an evaluation process that is used to assess the value of the inventory that is slow moving, excess or obsolete on a quarterly basis. We evaluate our inventory based on current usage and the latest forecasts of product demand and production requirements from our customers. We believe the total reserve at December 31, 2008 is adequate.

**Long-Lived and Intangible Asset Impairment:**

We evaluate long-lived assets and intangible assets with finite lives for impairment, as well as the related amortization periods, to determine whether adjustments to these amounts or useful lives are required based on current events and circumstances. The evaluation is based on our projection of the undiscounted future operating cash flows of the underlying assets. To the extent such projections indicate that future undiscounted cash flows are not sufficient to recover the carrying amounts of related assets, a charge might be required to reduce the carrying amount to equal estimated fair value. To date, we have determined that no impairment of long-lived assets exists.

**Stock-Based Compensation:**

We follow the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) 123R, "*Share-Based Payment*" which requires us to measure and recognize in our consolidated financial statements the expense associated with all share-based payment awards made to employees and directors based on estimated fair values. We utilize the Black-Scholes option valuation model to measure the amount of compensation expense to be recognized for each option award. There are several assumptions that must be made when using the Black-Scholes model such as the expected term of each award, the expected volatility of the stock price during the expected term of the award, the expected dividends to be paid and the risk free interest rate expected during the award term. Of these assumptions, the expected term of the award and expected volatility of our common stock are the most difficult to estimate since they are based on the exercise behavior of employees and the expected future performance of our stock. An increase in the volatility of our stock price or an increase in the average period before exercise will increase the amount of compensation expense related to awards granted after December 31, 2008.

Based on a critical assessment of our accounting estimates and the underlying judgments and uncertainties of those estimates, we believe that our consolidated financial statements provide a meaningful and fair presentation of our financial position and results of operations. This is not to suggest that other general risk factors, such as changes in worldwide economic conditions, fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates, changes in materials costs, performance of acquired businesses and others, could not adversely impact our consolidated financial position, results of operations and cash flows in future periods.

No matters have come to our attention since December 31, 2008 that would cause the estimates included in the consolidated financial statements to change materially.

**OPERATING RESULTS**

The following table presents statement of operations data as percentages of net sales for the indicated year:

|                                     | 2008    | 2007    |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Net Sales                           | 100.00% | 100.00% |
| Cost of Goods Sold                  | 86.20   | 86.30   |
| Gross Profit                        | 13.80   | 13.70   |
| Selling Expenses                    | 4.70    | 4.50    |
| General and Administrative Expenses | 6.30    | 6.20    |

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|                        |       |       |
|------------------------|-------|-------|
| Income from Operations | 2.80  | 3.00  |
| Other Expenses, Net    | 0.50  | 0.90  |
| Income Tax Expense     | 0.90  | 0.80  |
| Net Income             | 1.40% | 1.30% |

### Revenues:

For the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, we had sales of \$121.9 million and \$118.1 million,

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respectively, an increase of \$3.8 million or 3.2%. Our sales increase was mainly due to increases in Aerospace Systems sales of \$4.7 million and Cable and Wire sales of \$2.4 million, offset by a decrease of Electronic Circuit Board Assembly sales of \$3.3 million. The increases are a result of continued growth in our defense and medical customers and the decrease was mainly the result of some softness in business from our industrial customer base being impacted by the economic downturn.

#### **Gross Profit:**

For the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, we had gross profit of \$16.9 million and \$16.2 million, respectively. Gross profits as a percentage of net sales were 13.8% and 13.7% for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The 2008 gross profit as a percentage of sales remained flat due primarily to the favorable impact of volume, product mix and leveraging on our operations, offset by energy and commodity (copper and petroleum based products) cost pressures early in the fiscal year.

#### **Selling:**

Selling expenses were \$5.8 million or 4.7% of net sales for the year ended December 31, 2008 and \$5.1 million or 4.5% of net sales for the year ended December 31, 2007. The 2008 increase in selling expense of \$0.7 million from 2007 can be attributed to increased commission expenses of \$0.2 million as a result of higher commissionable sales, as well as a \$0.5 million increase in marketing and sales related spending, consisting primarily of personnel, travel and expense to support the sales efforts.

#### **General and Administrative:**

For the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, general and administrative expenses were \$7.6 million and \$7.4 million, respectively. General and administrative expenses as a percentage of net sales were 6.3% and 6.2% for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The \$0.2 million increase in general and administrative expenses in 2008 from 2007 is mainly attributed to an increase in allowance for uncollectible accounts expense, offset by decreases in personnel and related expenses.

#### **Other Income (Expense):**

Other expense for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 was approximately \$0.6 million and \$1.2 million, respectively. Interest income for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 was approximately \$10,000 and \$24,000, respectively. For the year ended December 31, 2008 we had miscellaneous income of \$78,000 compared to miscellaneous expense of \$73,000 for the year ended December 31, 2007. The increasing value of the US Dollar against the Mexican Peso was the main reason for the year over year variance. Interest expense was approximately \$0.7 million and \$1.1 million for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Lower average debt levels and favorable interest rates in 2008 over 2007 accounted for the majority of the decreased interest expense.

#### **Income Taxes:**

Income tax expense amounted to \$1,101,000 and \$898,000 for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The effective tax rate for fiscal 2008 was 38.6% compared to 36.3% in fiscal 2007. The increase in the effective tax rate was mainly due to a \$49,000 additional FIN 48 reserve and a \$17,000 reduction of R & D tax credits.

#### **Net Income:**

Our net income in 2008 was \$1,753,849 or \$0.64 per diluted common share compared to \$1,579,013 or \$0.58 per diluted common share in 2007. The changes in net income are the result of the aforementioned factors.

### **RECENT ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS**

See Note 1 to our consolidated financial statements for a description of recent accounting pronouncements and their estimated impact on our consolidated financial statements.

### **FINANCIAL CONDITION AND LIQUIDITY**

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We believe that our existing financing arrangements and anticipated cash flows from operations will be sufficient to satisfy our working capital needs, capital expenditures, investments, and debt repayments for the foreseeable future.

We are currently in compliance with the covenants in our financing arrangements. However, we cannot be certain that, if we were to violate our credit agreement in the future, the lender would be agreeable to renegotiation. We currently do not have alternative financing arrangements, and if we were required to obtain

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financing in a short period of time to avoid default, financing might not be available, or the terms of that financing might be disadvantageous.

### Credit Lines:

On August 15, 2008, we entered into an 8<sup>th</sup> amendment to our credit agreement with WFB which expires, if not renewed, on June 30, 2010, and under which both the line of credit and real estate term note are subject to variations in the LIBOR rate. During 2008 our line of credit bore interest at LIBOR + 1.75% (3.625% at December 31, 2008). The weighted-average interest rate on our line of credit was 4.52% for the year ended December 31, 2008.

The line of credit and other installment debt with WFB contain certain covenants, which, among other things, require us to adhere to regular reporting requirements, abide by annual shareholder dividend limitations, maintain certain financial ratios, and limit the amount of annual capital expenditures. The availability under the line is subject to borrowing base requirements, and advances are at the discretion of the lender. The line is secured by substantially all of our assets. This commitment is summarized as described below:

| <b>Other Commercial Commitment</b> | <b>Total<br/>Amount<br/>Committed</b> | <b>Outstanding<br/>at<br/>December 31,<br/>2008</b> | <b>Date of<br/>Expiration</b> |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Line of credit                     | \$ 15,000,000                         | \$ 4,367,562                                        | June 30,<br>2010              |

As of December 31, 2008 we have net unused availability under our line of credit agreement of approximately \$8.2 million as supported by our borrowing base.

### Cash Flow:

|                                                      | <b>December 31,<br/>2008</b> | <b>December 31,<br/>2007</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Cash flows provided by (used in):                    |                              |                              |
| Operating Activities                                 | \$ 4,027,231                 | \$ 4,343,284                 |
| Investing Activities                                 | (2,303,151)                  | (6,316,568)                  |
| Financing Activities                                 | (1,809,730)                  | 2,135,833                    |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash              | 655                          | (404)                        |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | \$ (84,995)                  | \$ 162,145                   |

On December 31, 2008, we had working capital of approximately \$15.8 million as compared to \$14.8 million at the end of 2007. During 2008, we generated approximately \$4.0 million of cash flow from operating activities. The cash flow from operations is primarily due to net income of \$1.8 million and noncash depreciation, amortization, and other noncash expenses, and the change in deferred taxes, which totaled \$2.1 million in net positive adjustments. Cash flow from changes in operating assets and liabilities was \$0.1 million. This was driven by a \$2.2 million reduction in accounts receivable, offset by an increase in inventory of \$1.8 million and other changes in current operating items of \$0.3 million.

Our net cash used in investing activities of \$2.3 million is primarily due to \$2.3 million of capital equipment purchases. Net cash used in financing activities of \$1.8 million consisted of paying down \$1.2 million on our line of credit, a net decrease in long-term debt of \$0.7 million, offset by proceeds of \$0.1 million from the issuance of common stock due to the exercise of options.

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NORTECH SYSTEMS INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARY

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DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

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**Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders  
Nortech Systems Incorporated and Subsidiary

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Nortech Systems Incorporated and Subsidiary as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the related consolidated statements of income, shareholders' equity and cash flows for each of the years then ended. These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Nortech Systems Incorporated and Subsidiary as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for the years then ended, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

We were not engaged to examine management's assertion about the effectiveness of Nortech Systems Incorporated and Subsidiary's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008 included in the Company's Annual Report and titled Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion thereon.

/s/ McGladrey & Pullen, LLP

Minneapolis, Minnesota  
March 11, 2009

Table of Contents**NORTECH SYSTEMS INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARY****CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS****DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

| <b>ASSETS</b>                                                   | <b>2008</b>       | <b>2007</b>       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                                           |                   |                   |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents                                       | \$ 803,041        | \$ 888,036        |
| Accounts Receivable, Less Allowance for Uncollectible Accounts  | 13,161,578        | 15,366,965        |
| Inventories                                                     | 20,703,144        | 18,876,464        |
| Prepaid Expenses                                                | 745,044           | 512,884           |
| Income Taxes Receivable                                         | 421,175           |                   |
| Deferred Tax Assets                                             | 1,358,000         | 974,000           |
| <br>Total Current Assets                                        | <br>37,191,982    | <br>36,618,349    |
| <b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b>                                   |                   |                   |
| Land                                                            | 300,000           | 300,000           |
| Building and Leasehold Improvements                             | 6,508,974         | 6,435,732         |
| Manufacturing Equipment                                         | 12,067,317        | 10,140,802        |
| Office and Other Equipment                                      | 4,105,009         | 3,687,441         |
| Construction in Progress                                        | 467,944           | 146,081           |
| <br>Total Property and Equipment                                | <br>23,449,244    | <br>20,710,056    |
| Accumulated Depreciation                                        | (13,204,036)      | (11,785,374)      |
| <br>Net Property and Equipment                                  | <br>10,245,208    | <br>8,924,682     |
| <b>OTHER ASSETS</b>                                             |                   |                   |
| Restricted Cash                                                 | 427,500           | 427,500           |
| Finite-Lived Intangible Assets, Net of Accumulated Amortization | 493,670           | 643,791           |
| Goodwill                                                        | 75,006            | 75,006            |
| Deferred Tax Assets                                             |                   | 303,400           |
| Other Assets                                                    | 7,726             | 7,726             |
| <br>Total Other Assets                                          | <br>1,003,902     | <br>1,457,423     |
| <br>Total Assets                                                | <br>\$ 48,441,092 | <br>\$ 47,000,454 |

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## NORTECH SYSTEMS INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARY

## CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (Continued)

DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

| LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY                                                                                                                          | 2008          | 2007          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>                                                                                                                                    |               |               |
| Bank Note Payable                                                                                                                                             | \$ 4,367,562  | \$ 5,635,076  |
| Current Maturities of Long-Term Debt                                                                                                                          | 951,437       | 1,176,209     |
| Accounts Payable                                                                                                                                              | 10,746,206    | 10,627,381    |
| Accrued Payroll and Commissions                                                                                                                               | 3,417,901     | 2,845,557     |
| Accrued Health and Dental Claims                                                                                                                              | 446,102       | 380,000       |
| Other Accrued Liabilities                                                                                                                                     | 1,484,990     | 922,607       |
| Income Taxes Payable                                                                                                                                          |               | 219,167       |
| Total Current Liabilities                                                                                                                                     | 21,414,198    | 21,805,997    |
| <b>LONG-TERM LIABILITIES</b>                                                                                                                                  |               |               |
| Long-Term Debt (Net of Current Maturities)                                                                                                                    | 4,386,064     | 4,840,689     |
| Deferred Tax Liabilities                                                                                                                                      | 69,000        |               |
| Other Long-Term Liabilities                                                                                                                                   | 153,805       | 42,919        |
| Total Long-Term Liabilities                                                                                                                                   | 4,608,869     | 4,883,608     |
| Total Liabilities                                                                                                                                             | 26,023,067    | 26,689,605    |
| <b>SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>                                                                                                                                   |               |               |
| Preferred Stock, \$1 par value; 1,000,000 Shares Authorized; 250,000 Shares Issued and Outstanding                                                            | 250,000       | 250,000       |
| Common Stock \$0.01 par value; 9,000,000 Shares Authorized; 2,738,955 and 2,714,888 Shares Issued and Outstanding at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively | 27,390        | 27,149        |
| Additional Paid-In Capital                                                                                                                                    | 15,525,981    | 15,111,179    |
| Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss                                                                                                                          | (89,598)      | (27,882)      |
| Retained Earnings                                                                                                                                             | 6,704,252     | 4,950,403     |
| Total Shareholders' Equity                                                                                                                                    | 22,418,025    | 20,310,849    |
| Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity                                                                                                                    | \$ 48,441,092 | \$ 47,000,454 |

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

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**NORTECH SYSTEMS INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARY**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME**  
**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

|                                                                                               | <b>2008</b>    | <b>2007</b>    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Net sales                                                                                     | \$ 121,852,088 | \$ 118,099,031 |
| Cost of goods sold                                                                            | 104,997,077    | 101,918,162    |
| Gross profit                                                                                  | 16,855,011     | 16,180,869     |
| Operating expenses:                                                                           |                |                |
| Selling expenses                                                                              | 5,772,762      | 5,146,354      |
| General and administrative expenses                                                           | 7,612,713      | 7,387,180      |
| Total operating expenses                                                                      | 13,385,475     | 12,533,534     |
| Income from operations                                                                        | 3,469,536      | 3,647,335      |
| Other income (expense)                                                                        |                |                |
| Interest income                                                                               | 9,861          | 23,791         |
| Miscellaneous income (expense)                                                                | 77,910         | (73,397)       |
| Interest expense                                                                              | (702,458)      | (1,120,716)    |
| Total other expense                                                                           | (614,687)      | (1,170,322)    |
| Income before income taxes                                                                    | 2,854,849      | 2,477,013      |
| Income tax expense                                                                            | 1,101,000      | 898,000        |
| Net income                                                                                    | \$ 1,753,849   | \$ 1,579,013   |
| Net income per common share:                                                                  |                |                |
| Basic                                                                                         | \$ 0.64        | \$ 0.59        |
| Weighted average number of common shares outstanding used for basic earnings per common share | 2,719,250      | 2,690,717      |
| Diluted                                                                                       | \$ 0.64        | \$ 0.58        |
| Weighted average number of common share outstanding plus dilutive common stock options        | 2,746,157      | 2,724,886      |

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

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**NORTECH SYSTEMS INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARY**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY**  
**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

|                                                     | <b>Preferred<br/>Stock</b> | <b>Common<br/>Stock</b> | <b>Additional<br/>Paid-In<br/>Capital</b> | <b>Accumulated<br/>Other<br/>Comprehensive<br/>Income (Loss)</b> | <b>Retained<br/>Earnings</b> | <b>Total<br/>Shareholders'<br/>Equity</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>BALANCE DECEMBER 31,<br/>2006</b>                | \$ 250,000                 | \$ 26,747               | \$ 14,644,901                             | \$ (23,179)                                                      | \$ 3,403,390                 | \$ 18,301,859                             |
| Adoption of FIN 48                                  |                            |                         |                                           |                                                                  | (32,000)                     | (32,000)                                  |
| 2007 net income                                     |                            |                         |                                           |                                                                  | 1,579,013                    | 1,579,013                                 |
| Issuance of stock upon<br>exercise of stock options |                            | 402                     | 200,698                                   |                                                                  |                              | 201,100                                   |
| Compensation on stock-based<br>awards               |                            |                         | 255,012                                   |                                                                  |                              | 255,012                                   |
| Excess tax benefits from<br>stock-based awards      |                            |                         | 10,568                                    |                                                                  |                              | 10,568                                    |
| Translation loss                                    |                            |                         |                                           | (4,703)                                                          |                              | (4,703)                                   |
| <b>BALANCE DECEMBER 31,<br/>2007</b>                | 250,000                    | 27,149                  | 15,111,179                                | (27,882)                                                         | 4,950,403                    | 20,310,849                                |
| 2008 net income                                     |                            |                         |                                           |                                                                  | 1,753,849                    | 1,753,849                                 |
| Issuance of stock upon<br>exercise of stock options |                            | 241                     | 136,940                                   |                                                                  |                              | 137,181                                   |
| Compensation on stock-based<br>awards               |                            |                         | 277,862                                   |                                                                  |                              | 277,862                                   |
| Translation loss, net of tax                        |                            |                         |                                           | (61,716)                                                         |                              | (61,716)                                  |
| <b>BALANCE DECEMBER 31,<br/>2008</b>                | \$ 250,000                 | \$ 27,390               | \$ 15,525,981                             | \$ (89,598)                                                      | \$ 6,704,252                 | \$ 22,418,025                             |

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Table of Contents**NORTECH SYSTEMS INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARY****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS****FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

|                                                                                   | <b>2008</b>       | <b>2007</b>       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>                                       |                   |                   |
| Net income                                                                        | \$ 1,753,849      | \$ 1,579,013      |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: |                   |                   |
| Depreciation                                                                      | 1,728,848         | 1,649,609         |
| Amortization                                                                      | 150,121           | 172,944           |
| Compensation on stock-based awards                                                | 277,862           | 255,012           |
| Interest on swap valuation                                                        | 21,886            | 17,249            |
| Deferred income taxes                                                             | (11,600)          | (144,400)         |
| (Gain) Loss on disposal of assets                                                 | (4,555)           | 7,572             |
| Foreign currency transaction gain                                                 | (30,656)          | (2,533)           |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities, net of effects of 2007 acquisition:  |                   |                   |
| Accounts receivable                                                               | 2,174,657         | 1,106,434         |
| Inventories                                                                       | (1,826,680)       | (617,516)         |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets                                                 | (235,279)         | 67,692            |
| Income taxes receivable/payable                                                   | (552,522)         | 395,894           |
| Accounts payable                                                                  | (645,776)         | (209,200)         |
| Accrued payroll and commissions                                                   | 595,124           | (327,271)         |
| Accrued health and dental claims                                                  | 66,102            | 55,000            |
| Other accrued liabilities                                                         | 565,850           | 337,785           |
| Net cash provided by operating activities                                         | 4,027,231         | 4,343,284         |
| <b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>                                       |                   |                   |
| Proceeds from sale of property and equipment                                      | 12,431            | 3,561             |
| Business acquisition                                                              |                   | (4,807,699)       |
| Purchases of property and equipment                                               | (2,315,582)       | (1,512,430)       |
| Net cash used in investing activities                                             | (2,303,151)       | (6,316,568)       |
| <b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>                                       |                   |                   |
| Net change in line of credit                                                      | (1,267,514)       | 941,049           |
| Proceeds from long-term debt                                                      | 496,953           | 2,582,762         |
| Payments on long-term debt                                                        | (1,176,350)       | (1,599,646)       |
| Issuance of stock upon exercise of options                                        | 137,181           | 201,100           |
| Excess tax benefits from stock-based awards                                       |                   | 10,568            |
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities                               | (1,809,730)       | 2,135,833         |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash                                           | 655               | (404)             |
| <b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>                           | <b>(84,995)</b>   | <b>162,145</b>    |
| Cash and cash equivalents beginning of year                                       | 888,036           | 725,891           |
| <b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS END OF YEAR</b>                                      | <b>\$ 803,041</b> | <b>\$ 888,036</b> |

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

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**NORTECH SYSTEMS INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARY**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

**NOTE 1 NATURE OF BUSINESS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

***Nature of Business***

We manufacture wire harnesses, cables and electromechanical assemblies, printed circuit boards and higher-level assemblies for a wide range of commercial and defense industries. We provide a full "turn-key" contract manufacturing service to our customers. All products are built to the customer's design specifications. Products are sold to customers both domestically and internationally. We also provide repair service on circuit boards used in machines in the medical industry.

Our manufacturing facilities are located in Bemidji, Fairmont, Blue Earth, Merrifield and Baxter, Minnesota as well as Augusta, Wisconsin, Garner, Iowa and Monterrey, Mexico.

A summary of our significant accounting policies follows:

***Use of Estimates***

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of our consolidated financial statements. Estimates also affect the reported amounts of revenue and expense during the reporting period. Significant items subject to estimates and assumptions include the valuation allowance for inventories and allowance for doubtful accounts. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

***Cash and Cash Equivalents***

For purposes of reporting cash flows, we consider cash equivalents to be short-term, highly liquid interest-bearing accounts readily convertible to cash.

***Restricted Cash***

As of December 31, 2008, restricted cash of \$427,500 is to be used for the purchase of equipment and facility upgrades at the Blue Earth, Minnesota facility. This is required by the Industrial Revenue Bond agreement into which we entered on June 28, 2006 to purchase the Blue Earth, Minnesota facility (See Note 5).

***Accounts Receivable and Allowance for Doubtful Accounts***

We grant credit to customers in the normal course of business. Accounts receivable are unsecured and are presented net of an allowance for uncollectible accounts. The allowance for uncollectible accounts was \$492,000 and \$184,000 at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. We determine our allowance by considering a number of factors, including the length of time accounts receivable are past due, our previous loss history, the customers' current ability to pay their obligations to us, and the condition of the general economy and the industry as a whole. We write-off accounts receivable when they become uncollectible, and payments subsequently received on such receivables are credited to the allowance for uncollectible accounts. We accrue interest on past due accounts receivable that we have deemed collectable.

***Inventories***

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost (first-in, first-out method) or market (based on the lower of replacement cost or net realizable value). Costs include material, labor, and overhead required in the warehousing and production of our products. Inventory reserves are maintained for the estimated value of the inventory that may have a lower value than stated or quantities in excess of future production needs. Inventories are shown net of reserves for excess and obsolete inventory as follows:

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|                 | <b>2008</b>          | <b>2007</b>          |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Raw materials   | \$ 13,483,021        | \$ 13,163,633        |
| Work in process | 4,126,710            | 4,307,282            |
| Finished goods  | 4,433,648            | 2,709,033            |
| Reserves        | (1,340,235)          | (1,303,484)          |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>\$ 20,703,144</b> | <b>\$ 18,876,464</b> |

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## NORTECH SYSTEMS INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARY

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

## NOTE 1 NATURE OF BUSINESS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

*Property, Equipment and Depreciation*

Property and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Additions, improvements and major renewals are capitalized, while maintenance, repairs and minor renewals are expensed as incurred. When assets are retired or disposed of, the assets and related accumulated depreciation are removed from the accounts and the resulting gain or loss is reflected in operations. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of their estimated use lives or their remaining lease terms. All other property and equipment are depreciated by the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives, as follows:

|                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Buildings                  | 39 Years  |
| Leasehold improvements     | 3-7 Years |
| Manufacturing equipment    | 5-7 Years |
| Office and other equipment | 3-7 Years |

*Goodwill and Finite Life Intangible Assets*

We account for goodwill and other intangible assets in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) 142, "Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets," which requires that goodwill and certain indefinite-lived assets not be amortized but evaluated annually for impairment. Finite life intangible assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives. Finite life intangible assets at December 31, 2008 and 2007 are as follows:

| December 31, 2008 |                               |                             |                                       |                                |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                   | Estimated<br>Lives<br>(Years) | Gross<br>Carrying<br>Amount | Accumulated<br>Amortization<br>Amount | Net<br>Book<br>Value<br>Amount |
| Bond Issue Costs  | 15                            | \$ 79,373                   | \$ 13,230                             | \$ 66,143                      |
| Customer Base     | 5                             | 676,557                     | 259,345                               | 417,212                        |
| Other intangibles | 3                             | 28,560                      | 18,245                                | 10,315                         |
| Totals            |                               | \$ 784,490                  | \$ 290,820                            | \$ 493,670                     |

| December 31, 2007 |                               |                             |                                       |                                |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                   | Estimated<br>Lives<br>(Years) | Gross<br>Carrying<br>Amount | Accumulated<br>Amortization<br>Amount | Net<br>Book<br>Value<br>Amount |
| Bond Issue Costs  | 15                            | \$ 79,373                   | \$ 7,938                              | \$ 71,435                      |
| Customer Base     | 5                             | 676,557                     | 124,035                               | 552,522                        |
| Other intangibles | 3                             | 94,347                      | 74,513                                | 19,834                         |
| Totals            |                               | \$ 850,277                  | \$ 206,486                            | \$ 643,791                     |

Table of Contents**NORTECH SYSTEMS INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARY****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007****NOTE 1 NATURE OF BUSINESS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

Amortization expense related to these assets was as follows:

|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Year ended December 31, 2008 | \$ 150,121 |
| Year ended December 31, 2007 | 172,944    |

Estimated future annual amortization expense related to these assets for the years ending December 31, is as follows:

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| 2009       | \$ 150,000 |
| 2010       | 141,000    |
| 2011       | 141,000    |
| 2012       | 17,000     |
| 2013       | 5,000      |
| Thereafter | 40,000     |

***Impairment Analysis***

We evaluate property and equipment and intangible assets with finite lives for impairment and for propriety of the related amortization periods, to determine whether adjustments to these amounts or useful lives are required based on current events and circumstances. The evaluation is based on our projection of the undiscounted future operating cash flows of the underlying assets. To the extent such projections indicate that future undiscounted cash flows are not sufficient to recover the carrying amounts of related assets, a charge might be required to reduce the carrying amount to the asset's estimated fair value. To date, we have determined that no impairment of long-lived assets exists.

***Preferred Stock***

Preferred stock issued is non-cumulative and nonconvertible. The holders of the preferred stock are entitled to a non-cumulative dividend of 12% when and as declared. In liquidation, holders of preferred stock have preference to the extent of \$1.00 per share plus dividends accrued but unpaid. No preferred stock dividends were declared or paid during the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007.

***Revenue Recognition***

We recognize revenue upon shipment of manufactured products to customers, when title has passed, all contractual obligations have been satisfied and collection of the resulting receivable is reasonably assured. We also provide engineering services separate from the manufacture of a product. Revenue for engineering services is recognized upon completion of the engineering process, providing standalone fair value to our customers. Our engineering services are short-term in nature. In addition, we have another separate source of revenue that comes from short-term repair services, which are recognized upon completion of the repairs, and the repaired products are shipped back to the customer. Shipping and handling costs charged to our customers are included in net sales, while the corresponding shipping expenses are included in cost of goods sold.

***Product Warranties***

We provide limited warranty for the replacement or repair of defective product at no cost to our customers within a specified time period after the sale. We make no other guarantees or warranties, expressed or implied, of any nature whatsoever as to the goods including without limitation, warranties to merchantability, fit for a particular purpose or non-infringement of patent or the like unless agreed upon in writing. We estimate the costs that may be incurred under our limited warranty and reserve based on actual historical warranty claims coupled with an analysis of unfulfilled claims at the balance sheet date. Our warranty claims costs are not material given the nature of our products and services which normally result in repair and return in the same accounting period.

***Advertising***

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Advertising costs are charged to operations as incurred. The total amount charged to expense was \$212,742 and \$160,343 for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively

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**NORTECH SYSTEMS INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARY**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

**NOTE 1 NATURE OF BUSINESS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

***Income Taxes***

We account for income taxes under the asset and liability method. Deferred income tax assets and liabilities are recognized annually for differences between the financial statement and tax basis of assets and liabilities that will result in taxable or deductible amounts in the future based on enacted tax laws and rates applicable to the periods in which the differences are expected to affect taxable income. Valuation allowances are established when necessary to reduce deferred tax assets to the amount expected to be realized.

***Fair Value of Financial Instruments***

The carrying amounts of all financial instruments approximate their fair values. The carrying amounts for cash, receivables, payables, accrued liabilities and the line of credit approximate fair value because of the short maturity of these instruments. Based on the borrowing rates currently available to us for bank loans with similar terms and average maturities, the carrying value of our long-term debt approximates its fair value.

In September 2006 the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued SFAS 157, "*Fair Value Measurements*". SFAS 157 defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value, and expands disclosures about fair value measurement. SFAS 157 also emphasizes that fair value is a market-based measurement, not an entity-specific measurement, and sets out a fair value hierarchy with the highest priority being quoted prices in active markets. Under SFAS 157, fair value measurements are disclosed by level within that hierarchy. The FASB approved a one-year deferral for the implementation of SFAS 157 with regard to nonfinancial assets and liabilities that are not recognized or disclosed at fair value in the financial statements on a recurring basis.

The adoption of SFAS 157 for financial assets and financial liabilities, effective January 1, 2008, did not have a significant impact on our consolidated financial position and results of operations. We are currently assessing the potential effect of the adoption of the remaining provisions of SFAS 157 on our financial position, results of operations and cash flows.

The fair value framework requires the categorization of assets and liabilities into one of three levels based on the assumptions (inputs) used in valuing the asset or liability. Level 1 provides the most reliable measure of fair value, while Level 3 generally requires significant management judgment. The three levels are defined as follows:

Level 1: Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2: Observable inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets or quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in inactive markets.

Level 3: Unobservable inputs reflecting management's own assumptions about the inputs used in pricing the asset or liability.

We endeavor to use the best available information in measuring fair value. Financial assets and liabilities are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. As of December 31, 2008, our only financial liability accounted for at fair value on a recurring basis is our interest rate swap included in other long-term liabilities. We have determined that the fair value of the swap, based on LIBOR and swap rates, falls within Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy. The application of SFAS 157 did not change our valuation techniques from prior periods.

***Stock-Based Compensation***

We account for stock-based compensation in accordance with SFAS 123R, "*Share-Based Payment*". Stock-based compensation expense recognized under SFAS 123R was \$277,862 (\$.10 per diluted common share) for 2008 and \$255,012 (\$.09 per diluted common share) for 2007. See Note 9 for additional information.



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**NORTECH SYSTEMS INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARY**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

**NOTE 1 NATURE OF BUSINESS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

***Derivative Financial Instruments***

SFAS No.133, "Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities," as amended, defines derivatives and requires that they be carried at fair value on the balance sheet. On June 28, 2006, we entered into an interest rate swap agreement to effectively convert our industrial revenue bond debt from a variable rate to a fixed rate. The change in market value of an interest rate swap is recognized in the statements of income by a charge or credit to interest expense. Further information related to our interest rate swap is disclosed in Note 5.

***Net Income Per Common Share***

Basic net income per common share is computed using the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding. Diluted net income per common share is computed using the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding and potential common shares from the assumed exercise of stock options outstanding during the period using the treasury stock method.

***Recent Accounting Pronouncements***

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS 141R, "Business Combinations" and SFAS 160, "Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements an amendment of ARB No. 51. These new standards significantly change the accounting for and reporting of business combination transactions and noncontrolling interests (previously referred to as minority interests) in consolidated financial statements. SFAS 141R and SFAS 160 are effective as of the beginning of our 2009 fiscal year. The effects of SFAS 141R on our consolidated financial statements will depend on the nature and significance of any future acquisitions subject to SFAS 141R.

In March 2008, the FASB issued SFAS 161, "Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities" (SFAS 161). The new standard is intended to improve financial reporting about derivative instruments and hedging activities by requiring enhanced disclosures to enable investors to better understand their effects on an entity's financial position, results of operations and cash flows. SFAS 161 is effective for our consolidated financial statements issued for fiscal years and interim periods beginning with our quarter ended March 31, 2009. We do not expect the adoption of SFAS 161 to have a significant impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In April 2008, the FASB issued Staff Position No. 142-3, "Determination of the Useful Life of Intangible Assets" (FSP FAS 142-3). FSP FAS 142-3 amends the factors that should be considered in developing renewal or extension assumptions used to determine the useful life of a recognized intangible asset under SFAS 142, "Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets". It is effective for fiscal years and interim periods beginning with our quarter ended March 31, 2009, and will be applied prospectively to intangible assets acquired after the effective date. FSP FAS 142-3 also requires expanded disclosure related to the determination of intangible assets recognized as of, and subsequent to the effective date. The impact of FSP FAS 142-3 will depend on the size and nature of acquisitions on or after January 1, 2009.

***Supplemental Cash Flow and Noncash Investing Information***

We paid \$1,591,102 and \$615,597 in income taxes for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. We paid interest expense of \$683,001 and \$1,100,467 for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

For the year ended December 31, 2008, we had noncash investing activities of \$780,000 related to capital expenditures. For the year ended December 31, 2007, we had noncash operating activities of \$32,000, representing the cumulative effect of FIN 48 adoption, and noncash investing activities of \$200,000 attributable to the earnout payment accrual for our Garner, Iowa acquisition.

***Segment Reporting Information***

Our results of operations for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 represent a single reportable segment referred to as Contract Manufacturing within the Electronic Manufacturing Services industry. Export sales represent approximately 4% of consolidated sales for each of

the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007.

[Table of Contents](#)**NORTECH SYSTEMS INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARY****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007****NOTE 1 NATURE OF BUSINESS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

Noncurrent assets by country are as follows:

|                            | <b>United States</b> | <b>Mexico</b> | <b>Total</b>  |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>2008</b>                |                      |               |               |
| Net property and equipment | \$ 9,948,496         | \$ 296,712    | \$ 10,245,208 |
| Other assets               | 996,176              | 7,726         | 1,003,902     |
| <b>2007</b>                |                      |               |               |
| Net property and equipment | \$ 8,453,187         | \$ 471,495    | \$ 8,924,682  |
| Other assets               | 1,449,697            | 7,726         | 1,457,423     |

***Foreign Currency Translation***

Local currency is considered the functional currency for our operations outside the United States. Assets and liabilities are translated at year-end exchange rates. Income and expense items are translated at average rates of exchange prevailing during the year. Translation adjustments are recorded as a component of accumulated other comprehensive loss in shareholders' equity. Foreign exchange transaction gains and losses attributable to exchange rate movements on intercompany receivables and payables not deemed to be of a long-term investment nature are recorded in miscellaneous income (expense).

**NOTE 2 PRINCIPLES OF CONSOLIDATION**

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of our wholly owned subsidiary, Manufacturing Assembly Solutions of Monterrey, Inc. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated.

**NOTE 3 MAJOR CUSTOMERS AND CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK**

Financial instruments that potentially subject us to concentrations of credit risk consist principally of cash and accounts receivable. With regard to cash, we maintain our excess cash balances in checking and money market accounts at three high-credit quality financial institutions. These accounts may at times exceed federally insured limits. We have not experienced any losses in any of the short-term investment instruments we have used for excess cash balances. We do not require collateral on our receivables.

The global economy is currently experiencing a broad recession. Although we have not been significantly impacted through December 31, 2008, we are now experiencing increased customer order cancellations and delays.

Two divisions of General Electric, Co. (G.E.) combined accounted for 10% or more of our net sales during the past two years. G.E.'s Medical and Transportation Divisions together accounted for 20% and 17% of our net sales for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Accounts receivable from G.E.'s Medical and Transportation Divisions at December 31, 2008 and 2007 represented 19% and 10% of our total accounts receivable, respectively. Additionally, Northrop Grumman Corp. accounted for 18% and 16% of our net sales for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Accounts receivable from Northrop Grumman Corp. at December 31, 2008 and 2007 represented 8% and 21% of our total accounts receivable, respectively.

Historically, we have not experienced significant losses on customer receivable collections in any particular industry or geographic area.

**NOTE 4 ACCRUED HEALTH AND DENTAL CLAIMS**

We have partially self-insured our employee health and dental plans. We have contracted with two separate administrative service companies to supervise and administer the programs and act as representatives. Our health plan insures for excessive or unexpected claims and we are not liable for claims exceeding \$80,000 per individual per plan year and an estimated aggregate amount of \$4,473,000 for the plan year ending August



Table of Contents**NORTECH SYSTEMS INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARY****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007****NOTE 4 ACCRUED HEALTH AND DENTAL CLAIMS (Continued)**

2009. Our dental plan pays claims based on actual amounts incurred. Estimated unpaid claims for incurred health and dental services of \$446,000 and \$380,000 are reflected as accrued liabilities on the balance sheet at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

**NOTE 5 LONG-TERM DEBT**

On February 2, 2007, we entered into a 7th amendment to our credit agreement with Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. (WFB) increasing our line of credit arrangement from \$10 million to \$15 million and extending the maturity date of the line of credit to April 30, 2009. Additionally, the 7th amendment increased our real estate term note balance and extended the maturity date to May 31, 2012.

On August 15, 2008, we entered into an 8<sup>th</sup> amendment to our credit agreement with WFB, which expires if not renewed, on June 30, 2010 under which both the line of credit and real estate term note are subject to variations in the LIBOR rates. The line of credit and other installment debt with WFB contain certain covenants, which, among other things, require us to adhere to regular reporting requirements, abide by annual shareholder dividend limitations, maintain certain financial ratios, and limit the amount of annual capital expenditures. The availability under the line is subject to borrowing base requirements, and advances are at the discretion of the lender. At December 31, 2008, we have net unused availability under our line of credit of approximately \$8,200,000. The line is secured by substantially all of our assets.

During 2008 our line of credit bore interest at LIBOR + 1.75% (3.625% at December 31, 2008). The weighted-average interest rate on our line of credit was 4.52% and 8.21% for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. We had borrowings of \$4,367,562 and \$5,635,076 outstanding as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

A summary of long-term debt balances at December 31, 2008 and 2007 is as follows:

| <b>Description</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>2008</b>         | <b>2007</b>         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Term notes payable Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota, N.A., one note bears interest at LIBOR + 2.00% (approx. 3.875%), three notes bear interest at 7.31%, 6.67% and 4.95%, respectively; combined monthly principal payments of \$96,000 plus interest, maturities range from July 2008 to May 2012; secured by substantially all assets | \$ 4,157,501        | \$ 4,706,898        |
| Industrial revenue bond payable to the City of Blue Earth, Minnesota at December 31, 2008 bears interest at 4.07% and has a maturity date of June 1, 2021, with principal of \$130,000 payable annually on June 1                                                                                                                  | 1,180,000           | 1,310,000           |
| <b>Total long-term debt</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>5,337,501</b>    | <b>6,016,898</b>    |
| Current maturities of long-term debt                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | (951,437)           | (1,176,209)         |
| <b>Long-term debt net of current maturities</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>\$ 4,386,064</b> | <b>\$ 4,840,689</b> |

Table of Contents**NORTECH SYSTEMS INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARY****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007****NOTE 5 LONG-TERM DEBT (Continued)**

Future maturity requirements for long-term debt are as follows:

| <b>Years Ending December 31,</b> | <b>Amount</b>       |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2009                             | \$ 951,437          |
| 2010                             | 812,822             |
| 2011                             | 2,773,242           |
| 2012                             | 80,000              |
| 2013                             | 80,000              |
| Future                           | 640,000             |
|                                  | <b>\$ 5,337,501</b> |

On June 28, 2006, we entered into an interest rate swap agreement with a notional amount of \$1,440,000 to effectively convert our industrial revenue bond debt from a variable rate to a fixed rate of 4.07% for five years, maturing on June 28, 2011. The fair value of the swap at December 31, 2008 and 2007 was recorded as a long-term liability of \$64,805 and \$42,919, respectively, with the change in the fair value recorded as a component of interest expense.

**NOTE 6 INCOME TAXES**

The income tax expense for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 consists of the following:

|                        | <b>2008</b>         | <b>2007</b>       |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Current taxes Federal  | \$ 853,400          | \$ 907,400        |
| Current taxes State    | 187,800             | 114,000           |
| Current taxes Foreign  | 16,400              | 21,000            |
| Deferred taxes Federal | 71,200              | (130,400)         |
| Deferred taxes State   | (27,800)            | (14,000)          |
| Income tax expense     | <b>\$ 1,101,000</b> | <b>\$ 898,000</b> |

The statutory rate reconciliation for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 is as follows:

|                                                         | <b>2008</b>         | <b>2007</b>       |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Statutory federal tax provision                         | \$ 971,000          | \$ 842,000        |
| State income taxes, net of federal benefit              | 113,000             | 109,000           |
| Effect of foreign operations                            | (6,000)             | (3,000)           |
| Income tax credits                                      | (51,000)            | (69,000)          |
| Other, including benefit of income taxed at lower rates | 74,000              | 19,000            |
| Income tax expense                                      | <b>\$ 1,101,000</b> | <b>\$ 898,000</b> |

Income from operations before income taxes was derived from the following sources:

|          | <b>2008</b>  | <b>2007</b>  |
|----------|--------------|--------------|
| Domestic | \$ 2,790,000 | \$ 2,406,000 |
| Foreign  | 65,000       | 71,000       |

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|       |              |              |
|-------|--------------|--------------|
| Total | \$ 2,855,000 | \$ 2,477,000 |
|-------|--------------|--------------|

Table of Contents**NORTECH SYSTEMS INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARY****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007****NOTE 6 INCOME TAXES (Continued)**

Deferred tax assets (liabilities) at December 31, 2008 and 2007, consist of the following:

|                                                   | <b>2008</b>  | <b>2007</b>  |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Allowance for uncollectable accounts              | \$ 188,000   | \$ 69,000    |
| Inventories reserve                               | 513,000      | 489,000      |
| Accrued vacation                                  | 341,000      | 314,000      |
| Health insurance reserve                          | 171,000      | 143,000      |
| Non-compete amortization                          | 423,000      | 417,000      |
| Stock-based compensation                          | 88,000       | 75,000       |
| Other                                             | 503,000      | 157,000      |
| Deferred tax assets                               | 2,227,000    | 1,664,000    |
| Prepaid expenses                                  | (274,000)    | (180,000)    |
| Property and equipment                            | (664,000)    | (206,600)    |
| Deferred tax liabilities                          | (938,000)    | (386,600)    |
| Net deferred tax assets                           | \$ 1,289,000 | \$ 1,277,400 |
| Net current deferred tax assets                   | \$ 1,358,000 | \$ 974,000   |
| Net non-current deferred tax assets (liabilities) | (69,000)     | 303,400      |
| Net deferred tax assets                           | \$ 1,289,000 | \$ 1,277,400 |

We have determined that it is more likely than not that our deferred tax assets will be realized, principally through anticipated taxable income in future tax years. As a result, we have determined that establishing a valuation allowance on our deferred tax assets is not necessary.

In July 2006, the FASB issued Interpretation No. 48 (FIN 48), "*Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes - an Interpretation of SFAS 109*", which clarifies the accounting for uncertainty in tax positions. FIN 48 provides that the tax effects from an uncertain tax position can be recognized in our consolidated financial statements, only if the position is more likely than not to be sustained on audit, based on the technical merits of the position. We adopted FIN 48 on January 1, 2007. As required by FIN 48, we recognize the financial statement benefit of a tax position only after determining that the relevant tax authority would more likely than not sustain the position following an audit. For tax positions meeting the more-likely-than-not threshold, the amount recognized in the financial statements is the largest benefit that has a greater than 50 percent likelihood of being realized upon ultimate settlement with the relevant tax authority. At the adoption date, we applied FIN 48 to all tax positions for which the statute of limitations remained open. As a result of the implementation of FIN 48, we recognized a \$32,000 income taxes payable liability for unrecognized income tax benefits, as an adjustment to the January 1, 2007 retained earnings balance. At December 31, 2007 we also recorded an additional \$8,000 of income taxes payable and expense for unrecognized 2007 income tax benefits.

The following table sets forth changes in our total gross unrecognized tax benefit liabilities, excluding accrued interest, for the year ended December 31, 2008:

|                                        |           |
|----------------------------------------|-----------|
| Balance as of December 31, 2007        | \$ 40,000 |
| Tax positions related to current year: |           |
| Additions                              | 49,000    |
| Balance as of December 31, 2008        | \$ 89,000 |

## Edgar Filing: NORTECH SYSTEMS INC - Form 10-K

The \$89,000 of unrecognized tax benefits as of December 31, 2008, includes amounts which, if ultimately recognized will reduce our annual effective tax rate.

Table of Contents**NORTECH SYSTEMS INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARY****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007****NOTE 6 INCOME TAXES (Continued)**

Our policy is to accrue interest related to potential underpayment of income taxes within the provision for income taxes. The liability for accrued interest as of December 31, 2008 and as of the adoption of FIN 48 was not significant. Interest is computed on the difference between our uncertain tax benefit positions under FIN 48 and the amount deducted or expected to be deducted in our tax returns.

Due to statute expiration, an approximate \$16,000 decrease could occur with respect to our FIN 48 reserve in the next twelve months. This reserve, including associated interest, relates to federal research tax credits.

We are subject to income taxes in the U.S. federal jurisdiction and various state jurisdictions. Tax regulations within each jurisdiction are subject to the interpretation of the related tax laws and regulations and require significant judgment to apply. With few exceptions, we are no longer subject to U.S. federal, state or local income tax examinations by tax authorities for the years before 2005. We are not currently under examination by any taxing jurisdiction.

**NOTE 7 COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

Comprehensive income is comprised of net income and other comprehensive loss. Other comprehensive loss includes losses resulting from foreign currency translations. The details of comprehensive income are as follows:

|                          | <b>Year Ended<br/>December 31,<br/>2008</b> | <b>Year Ended<br/>December 31,<br/>2007</b> |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Net income, as reported  | \$ 1,753,849                                | \$ 1,579,013                                |
| Other comprehensive loss | (61,716)                                    | (4,703)                                     |
| Comprehensive income     | \$ 1,692,133                                | \$ 1,574,310                                |

**NOTE 8 401(K) RETIREMENT PLAN**

We have a 401(k) profit sharing plan (the "Plan") for our employees. The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering all of our employees except for employees covered by a collective bargaining agreement and non-resident aliens earning non-U.S. source income. Employees are eligible to participate in the Plan after completing six months of service and attaining the age of 21. Employees are allowed to contribute up to 60% of their wages to the Plan. We match 25% of the employees' contribution up to 6% of covered compensation. We made contributions of \$229,140 and \$218,393 during the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

**NOTE 9 GAINSHARING INCENTIVE, STOCK OPTION AND RESTRICTED STOCK PLANS*****Employee Gainsharing***

During 1993, we adopted an employee gainsharing plan (the "Plan"). The purpose of the Plan is to provide a bonus for increased output, improved quality and productivity and reduced costs. We have authorized 50,000 common shares to be available under this Plan. In accordance with the terms of the Plan, employees can acquire newly issued shares of common stock for 90% of the current market value. During 2008 and 2007, 67 and 159 common shares, respectively, were issued in connection with this plan. Through December 31, 2008, 22,081 common shares have been issued under this Plan.



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**NORTECH SYSTEMS INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARY**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

**NOTE 9 GAINSHARING INCENTIVE, STOCK OPTION AND RESTRICTED STOCK PLANS (Continued)**

***Stock Options and Restricted Stock***

In 1992, we approved the adoption of a fixed stock based compensation plan. In February 2003, we reached the maximum options allowed to be granted under that plan.

During 2003, our shareholders approved the adoption of the Nortech Systems Incorporated 2003 Stock Option Plan (the "2003 Plan"). On May 3, 2005, the shareholders approved the 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan (the "2005 Plan") and eliminated the remaining 172,500 option shares available for grant under the 2003 Plan effective February 23, 2005. The total number of shares of common stock that may be granted under the 2005 Plan is 200,000, of which 3,500 remain available for grant at December 31, 2008. The 2005 Plan provides that option shares granted come from our authorized but unissued common stock. The price of the option shares granted under the plan will not be less than 100% of the fair market value of the common shares on the date of grant. Options are generally exercisable after one or more years and expire no later than 10 years from the date of grant.

During 2007, the Board of Directors approved the adoption of the FOCUS Incentive Plan (the "2007 Plan"). The purpose of the 2007 Plan is to provide incentives to our employees to increase our return on sales "ROS" performance measurement. The total number of shares of common stock that may be granted under the 2007 Plan is 490,000, of which 51,650 remain available for grant at December 31, 2008. The 2007 Plan provides that option shares granted come from our authorized but unissued common stock. The price of the option shares granted under the plan will not be less than 100% of the fair market value of the common shares on the date of grant. Options expire no later than 10 years from the date of grant. However, the FOCUS plan is unique from the preceding Plans in that vesting of options is conditional upon our achievement of established performance measurements as follows:

If we achieve 1.95% ROS for any of the three years ending 2007, 2008, or 2009, one-third of the options will vest.

If we achieve 3% ROS for either of the two calendar years 2008 or 2009, an additional one-third of the options will vest.

If we achieve 4% ROS for the calendar year 2009, the remaining one-third of the options will vest.

If these performance measures are not met, no options granted from the 2007 Plan will ever vest.

SFAS 123R requires companies to estimate the fair value of share-based awards on the date of grant using an option-pricing model. The value of the portion of the award that is ultimately expected to vest is recognized as expense in the consolidated statement of operations over the requisite service periods. Share-based compensation expense for share-based awards granted prior to, but not yet vested as of December 31, 2005, is based on the grant date fair value estimated in accordance with the provisions of SFAS 123. For options granted subsequent to December 31, 2005, compensation expense is based on the grant date fair value estimated in accordance with SFAS 123R. Because share-based compensation expense is based on awards that are ultimately expected to vest, share-based compensation expense will be reduced to account for estimated forfeitures. SFAS 123R requires forfeitures to be estimated at the time of grant and revised, if necessary, in subsequent periods if actual forfeitures differ from those estimates.

To calculate the stock-based compensation under SFAS 123R, we used the Black-Scholes option-pricing model. Our determination of fair value of option-based awards on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes model is affected by our stock price as well as assumptions regarding a number of subjective variables as noted in the following table. These variables include, but are not limited to, our expected stock price volatility over the term of the awards, risk-free interest rate, and the expected life of the options. The risk-free interest rate is based on a treasury instrument whose term is consistent with the expected life of our stock options. The expected volatility and holding period are based on our historical experience. For all grants, the amount of compensation



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## NORTECH SYSTEMS INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARY

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

## NOTE 9 GAINSHARING INCENTIVE, STOCK OPTION AND RESTRICTED STOCK PLANS (Continued)

expense recognized has been adjusted for an estimated forfeiture rate, which is based on historical data.

|                          | 2008           | 2007   |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------|
| Expected volatility      | 45.90 - 51.00% | 51.10% |
| Expected dividends       | None           | None   |
| Expected term (in years) | 5 - 7          | 7      |
| Risk-free rate           | 1.70 - 3.51%   | 5.02%  |

*Stock Options with Time-Based Vesting*

Total compensation expense related to stock options with time-based vesting for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 was \$205,625 and \$185,112, respectively. As of December 31, 2008 there was approximately \$183,000 of unrecognized compensation expense related to unvested option awards that we expect to recognize over a weighted-average period of 1.65 years.

*Stock Options with Performance-Based Vesting*

As mentioned previously, the vesting of options granted under the 2007 Plan is conditional upon our achievement of established performance measurements. At December 31, 2008, management has estimated the probability of achieving any of the performance goals is less than 50%, thus in accordance with provisions of SFAS 123R, no compensation expense has been recorded for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2008. As of December 31, 2008 there was approximately \$1,738,000 of unrecognized compensation expense relating to the performance-based stock options.

A summary of option activity under all plans as of December 31, 2008, and changes during the year then ended is presented below

|                                  | Options  | Weighted-Average Exercise Price Per Share | Weighted-Average Remaining Contractual Term (in years) | Aggregate Intrinsic Value |
|----------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Outstanding January 1, 2008      | 809,500  | \$ 7.30                                   |                                                        |                           |
| Granted                          | 59,350   | 6.33                                      |                                                        |                           |
| Exercised                        | (24,000) | 5.70                                      |                                                        |                           |
| Forfeited                        | (45,000) | 7.50                                      |                                                        |                           |
| Outstanding December 31, 2008    | 799,850  | \$ 7.27                                   | 7.49                                                   | \$ 19,250                 |
| Exercisable on December 31, 2008 | 280,830  | \$ 7.04                                   | 5.41                                                   | \$ 19,250                 |

The weighted-average grant-date fair values of options granted during 2008 and 2007 were \$3.13 and \$4.40, respectively. The weighted-average fair value of options vested during the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 were \$4.29 and \$4.32, respectively. The total intrinsic value of options exercised during the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 were \$56,960 and \$105,720, respectively. At December 31, 2007, 258,000 shares were exercisable.

Cash received from option exercise under all share-based payment arrangements for the year ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 was \$137,181 and \$201,100, respectively. SFAS 123R also requires that the tax benefit from the exercise of options be reflected in the statement of cash flows as a cash inflow from financing activities. The actual tax benefit realized for the tax deductions from the exercise of the share-based

payment arrangements amount to \$0 and \$38,000 for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Table of Contents**NORTECH SYSTEMS INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARY****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007****NOTE 9 GAINSHARING INCENTIVE, STOCK OPTION AND RESTRICTED STOCK PLANS (Continued)*****Restricted Stock***

In March 2006, 28,500 shares of restricted common stock were granted to our management and directors. This benefit was valued at the market price of the stock on the date of grant. These awards vest over a three-year term and are expensed ratably over the same period. The arrangements contained an acceleration condition whereby if we attain certain financial measurements, the awards would vest in their entirety on December 31, 2006. The acceleration conditions were not met, thus the awards vested ratably over the full vesting period as stated in the agreement. Total compensation expense related to restricted stock included in the statements of income for the year ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 was \$72,233 and \$69,900, respectively. The following is the status of our restricted shares as of December 31, 2008, including changes during the year ended December 31, 2008:

|                                    | <b>Restricted<br/>Shares</b> | <b>Weighted-Average<br/>Grant</b> |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Non-vested as of December 31, 2007 | 9,500                        | \$ 7.44                           |
| Vested                             | (9,500)                      | 7.44                              |
| Non-vested as of December 31, 2008 |                              | \$                                |

As of December 31, 2008 and 2007, there was approximately \$0 and \$70,000, respectively, of unrecognized compensation expense related to unvested restricted stock awards.

**NOTE 10 COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES*****Operating Leases***

We have various operating leases for production and office equipment, office space, and buildings under non-cancelable lease agreements expiring on various dates through 2011.

Rent expense, which includes amounts for other short-term leases, for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 amounted to approximately \$1,017,000 and \$1,015,000 respectively.

Approximate future minimum lease payments under non-cancelable leases are as follows:

| <b>Years Ending December 31,</b> | <b>Amount</b> |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| 2009                             | \$ 352,000    |
| 2010                             | 155,000       |
| 2011                             | 32,000        |
| Total                            | \$ 539,000    |

***Litigation***

We are subject to various legal proceedings and claims that arise in the ordinary course of business. In our opinion, the amount of any ultimate liability with respect to these actions will not materially affect our consolidated financial statements or results of operations.

***Executive Life Insurance Plan***

During 2002, we set up an Executive Bonus Life Insurance Plan (the "Plan") for our key employees ("participants"). Pursuant to the Plan, we will pay a bonus to officer participants of 15% and a bonus to all other participants of 10% of the participants' base annual salary, as well as an additional bonus to cover federal and state taxes incurred by the participants. The participants are required to purchase life insurance and retain ownership of the life insurance policy once it is purchased. The Plan provides a five-year graded vesting schedule in which the participants vest at a rate of 20% each year. Should a participant terminate employment prior to the fifth year of vesting, that participant may be required to reimburse us for any unvested amounts, under certain circumstances. Expenses under the Plan were \$322,000 and \$304,000 for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

***Change of Control Agreements***

During 2002, we entered into Change of Control Agreements (the "Agreement(s)") with certain key executives ("the Executive(s)"). The Agreements provide an inducement for each Executive to remain as an employee in the event of any proposed or anticipated change of control in the organization, including facilitating an orderly transition, and to provide economic security for the Executive after a change in control has occurred.

Table of Contents**NORTECH SYSTEMS INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARY****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007****NOTE 10 COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (Continued)**

In the event of an involuntarily termination, each Executive would receive their base salary, annual bonus at time of termination, and continued participation in health, disability and life insurance plans for a period of three years for officers and two years for all other participants. Participants would also receive professional outplacement services up to \$10,000 if applicable. Each Agreement remains in full force until the Executive terminates employment or we terminate the employment of the Executive.

**NOTE 11 NET INCOME PER COMMON SHARE**

The following is a reconciliation of the numerators and the denominators of the diluted net income per common share computations.

|                                                                        | <b>2008</b>  | <b>2007</b>  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Diluted Net Income Per Common Share</b>                             |              |              |
| Net Income                                                             | \$ 1,753,849 | \$ 1,579,013 |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding                             | 2,719,250    | 2,690,717    |
| Stock options                                                          | 21,331       | 29,030       |
| Restricted Stock                                                       | 5,576        | 5,139        |
| Weighted average common shares for diluted net income per common share | 2,746,157    | 2,724,886    |
| Diluted net income per common share*                                   | \$ 0.64      | \$ 0.58      |

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\*

For 2008 and 2007, there were approximately 250,140 and 267,609 shares, respectively, which were excluded from the computation of diluted net income per share because to include them would be antidilutive. Performance based options outstanding under the 2007 Plan of 438,500 and 460,000 at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively, which are not probable of vesting are also excluded from diluted earnings per share pursuant to SFAS 128 "Earnings per Share".

**NOTE 12 BUSINESS ACQUISITION*****Acquisition of Suntron's Midwest Operations***

On February 4, 2007, we purchased substantially all of the assets and assumed certain liabilities of Suntron's Midwest Operations located in Garner, Iowa. This operation is an Electronics Manufacturer Service (EMS) provider of printed circuit board assemblies, box build assemblies and repair services. This acquisition strengthened our capabilities in printed circuit board assemblies and high level complete box build assemblies while opening new market segments in the agriculture and oil and gas industries.

We accounted for the acquisition under the purchase method of accounting in accordance with SFAS 141, "Business Combinations". Accordingly, the purchase price was allocated to the tangible and identified intangible assets acquired and liabilities assumed based on our estimates of fair value at the acquisition date.

Table of Contents**NORTECH SYSTEMS INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARY****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007****NOTE 12 BUSINESS ACQUISITION (Continued)**

The following table presents further information on the aforementioned business acquisition and the allocation of the purchase price:

|                                                    |              |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Accounts receivable                                | \$ 1,981,000 |
| Inventories                                        | 2,283,000    |
| Other current assets                               | 88,000       |
| Property, plant and equipment                      | 822,000      |
| Finite life intangibles                            | 734,000      |
| Accounts payable assumed                           | (819,000)    |
| Accrued compensation and other liabilities assumed | (81,000)     |
| Net assets acquired and liabilities assumed        | \$ 5,008,000 |
| Cash consideration Paid                            | \$ 4,808,000 |
| Earnout payment                                    | 200,000      |
| Total purchase price                               | \$ 5,008,000 |

The finite life intangibles acquired of \$734,000 include a customer base of approximately \$676,000, being amortized over an estimated life of five years, a non-competition agreement of approximately \$29,000 being amortized over an estimated life of three years, and a customer backlog of approximately \$29,000 which was amortized over six months. For tax purposes, these assets are deductible over a 15-year period. This difference gives rise to deferred income taxes.

The table below reflects our unaudited pro forma combined results of operations as if the acquisition had taken place as of January 1, 2007:

|                                     | <b>Pro Forma<br/>Year<br/>Ended<br/>2007<br/>(unaudited)</b> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Net Sales                           | \$ 119,259,000                                               |
| Net Income                          | \$ 1,553,000                                                 |
| Basic net income per common share   | \$ 0.57                                                      |
| Diluted net income per common share | \$ 0.56                                                      |

The pro forma unaudited results do not purport to be indicative of the results which would have been obtained had the acquisition been completed as of the beginning of the earliest period presented.

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**Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm on Supplementary Information**

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders  
Nortech Systems Incorporated and Subsidiary

Our audits were conducted in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) and were made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic consolidated financial statements taken as a whole. The consolidated supplemental Schedule II is presented for purposes of complying with the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and is not a part of the basic consolidated financial statements. This schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audits of the basic consolidated financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to such basic consolidated financial statements taken as a whole.

/s/ MCGLADREY & PULLEN, LLP

Minneapolis, Minnesota  
March 11, 2009

Table of Contents**NORTECH SYSTEMS INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARY****SCHEDULE II Valuation and Qualifying Accounts****FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

| <b>Classification</b>                | <b>Balance at<br/>Beginning<br/>of Year</b> | <b>Additions<br/>Charged<br/>to Costs<br/>And<br/>Expenses</b> | <b>Add<br/>(Deduct)</b> | <b>Balance<br/>at<br/>End of<br/>Year</b> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>Year Ended December 31, 2008:</b> |                                             |                                                                |                         |                                           |
| Allowance for Uncollectible Accounts | \$ 183,824                                  | \$ 324,055                                                     | \$ (16,250)             | \$ 491,629                                |
| Inventory Reserves                   | 1,303,484                                   | 992,798                                                        | (956,047)               | 1,340,235                                 |
| Self-insurance Accrual               | 380,000                                     | 4,809,075                                                      | (4,742,973)             | 446,102                                   |
| <b>Year Ended December 31, 2007:</b> |                                             |                                                                |                         |                                           |
| Allowance for Uncollectible Accounts | \$ 219,690                                  | \$ 70,716                                                      | \$ (106,582)            | \$ 183,824                                |
| Inventory Reserves                   | 1,295,656                                   | 1,054,246                                                      | (1,046,418)             | 1,303,484                                 |
| Self-insurance Accrual               | 325,000                                     | 5,214,567                                                      | (5,159,567)             | 380,000                                   |

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**ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE**

None.

**ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

(a) *Evaluation of disclosure controls and procedures.* In accordance with Rule 13a-15(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"), as of the end of the period covered by this Annual Report on Form 10-K, the Company's management evaluated, with the participation of the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Exchange Act). Based upon their evaluation of these disclosure controls and procedures, the President and Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer have concluded that the disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the date of such evaluation in ensuring that information required to be disclosed in the Company's Exchange Act reports is (1) recorded, processed, summarized and reported in a timely manner, and (2) accumulated and communicated to management, including the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

(b) *Changes in internal control.* There was no change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the period covered by this Annual Report on Form 10-K that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

**Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

Management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting. Our internal control system was designed to provide reasonable assurance to management and the board of directors regarding the effectiveness of our internal control processes over the preparation and fair presentation of published financial statements.

All internal control systems, no matter how well designed, have inherent limitations. Therefore, even those systems determined effective can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation and presentation.

We have assessed the effectiveness of our internal controls over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008. In making this assessment, we used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) in Internal Control Integrated Framework. Based on our assessment, we believe that, as of December 31, 2008, our internal control over financial reporting is effective based on those criteria.

This annual report does not include an attestation report of the Company's independent registered public accounting firm regarding internal control over financial reporting. Management's report was not subject to attestation by the Company's independent registered public accounting firm pursuant to the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission that permit the Company to provide only management's report in this annual report.

**ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION**

None.

Table of Contents**PART III****ITEM 10. DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRANT**

Information regarding the directors and executive officers of the Registrant will be included in the Registrant's 2008 proxy statement to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission not later than May 31, 2009 and said portions of the proxy statement are incorporated herein by reference.

**ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

Information regarding executive compensation of the Registrant will be included in the Registrant's 2008 proxy statements to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission not later than May 31, 2009 and said portions of the proxy statement are incorporated herein by reference.

**ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

Information regarding security ownership of certain beneficial owners and management of the Registrant will be included in the Registrant's 2008 proxy statements to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission no later than May 31, 2009 and said portions of the proxy statements are incorporated herein by reference.

Information regarding executive compensation plans (including individual compensation arrangements) as of the end of the last fiscal year, on two categories of equity compensation plans (that is, plans that have been approved by security holders and plans that have not been approved by security holders) will be included in the Registrant's 2008 proxy statements to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission no later than May 31, 2009 and said portions of the proxy statements are incorporated herein by reference.

The following table provides information about our equity compensation plans (including individual compensation arrangements) as of December 31, 2008.

| <b>Plan category</b>                                       | <b>Number of securities to be issued upon the exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights(1)</b> | <b>Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights</b> | <b>Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in the first column)(2)</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Equity compensation plans approved by security holders     | 799,850                                                                                                   | \$ 7.27                                                                            | 55,150                                                                                                                                                      |
| Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders | 0                                                                                                         | 0                                                                                  | 0                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Total</b>                                               | <b>799,850</b>                                                                                            | <b>\$ 7.27</b>                                                                     | <b>55,150</b>                                                                                                                                               |

(1) Represents common shares issuable upon the exercise of outstanding options granted under our 1992 Employee Stock Incentive Plan (the "1992 Plan"), the 2003 Stock Option Plan (the "2003 Plan"), the 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan (the "2005 Plan") and the 2007 FOCUS Incentive Compensation Plan (the "2007 Plan").

(2) Represents common shares remaining available under the 2005 and 2007 Plans.



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**ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS**

The information required by this Item is included under the captions "Certain Transactions" and "Executive Compensation Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation" in the Proxy Statement and when the Proxy Statement is filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission will be incorporated herein by reference.

**ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES**

The information required by this Item is included under the caption "Miscellaneous-Independent Auditor Fees" in the Proxy Statement and, when the Proxy Statement is filed, will be incorporated herein by reference.

**PART IV**

**ITEM 15. EXHIBITS, CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SCHEDULES**

- (a)1. Consolidated Financial Statements consolidated financial statements and related notes are included in Part II, Item 8, and are identified in the Index on Page 20.
- (a)2. Consolidated Financial Statement Schedule The following financial statement schedule and the Auditors' report thereon is included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K:

|                                                                                             | <b>Page</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm on Supplementary Information</u> | <u>37</u>   |
| Consolidated Financial Statement Schedule for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007:   |             |
| <u>Schedule II Valuation and Qualifying Accounts</u>                                        | <u>38</u>   |

All other schedules are omitted because the required information is inapplicable or the information is presented in the consolidated financial statements or related notes.

- (a)3. The following exhibits are incorporated herein by reference:

- 10.4 Eighth Amendment to Amended and Restated Credit and Security Agreement, Amended and Restated Revolving Note between the Company and Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota National Association.
- 23.1 Consent of McGladrey & Pullen, LLP.
- 31.1 Certification of the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) and Rule 15d-14(a), promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.
- 31.2 Certification of the Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) and Rule 15d-14(a), promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.
- 32.1 Certification of the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

The following exhibits are incorporated by reference to exhibits accompanying our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008.

- 10.4 Eighth Amendment to Amended and Restated Credit and Security Agreement, Amended and Restated Revolving Note between the Company and Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota National Association.

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**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) 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.

NORTECH SYSTEMS INCORPORATED

March 19, 2009

By: /s/ RICHARD G. WASIELEWSKI

Richard G. Wasielewski  
*Chief Financial Officer and  
Principal Accounting Officer*

March 19, 2009

By: /s/ MICHAEL J. DEGEN

Michael J. Degen  
*President, Chief Executive  
Officer and Director*

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated have signed this report.

March 19, 2009

/s/ MICHAEL J. DEGEN

Michael J. Degen  
*President, Chief Executive  
Officer and Director*

March 19, 2009

/s/ MYRON KUNIN

Myron Kunin  
*Chairman and Director*

March 19, 2009

/s/ RICHARD W. PERKINS

Richard W. Perkins,  
*Director*

March 19, 2009

/s/ C. TRENT RILEY

C. Trent Riley,  
*Director*

March 19, 2009

/s/ KEN LARSON

Ken Larson,  
*Director*

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**INDEX TO EXHIBITS**

**DESCRIPTIONS OF EXHIBITS**

- |      |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10.4 | Eighth Amendment to Amended and Restated Credit and Security Agreement, Amended and Restated Revolving Note between the Company and Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota National Association. |
| 23.1 | Consent of McGladrey & Pullen, LLP                                                                                                                                                   |
| 31.1 | Certification of the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) and Rule 15d-14(a), promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.                       |
| 31.2 | Certification of the Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) and Rule 15d-14(a), promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.                       |
| 32.1 | Certification of the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.                                      |