

Cowen Group, Inc.
Form PRER14A
September 30, 2009

Use these links to rapidly review the document

[TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

[INDEX TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF LEXINGTONPARK PARENT CORP.](#)

[INDEX TO RAMIUS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS](#)

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

SCHEDULE 14A

(Rule 14A-10-101)

**Information Required in Proxy Statement
Schedule 14A Information
Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

Cowen Group, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
- (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
LexingtonPark Parent Corp. Class A Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share
- (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
17,240,929

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

- (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

The proposed maximum transaction value was determined by multiplying \$7.63 (the average of the high and low prices of Cowen common stock on July 8, 2009) by 17,240,929 (the total number of shares to be registered). A rate of \$55.80 was applied per \$1 million of the total maximum aggregate offering price to determine the filing fee.

- (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

\$131,548,288

- (5) Total fee paid:

\$7,340.39

- o Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

- ý Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

- (1) Amount Previously Paid: \$7,340.39

- (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.: Registration No. 333-160525

- (3) Filing Party: LexingtonPark Parent Corp.

- (4) Date Filed: July 10, 2009
-

The information in this proxy statement/prospectus is not complete and may be changed. The securities offered by this proxy statement/prospectus may not be sold until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This proxy statement/prospectus does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities in any jurisdiction where an offer or solicitation is not permitted.

PRELIMINARY SUBJECT TO COMPLETION DATED SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

**1221 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020**

BUSINESS COMBINATION PROPOSED YOUR VOTE IS VERY IMPORTANT

Dear Stockholder:

The Board of Directors of Cowen Group, Inc. has unanimously approved a transaction agreement that provides for Cowen and Ramius LLC to combine into a new holding company. The new company will ultimately retain the Cowen Group, Inc. name, and its shares are expected to continue to trade on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the ticker symbol "COWN" when the transactions are completed. Cowen and Company, LLC will continue as the principal broker-dealer subsidiary of the new company.

When the transactions are completed, Cowen stockholders will receive one share of Class A common stock of the new company for each share of Cowen common stock held immediately prior to the completion of the transactions. Ramius will receive 37,536,826 shares of Class A common stock of the new company in exchange for transferring substantially all of the assets and liabilities of Ramius to the new company. In addition, HVB Alternative Advisors LLC, an affiliate of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., a third party investor in Ramius, or its designee (which we refer to collectively with HVB Alternative Advisors as HVB) will receive 2,713,882 shares of Class A common stock of the new company, and approximately \$10.4 million in cash or in the form of a note, in exchange for transferring to a subsidiary of the new company the 50% of the interest in Ramius's fund of funds business not already owned by Ramius. At completion of the transactions, on a fully diluted basis, former Cowen stockholders will collectively hold approximately 28.76% (including shares to be issued in conjunction with the transactions), Ramius will hold approximately 66.44% and HVB will hold approximately 4.80% of the outstanding shares of Class A common stock of the new company, and the new company will be a majority-owned subsidiary of Ramius.

The market value of the shares provided to Ramius and to HVB will fluctuate with the market price of Cowen common stock. The following table shows the closing sale price of Cowen common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market on June 3, 2009, the last trading day before public announcement of the transactions, and on September 29, 2009, the last practicable trading day before the distribution of this document. This table also shows the implied value of the shares proposed to be provided to Ramius and to HVB, which was calculated by multiplying the closing price of Cowen common stock on those dates by 40,250,708, the total number of shares to be provided to Ramius and HVB.

	Cowen Common Stock	Implied Value of Shares Provided to Ramius and HVB
At June 3, 2009	\$4.84	\$194,813,426.72
At September 29, 2009	\$7.50	\$301,880,310.00

Cowen will hold a special meeting of stockholders at 1221 Avenue of the Americas (2nd Floor Conference Room), New York, New York on October 30, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. local time, to consider and vote on this proposal and other related proposals. Approval and adoption of the transaction agreement and the transactions it contemplates requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of Cowen common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting. Whether or not you plan to attend the special meeting, please take the time to submit a proxy by following the instructions on your proxy card.

The Cowen Board of Directors unanimously recommends that Cowen stockholders vote "FOR" the proposal to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and the transactions it contemplates.

Table of Contents

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

Cowen Group, Inc. will hold a special meeting of stockholders at 1221 Avenue of the Americas (2nd Floor Conference Room), New York, New York at 10:00 a.m., local time, on October 30, 2009, to consider and vote on the following matters:

a proposal to approve and adopt the Transaction Agreement and Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of June 3, 2009 (which we refer to as the transaction agreement), by and among Cowen, LexingtonPark Parent Corp. (which we refer to as New Parent), Lexington Merger Corp., Park Exchange LLC and Ramius LLC, and approve the issuance of 37,536,826 shares of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius as contemplated by the transaction agreement;

a proposal to approve an amendment to the Cowen Group, Inc. 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan (which we refer to as the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan); and

a proposal to approve the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies, if there are not sufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to approve the foregoing proposals.

The Cowen Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on September 24, 2009 as the record date for the special meeting. Only Cowen stockholders of record at that time are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the special meeting or any adjournment or postponement of the special meeting. Approval and adoption of the transaction agreement and approval of the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of Cowen common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting. Approval of the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan requires the affirmative vote of a majority of all shares of Cowen common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the special meeting and voting affirmatively or negatively on the proposal. Approval of the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan is not a condition to closing of the transactions contemplated by the transaction agreement. In addition, if approved, the amendment will only become effective if and when the transactions are completed.

Regardless of whether you plan to attend the special meeting, please submit your proxy with voting instructions. Please vote as soon as possible by accessing the internet site listed on the Cowen proxy card, by calling the toll-free number listed on the Cowen proxy card or by submitting your proxy card by mail. If you hold your stock in "street name" through a bank or broker, you must direct your bank or broker to vote in accordance with the instruction form included with these materials and forwarded to you by your bank or broker. Voting by one of the foregoing methods will not prevent you from voting in person, but it will help to secure a quorum and avoid added solicitation costs. Any holder of Cowen common stock who is present at the special meeting may vote in person instead of by proxy, thereby canceling any previous proxy. In any event, a proxy may be revoked in writing at any time before the special meeting in the manner described in the accompanying document.

The Cowen Board of Directors, by unanimous vote at a meeting duly called, approved and adopted the transaction agreement and approved the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius and has approved the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan and unanimously recommends that Cowen stockholders vote "FOR" the proposal to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and to approve the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius, "FOR" the proposal to approve the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan and "FOR" the proposal to approve the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies.

Table of Contents

Please do not send any stock certificates to Cowen.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,

J. Kevin McCarthy
General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

[], 2009

**YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT. PLEASE VOTE YOUR SHARES PROMPTLY, REGARDLESS
OF WHETHER YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE SPECIAL MEETING.**

Table of Contents

REFERENCES TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This document incorporates by reference important business and financial information about Cowen from documents that are not included in or delivered with this document. You can obtain documents incorporated by reference in this document, other than specific exhibits to those documents, by requesting them in writing or by telephone at the following address:

Cowen Group, Inc.
1221 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020
Attention: J. Kevin McCarthy, General
Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Telephone: (646) 562-1000

You will not be charged for any of these documents that you request. Cowen stockholders requesting documents should do so by October 23, 2009 to receive them before the special meeting.

For more information, see the section titled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 195.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference into this document. No one has been authorized to provide you with information that is different from that contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this document. This document is dated [], 2009, and you should assume that the information in this document is accurate only as of such date. You should assume that the information incorporated by reference into this document is accurate as of the date of such information. Neither the mailing of this document to Cowen stockholders nor the issuance by the new company of common shares in connection with the transactions will create any implication to the contrary.

Information on the websites of Cowen and Ramius or any of their respective subsidiaries is not part of this document. You should not rely on that information in deciding how to vote.

This document does not constitute an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, any securities, or the solicitation of a proxy in any jurisdiction to or from any person to whom it is unlawful to make any such offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction. Information contained in this document regarding Cowen has been provided by Cowen, and information contained in this document regarding Ramius and its affiliates has been provided by Ramius and its affiliates.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT VOTING PROCEDURES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING</u>	iii
<u>SUMMARY</u>	1
<u>Selected Consolidated Historical Financial Data of Cowen</u>	18
<u>Selected Consolidated Historical Financial Data of Ramius</u>	20
<u>Unaudited Selected Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information</u>	21
<u>Comparative Per Share Data</u>	22
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	23
<u>Risks Related to the Completion of the Transactions</u>	23
<u>Risks Related to the Combined Company Following the Transactions</u>	25
<u>Risks Affecting the Companies Related to the Financial Services Industry</u>	30
<u>Risks Related to Ramius's Business</u>	31
<u>CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	42
<u>THE COWEN SPECIAL MEETING</u>	44
<u>Matters to Be Considered</u>	44
<u>Proxies</u>	44
<u>Solicitation of Proxies</u>	45
<u>Record Date</u>	45
<u>Quorum</u>	45
<u>Vote Required</u>	46
<u>Recommendation of the Cowen Board of Directors</u>	46
<u>Attending the Meeting</u>	47
<u>INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPANIES</u>	48
<u>Cowen</u>	48
<u>Ramius</u>	48
<u>New Parent</u>	50
<u>Merger Sub</u>	51
<u>Exchange Sub</u>	51
<u>UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</u>	52
<u>PROPOSAL 1: THE TRANSACTIONS</u>	66
<u>Background of the Transactions</u>	66
<u>Cowen's Reasons for the Transactions: Recommendation of Cowen Board of Directors</u>	70
<u>Opinion of Cowen's Financial Advisor</u>	73
<u>Ramius's Reasons for the Transactions</u>	84
<u>Public Trading Markets</u>	85
<u>Dividend Policy</u>	85
<u>Cowen Stockholders Do Not Have Dissenters' Appraisal Rights in the Transactions</u>	85
<u>Delisting and Deregistration of Cowen Common Stock after the Transactions</u>	85
<u>Regulatory Approvals Required for the Transactions</u>	86
<u>Interests of Certain Persons in the Transactions</u>	87
<u>THE TRANSACTION AGREEMENT</u>	91
<u>OTHER AGREEMENTS RELATED TO THE TRANSACTIONS</u>	106
<u>Asset Exchange Agreement</u>	106
<u>Registration Rights Agreement</u>	109
<u>Amendment to Investment Agreement with Ramius</u>	110
<u>Amendment to Investment Agreement with Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC</u>	111
<u>Voting Agreement</u>	111
<u>Transfer Restrictions on Shares of New Parent Common Stock Held by Ramius</u>	112

	Page
<u>ACCOUNTING TREATMENT</u>	<u>114</u>
<u>MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THE COWEN MERGER</u>	<u>115</u>
<u>BOARD AND MANAGEMENT OF NEW PARENT</u>	<u>117</u>
<u>CORPORATE GOVERNANCE OF NEW PARENT</u>	<u>124</u>
<u>COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS</u>	<u>128</u>
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK OF NEW PARENT</u>	<u>134</u>
<u>COMPARISON OF STOCKHOLDERS' RIGHTS</u>	<u>136</u>
<u>COMPARATIVE MARKET PRICES AND DIVIDENDS</u>	<u>138</u>
<u>SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT OF NEW PARENT</u>	<u>139</u>
<u>PROPOSAL 2: AMENDED 2007 EQUITY AND INCENTIVE PLAN</u>	<u>141</u>
<u>MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS OF RAMIUS</u>	<u>150</u>
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	<u>195</u>
<u>EXPERTS</u>	<u>195</u>
<u>OTHER MATTERS</u>	<u>195</u>
<u>STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR THE 2009 ANNUAL MEETING</u>	<u>195</u>
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	<u>195</u>
<u>INDEX TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF LEXINGTONPARK PARENT CORP.</u>	<u>F-1</u>
<u>INDEX TO RAMIUS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</u>	<u>F-5</u>

APPENDICES

<u>APPENDIX A</u>	<u>Transaction Agreement and Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of June 3, 2009, by and among Cowen Group, Inc., LexingtonPark Parent Corp., Lexington Merger Corp., Park Exchange LLC and Ramius LLC</u>	<u>A-1</u>
<u>APPENDIX B</u>	<u>Asset Exchange Agreement, dated as of June 3, 2009, by and among Ramius LLC, HVB Alternative Advisors LLC, Bayerische Hypo- und Vereinsbank AG, Cowen Group, Inc., LexingtonPark Parent Corp. and Lexington Merger Corp., as amended by the First Amendment to Asset Exchange Agreement, dated as of July 9, 2009</u>	<u>B-1</u>
<u>APPENDIX C</u>	<u>Proposed Amendment to the Cowen Group, Inc. 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan</u>	<u>C-1</u>
<u>APPENDIX D</u>	<u>Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of New Parent</u>	<u>D-1</u>
<u>APPENDIX E</u>	<u>Form of Amended and Restated By-Laws of New Parent</u>	<u>E-1</u>
<u>APPENDIX F</u>	<u>Opinion of Sandler O'Neill + Partners, L.P.</u>	<u>F-1</u>

Table of Contents

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT VOTING PROCEDURES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING

The following are some questions that you, as a stockholder of Cowen Group, Inc., may have regarding the stockholders' meeting and the answers to those questions. Cowen urges you to read the remainder of this document carefully because the information in this section does not provide all the information that might be important to you in determining how to vote. Additional important information is also contained in the appendices to, and the documents incorporated by reference into, this document.

Q: Why am I receiving this document?

A: You are receiving this document because you were a stockholder of record of Cowen on the record date for the Cowen special meeting. The Cowen Board of Directors has unanimously approved a Transaction Agreement and Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of June 3, 2009 (which we refer to as the transaction agreement) for Cowen and Ramius LLC to combine into a new holding company (which we refer to as New Parent). The transaction agreement has been approved by Ramius's managing member and by members of Ramius who hold in the aggregate more than a majority of the percentage interests of Ramius and accordingly no other vote or further company action by Ramius is required to approve the transaction agreement or authorize the transactions. The terms of the transaction agreement are described in this document, and a copy of the transaction agreement is attached to this document as Appendix A. To complete the transactions, Cowen stockholders must vote to approve the following proposal:

to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and approve the issuance of Class A common stock of New Parent to Ramius as contemplated by the transaction agreement.

Cowen stockholders will also consider and vote on a proposal to approve an amendment to the Cowen Group, Inc. 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan (which we refer to as the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan) and a proposal to approve the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies, if there are not sufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to approve the foregoing proposals. Approval of the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan is not a condition to closing of the transactions contemplated by the transaction agreement. In addition, if approved, the amendment will only become effective if and when the transactions are completed.

This document contains important information about the transactions and the Cowen special meeting of stockholders, and you should read it carefully. The enclosed proxy card and instructions allow you to vote your shares without attending the special meeting in person.

Your vote is important. You are encouraged to vote as soon as possible.

The Cowen Board of Directors unanimously recommends that you vote to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and approve the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius, to approve the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan and to approve the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies.

Q: What do I need to do now?

A: After carefully reading this document and deciding how you want to vote your shares, please vote your shares. If you are a stockholder of record of Cowen as of the record date for the Cowen special meeting, you may vote in person by attending the special meeting or, to ensure your shares are represented at the meeting, you may vote by:

accessing the internet site listed on the proxy card;

calling the toll-free number listed on the proxy card; or

signing and returning the enclosed proxy card by mail.

Table of Contents

If you hold your shares in street name, you can vote your shares in the manner prescribed by your broker, bank, trust company or other nominee. Your broker, bank, trust company or other nominee has enclosed or otherwise provided a voting instruction card for you to use in directing such broker, bank, trust company or other nominee how to vote your shares. Without instructions from you, your broker, bank, trust company or other nominee cannot vote your shares, which will have the effect described below.

If you would like to attend the special meeting, see "Can I attend the special meeting and vote my shares in person?" below.

Q: What is the difference between a stockholder of record and a "street name" holder?

A: If your shares are registered directly in your name, you are considered the stockholder of record with respect to those shares. If your shares are held in a stock brokerage account or by a bank, trust company or other nominee, then the broker, bank, trust company or other nominee is considered to be the stockholder of record with respect to those shares, while you are considered the beneficial owner of those shares. In the latter case, your shares are said to be held in "street name."

Q: Can I attend the special meeting and vote my shares in person?

A: Yes. If you are a stockholder of record, you may vote your shares in person at the meeting by completing a ballot at the meeting. Even if you currently plan to attend the meeting, it is recommended that you also submit your proxy as described above, so your vote will be counted if you later decide not to attend the meeting. If you submit your vote by proxy and later decide to vote in person at the meeting, the vote you submit at the meeting will override your proxy vote. If you are a street name holder, you may vote your shares in person at the meeting only if you obtain and bring to the meeting a signed letter or other form of proxy from your broker, bank, trust company or other nominee giving you the right to vote the shares at the meeting.

Q: How can I attend the meeting?

A: All of Cowen's stockholders are invited to attend the special meeting. You may be asked to present valid photo identification, such as a driver's license or passport, before being admitted to the meeting. If you hold your shares in street name, you also may be asked to present proof of ownership to be admitted to the meeting. A brokerage statement or letter from your broker, bank, trust company or other nominee proving ownership of the shares on September 24, 2009, the record date, are examples of proof of ownership.

To help Cowen plan for the meeting, please indicate whether you expect to attend by responding affirmatively when prompted during internet or telephone voting or by marking the attendance box on the proxy card.

Q: Which stockholders are entitled to vote at the meeting?

A: The Cowen Board of Directors has set September 24, 2009 as the record date for the special meeting. If you were a stockholder of record at the close of business on September 24, 2009, you are entitled to vote at the meeting. As of the record date, 15,043,922 shares of common stock, representing all of Cowen's voting stock, were issued and outstanding and, therefore, eligible to vote at the meeting.

Q: What are my voting rights?

A: Holders of Cowen common stock are entitled to one vote per share. Therefore, a total of 15,043,922 votes are entitled to be cast at the meeting.

Table of Contents

Q: How many shares must be present to hold the meeting?

A: In accordance with Cowen's by-laws, shares equal to a majority of Cowen's capital stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote as of the record date must be present at the special meeting to hold the meeting and conduct business. This is called a quorum. Shares are counted as present at the meeting if:

you are present and vote in person at the meeting; or

you have properly and timely submitted your proxy as described above under "What do I need to do now?"

Q: What does it mean if I receive more than one set of proxy materials?

A: If you receive more than one set of proxy materials or multiple control numbers for use in submitting your proxy, it means that you hold shares registered in more than one account. To ensure that all of your shares are voted, sign and return each proxy card or voting instruction card you receive or, if you submit your proxy by internet or telephone, vote once for each card or control number you receive.

Q: Why is my vote as a Cowen stockholder important? What happens if I don't vote or abstain from voting?

A. If you do not vote, it will be more difficult for Cowen to obtain the necessary quorum to hold the special meeting and it will have the same effect as if you had voted against the proposal to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and approve the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius. The proposals which are being submitted to you for consideration at the special meeting require the following votes in order to be approved:

approval and adoption of the transaction agreement and approval of the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius requires the affirmative vote of the majority of the outstanding shares of Cowen common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting;

approval of the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan requires the affirmative vote of a majority of all shares of Cowen common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the special meeting and voting affirmatively or negatively on the proposal; and

approval of any necessary adjournment of the special meeting requires the affirmative vote of a majority of all shares of Cowen common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the special meeting and voting affirmatively or negatively on the proposal, even if less than a quorum.

You may vote "FOR," "AGAINST" or "ABSTAIN" on each of the proposals. If you choose to abstain from voting on any proposal, your abstention will be counted for purposes of determining a quorum. However, if you are the stockholder of record, and you fail to vote by proxy or by ballot at the special meeting, or if you hold your shares in street name and do not submit voting instructions to your broker, and your broker, bank, trust company or other nominee also does not vote your shares (we refer to this as a broker non-vote), your shares will not be counted as present at the special meeting for purposes of determining a quorum. Abstentions, failures to submit a proxy card or vote in person and broker non-votes will be treated in the following manner with respect to determining the votes received for each of the proposals:

an abstention, failure to submit a proxy card or vote in person or broker non-vote will be treated as a vote against the proposal to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and to approve the issuance the issuance of New Parent Class A

common stock to Ramius;

v

Table of Contents

an abstention, failure to submit a proxy card or vote in person or broker non-vote will not count as a vote for or against the proposal to approve the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan; and

an abstention, failure to submit a proxy card or vote in person or broker non-vote will not count as a vote for or against the proposal to approve the any adjournment of the special meeting.

Q: What will happen if I return my proxy card without indicating how to vote?

A: If you are a stockholder of record and you submit your proxy by internet, telephone or mail but do not specify how you want to vote your shares on a particular proposal, Cowen will vote your shares:

FOR the proposal to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and approve the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius as contemplated by the transaction agreement;

FOR the proposal to approve the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan; and

FOR the proposal to approve the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies, if there are not sufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to approve the foregoing proposals.

If you are a street name holder and fail to instruct the broker, bank, trust company or other nominee that is the stockholder of record how you want to vote your shares on a particular proposal, those shares are considered to be "uninstructed." Under the rules applicable to broker-dealers, stockholders of record have the discretion to vote uninstructed shares on specified routine matters. However, stockholders of record do not have the authority to vote uninstructed shares on non-routine matters, such as those being considered at the special meeting, and therefore, if you do not provide instructions as to how you want your shares voted, these shares will be considered broker non-votes and will be treated as described in the section titled "Why is my vote as a Cowen stockholder important?" above.

Q: Can I change or revoke my vote?

A: Yes. If you are a stockholder of record, you may revoke your proxy and change your vote at any time before your proxy is voted at the special meeting, in any of the following ways:

by submitting a later-dated proxy by internet or telephone before the deadline stated on the enclosed proxy card;

by submitting a later-dated proxy card to the Corporate Secretary of Cowen, which must be received by Cowen before the time of the special meeting;

by sending a written notice of revocation to the Corporate Secretary of Cowen, which must be received by Cowen before the time of the special meeting; or

by voting in person at the special meeting.

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

If you are a street name holder, please refer to the voting instructions provided to you by your broker, bank, trust company or other nominee.

Any Cowen common stockholder entitled to vote in person at the special meeting may vote in person regardless of whether a proxy has been previously given, but simply attending the special meeting will not constitute revocation of a previously given proxy.

Q:

Who pays for the cost of proxy preparation and solicitation?

A:

In accordance with the terms of the transaction agreement, Cowen will bear the entire cost of proxy solicitation for the Cowen special meeting, except that Cowen and Ramius will share equally all expenses incurred in connection with the filing of the registration statement of which this

Table of Contents

document forms a part with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the printing and mailing of this document. If necessary, Cowen may use several of its regular employees, who will not be specially compensated, to solicit proxies from Cowen stockholders either personally or by telephone, facsimile, letter or other electronic means. Cowen will also request that banks, brokers and other record holders forward proxies and proxy materials to the beneficial owners of Cowen common stock and secure their voting instructions and will provide customary reimbursement to such firms for the cost of forwarding these materials.

Q: Will Cowen be required to submit the transaction agreement to its stockholders even if the Cowen Board of Directors has withdrawn, modified or qualified its recommendation?

A: *Yes.* Cowen is required to submit the transaction agreement to its stockholders even if the Cowen Board of Directors has withdrawn, modified or qualified its recommendation, consistent with the terms of the transaction agreement.

Q: Do I have dissenters' appraisal rights?

A: *No.* Under Delaware law, holders of Cowen common stock are not entitled to dissenters' appraisal rights in connection with these transactions.

Q: Is the transaction expected to be taxable to holders of Cowen common stock?

A: *Generally, no.* The Cowen merger is intended to qualify as a "reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and holders of Cowen common stock are not expected to recognize any gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes on the exchange of shares of Cowen common stock for shares of New Parent Class A common stock in the Cowen merger. You should read the section titled "Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Cowen Merger" beginning on page 115 for a more complete discussion of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the transaction. Tax matters can be complicated, and the tax consequences of the transaction to you will depend on your particular tax situation. **You should consult your tax advisor to determine the tax consequences of the transactions to you.**

Q: If I am a stockholder with shares represented by stock certificates, should I send in my stock certificates now?

A: *No.* You do not need to send in your Cowen common stock certificates at this time, or at any other time in connection with this business combination transaction. Cowen stockholders do not need to send in or exchange their Cowen common stock certificates for New Parent Class A common stock certificates, because if the transactions are approved, Cowen common stock will automatically convert into New Parent Class A common stock, and any Cowen common stock certificates you may hold will automatically be deemed to represent shares of New Parent Class A common stock. Please do not send in your stock certificates with your proxy card.

Q: When do you expect to complete the transactions?

A: The transactions are subject to Cowen stockholder approval, regulatory approvals that are described below in the section titled "Proposal 1: The Transactions Regulatory Approvals Required for the Transactions" beginning on page 86 and other customary closing conditions that are described below in the section titled "The Transaction Agreement Conditions to Complete the Transactions" beginning on page 103. Assuming these conditions are met, the transactions are expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2009. However, there can be no assurances as to when or if the transactions will close.

Table of Contents

Q: Whom should I call with questions?

A: Cowen stockholders who have questions about the transactions or the other matters to be voted on at the stockholder meeting or desire additional copies of this document or additional proxy cards should contact:

Innisfree M&A Incorporated
501 Madison Avenue, 20th Floor
New York, New York 10022
Stockholders may call toll-free: (888) 750-5835
Banks and brokers may call collect: (212) 750-5833

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

This summary highlights material information from this document. It may not contain all of the information that is important to you. You are urged to carefully read the entire document and the other documents to that are referred to in this document in order to fully understand the transaction agreement and the related transactions. See the section titled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 195. Each item in this summary refers to the page of this document on which that subject is discussed in more detail.

The Companies

Cowen Group, Inc. (See page 48)

Cowen is an established provider of investment banking, equity research, sales and trading and alternative asset management services to companies and institutional investor clients. The company is a sector expert in secular growth industries, including the healthcare, technology, consumer, telecommunications, alternative energy and aerospace and defense sectors. As of June 30, 2009, Cowen had total consolidated assets of approximately \$186 million and total Cowen Group, Inc. stockholders' equity of approximately \$138 million. The principal executive offices of Cowen are located at 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10020, and its telephone number is (646) 562-1000.

Additional information about Cowen and its subsidiaries is included in documents incorporated by reference in this document. See the section titled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 195.

Ramius LLC (See page 48)

Ramius is an alternative investment management firm founded in 1994 with over \$7 billion of assets under management as of July 1, 2009. Ramius, through one of its subsidiaries, has been a registered investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act since 1997 and operates through its offices in New York, London, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Munich and Luxembourg. Ramius's investment services and products include hedge funds, fund of funds, real estate and cash management. Its institutional investors include pension funds, insurance companies, banks, foundations and endowments, wealth management organizations and family offices. The principal executive offices of Ramius are located at 599 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10022, and its telephone number is (212) 845-7900.

Ramius's hedge fund and fund of funds platforms have historically sought to deliver consistent, risk-adjusted returns throughout a market cycle. In these platforms, Ramius seeks positive performance with minimal correlation to directional market indices.

Ramius believes that the following attributes are central to its business model and position it to capitalize on the opportunities Ramius believes should arise from changing industry conditions:

Ramius is a well established alternative investment manager with experienced senior leadership. Once investors return to allocating capital to alternative investments, Ramius believes that they will likely gravitate toward more experienced managers with lengthy track records and a history of producing absolute returns.

Ramius has a diversified alternative investment platform. Ramius offers investment expertise across strategies and platforms that allows it to cross-sell products. In Ramius's experience, larger institutions often favor consolidation of their manager relationships, preferring to deal with providers that can offer more than one investment product. Moreover, Ramius can offer customized solutions to fund of funds clients due to Ramius's in-house trading expertise.

Table of Contents

Ramius has a strong institutional infrastructure. Ramius has the operational capability to address, in a client-specific way, increasing investor needs for transparency, liquidity and customization.

Ramius's own capital has given the firm stability. Ramius's own capital allows the firm to think and invest for the long term, and also enables Ramius to attract investment talent from within the industry due to its stability and culture.

As part of the transactions, all of Ramius's assets (including its subsidiaries) will be transferred to Park Exchange LLC, a subsidiary of the newly formed holding company, with the exception of (i) \$500,000 in cash which it is retaining in order to pay ongoing administrative expenses, such as audit fees, and (ii) any recovery in excess of \$7.0 million from a pending arbitration Ramius had initiated against a securities underwriter. At the closing of the transactions, Park Exchange LLC will change its name to "Ramius LLC," and Ramius LLC will change its name to "RCG LLC" or another name that does not contain the word "Ramius." Immediately following the closing of the transactions, Park Exchange LLC will transfer to New Parent a portion of the investments previously held by Ramius. The transaction agreement has been approved by Ramius's managing member and by members of Ramius who hold in the aggregate more than a majority of the percentage interests of Ramius and accordingly no other vote or further company action by Ramius is required to approve the transaction agreement or authorize the transactions.

New Parent (See page 50)

LexingtonPark Parent Corp. (which we refer to as New Parent), a Delaware corporation, was jointly formed on June 1, 2009 in connection with the transactions and is owned by Cowen and Ramius. When the transactions are completed, New Parent will become the holding company of both Cowen and Park Exchange LLC, which will hold substantially all of the assets of Ramius and will have assumed substantially all of Ramius's liabilities. At that time, New Parent will change its name to "Cowen Group, Inc." The principal executive offices of New Parent are currently located at Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801, and its telephone number is (646) 562-1000. After completion of the transactions, the principal executive offices of New Parent will be in New York, New York.

Cowen stockholders, Ramius and HVB Alternative Advisors LLC, an affiliate of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., a third party investor in Ramius, or its designee (which we refer to collectively with HVB Alternative Advisors as HVB) will receive New Parent Class A common stock in connection with the transactions and will become New Parent stockholders. Their rights as stockholders will be governed by the post-closing certificate of incorporation and by-laws of New Parent and the laws of Delaware. The certificate of incorporation and by-laws that will govern New Parent after the transactions are completed will be substantially as set forth in Appendix D and Appendix E to this document, respectively. For information on how these documents differ from the current certificate of incorporation and by-laws governing Cowen, see the section titled "Comparison of Stockholders' Rights" beginning on page 136.

New Parent has not, to date, conducted any material activities other than those incidental to its formation and the matters contemplated by the transaction agreement, including the formation of each of Lexington Merger Corp. and Park Exchange LLC as wholly owned subsidiaries, and the preparation of this document and the registration statement of which it forms a part. New Parent does not intend to directly undertake any operating activities other than the management of its operating subsidiaries, which will be primarily engaged in financial services activities. After the closing of the transactions, the Ramius subsidiary is intended to undertake the primary alternative investment management activities of the combined company, and the Cowen subsidiary is intended to undertake the primary sales and trading and investment banking operations of the combined company. A common infrastructure is intended to support both subsidiaries. In connection with the management of its operating subsidiaries, New Parent will employ senior management personnel. Additionally, New Parent may hold its own

Table of Contents

investments and immediately following the consummation of the transactions will hold certain of the limited partnership interests of Ramius Enterprise LP previously held by Ramius.

Merger Sub (See page 51)

Lexington Merger Corp. (which we refer to as Merger Sub) is a Delaware corporation formed on June 1, 2009 and is a wholly owned subsidiary of New Parent. Merger Sub was formed solely for the purpose of completing the Cowen merger and the fund of funds asset exchange in connection with the transactions. At the completion of the transactions, Merger Sub will merge with and into Cowen and Merger Sub will not survive the merger. The principal executive offices of Merger Sub are located at Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801.

Merger Sub has not, to date, conducted any material activities other than those incidental to its formation and the matters contemplated by the transaction agreement and the asset exchange agreement (described below), and the preparation of this document and the registration statement of which it forms a part.

Exchange Sub (See page 51)

Park Exchange LLC (which we refer to as Exchange Sub) is a Delaware limited liability company formed on June 1, 2009 and is a wholly owned subsidiary of New Parent. At completion of the transactions, Exchange Sub will hold substantially all of the assets of Ramius and will have assumed substantially all of Ramius's liabilities. After completion of the transactions, Exchange Sub will change its name to "Ramius LLC." The principal executive offices of Exchange Sub are located at Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801.

Exchange Sub has not, to date, conducted any material activities other than those incidental to its formation and the matters contemplated by the transaction agreement, and the preparation of this document and the registration statement of which it forms a part.

Risk Factors

In addition to other information included and incorporated by reference into this document, you should carefully read and consider the risks related to completion of the transactions, to the combined company following the transactions and the risks associated with each of the businesses of Cowen and Ramius, before deciding whether to vote for the proposals presented in this document. Some of the most important risks are summarized below.

Risks Related to Completion of the Transactions (See page 23)

The transactions are subject to conditions, including certain conditions that may not be satisfied, and may not be completed on a timely basis, or at all. Failure to complete the transactions could have a material adverse effect on Cowen.

Some of Cowen's current directors and executive officers have interests in the transactions that may differ from the interests of other stockholders, and these persons may have conflicts of interest in supporting or recommending that you approve the proposals set forth in this document.

The opinion obtained by Cowen from its financial advisor will not reflect changes in circumstances between the signing of the transaction agreement and the completion of the transactions.

Because the date that the transactions will be completed will be later than the date of the stockholder meeting, at the time of the stockholder meeting you will not know the market value of the Cowen common stock that Ramius and HVB will receive when the transactions are completed.

Table of Contents

Risks Related to the Combined Company Following the Transactions (see page 25)

The combined company is expected to incur substantial expenses related to the integration of Cowen and Ramius.

Although Cowen and Ramius expect that Cowen's combination with Ramius will result in benefits to Cowen, Cowen and Ramius may not realize those benefits because of integration difficulties and other challenges.

Current Cowen stockholders will have a reduced ownership and voting interest after the transactions and will exercise less influence over management.

New Parent will be a "controlled company" within the meaning of the NASDAQ rules and, as a result, may qualify for, and rely on, exemptions from certain corporate governance standards, which may limit the presence of independent directors on the board of directors or board committees of New Parent.

The market price of New Parent's common stock after the transactions will be affected by factors different from those currently affecting the market price of Cowen's common stock.

The unaudited pro forma financial data and internal earnings estimates for both Cowen and Ramius included in this document are preliminary, and the combined company's actual financial position and operations after the transactions may differ materially from the unaudited pro forma financial data included in this document.

BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. and its designee on New Parent's board of directors and Ramius may have interests that conflict with your interests.

Risks Related to Ramius's Business (See page 31)

Difficult market conditions, market disruptions and volatility have adversely affected and may in the future continue to adversely affect Ramius's business, results of operations and financial condition.

Investors in the Ramius funds and investors with managed accounts can generally redeem investments with prior notice. The rate of redemptions has recently accelerated and could continue to further accelerate. Redemptions have, and may continue to, create difficulties in managing the liquidity of the Ramius funds and managed accounts, reduce assets under management and adversely affect Ramius's revenues.

Ramius may suffer losses in connection with the insolvency of prime brokers, custodians, administrators and other agents whose services Ramius uses and who may hold assets of Ramius funds.

Certain of the Ramius funds may invest in relatively high-risk, illiquid assets, and Ramius may fail to realize any profits from these activities for a considerable period of time or lose some or all of the principal amounts of these investments.

Risk management activities may materially adversely affect the return on the Ramius funds' investments if such activities do not effectively limit a fund's exposure to decreases in investment values or if such exposure is overestimated.

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

Ramius and its funds may become subject to additional regulations which could increase the costs and burdens of compliance or impose additional restrictions which could have a material adverse effect on Ramius's business and the performance of the Ramius funds.

Table of Contents

Reasons for Transactions

Cowen's Reasons for the Transactions (See page 70)

In reaching its conclusion to approve the transactions and to recommend that Cowen stockholders approve the transaction agreement and issuance of shares of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius, the Cowen Board of Directors considered a number of positive, negative and other factors, including, among others:

its view that the transactions bring together businesses with complementary operations and capabilities and the expected diverse revenues streams of the combined company;

its view that the combined company will have increased financial scale through an increased capital base to provide greater financial stability and public market capitalization, which will increase stockholder value, enhance value to its customers and maximize cost efficiencies;

the expected cost synergies and savings opportunities resulting from the transactions;

the current and historical financial condition, results of operations, prospects, earnings generation ability and risks of each of Ramius, Cowen and the combined company;

the expertise and relationships of the Ramius management team; and

the transaction consideration and the fact that Cowen stockholders will own approximately 28.76% of the combined company on a fully diluted basis after completion of the transactions.

Ramius's Reasons for the Transaction (See page 84)

Ramius's managing member consulted with Ramius's legal and financial advisors and determined that the transactions are in the best interests of Ramius and its members. In reaching its conclusion to approve the transaction agreement, Ramius's managing member considered the following:

its view that Cowen is an established investment bank with a long history and strong culture and the transactions provide Ramius with an opportunity to build a financial services firm with asset management, investment banking, research and brokerage capabilities;

the fact that the transactions would provide the combined company with an expanded and permanent capital base;

the fact that the combined company is expected to have more diverse revenue streams;

its view that, as part of a public company, the combined company will be better able to attract and retain talent; and

the fact that following the completion of the transactions, members of Ramius should have improved liquidity as a result of the combined company being a public company.

The Transactions and the Transaction Agreement

A copy of the Transaction Agreement and Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of June 3, 2009 (which we refer to as the transaction agreement), by and among Cowen, New Parent, Merger Sub, Exchange Sub and Ramius is attached as Appendix A to this document. You are encouraged to read the entire transaction agreement carefully because it is the principal document governing the transactions.

Structure of the Transactions (See page 91)

Cowen and Ramius have jointly formed and own New Parent. New Parent, in turn, has organized two wholly owned subsidiaries, Merger Sub and Exchange Sub. Subject to the terms and conditions of the transaction agreement, at the completion of the transactions, Merger Sub will merge with and into Cowen (which we refer to as the Cowen merger), with Cowen surviving the merger. In addition,

Table of Contents

Exchange Sub will assume substantially all of Ramius's liabilities, with the exception of certain liabilities related to Ramius's Employee Ownership Program, liabilities relating to the portion of awards outstanding under the Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC Participation Program representing a right to receive percentage interests in Ramius and a \$500,000 secured revolving credit facility that may be made available to Ramius by HVB at closing, and Ramius will transfer to Exchange Sub all of Ramius's assets with the exception of (i) \$500,000 in cash which it is retaining in order to pay ongoing administrative expenses, such as audit fees, and (ii) any recovery in excess of \$7.0 million from a pending arbitration Ramius had initiated against a securities underwriter. Cowen will become a wholly owned subsidiary of New Parent, and Exchange Sub will remain a wholly owned subsidiary of New Parent. New Parent will then change its name to "Cowen Group, Inc.," and Exchange Sub will change its name to "Ramius LLC."

The diagram below shows the structure of New Parent following completion of the transactions (all percentages in this document relating to the ownership of New Parent following the consummation of the transactions are based on the number of shares of Cowen common stock outstanding on June 3, 2009, the date of the transaction agreement):

The common stock of former Cowen will be deregistered after completion of the transactions.

- (1) Including BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.
- (2) Approximately 8.5 million shares of New Parent common stock held by Ramius will be attributable to BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.

Table of Contents

Consideration to Be Received in the Transactions (See page 91)

At the completion of the transactions, Exchange Sub will assume substantially all of the liabilities of Ramius and New Parent will issue 37,536,826 shares of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius in exchange for Ramius transferring substantially all of its assets to Exchange Sub. At the same time, each share of Cowen common stock issued and outstanding immediately prior to the completion of the transactions will automatically be converted into the right to receive one share of New Parent Class A common stock. As of the date of the transaction agreement, 15,134,637 shares of Cowen common stock were outstanding (including freely tradable shares, restricted shares and shares underlying restricted stock units), and thus, subject to changes in the number of shares of Cowen common stock outstanding, it is expected that approximately 15,134,637 shares of New Parent Class A common stock will be issued to current Cowen stockholders in connection with the transactions. Certificates representing outstanding Cowen common stock and any uncertificated shares held in book entry form will automatically be deemed to represent the equivalent number of shares of New Parent Class A common stock when the transactions are completed.

Pursuant to the Asset Exchange Agreement, dated as of June 3, 2009 (which we refer to as the asset exchange agreement), by and among Ramius, HVB, Bayerische Hypo- und Vereinsbank AG (an affiliate of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. (a third party investor in Ramius), which we refer to as HVB AG), Cowen, New Parent and Merger Sub, as amended by the First Amendment to Asset Exchange Agreement, dated as of July 9, 2009, HVB will receive 2,713,882 shares of Class A common stock of New Parent, and approximately \$10.4 million in cash or in the form of a promissory note in exchange for transferring to Merger Sub the remaining 50% of the interest in Ramius's fund of funds business not already owned by Ramius. The asset exchange agreement is summarized below and more fully described in the section titled "Other Agreements Related to the Transactions Asset Exchange Agreement" beginning on page 106.

Treatment of Cowen Equity-Based Awards (See page 92)

The transaction agreement specifies how equity compensation awards issued by Cowen prior to the completion of the transactions will be treated in the transactions. When the transactions are completed, except where an individual's employment agreement specifies a different treatment, outstanding equity compensation awards of Cowen will be treated as follows:

each outstanding option issued by Cowen to purchase Cowen common stock under a Cowen stock plan will vest in full and be automatically converted into an option to purchase the equivalent number of shares of New Parent Class A common stock, at an exercise price per share equal to the exercise price per share of the option immediately prior to the completion of the transactions;

each outstanding restricted share of Cowen common stock will vest in full and automatically be converted into the right to receive one share of New Parent Class A common stock; and

each outstanding restricted share unit of Cowen will vest in full and be automatically converted into a restricted share unit with respect to the number of shares of New Parent Class A common stock equal to shares of Cowen common stock subject to the Cowen restricted stock unit immediately prior to the closing of the transactions.

When the transactions are complete, New Parent will assume the rights and obligations of Cowen under the Cowen stock plans with respect to the assumed stock options and assumed restricted stock units.

Table of Contents

Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Cowen Merger (See page 115)

The Cowen merger is intended to qualify as a "reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and holders of Cowen common stock are not expected to recognize any gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes on the exchange of shares of Cowen common stock for shares of New Parent Class A common stock in the Cowen merger. Tax matters can be complicated, and the tax consequences of the transaction to you will depend on your particular tax situation. **You should consult your tax advisor to determine the tax consequences of the transactions to you.**

Opinion of Cowen's Financial Advisor (See page 73)

Sandler O'Neill + Partners, L.P. delivered its opinion to the Cowen Board of Directors that, as of the date of the written fairness opinion, and based upon and subject to the factors and assumptions set forth therein, that the transaction consideration to be paid to Ramius and to HVB pursuant to the transactions was fair from a financial point of view to Cowen stockholders. The full text of the written opinion of Sandler O'Neill, dated June 4, 2009, which sets forth assumptions made, procedures followed, matters considered and limitations on the review undertaken in connection with the opinion, is attached as Appendix F to this document. Sandler O'Neill provided its opinion for the benefit and use of the Cowen Board of Directors in connection with its consideration of the transactions. The Sandler O'Neill opinion addresses only the fairness to Cowen stockholders of the payment of the transaction consideration to Ramius and to HVB and is not a recommendation as to how any holder of shares of Cowen common stock should vote with respect to the transactions or any other matter.

Interests of Certain Persons in the Transactions (See page 87)

Cowen's executive officers and directors have financial interests in the transactions that are different from, or in addition to, their interests as Cowen stockholders. The independent members of Cowen's Board of Directors were aware of and considered these interests, among other matters, in evaluating and negotiating the transaction agreement and the transactions, and in recommending to the stockholders that the transaction agreement be approved and adopted.

Cowen's executive officers, including each of its named executive officers, are either parties to employment agreements that provide severance and other benefits in the case of qualifying terminations of employment, or, following the transactions, may be eligible to receive severance benefits upon termination of employment no less favorable than the terms established in a severance schedule agreed to in connection with the transactions. In addition, stock-based awards (other than those held by Messrs. Malcolm and White, who have waived accelerated vesting of stock-based awards upon completion of the transactions in connection with their entry into new employment agreements with Cowen and New Parent) and deferred cash awards held by Cowen's executive officers will vest upon completion of the transactions. Executive officers and directors of Cowen also have rights to indemnification and directors' and officers' liability insurance that will survive completion of the transactions.

Governance Following Completion of the Transactions (See page 93)

Immediately after the completion of the transactions, the board of directors of New Parent will have ten directors. Four directors will have been appointed by Cowen, and six directors will have been appointed by Ramius. Pursuant to the asset exchange agreement, Ramius has given BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., a third party investor in Ramius and an affiliate of HVB, the right to appoint one of its six directors. Six of the ten directors will be independent under NASDAQ rules. Peter A. Cohen will serve as Chairman of the board of directors and Chief Executive Officer of New Parent, and John E. Toffolon, Jr. will serve as Lead Director of the board of directors.

Table of Contents

Efforts of Cowen to Obtain the Required Stockholder Vote (See page 98)

Cowen has agreed to use its reasonable best efforts to hold a meeting of its stockholders as soon as is reasonably practicable for the purpose of Cowen stockholders voting on the approval and adoption of the transaction agreement and approval of the issuance of shares of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius and the approval of an amendment to the Cowen Group, Inc. 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan. Cowen will use its reasonable best efforts to obtain such stockholder approval. The transaction agreement requires Cowen to submit the transaction agreement to a stockholder vote even if its Board of Directors no longer recommends approval and adoption of the transaction agreement and the transactions it contemplates.

Regulatory Approvals Required for the Transactions (See page 86)

Cowen and Ramius have each agreed to use reasonable best efforts to obtain all regulatory approvals required to complete the transactions contemplated by the transaction agreement. These approvals include approval from or notices to the Securities and Exchange Commission (or the SEC), the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (or FINRA), the Financial Services Administration in the United Kingdom, the Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong, the Financial Services Agency of Japan, the Commission of the Surveillance of the Financial Sector in Luxembourg, the NASDAQ, the Commodities Future Trading Commission, the Department of Justice, the Federal Trade Commission and various other federal, state and foreign regulatory authorities and self-regulatory organizations.

Cowen and Ramius have completed, or will shortly complete, the filing of applications and notifications to obtain the required regulatory approvals. Although Cowen believes that the transactions do not raise substantial regulatory concerns and that Cowen and Ramius can obtain all requisite regulatory approvals on a timely basis, Cowen cannot be certain when or if these approvals will be obtained.

Conditions to Completion of the Transactions (See page 103)

It is expected that the transactions will close in the fourth quarter of 2009. However, as more fully described in this document and in the transaction agreement, whether or when the transactions will be completed depends on a number of conditions being satisfied or, where legally permissible, waived. These conditions include, among others:

the approval and adoption of the transaction agreement by Cowen stockholders;

the approval of the listing of the New Parent Class A common stock on NASDAQ, subject to official notice of issuance;

the termination or expiration of any waiting periods applicable to the transactions and the receipt of all other approvals required under any relevant antitrust or competition laws;

the registration statement with respect to the New Parent Class A common stock having become effective under the Securities Act of 1933 and no stop order or proceedings for that purpose having been initiated or threatened by the SEC;

the absence of any legal prohibition on the completion of the transactions; and

the satisfaction of all other conditions precedent to the completion of the transactions under the asset exchange agreement.

Table of Contents

Separately, Cowen's obligation to complete the transactions is subject to the satisfaction or waiver by Cowen of several conditions including:

the accuracy of the representations and warranties of Ramius in the transaction agreement, subject to the materiality standard set forth in the transaction agreement, and the material performance by Ramius of its obligations under the transaction agreement;

the receipt of a customary tax opinion as to certain U.S. federal income tax consequences of the Cowen merger; and

the receipt and effectiveness of all governmental and other approvals.

Ramius's obligation to complete the transactions is also separately subject to the satisfaction or waiver by Ramius of several conditions including:

the accuracy of the representations and warranties of Cowen in the transaction agreement, subject to the materiality standard set forth in the transaction agreement, and the material performance by Cowen of its obligations under the transaction agreement;

the receipt and effectiveness of all governmental and other approvals;

the execution by New Parent of the registration rights agreement (summarized below and more fully described in the section titled "Other Agreements Relating to the Transactions Registration Rights Agreement" beginning on page 109); and

the receipt of a copy of any certificates of officers of Cowen relied upon by counsel in rendering the tax opinion.

As of the date of this document, Cowen and Ramius have no reason to believe that any of these conditions will not be satisfied, but Cowen and Ramius cannot provide assurances as to when or if all of the conditions will be satisfied or waived.

Restrictions on Solicitation of Third Party Offers (See page 98)

Each of Cowen and Ramius has agreed not to, directly or indirectly, solicit any "Alternative Proposal," as defined in the transaction agreement, or discuss, negotiate or enter into any agreement regarding an "Alternative Transaction," as defined in the transaction agreement. However, prior to Cowen stockholders approving the transaction agreement, the Cowen Board of Directors is permitted to furnish information or participate in discussions with respect to an unsolicited Alternative Proposal if Cowen does the following:

complies with the terms of the non-solicitation covenant contained in the transaction agreement;

enters into a confidentiality agreement with the proponent of the Alternative Proposal that is no more favorable to the proponent than the confidentiality agreement between Cowen and Ramius; and

the Cowen Board of Directors concludes in good faith that the Alternative Proposal is likely to lead to a "Superior Proposal," as defined in the transaction agreement.

Each of Cowen and Ramius must notify the other party promptly if it receives an Alternative Proposal.

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

The Cowen Board of Directors will not change its recommendation of the transaction agreement to Cowen's stockholders except under the circumstances described in the transaction agreement. See the section titled "The Transaction Agreement - Agreement Not to Solicit Other Offers" beginning on page 98 for a more complete discussion of the circumstances under which the Cowen Board of Directors may change its recommendation to Cowen's stockholders.

Table of Contents

Employee Matters (See page 100)

Current Cowen and Ramius employee benefit plans will stay in effect after completion of the transactions until new plans of New Parent are put into place. The new plans must treat similarly situated employees on a substantially equivalent basis and cannot discriminate between former Cowen and former Ramius employees. For the first year after the completion of the transactions, former Cowen employees are entitled to receive compensation and benefits substantially comparable in the aggregate to the compensation and benefits to which they were entitled immediately prior to the completion of the transactions. Any Cowen employees terminated without "cause" within one year after the completion of the transactions, and who are not party to an employment or severance agreement otherwise providing for severance payments or benefits, are entitled to severance benefits no less favorable than those agreed to in the transaction agreement, which are substantially identical to those applicable prior to the transactions.

With respect to any new benefit plans in which employees first become eligible to participate after completion of the transactions (and did not participate in prior to the completion of the transactions), New Parent must do the following:

waive all pre-existing conditions, exclusions and waiting periods;

provide credit for any co-payments or deductibles paid prior to the completion of the transactions under a Cowen or Ramius plan against any out-of-pocket requirements under any new plans; and

provide employees with a customary service credit.

Termination of the Transaction Agreement (See page 104)

The parties by mutual consent may agree to terminate the transaction agreement at any time prior to the completion of the transactions.

In addition, the transaction agreement may be terminated by either party in the following circumstances:

if any of the required regulatory approvals are denied or the transactions have been enjoined, prohibited or made illegal by a governmental entity (and the denial or prohibition is final and nonappealable);

if the transactions have not been completed by December 31, 2009, unless the failure to complete the transactions by that date is due to a breach of the transaction agreement by the party seeking to terminate the transaction agreement;

if there is a breach by the other party that would cause the failure of the closing conditions described above, unless the breach is capable of being, and is, cured within thirty days of notice of the breach; or

if the requisite Cowen stockholder approval is not obtained.

In addition, Ramius may terminate the transaction agreement if:

Cowen's Board of Directors fails to recommend the approval and adoption of the transaction agreement by the stockholders or changes its recommendation, or resolves to do either of these things;

Table of Contents

Cowen fails to call a stockholder meeting to vote on the approval and adoption of the transaction agreement; or

Cowen materially breaches its obligations with respect to soliciting, discussing or agreeing to Alternative Proposals.

Expenses and Termination Fees (See pages 102, 105)

Generally, all fees and expenses incurred in connection with the negotiation and completion of the transactions contemplated by the transaction agreement will be paid by the party incurring those expenses, subject to the specific exceptions discussed in the transaction agreement. Upon termination of the transaction agreement under qualifying circumstances, Cowen will be required to pay Ramius a termination fee of \$3.5 million and expenses of Ramius up to \$750,000. See the section titled "The Transaction Agreement Termination Fee" beginning on page 105 for a more complete discussion of the circumstances under which Cowen may be required to pay the termination fee and Ramius expenses.

Accounting Treatment (See page 114)

The business combination will be accounted for as an "acquisition" by Ramius of Cowen, as that term is used under generally accepted accounting principles in the U.S., for accounting and financial reporting purposes. In identifying Ramius as the acquiring entity, Cowen and Ramius took into account the relative outstanding share ownership, the composition of the governing body of New Parent and the designation of certain senior management positions. As a result, the historical financial statements of Ramius will become the historical financial statements of New Parent. The assets (including identifiable intangible assets) and liabilities (including executory contracts and other commitments) of Cowen will be recorded at their respective fair values and added to those of Ramius. Any excess of purchase price over the net fair values of Cowen assets and liabilities is recorded as goodwill (excess purchase price). Excess of fair value of Cowen's net assets over the purchase price, if any, will be recorded as a gain to earnings on the date the transactions are completed. The financial statements of New Parent issued after the transactions will reflect such fair values and will not be restated retroactively to reflect the historical financial position or results of operations of Cowen. The results of operations of Cowen will be included in the results of operations of New Parent following the completion of the transactions.

No Dissenters' Appraisal Rights (See page 85)

Appraisal rights are statutory rights that enable stockholders to dissent from an extraordinary transaction, such as a significant business combination, and to demand that the corporation pay the fair value for their shares as determined by a court in a judicial proceeding instead of receiving the consideration offered to stockholders in connection with the extraordinary transaction. Under Delaware law, holders of Cowen common stock are not entitled to dissenters' appraisal rights in connection with the transactions.

Transfer Restrictions on Shares of New Parent Common Stock Held by Ramius (See page 112)

Following the consummation of the transactions, the capital of Ramius's members in Ramius will consist primarily of shares of New Parent Class A common stock. Under Ramius's operating agreement (as it will be amended and restated at the closing of the transactions), the members of Ramius generally will not be entitled to receive any distributions of New Parent Class A common stock or other capital from Ramius, and Ramius's managing member has agreed in Ramius's operating agreement not to make any distributions of New Parent Class A common stock or other capital to these members (except for, in certain circumstances, distributions of any dividends on the shares of New Parent Class A common stock held by Ramius and tax distributions) for specified periods of time, which

Table of Contents

restrictions may be waived by Ramius's managing member in accordance with the terms of Ramius's operating agreement.

It is anticipated that approximately 37,536,826 shares of New Parent Class A common stock, in the aggregate, will be subject to these restrictions to varying degrees, including 9,659,592 shares of New Parent Class A common stock attributable to principals of Ramius (some of whom are also members of Ramius's managing member and some of whom will be officers of New Parent following the closing of the transactions).

Asset Exchange Agreement (See page 106)

Concurrently with the execution of the transaction agreement, Ramius, Cowen, New Parent, Merger Sub, HVB and HVB AG entered into the asset exchange agreement which is attached as Appendix B to this document. The asset exchange agreement provides that Merger Sub will purchase from HVB the 50% interest in the Ramius fund of funds business that HVB owns in exchange for (i) 2,713,882 shares of New Parent Class A common stock, subject to certain adjustments, and (ii) approximately \$10.4 million of additional consideration. We refer to this transaction as the fund of funds asset exchange. The additional consideration will take the form of promissory note or, if New Parent enters into a \$25 million secured revolving credit facility with HVB AG at or immediately prior to the closing of the fund of funds asset exchange, payment of \$10.4 million in cash that New Parent borrows under this secured revolving credit facility. The remaining 50% interest in the Ramius fund of funds business currently owned by Ramius will be transferred to Exchange Sub under the transaction agreement.

Each party's obligation to complete the fund of funds asset exchange is subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the completion of the transactions under the transaction agreement and the absence of any order, injunction, decree or other law preventing or making illegal the completion of the fund of funds asset exchange. HVB's obligation to complete the fund of funds asset exchange is further subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the following conditions:

the representations and warranties of Ramius are accurate, subject to the materiality standard in the asset exchange agreement;

each of Ramius, New Parent, Merger Sub and Cowen must have performed and complied with, in all material respects, all of their respective covenants and obligations under the asset exchange agreement;

the New Parent Class A common stock shares issued to HVB must have been authorized for listing on NASDAQ, subject to official notice of issuance; and

if the \$25 million secured revolving credit facility has not been entered into by HVB AG and New Parent, the \$10.4 million promissory note and the related security agreement must have been executed by New Parent and its subsidiaries, as applicable.

The obligations of Ramius, New Parent and Merger Sub to complete the fund of funds asset exchange is further subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the following conditions:

the representations and warranties of HVB are accurate, subject to the materiality standard in the asset exchange agreement;

HVB and HVB AG must have performed and complied with, in all material respects, all of their respective covenants and obligations under the asset exchange agreement; and

certain agreements (including the \$10.4 million promissory note and related security agreement, if applicable) between HVB and certain of its affiliates, on the one hand, and Ramius and New

Table of Contents

Parent and certain of their respective affiliates, on the other hand, must be in full force and effect.

So long as HVB and its affiliates beneficially own at least 4.9% of the common stock of New Parent (including shares held by Ramius that are attributable to BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.), BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., a third party investor in Ramius and affiliate of HVB, will have the right to nominate one director to the board of directors of New Parent and New Parent will include such designee on the slate of nominees proposed by New Parent in connection with any vote to elect the board of directors of New Parent. For so long as a designee of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. serves as a director of New Parent, HVB and its affiliates will only transfer the shares it receives in accordance with New Parent's insider trading policy.

The shares received by HVB are subject to certain transfer restrictions, as described in greater detail in the asset exchange agreement. For a period of six months following the closing of the fund of funds asset exchange, HVB may not transfer its shares except in certain limited circumstances as described in the section titled "Other Agreements Related to the Transactions Asset Exchange Agreement" beginning on page 106. Following the six-month anniversary of the closing of the fund of funds asset exchange, HVB will be allowed to freely transfer its shares to the extent that HVB, together with its affiliates and permitted transferees, continue to beneficially own 50% of the aggregate number of shares of New Parent common stock that HVB and its affiliates beneficially owned at the closing of the fund of funds asset exchange (including shares held by Ramius that are attributable to BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.). The transfer restrictions will terminate following the second anniversary of the closing of the fund of funds asset exchange or after the following:

a material breach by Ramius of certain agreements, which breach is not cured by Ramius;

Ramius fails to vote all of its shares of New Parent Class A common stock in favor of electing the director candidate designated by BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. to the New Parent board of directors;

a change of control of Ramius; or

a change of control of New Parent.

Ramius has agreed to reimburse an affiliate of HVB for up to \$650,000 of its fees and expenses incurred in connection with the fund of funds asset exchange and its evaluation of the related transactions.

Registration Rights Agreement (See page 109)

In connection with the transactions, Ramius, BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., HVB, HVB AG and New Parent have agreed to enter into a registration rights agreement, which will set forth certain rights of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., HVB and HVB AG (whom we refer to collectively as the HVB Parties) and Ramius and its members with respect to their shares of the common stock of New Parent (including, with respect to BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., the approximately 8.5 million shares of New Parent Class A common stock held by Ramius that are attributable to BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.).

If New Parent is not eligible to use Form S-3 to register shares of its common stock, the HVB Parties can demand that New Parent prepare and file a registration statement on Form S-1 with respect to any shares of New Parent Class A common stock held or acquired by the HVB Parties, Ramius or the members of Ramius or any permitted transferee of an HVB Party and any stock of New Parent issued as a dividend or other distribution with respect to such shares of New Parent Class A common stock (which we refer to collectively as the registrable securities). If the HVB Parties make a demand, New Parent will use its reasonable best efforts to cause the registration statement to be declared effective, provided, that the registration statement will not be required to become effective prior to one

Table of Contents

day after the six-month anniversary of the closing of the transactions. New Parent will also use its reasonable best efforts to qualify and maintain its eligibility to use Form S-3 for secondary sales by the HVB Parties, Ramius and the members of Ramius (including BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.) as soon as practicable following the execution of the registration rights agreement. Once New Parent is eligible to use Form S-3, it will file an automatic registration statement on Form S-3 and use its reasonable best efforts to effect and maintain the registration of all shares of registrable securities on Form S-3 for so long as Ramius or an HVB Party holds registrable securities, subject to certain limitations.

New Parent will also cooperate with the HVB Parties in a distribution of registrable securities in an underwritten offering, subject to customary market cutback restrictions under which the HVB Parties will receive priority over other holders of registrable securities. New Parent will be required to pay all registration expenses incurred in connection with the registration rights agreement, subject to specified exceptions. The HVB Parties may demand a total of six underwritten offerings and may require New Parent to support three such offerings with marketing efforts and "road shows." If New Parent gives notice of a registered public offering of its Class A common stock involving an underwriting for its own account or for the account of the HVB Parties, the holders of registrable securities may participate in the offering, subject to the customary market cutback restrictions and any other applicable transfer restrictions.

Subject to certain limitations, New Parent will be allowed to postpone a filing of a registration statement, and sales of registrable securities will be suspended, if an event has occurred that would cause any registration statement or prospectus to contain an untrue statement of a material fact or omit a material fact, or if any such filing would require the disclosure of material non-public information which New Parent has a bona fide business purpose for preserving as confidential and which New Parent would not otherwise be required to disclose.

New Parent must indemnify each holder of registrable securities against certain losses suffered in connection with registrations made pursuant to the registration rights agreement. Each holder whose registrable securities are included in a registration statement agrees to indemnify New Parent and each other holder of registrable securities to the extent that any losses result from information furnished in writing by that holder expressly for use in a registration statement.

Amendment to Investment Agreement with Ramius (See page 110)

In connection with the transactions, Ramius and Alpine Cayman Islands Limited, an affiliate of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., amended the investment agreement with respect to Alpine Cayman Islands Limited's investment in certain Ramius funds. Alpine Cayman Islands Limited has agreed that until September 30, 2010, it will not withdraw a portion of its investment if as a consequence of such withdrawal, the value of its investment would be less than \$250 million, subject to specified exceptions. Beginning on September 30, 2010 and on each subsequent calendar quarter end date, there is no restriction on withdrawing a portion of the investment equal to at least \$40 million from the Ramius funds plus any additional amounts that are permitted to be withdrawn from such investment on such date as is specified in the amendment to the investment agreement.

Notwithstanding the limitations described above, Alpine Cayman Islands Limited may also reduce its investments if:

following the closing of the transactions, the value of its investment in the Ramius funds and the amount of assets under management in the Ramius funds attributable to third party investors other than Alpine Cayman Islands Limited and its affiliates, fall below certain levels;

a change in control of Ramius occurs;

a change in control of New Parent occurs;

Table of Contents

the Ramius funds are no longer managed by New Parent or one of its subsidiaries; or

certain individuals, or Ramius, directly or indirectly, on behalf of these individuals, dispose of shares of New Parent common stock other than as permitted by certain provisions of Ramius's organizational documents.

In addition, if the Ramius funds in which Alpine Cayman Islands Limited is invested suspend or otherwise restrict withdrawals from the funds, Alpine Cayman Islands Limited would be entitled to withdraw a portion of its investment in such funds on a pro rata basis with third party investors in these funds.

Amendment to Investment Agreement with Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC (See page 111)

In connection with the transactions, Ramius and HVB AG, an affiliate of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., amended the investment agreement with respect to an investment in certain funds of Ramius Funds of Funds Group LLC. It has been agreed that until September 30, 2010, a portion of this investment may not be withdrawn if after such withdrawal, the value of the investment would be less than \$350 million, subject to specified exceptions. Beginning on September 30, 2010 and on each subsequent calendar quarter end date, there is no restriction on withdrawing a portion of the investment equal to at least \$60 million from the funds of Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC plus any additional amounts that are permitted to be withdrawn from such investment on such date as is specified in the amendment to the investment agreement.

Notwithstanding the limitations described above, the investment in the Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC may be reduced if:

following the closing of the transactions, the value of the investment in the funds of Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC falls below a certain level;

a change in control of Ramius occurs;

a change in control of New Parent occurs;

the funds of Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC are no longer managed by New Parent or one of its subsidiaries; or

certain individuals, or Ramius, directly or indirectly, on behalf of these individuals, dispose of shares of New Parent common stock other than as permitted by certain provisions of Ramius's organizational documents.

The Cowen Special Meeting (See page 44)

The Cowen special meeting will be held at 1221 Avenue of the Americas (2nd Floor Conference Room), New York, New York, on October 30, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., local time. At the Cowen special meeting, Cowen stockholders will be asked to:

consider and vote to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and approve the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius as contemplated by the transaction agreement;

consider and vote to approve the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan; and

consider and vote to approve the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies, if there are not sufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to approve the foregoing proposals.

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

The Cowen Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on September 24, 2009 as the record date for the Cowen special meeting. Only Cowen stockholders of record at that time are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Cowen special meeting, or any adjournment or postponement of the Cowen special meeting. As of the record date, 15,043,922 shares of Cowen common stock were

Table of Contents

outstanding and entitled to vote at the Cowen special meeting, held by approximately 1,946 holders of record.

Each share of Cowen common stock outstanding on the record date entitles the holder to one vote on each matter to be voted upon by the stockholders at the special meeting. Each of the proposals has the following vote requirement in order to be approved:

approval and adoption of the transaction agreement and approval of the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of Cowen common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting;

approval of the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan requires the affirmative vote of a majority of all shares of Cowen common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the special meeting and voting affirmatively or negatively on the proposal; and

approval of any necessary adjournment of the special meeting requires the affirmative vote of a majority of all shares of Cowen common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the special meeting and voting affirmatively or negatively on the proposal, even if less than a quorum.

An abstention, failure to submit a proxy card or vote in person or broker non-vote will be treated as follows:

as a vote against the proposal to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and approve the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius;

as neither a vote for or as a vote against the proposal to approve the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan; and

as neither a vote for or as a vote against the proposal to approve the adjournment of the special meeting.

As of the Cowen record date, directors and executive officers of Cowen and their affiliates had the right to vote 464,653 shares of Cowen common stock, or approximately 3.09% of the outstanding Cowen common stock entitled to vote at the Cowen special meeting. It is expected that each of these individuals will vote their shares of Cowen common stock in favor of the proposals to be presented at the special meeting.

Ramius has entered into a voting agreement with seven employees of Cowen, whereby, subject to the terms and conditions of the agreement, each employee has agreed to vote all of the shares of Cowen common stock he holds in favor of the transaction agreement and the transactions contemplated in the transaction agreement and against any alternative transaction. As of the date of the voting agreement, these employees held in the aggregate 1,086,510 shares of Cowen common stock, or approximately 6.78% of the outstanding Cowen common stock entitled to vote at the Cowen special meeting.

The Cowen Board of Directors believes that the transactions are in the best interests of Cowen and its stockholders and has unanimously approved the transaction agreement and the transactions it contemplates. For the factors considered by the Cowen Board of Directors in reaching its decision to approve the transaction agreement and the transactions it contemplates, see the section titled "Proposal 1: The Transactions Cowen's Reasons for the Transactions; Recommendation of Cowen Board of Directors" beginning on page 70.

The Cowen Board of Directors unanimously recommends that the Cowen stockholders vote "FOR" the proposal to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and approve the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius, "FOR" the proposal to approve the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan and "FOR" the proposal to approve the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies.

Table of Contents**Selected Consolidated Historical Financial Data of Cowen**

The following table presents Cowen's financial data as of and for the six months ended June 30, 2009 and as of and for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2004. You should read this information in conjunction with Cowen's consolidated financial statements and related notes included in Cowen's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, as amended by Amendment No. 1 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, dated as of April 28, 2009, and in Cowen's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the three and six months ended June 30, 2009, which are incorporated by reference in this document and from which this information is derived. See the section titled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 195.

	Six Months Ended June 30, 2009		Year Ended December 31, 2008 2007 2006 2005 2004			
(in thousands, except per share data)						
Consolidated Statements of Operations Data:						
Revenues						
Investment banking	\$ 17,075	\$ 50,937	\$ 90,520	\$ 164,342	\$ 126,253	\$ 113,795
Brokerage	70,623	149,901	158,720	159,879	145,700	164,188
Interest and dividend income	291	3,362	8,284	17,766	16,990	9,504
Other	5,529	13,124	4,045	2,980	5,348	5,574
Total revenues	93,518	217,324	261,569	344,967	294,291	293,061
Expenses						
Employee compensation and benefits	60,533	133,891	177,948	215,707	172,128	170,546
Non-compensation expense (excluding goodwill impairment)(1)	44,243	98,257	103,226	112,644	109,848	63,533(2)
Goodwill impairment		50,000				
Total expenses	104,776	282,148	281,174	328,351	281,976	234,079
Operating (loss) income	(11,258)	(64,824)	(19,605)	16,616	12,315	58,982
Gain (loss) on exchange memberships		751	1,775	25,843	918	(1,993)
(Loss) income before income taxes	(11,258)	(64,073)	(17,830)	42,459	13,233	56,989
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	(410)	8,081	(6,509)	4,548	1,152	1,877
Net (loss) income	\$ (10,848)	\$ (72,154)	\$ (11,321)	\$ 37,911	\$ 12,081	\$ 55,112
Less: net income attributable to noncontrolling interests		104				
Net (loss) income attributable to Cowen Group, Inc.	(10,952)	(72,154)	(11,321)	\$ 37,911	\$ 12,081	\$ 55,112
Earnings (loss) per share:						
Weighted average common shares outstanding:						
Basic	11,531	11,254	12,805	12,903	12,900	12,900
Diluted	11,531	11,254	12,805	12,966	12,900	12,900
Earnings (loss) per share:						

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

Basic	\$	(0.95)	\$ (6.41)	\$ (0.88)	\$ 2.94	\$ 0.94	\$ 4.27
Diluted	\$	(0.95)	\$ (6.41)	\$ (0.88)	\$ 2.92	\$ 0.94	\$ 4.27

(1)

Includes floor brokerage and trade execution, net service fees, communications, occupancy and equipment, marketing and business development, depreciation and amortization and other expenses.

Table of Contents

- (2) Includes a net benefit of \$46.9 million related to accruals for insurance recoveries and the net reversal of previously accrued reserves in 2004.

	June 30, 2009	2008	Year Ended December 31,			
			2007	2006	2005	2004
(in thousands)						
<i>Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition Data:</i>						
Total assets	\$ 186,107	\$ 207,498	\$ 349,038	\$ 684,438	\$ 785,339	\$ 820,350
Total liabilities and noncontrolling interest	47,715	65,383	140,383	466,310	411,388	466,872
Total stockholders' equity (2009-2006) and group equity (2005 and 2004)	\$ 138,392	\$ 142,115	\$ 208,655	\$ 218,128	\$ 373,951	\$ 353,478

Table of Contents**Selected Consolidated Historical Financial Data of Ramius**

The following table presents Ramius's selected historical consolidated financial data and should be read in conjunction with its consolidated financial statements, the notes thereto and the section titled "Management's Discussion and Analysis" beginning on page 150.

The following selected consolidated historical financial data of Ramius has been derived from the historical consolidated financial statements and related notes for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 and the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements and related notes for the six months ended June 30, 2009.

	Six Months Ended		Year Ended December 31,			
	June 30, 2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
	(in thousands)					
Consolidated Statements of Operations Data:						
Revenues						
Management fees	\$ 22,434	\$ 70,818	\$ 73,950	\$ 65,635	65,592	\$ 48,006
Incentive income			60,491	81,319	24,771	37,847
Interest and dividends	178	1,993	16,356	17,189	9,217	8,921
Reimbursement from affiliates	5,490	16,330	7,086	4,070		
Other Revenues	1,688	6,853	5,086	8,038	8,201	4,879
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds and certain real estate entities revenues</i>	7,967	31,739	25,253	35,897	15,325	(158)
Total revenues	37,757	127,733	188,222	212,148	123,106	99,495
Expenses						
Employee compensation and benefits	28,786	84,769	123,511	112,433	76,971	69,866
Non-compensation expense (excluding goodwill impairment)	26,457	54,856	79,020	54,277	46,406	26,440
Goodwill impairment		10,200				
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds and certain real estate entities expenses</i>	6,520	34,268	21,014	39,300	24,449	710
Total expenses	61,763	184,093	223,545	206,010	147,826	97,016
Other income (loss)						
Net gain (loss) on securities, derivatives and other investments	(3,976)	(2,006)	94,078	54,765	67,000	47,419
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds and certain real estate entities net gains (losses)</i>	5,912	(198,485)	84,846	78,656	61,019	1,961
Total other income (loss)	1,936	(200,491)	178,924	133,421	128,019	49,380
Income (loss) before income taxes	(22,070)	(256,851)	143,601	139,559	103,299	51,859
Income tax expense (benefit)	(49)	(1,301)	1,397	4,814	1,304	717
Net income (loss)	(22,021)	(255,550)	142,204	134,745	101,995	51,142
Net Income (loss) attributable to non-controlling interests in consolidated subsidiaries	(3,989)	(113,786)	66,343	74,189	53,439	900
Special allocation to the Redeemable Managing Member			26,551	21,195	15,961	18,523
Net income (loss) available to all Redeemable Members	\$ (26,010)	\$ (141,764)	\$ 49,310	\$ 39,361	\$ 32,595	\$ 31,719

Year Ended December 31,

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

Six Months Ended
June 30, 2009

2008 2007 2006 2005 2004

(in thousands)

*Consolidated Statements of Financial
Condition Data:*

Total assets	\$ 703,797	\$ 797,831	\$ 2,113,532	\$ 2,468,195	\$ 1,833,789	\$ 1,702,809
Total liabilities	136,290	\$ 182,003	\$ 1,430,029	\$ 1,657,992	\$ 1,095,805	\$ 1,477,469
Redeemable non-controlling interests in consolidated subsidiaries	260,664	284,936	203,523	514,761	482,801	19,119
Total redeemable members' capital	\$ 306,843	\$ 330,892	\$ 479,980	\$ 295,442	\$ 255,183	\$ 206,221

Table of Contents**Unaudited Selected Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information**

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statements of operations for the six months ended June 30, 2009, and for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, give effect to the transactions as if they were completed on January 1, 2008, and include all adjustments which give effect to the events that are directly attributable to the transactions, are expected to have a continuing impact and that are factually supportable. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of financial condition as of June 30, 2009 gives effect to the transactions as if they had been completed on June 30, 2009 and includes all adjustments which give effect to the events that are directly attributable to the transactions and that are factually supportable. The information below should be read in conjunction with the historical financial statements and related notes of Ramius, included in this document, and of Cowen, contained in the annual reports and other information that Cowen has filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference in this document and with the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements and related notes included in this document. See the sections titled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 195 and "Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Statements" beginning on page 52.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information is presented for illustrative purposes only and does not indicate the financial results of the combined companies had the companies actually been combined at the beginning of each period presented, nor the impact of possible business model changes. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information also does not consider any potential impacts of current market conditions on revenues, cost savings and asset dispositions, among other factors. In addition, as explained in more detail in the accompanying notes to the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information, the preliminary allocation of the pro forma purchase price reflected in the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information is subject to adjustment and may vary significantly from the actual purchase price allocation that will be recorded upon completion of the transactions.

	Six Months Ended June 30, 2009	Year Ended December 31, 2008
	(in thousands, except per share data)	
<i>Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Statements of Operations Data</i>		
Total revenues	\$ 131,275	\$ 345,057
Total expenses	\$ 171,979	\$ 426,148
Total other income (loss)	\$ 1,936	\$ (199,740)
Net loss attributable to stockholders	\$ (41,604)	\$ (182,780)
Net loss per share: basic and diluted	\$ (0.75)	\$ (3.31)
Weighted average common shares: basic and diluted	55,189	55,189

	As of June 30, 2009 (in thousands)
<i>Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Statement of Financial Condition Data</i>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 40,912
Total assets	\$ 859,348
Line of credit	\$ 25,000
Total liabilities	\$ 187,339
Total stockholders' equity	\$ 423,554
Noncontrolling interests	\$ 248,455
Total liabilities, redeemable noncontrolling interests and equity	\$ 859,348

Table of Contents**Comparative Per Share Data**

The following table sets forth certain historical per share financial information for Cowen common stock, and certain pro forma per share data for New Parent Class A common stock. Ramius is a privately-held company; accordingly, per share historical data for Ramius are omitted.

The pro forma data was derived by combining the historical consolidated financial information of Cowen and Ramius using the acquisition method of accounting and applying the assumptions and adjustments described in the accompanying notes to the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements. The Comparative Per Share Data for the six months ended June 30, 2009 and the year ended December 31, 2008 combine the historical consolidated financial information of Cowen and Ramius giving effect to the transactions as if the transactions had become effective on January 1, 2008. The information below should be read in conjunction with the historical financial statements and related notes contained in the annual reports and other information that Cowen has filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference in this document and with the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements and related notes included in this document. See the sections titled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 195 and "Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Statements" beginning on page 52.

It is anticipated that the transactions will provide the combined company with financial benefits that include reduced operating expenses and revenue enhancement opportunities. The unaudited pro forma information, while helpful in illustrating the financial characteristics of the combined company under one set of assumptions, does not reflect the impact of possible business model changes as a result of current market conditions which may impact revenues, cost savings, asset dispositions and other factors. It also does not necessarily reflect what the historical results of the combined company would have been had our companies been combined during these periods, nor is it indicative of the results of operations in future periods or the future financial position of the combined company. The pro forma adjustments are based upon available information and certain assumptions that Cowen and Ramius management believe are reasonable. In addition, as explained in more detail in the accompanying notes to the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information, the preliminary allocation of the pro forma purchase price reflected in the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information is subject to adjustment and may vary significantly from the actual purchase price allocation that will be recorded upon completion of the transactions.

	Cowen Historical		New Parent Pro Forma	
	Six Months Ended	Year Ended	Six Months Ended	Year Ended
	June 30, 2009	December 31, 2008	June 30, 2009	December 31, 2008
(in thousands, except per share data)				
<i>Basic and diluted net loss per common share</i>				
Numerator:				
Net loss attributable to stockholders	\$ (10,952)	\$ (72,154)	\$ (41,604)	\$ (182,780)
Denominator:				
Weighted average shares outstanding for Basic and Diluted EPS	11,531	11,254	55,189	55,189
Net loss per common share:				
Basic and Diluted	\$ (0.95)	\$ (6.41)	\$ (0.75)	\$ (3.31)
Book Value per common share at June 30, 2009	\$ 9.15		\$ 7.67	

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

In addition to the other information included and incorporated by reference in this document, including the matters addressed under "Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements," you should carefully consider the following risk factors before deciding whether to vote for proposals presented in this document. In addition, you should read and consider the risks associated with each of the businesses of Cowen and Ramius because these risks will relate to the combined company. Descriptions of some of these risks can be found in Cowen's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, as amended by Amendment No. 1 to the Annual Report Form 10-K/A for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, dated as of April 28, 2009, and in Cowen's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2009, and in Cowen's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2009, which are filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference into this document. You should also consider the other information in this document and the other documents incorporated by reference into this document. See the section titled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 195.

Risks Related to the Completion of the Transactions

The transactions are subject to conditions, including certain conditions that may not be satisfied, and may not be completed on a timely basis, or at all. Failure to complete the transactions could have material and adverse effects on Cowen.

The completion of the transactions is subject to a number of conditions, including Cowen stockholder approval, which make the completion and timing of the completion of the transactions uncertain. See the section titled "The Transaction Agreement Conditions to Complete the Transactions" beginning on page 103 for a more detailed discussion. Also, either Cowen or Ramius may terminate the transaction agreement if the transactions have not been completed by December 31, 2009, unless the failure of the transactions to be completed has resulted from the failure of the party seeking to terminate the transaction agreement to perform its obligations.

If the transactions are not completed on a timely basis, or at all, Cowen's ongoing business may be adversely affected and, without realizing any of the benefits of having completed the transactions, Cowen will be subject to a number of risks, including the following:

Cowen will be required to pay a termination fee of \$3.5 million and, in some cases, expenses of Ramius up to \$750,000 if the transactions are terminated under qualifying circumstances, as described in the transaction agreement;

Cowen will be required to pay costs relating to the transactions, such as legal, accounting, financial advisor and printing fees, whether or not the transactions are completed;

time and resources committed by Cowen's management to matters relating to the transactions (including integration planning) could otherwise have been devoted to pursuing other beneficial opportunities;

the market price of Cowen common stock could decline to the extent that the current market price reflects a market assumption that the transactions will be completed; and

if the transaction agreement is terminated and Cowen's Board of Directors seeks another business combination, stockholders cannot be certain that Cowen will be able to find a party willing to enter into a transaction agreement on terms equivalent to or more attractive than the terms that Ramius has agreed to in the transactions.

Uncertainty regarding the completion of the transactions may cause clients to delay or defer decisions concerning Cowen and may adversely affect Cowen's ability to attract and retain key employees.

The transactions will happen only if stated conditions are met, including, among others, the approval of the transactions by Cowen stockholders, the receipt of all required regulatory approvals and

Table of Contents

the satisfaction of the conditions to completing the transactions contained in the asset exchange agreement. Many of the conditions are beyond the control of Cowen. In addition, both Cowen and Ramius have rights to terminate the transaction agreement under various circumstances. As a result, there may be uncertainty regarding the completion of the transactions. This uncertainty may cause clients to delay or defer decisions concerning Cowen, which could negatively impact revenues, earnings and cash flow of Cowen, regardless of whether the transactions are ultimately completed. Similarly, uncertainty regarding the completion of the transactions may foster uncertainty among employees about their future roles with the combined company. This may adversely affect the ability of Cowen to attract and retain key management, sales, marketing and technical personnel.

Some of Cowen's current directors and executive officers have interests in the transactions that may differ from the interests of other stockholders, and these persons may have conflicts of interest in supporting or recommending that you approve the proposals set forth in this document.

In considering whether to approve the proposals set forth in this document, you should recognize that some of the members of management and Cowen's Board of Directors may have interests in the transactions that differ from, or are in addition to, their interests as stockholders. These interests include:

the rights of some executive officers to receive payments or other benefits, including grants of equity awards and the modification of vesting schedules of existing equity awards, following the completion of the transactions;

the continuing service of several of Cowen's existing directors and executive officers in the combined company after the closing date of the transactions;

the amendment of employment arrangements with some of Cowen's executive officers to provide incentives for their continued service to the combined company after the closing date of the transactions; and

the continued indemnification of Cowen's existing directors after the completion of the transactions.

These interests are described in greater detail in the section titled "Proposal 1: The Transactions Interests of Certain Persons in the Transactions" beginning on page 87.

The transaction agreement contains provisions that could discourage a potential competing acquiror of Cowen or could result in any competing proposal being at a lower price than it might otherwise be.

The transaction agreement contains "no shop" provisions that, subject to limited exceptions, restrict Cowen's ability to solicit, encourage, facilitate or discuss competing third party proposals to acquire all or a significant part of the assets or equity interests of Cowen. Further, even if the Cowen Board of Directors withdraws or qualifies its recommendation of the transactions and the issuance of the New Parent Class A common stock in the transactions, it will still be required to submit the matter to a vote of the Cowen stockholders at the special meeting. In addition, Ramius generally has an opportunity to modify the terms of the proposed transactions in response to any competing acquisition proposals that may be made before the Cowen Board of Directors may withdraw or qualify its recommendation. Upon termination of the transaction agreement, Cowen would be required, under qualifying circumstances, to pay to Ramius a termination fee of \$3.5 million and expenses of Ramius of up to \$750,000.

These provisions could discourage a potential competing acquiror that might have an interest in acquiring all or a significant part of the assets or equity interests of Cowen from considering or proposing such acquisition, even if it were prepared to pay consideration with higher per share cash or market value than the value attributable to the transactions, or might result in a potential competing acquiror proposing to pay a lower price than it might have otherwise proposed to pay because of the added expense of the termination fee and expenses of Ramius that become payable.

Table of Contents

The opinion obtained by Cowen from its financial advisor will not reflect changes in circumstances between the signing of the transaction agreement and the completion of the transactions.

Cowen has not obtained an updated opinion as of the date of this document from its financial advisor. Changes in Cowen's and Ramius's operations, prospects, general market and economic conditions and other factors that may be beyond the control of Cowen and Ramius, and on which Cowen's financial advisor's opinion was based, may significantly alter the value of Cowen or Ramius or the price of shares of Cowen common stock by the time the transactions are completed. The opinion does not speak as of the time the transactions will be completed or as of any date other than the date of such opinion. Because Cowen does not currently anticipate asking its financial advisor to update its opinion, the opinion will not address the fairness of the transaction consideration to the holders of Cowen common stock, from a financial point of view, at the time the transactions are completed. For a description of the opinion that Cowen received from its financial advisor, see the section titled "Proposal 1: The Transactions Opinion of Cowen's Financial Advisor," beginning on page 73. For a description of the other factors considered by the Cowen Board of Directors in deciding to declare the transactions contemplated in the transaction agreement to be advisable, see the section titled "Proposal 1: The Transactions Cowen's Reasons for the Transactions; Recommendation of Cowen Board of Directors" beginning on page 70.

Because the date that the transactions will be completed will be later than the date of the stockholder meeting, at the time of the stockholder meeting you will not know the exact market value of the Cowen common stock that Ramius and HVB will receive when the transactions are completed.

If the price of Cowen common stock increases between the date the transaction agreement and the asset exchange agreement were signed or the date of the Cowen special meeting and the completion of the transactions, Ramius and HVB (an affiliate of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., a third party investor in Ramius) will receive shares of Cowen common stock that have a market value that is greater than the market value of such shares when the transaction agreement and the asset exchange agreement were signed or the date of the Cowen special meeting, respectively. Therefore, while the number of shares is fixed (subject to some adjustments), Cowen stockholders cannot be sure of the market value of the consideration that will be paid to Ramius and HVB when the transactions are completed.

Risks Related to the Combined Company Following the Transactions

The combined company is expected to incur substantial expenses related to the integration of Cowen and Ramius.

The combined company is expected to incur substantial expenses in connection with the integration of the business, policies, procedures, operations, technologies and systems of Ramius with those of Cowen. There are a large number of functions that must be integrated, including but not limited to information technology, finance, human resources, audit, corporate communications, risk management and legal and compliance. While the parties have calculated an estimate of expenses that would be incurred, there are a number of factors beyond their control that could affect the total amount or the timing of all of the expected integration expenses. Moreover, many of the expenses that will be incurred, by their nature, are difficult to estimate accurately at the present time. These expenses could, particularly in the near term, exceed the savings that the parties expect to achieve from the elimination of duplicative expenses and the realization of economies of scale, cost savings and revenue synergies related to the integration of the businesses following the completion of the transactions.

Although Cowen and Ramius expect that Cowen's combination with Ramius will result in benefits to Cowen, Cowen and Ramius may not realize those benefits because of integration difficulties and other challenges.

The success of Cowen's combination with Ramius will depend in large part on the success of the management of the combined company in integrating the operations, strategies, technologies and personnel of the two companies following the completion of the transactions. The combined company

Table of Contents

may fail to realize some or all of the anticipated benefits of the transactions if the integration process takes longer than expected or is more costly than expected. The failure of the combined company to meet the challenges involved in successfully integrating the operations of Cowen and Ramius or to otherwise realize any of the anticipated benefits of the transactions, including additional revenue opportunities, could impair the operations of the combined company. In addition, Cowen and Ramius anticipate that the overall integration of the companies will be a complex, time-consuming and expensive process that, without proper planning and effective and timely implementation, could significantly disrupt Cowen's business and that of Ramius.

Potential difficulties the combined company may encounter in the integration process include the following:

the integration of each company's management teams, strategies, technologies and operations, products and services;

the disruption of each company's ongoing businesses and distraction of their respective management teams from ongoing business concerns;

the retention of the existing clients of both companies;

the creation of uniform standards, controls, procedures, policies and information systems;

the reduction of the costs associated with each company's operations;

the consolidation and rationalization of information technology platforms and administrative infrastructures;

the integration of corporate cultures and maintenance of employee morale;

the retention of key employees;

the occurrence of unanticipated expenses related to technology integration; and

potential unknown liabilities associated with the transactions.

The anticipated benefits and synergies include the combination of offices in various locations and the elimination of numerous technology systems, duplicative personnel and duplicative market and other data sources. However, these anticipated benefits and synergies assume a successful integration and are based on projections, which are inherently uncertain, and other assumptions. Even if integration is successful, anticipated benefits and synergies may not be achieved.

The transactions are subject to the receipt of consents and approvals from government entities that may impose conditions that could have an adverse effect on the combined company following the transactions.

Before the transactions may be completed, approvals or consents must be obtained from various domestic and foreign securities, antitrust and other authorities. In deciding whether to grant these approvals, the relevant governmental entity will make a determination of whether, among other things, the transactions are in the public interest. Regulatory entities may impose conditions on the completion of the transactions or require changes to the terms of the transactions. Although the parties do not currently expect that any such material conditions or changes would be imposed, there can be no assurance that they will not be, and such conditions or changes could have the effect of delaying completion of the transactions or imposing additional costs on or limiting the revenues of the combined company following the transactions, any of which

might have a material adverse effect on the combined company following the transactions. See the section titled "Proposal 1: The Transactions Regulatory Approvals Required for the Transactions" beginning on page 86.

Ramius is in a different business than Cowen and there are no guarantees that management of the combined company will be able to successfully integrate the business lines of Ramius and Cowen.

The transactions involve the combination of two companies that currently operate in different business segments. Ramius is an alternative investment management firm. Ramius's investment services

Table of Contents

and products include hedge funds, hedge fund of funds, real estate funds and cash management. Cowen has a financial services practice, including investment banking, equity research, sales and trading and alternative asset management services. Although the management of the combined company will include executives from both Cowen and Ramius, neither Cowen nor Ramius can guarantee that the combined company will integrate and operate the business lines of Cowen and Ramius to achieve the cost savings and other benefits anticipated to result from the transactions.

Current Cowen stockholders will have a reduced ownership and voting interest after the transactions and will exercise less influence over management.

Current Cowen stockholders currently have the right to vote in the election of the Board of Directors of Cowen and on other matters affecting Cowen. Immediately after the transactions are completed, it is expected that current Cowen stockholders will own approximately 28.76% (including shares to be issued in conjunction with the transactions).

As a result of the transactions, current Cowen stockholders will have less influence on the management and policies of New Parent than they now have on the management and policies of Cowen. New Parent will be a majority-owned subsidiary of Ramius and Ramius will have the ability to elect a majority of New Parent's board of directors and determine the outcome of matters submitted to the combined company's stockholders, such as the approval of significant transactions. As a result, actions that may be supported by a majority of the other stockholders could be blocked by Ramius.

Ramius's ownership of the combined company could affect the liquidity in the market for New Parent's Class A common stock.

The large ownership stake in New Parent and the board representation of Ramius on the New Parent board of directors may discourage a third party from proposing a change of control or other strategic transaction concerning the combined company. As a result, New Parent's Class A common stock could trade at prices that do not reflect a "control premium" to the same extent as do the stocks of similarly situated companies that do not have a stockholder with an ownership interest as large as Ramius's ownership interest.

New Parent will be a "controlled company" within the meaning of the NASDAQ rules and, as a result, will qualify for, and rely on, exemptions from certain corporate governance standards, which may limit the presence of independent directors on the board of directors or board committees of New Parent.

Following the consummation of the transactions, Ramius will beneficially own shares of New Parent capital stock which would represent approximately 65% of the outstanding voting power of New Parent's capital stock. Accordingly, New Parent will be a majority-owned subsidiary of Ramius and Ramius will have the ability to elect New Parent's board of directors and thereby control the management and affairs of New Parent. Therefore, New Parent will be deemed to be a "controlled company" for purposes of NASDAQ Rule 5615(c)(2). Under this rule, a company of which more than 50% of the voting power for the election of directors is held by an individual, a group or another company is a "controlled company" and is exempt from certain corporate governance requirements, including requirements that (1) a majority of the board of directors consist of independent directors, (2) compensation of officers be determined or recommended to the board of directors by a majority of its independent directors or by a compensation committee that is composed entirely of independent directors and (3) director nominees be selected or recommended for selection by a majority of the independent directors or by a nominating committee composed solely of independent directors. Accordingly, New Parent's stockholders may not have the same protections afforded to stockholders of other companies that are required to fully comply with the NASDAQ rules. Solely for the purpose of including the director designated by BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. as a member of each of the compensation committee and the nominating and governance committee, New Parent will elect to be treated as a "controlled company" for purposes of NASDAQ Rule 5615(c)(2). Even though New Parent

Table of Contents

will be treated as a "controlled company," New Parent currently intends that a majority of its board of directors will consist of independent directors and that each member of each of the compensation committee and the nominating and governance committee other than the director designated by BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. will be independent.

The ability of Ramius and, subject to limitations, HVB, Société Générale and some of the combined company's future employees to sell common stock of the combined company at any time following the completion of the transactions could cause the stock price to decrease.

Ramius and HVB may sell the 40,250,708 aggregate shares of New Parent Class A common stock that they will receive in the transactions. However, the asset exchange agreement restricts the sale of shares by HVB under specified circumstances, and Ramius' managing member has agreed in Ramius's operating agreement (as it will be amended and restated at the closing of the transactions) not to make any distributions of New Parent Class A common stock to the members of Ramius (including BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.) for a period of time following the closing of the transactions, which restrictions may be waived by Ramius's managing member in accordance with the terms of Ramius's operating agreement. Following the consummation of the transactions, approximately 1,934,661 shares of New Parent common stock will underlie the capital in Ramius of those members of Ramius who may withdraw one-third of their capital in Ramius as of the end of each calendar year beginning on December 31, 2009. In connection with a withdrawal of capital by these members of Ramius, Ramius will sell shares of New Parent common stock attributable to these members on or prior to the effectiveness of such withdrawal and will use the net proceeds of such sales to satisfy the withdrawal requests of these members in cash. The restrictions on HVB and its affiliates (including BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. with respect to the 8.5 million shares of New Parent common stock held by Ramius that are allocated to it) are subject to a number of exceptions and may be terminated upon the occurrence of certain events. New Parent will execute and deliver to Ramius a registration rights agreement, which includes customary registration rights for Ramius and HVB and its affiliates (including BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. with respect to the approximately 8.5 million shares of New Parent Common Stock held by Ramius that are allocated to BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.). See the section titled "Other Agreements Related to the Transactions Transfer Restrictions on Shares of New Parent Common Stock Held by Ramius" beginning on page 112.

In addition, Cowen filed a registration statement on behalf of Société Générale its former parent company, in 2007, whereby Société Générale may sell all or a portion of the 1,382,608 eligible shares of Cowen common stock that it held as of December 31, 2008. These selling rights will remain in effect after shares of Cowen common stock are exchanged for shares of New Parent Class A common stock pursuant to the transactions. Furthermore, New Parent's employees and other stockholders may sell significant numbers of shares of New Parent's Class A common stock subject to limitations on senior management. See the section titled "Other Agreements Related to the Transactions Transfer Restrictions on Share of New Parent Common Stock Held by Ramius" beginning on page 112 for more information.

The sale of a substantial number of shares of common stock by Ramius, HVB, Société Générale, New Parent's employees or by other stockholders within a short period of time, or the possibility of such sales, may adversely affect the price of New Parent's Class A common stock and impede New Parent's ability to raise capital through the issuance of equity securities.

Table of Contents

Under the certificate of incorporation of New Parent, New Parent will be able to issue more shares of common stock than Cowen is currently authorized to issue. As a result, such future issuances of common stock could have a dilutive effect on the earnings per share and voting power of New Parent stockholders.

The certificate of incorporation of New Parent authorizes a greater number of shares of common stock than Cowen's current certificate of incorporation. If the transactions are completed, New Parent will be able to issue more shares of common stock than Cowen is currently authorized to issue. If the board of directors of New Parent elects to issue additional shares of common stock in the future, whether in public offerings, in connection with mergers and acquisitions or otherwise, such additional issuances could dilute the earnings per share and voting power of New Parent stockholders.

The market price of New Parent's common stock may decline in the future as a result of the transactions.

The market price of New Parent's common stock may decline in the future as a result of the transactions for a number of reasons, including:

the unsuccessful integration of Cowen and Ramius; or

the failure of the combined company to achieve the perceived benefits of the transactions, including financial results, as rapidly as or to the extent anticipated by financial or industry analysts.

These factors are, to some extent, beyond the control of Cowen and Ramius.

The market price of New Parent's common stock after the transactions will be affected by factors different from those currently affecting the market price of Cowen's common stock.

Ramius operates across a range of asset classes and services in which Cowen has not historically operated. Accordingly, the operations and the market price of New Parent Class A common stock and the market price of Cowen common stock until the completion of the transactions may be affected by factors different from those currently affecting the operations and the market price of Cowen common stock. For a discussion of Cowen's businesses and the businesses of Ramius, see the sections titled "Information About the Companies" beginning on page 48 and "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 195.

The unaudited pro forma financial data and internal earnings estimates for both Cowen and Ramius included in this document are preliminary, and the combined company's actual financial position and operations after the transactions may differ materially from the unaudited pro forma financial data included in this document.

The unaudited pro forma financial data and internal earnings estimates for both Cowen and Ramius in this document are presented for illustrative purposes only and are not necessarily indicative of what New Parent's actual financial position or operations would have been had the transactions been completed on the dates indicated. For more information, see the section titled "Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Statements" beginning on page 52.

The combined company's future results will suffer if the combined company does not effectively manage its expanded operations following the transactions.

Following the transactions, New Parent may continue to expand its operations through new product and service offerings and through additional strategic investments, acquisitions or joint ventures, some of which may involve complex technical and operational challenges. The combined company's future success depends, in part, upon its ability to manage its expansion opportunities, which pose numerous risks and uncertainties, including the need to integrate new operations into its existing business in an efficient and timely manner, to combine accounting and data processing systems and management controls and to integrate relationships with customers and business partners. In addition,

Table of Contents

future acquisitions or joint ventures after completion of the transactions may involve the issuance of additional shares of common stock of New Parent, which may dilute Cowen stockholders' ownership of the combined company.

Furthermore, any future acquisitions of businesses or facilities could entail a number of risks, including:

problems with the effective integration of operations;

inability to maintain key pre-acquisition business relationships;

increased operating costs;

exposure to unanticipated liabilities; and

difficulties in realizing projected efficiencies, synergies and cost savings.

Cowen cannot assure you that the combined company's future expansion or acquisition opportunities will be successful, or that the combined company will realize its expected operating efficiencies, cost savings, revenue enhancements, synergies or other benefits.

BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., its designee on New Parent's board of directors and Ramius may have interests that conflict with your interests.

BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., its designee on New Parent's board of directors and Ramius may have interests that conflict with, or are different from, New Parent's and your own. Conflicts of interest between BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. and/or Ramius and New Parent may arise, and such conflicts of interest may not be resolved in a manner favorable to New Parent, including potential competitive business activities (in the case of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.), corporate opportunities, indemnity arrangements, registration rights and sales or distributions by Ramius, BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. or their respective affiliates of New Parent common stock. New Parent's certificate of incorporation and by-laws do not contain any provisions designed to facilitate resolution of actual or potential conflicts of interest, or to ensure that potential business opportunities that may become available to BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. and New Parent will be reserved for or made available to New Parent. Pertinent provisions of law will govern any such matters if they arise. In addition, Ramius, as the holder of the majority of New Parent's issued and outstanding shares of Class A common stock, could delay or prevent an acquisition or merger even if such a transaction would benefit other stockholders.

Risks Affecting the Companies Related to the Financial Services Industry

Volatility in the value of Ramius's, and to a lesser extent, Cowen's, respective investment and securities portfolios or other assets and liabilities could adversely affect the financial condition or operations of the combined company.

Cowen and Ramius adopted the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 157 (which we refer to as SFAS 157) on January 1, 2008. SFAS 157 defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. SFAS 157 also establishes a framework for measuring fair value and a valuation hierarchy based upon the transparency of inputs used in the valuation of an asset or liability. Changes in fair value are reflected in the statement of operations at each measurement period. Therefore, continued volatility in the value of Ramius's, and to a lesser extent, Cowen's, respective investment and securities portfolios or other assets and liabilities, including funds, will result in volatility of the combined firm's results. As a result, the changes in value may have an adverse effect on financial condition or operations in the future.

Table of Contents

Risks Related to Ramius's Business

For purposes of the following risk factors, references made to Ramius's funds include hedge funds and funds in the Ramius fund of funds business and real estate funds.

Difficult market conditions, market disruptions and volatility have adversely affected and may in the future continue to adversely affect Ramius's business, results of operations and financial condition.

Ramius's business is materially affected by conditions in the global financial markets and by global economic conditions, such as interest rates, the availability of credit, inflation rates, economic uncertainty, changes in laws, commodity prices, asset prices (including real estate), currency exchange rates and controls and national and international political circumstances (including wars, terrorist acts or security operations). Recently, global credit and other financial markets have suffered and continue to suffer substantial stress, volatility, illiquidity and disruption. Market turbulence reached unprecedented levels during the third and fourth quarters of 2008, as loss of investor confidence in the financial system resulted in an historically unprecedented lack of liquidity, decline in asset values (including real estate assets), and the bankruptcy or acquisition of, or government assistance to, several major domestic and international financial institutions. These factors, combined with volatile commodity prices and foreign exchange rates, have contributed to recessionary economic conditions globally and a deterioration in consumer and corporate confidence and could further exacerbate the overall market disruptions and risks to market participants, including the Ramius funds and managed accounts. These market conditions may affect the level and volatility of securities prices and the liquidity and the value of investments in the Ramius funds and managed accounts, and Ramius may not be able to effectively manage its exposure to these market conditions.

Ramius's profitability may be adversely affected by decreases in revenue relating to changes in market and economic conditions.

The adverse market conditions of the second half of 2008 continued in the early part of 2009 and while conditions have recently improved slightly, global market conditions have been and remain inherently unpredictable and outside of Ramius's control. If these conditions continue, they may impact Ramius's ability to generate non-volatile investment performance and attract new assets under management, and may result in high levels of redemptions from the Ramius funds and managed accounts. These factors may reduce Ramius's revenue growth and income and may slow or reduce the growth of the Ramius business or may contract the Ramius business. In particular, negative fund performance reduces assets under management, which decreases the management fees and incentive income that Ramius earns. Negative performance of the Ramius Enterprise Master Fund Ltd (which we refer to as the Enterprise Fund) also decreases revenue derived from Ramius's returns on investments of its own capital. Incentive income, which has historically comprised a substantial portion of Ramius's annual revenues, is subject to "high-water marks" whereby incentive income is earned by Ramius only to the extent that the net asset value of a fund at the end of a measurement period exceeds the highest net asset value as of the end of a preceding measurement period for which Ramius earned incentive income. Ramius's incentive allocations are also subject, in some cases, to performance hurdles. As a result of negative investment performance in 2008, Ramius entered 2009 with high-water marks in many hedge funds, which require the Ramius funds to recover cumulative losses before Ramius can begin to earn incentive income in 2009 and beyond with respect to the investments of fund investors who suffered losses last year. In order for Ramius to begin earning incentive fees from investors who had incurred losses in 2008, the respective funds they are invested in need to outperform the losses they incurred in 2008. For example, the net asset value of Ramius Multi-Strategy Fund Ltd decreased by 26.76% net of management fees, in 2008. This assumes no further recovery from the 80% discount that Ramius has valued the net equity claim for assets held at Lehman Brothers International (Europe) (which we refer to as LBIE). In order for Ramius to earn an incentive fee with respect to an

Table of Contents

investor who had participated fully in this loss, the fund will have to increase net asset value by 36.5%, net of management fees. Such analysis applies to each fund which incurred 2008 losses.

Investors in the Ramius funds and investors with managed accounts can generally redeem investments with prior notice. The rate of redemptions has recently accelerated and could continue to further accelerate. Redemptions have, and may continue to, create difficulties in managing the liquidity of the Ramius funds and managed accounts, reduce assets under management and adversely affect Ramius's revenues.

Investors in the Ramius funds and investors with managed accounts may generally redeem their investments with prior notice, subject to certain initial holding periods. Investors may reduce the aggregate amount of their investments, or transfer their investments to other funds or asset managers with different fee rate arrangements, for any number of reasons, including investment performance, changes in prevailing interest rates and financial market performance. Investors have less confidence now and their allocation process more selective and deliberate. Increased volatility in global markets could accelerate the pace of fund and managed account redemptions. Redemptions of investments in the Ramius funds could also take place more quickly than assets may be sold by those funds to meet the price of such redemptions, which could result in the relevant funds and/or Ramius being in breach of applicable legal, regulatory and contractual requirements in relation to such redemptions, resulting in possible regulatory and investor actions against Ramius and/or the Ramius funds. If the Ramius funds or managed accounts underperform, existing investors may decide to reduce or redeem their investments or transfer asset management responsibility to other asset managers and Ramius may be unable to obtain new alternative investment management business. Any such action would potentially cause further redemptions and/or make it more difficult to attract new investors.

The redemption of investments in the Ramius funds or in managed accounts could also adversely affect Ramius's revenues, which are substantially dependent upon the assets under management in the Ramius funds. If redemptions of investments cause revenues to decline, they would likely have a material adverse effect on Ramius's business, results of operations or financial condition. As a result of recent market developments and the potential for increased and continuing disruptions and the resulting uncertainty during the second half of 2008 and early 2009, Ramius has recently experienced an increase in the level of redemptions from the Ramius funds and managed accounts. Furthermore, the Enterprise Fund's initial lock-up period ends on December 31, 2009. This will be the first opportunity for investors in the Enterprise Fund to redeem their investments. Accordingly, this fund may be subject to higher levels of redemption than Ramius had originally anticipated. Furthermore, redemption rates may stay elevated within the industry while market conditions remain unsettled. If the level of redemption activity persists at above historic levels, it could become more difficult to manage the liquidity requirements of the Ramius funds, making it more difficult or more costly for the Ramius funds to liquidate positions rapidly to meet redemption requests or otherwise. This in turn may negatively impact Ramius's returns on its own invested capital.

In addition to the impact on the market value of assets under management, the illiquidity and volatility of the global financial markets have negatively affected Ramius's ability to manage inflows and outflows from the Ramius funds. Ramius's ability to attract new capital to existing Ramius funds or to develop new investment platforms may be negatively impacted during this period. Several alternative investment managers, including Ramius, have recently exercised and may in the future exercise their rights to limit, and in some cases, suspend, redemptions from the funds they manage. Ramius has also and may in the future negotiate with investors in an attempt to limit redemptions or create a variety of other investor structures to bring fund assets and liquidity requirements into a more manageable balance. To the extent that Ramius has negotiated with investors to limit redemptions, it may be likely that such investors will continue to seek further redemptions in the future. Such actions may have an adverse effect on the ability of the Ramius funds to attract additional assets under management. The Ramius fund of funds platform may also be adversely impacted as the hedge funds in which it invests

Table of Contents

themselves face similar investor redemptions or if such hedge funds exercise their rights to limit or suspend Ramius's redemptions from such funds. Poor performance relative to other asset management firms may result in reduced investments in the Ramius funds and managed accounts and increased redemptions from the Ramius funds and managed accounts. As a result, investment underperformance would likely have a material adverse effect on Ramius's business, results of operations or financial condition.

Hedge fund investments are subject to other additional risks.

Investments by the Ramius funds are subject to certain factors, including the following:

Generally, there are few limitations on hedge funds' investment strategies, which are often subject to the sole discretion of the management company or the general partner of such funds.

Hedge funds may engage in short selling, which is subject to the theoretically unlimited risk of loss because there is no limit on how much the price of a security may appreciate before the short position is closed out. A fund may be subject to losses if a security lender demands return of the lent securities and an alternative lending source cannot be found or if the fund is otherwise unable to borrow securities that are necessary to hedge its positions. Furthermore, recent rulemaking by the SEC and other regulatory authorities outside the United States have imposed trading restrictions and reporting requirements on short selling, which in certain circumstances may impair hedge funds' ability to use short selling effectively.

The efficacy of investment and trading strategies depend largely on the ability to establish and maintain an overall market position in a combination of financial instruments. A hedge fund's trading orders may not be executed in a timely and efficient manner due to various circumstances, including systems failures or human error. In such event, the fund might only be able to acquire some but not all of the components of the position, or if the overall position were in need of adjustment, the fund might not be able to make such an adjustment. As a result, a hedge fund would not be able to achieve the market position selected by the management company or general partner of such fund, and might incur a loss in liquidating its position.

Credit risk may arise through a default by one of several large institutions that are dependent on one another to meet their respective liquidity or operational needs, so that a default by one institution causes a series of defaults by the other institutions. This "systemic risk" may adversely affect the financial intermediaries (such as clearing agencies, clearing houses, banks, securities firms and exchanges) with which the hedge funds interact on a daily basis.

Hedge funds are subject to risks due to the potential illiquidity of assets. Hedge funds may make investments or hold trading positions in markets that are volatile and which may become illiquid. The timely sale of trading positions can be impaired by decreased trading volume, increased price volatility, concentrated trading positions, limitations on the ability to transfer positions in highly specialized or structured transactions to which they may be a party, and changes in industry and government regulations. It may be impossible or highly costly for hedge funds to liquidate positions rapidly to meet margin calls, withdrawal requests or otherwise, particularly if there are other market participants seeking to dispose of similar assets at the same time, if the relevant market is otherwise moving against a position or in the event of trading halts or daily price movement limits on the market. In addition, increased levels of redemptions may result in increased illiquidity as more liquid assets are sold to fund redemptions. Moreover, these risks may be exacerbated for the Ramius fund of funds platform. For example, if the Ramius fund of funds platform invested in two or more hedge funds that each had illiquid positions in the same issuer, the illiquidity risk for the Ramius fund of funds portfolios would be compounded.

Table of Contents

Furthermore, certain of the investments of the Ramius fund of funds platform were in third party hedge funds that halted redemptions in the face of illiquidity and other issues.

Hedge fund investments are subject to risks relating to investments in commodities, futures, options and other derivatives, the prices of which are highly volatile and may be subject to the theoretically unlimited risk of loss in certain circumstances, including short selling. Price movements of commodities, futures and options contracts and payments pursuant to swap agreements are influenced by, among other things, interest rates, changing supply and demand relationships, trade, fiscal, monetary and exchange control programs and policies of governments and national and international political and economic events and policies. The value of futures, options and swap agreements also depends upon the price of the commodities underlying them. In addition, hedge funds' assets are subject to the risk of the failure of any of the exchanges on which their positions trade or of their clearinghouses or counterparties.

If Ramius's counterparty for any of its derivative or non-derivative contracts defaults on the performance of those contracts, Ramius may not be able to cover its exposure under the relevant contract.

The Ramius funds enter into numerous types of financing arrangements with a wide array of counterparties around the world, including loans, hedge contracts, swaps, repurchase agreements and other derivative and non-derivative contracts. The terms of these contracts are generally complex and often customized and often are not currently subject to regulatory oversight. Ramius is subject to the risk that the counterparty to one or more of these contracts may default, either voluntarily or involuntarily, on its performance under the contract. Any such default may occur at any time without notice. Additionally, Ramius may not be able to take action to cover its exposure if a counterparty defaults under such a contract, either because of a lack of the contractual ability or because market conditions make it difficult to take effective action. The impact of market stress or counterparty financial condition may not be accurately foreseen or evaluated and, as a result, Ramius may not take sufficient action to reduce its risks effectively.

Counterparty risk is accentuated where the fund has concentrated its transactions with a single or small group of counterparties. Generally, hedge funds are not restricted from concentrating any or all of their transactions with one counterparty. Moreover, the funds' internal review of the creditworthiness of their counterparties may prove inaccurate. The absence of a regulated market to facilitate settlement and the evaluation of creditworthiness may increase the potential for losses.

Ramius may suffer losses in connection with the insolvency of prime brokers, custodians, administrators and other agents whose services Ramius uses and who may hold assets of Ramius funds.

All of the Ramius funds use the services of prime brokers, custodians, administrators or other agents to carry out certain securities transactions and to conduct certain business of the Ramius funds. In the event of the insolvency of a prime broker and/or custodian, the Ramius funds might not be able to recover equivalent assets in full as they may rank among the prime broker's and custodian's unsecured creditors in relation to assets which the prime broker or custodian borrows, lends or otherwise uses. In addition, the Ramius funds' cash held with a prime broker or custodian (if any) may not be segregated from the prime broker's or custodian's own cash, and the funds will therefore rank as unsecured creditors in relation thereto. Specifically, certain Ramius funds used an affiliate of Lehman Brothers as one of their prime brokers and some of these funds also held assets through accounts at Lehman Brothers. Other affiliates of Lehman Brothers that are now in insolvency proceedings were also trading counterparties for some of the hedge funds managed by Ramius. The total net equity claim of the Ramius funds with respect to Lehman Brothers was approximately \$256.4 million. Ramius estimates the total recoverable claim of the Ramius funds against Lehman Brothers and its affiliates to be approximately \$70.3 million. See the section titled "Management's Discussion and Analysis Assets Under Management and Fund Performance 2008 Fund Performance Lehman Brothers" beginning on page 159 for more information.

Table of Contents

Operational risks relating to the failure of data processing systems and other information systems and technology may disrupt Ramius's business, result in losses or limit Ramius's operations and growth.

Ramius and its funds rely heavily on financial, accounting, trading and other data processing systems to, among other things, execute, confirm, settle and record transactions across markets and geographic locations in a time-sensitive, efficient and accurate manner. If any of these systems do not operate properly or are disabled, Ramius could suffer financial loss, a disruption of its business, liability to the Ramius funds, regulatory intervention or reputational damage. In addition, Ramius is highly dependent on information systems and technology. The cost of maintaining such systems may increase from its current level. Such a failure to accommodate Ramius's operational needs, or an increase in costs related to such information systems, could have a material adverse effect on Ramius, both with respect to a decrease in operational performance and an increase in costs that may be necessary to improve such systems.

Ramius depends on its headquarters in New York, New York, where most of Ramius's personnel are located, for the continued operation of its business. Ramius has taken precautions to limit the impact that a disruption to its New York headquarters could cause (for example, by ensuring that offices in other geographic locations office can operate independently of other offices). Although these precautions have been taken, a disaster or a disruption in the infrastructure that supports Ramius's business, including a disruption involving electronic communications or other services used by Ramius or third parties with whom Ramius does conduct business (including the funds invested in by the Ramius fund of funds platform), or directly affecting the New York, New York, headquarters, could have a material adverse impact on Ramius's ability to continue to operate its business without interruption. Ramius's disaster recovery programs may not be sufficient to mitigate the harm that may result from such a disaster or disruption. In addition, insurance and other safeguards might only partially reimburse Ramius for its losses, if at all. Finally, Ramius relies on third party service providers for certain aspects of its business, including for certain information systems and technology and administration of the Ramius funds. Severe interruptions or deteriorations in the performance of these third parties or failures of their information systems and technology could impair the quality of Ramius's operations and could impact Ramius's reputation and materially adversely affect Ramius's business.

Certain of the Ramius funds may invest in relatively high-risk, illiquid assets, and Ramius may fail to realize any profits from these activities for a considerable period of time or lose some or all of the principal amounts of these investments.

Certain of the Ramius funds invest all or a portion of their assets in securities that are not publicly traded and funds invested in by the Ramius fund of funds platform may do the same. In many cases, such funds may be prohibited by contract or by applicable securities laws from selling such securities for a period of time or there may not be a public market for such securities. Even if the securities are publicly traded, large holdings of securities can often be disposed of only over a substantial length of time, exposing the investment returns to risks of downward movement in market prices during the required holding period. Accordingly, under certain conditions, the Ramius funds, or funds invested in by the Ramius fund of funds platform, may be forced to either sell securities at lower prices than they had expected to realize or defer, potentially for a considerable period of time, sales that they had planned to make. Contributing capital to these investments is risky, and the Ramius funds may lose some or all of the principal amount of such investments, including Ramius's own invested capital.

Table of Contents

Risk management activities may materially adversely affect the return on the Ramius funds' investments if such activities do not effectively limit a fund's exposure to decreases in investment values or if such exposure is overestimated.

When managing the Ramius funds' exposure to market risks, the relevant fund (or one of the funds invested in by the Ramius fund of funds platform) may use forward contracts, options, swaps, caps, collars and floors or pursue other strategies or use other forms of derivative financial instruments to limit its exposure to changes in the relative values of investments that may result from market developments, including changes in interest rates, currency exchange rates and asset prices. The success of such derivative transactions generally will depend on Ramius's (or the underlying fund manager's) ability to accurately predict market changes in a timely fashion, the degree of correlation between price movements of a derivative instrument, the position being hedged, and the creditworthiness of the counterparty and other factors. As a result, these transactions may result in poorer overall investment performance than if it had not been executed. Such transactions may also limit the opportunity for gain if the value of a hedged position increases. In addition, the degree of correlation between price movements of the instruments used in connection with hedging activities and price movements in a position being hedged may vary. For a variety of reasons, a perfect correlation between the instruments used in a hedging or other derivative transaction and the position being hedged may not be attained. An imperfect correlation could give rise to a loss. Also, it may not be possible to fully or perfectly limit exposure against all changes in the value of an investment because the value of an investment is likely to fluctuate as a result of a number of factors, some of which will be beyond Ramius's control or ability to hedge.

Fluctuations in currency exchange rates could materially affect Ramius's business, results of operations and financial condition.

Ramius uses U.S. dollars as its reporting currency. Investments in Ramius funds and managed accounts are made in different currencies, including Euros, Pounds Sterling and Yen. In addition, Ramius funds and managed accounts hold investments denominated in many foreign currencies. To the extent that Ramius's revenues are based on assets under management denominated in such foreign currencies, Ramius's reported revenues may be significantly affected by the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar against these currencies. Typically, an increase in the exchange rate between U.S. dollars and these currencies will reduce the impact of revenues denominated in these currencies in Ramius's financial results. For example, management fee revenues derived from each Euro of assets under management denominated in Euros will decline in U.S. dollar terms if the value of the U.S. dollar appreciates against the Euro. In addition, the calculation of the amount of Ramius's assets under management is affected by exchange rate movements as assets under management denominated in foreign currencies are converted to U.S. dollars. Ramius also incurs a portion of its expenditures in currencies other than U.S. dollars. As a result, Ramius's business is subject to the effects of exchange rate fluctuations with respect to any currency conversions and Ramius's ability to hedge these risks and the cost of such hedging or Ramius's decision not to hedge could impact the performance of the Ramius funds and Ramius's business, results of operations or financial condition.

The due diligence process that Ramius undertakes in connection with investments by the Ramius funds may not reveal all facts that may be relevant in connection with making an investment.

Before making investments, particularly investments in securities that are not publicly traded, Ramius endeavors to conduct a due diligence review of such investment that it deems reasonable and appropriate based on the facts and circumstances applicable to each investment. When conducting due diligence, Ramius is often required to evaluate critical and complex business, financial, tax, accounting, environmental and legal issues. Outside consultants, legal advisors, accountants, investment bankers and financial analysts may be involved in the due diligence process in varying degrees depending on the type of investment. Nevertheless, when conducting due diligence and making an assessment regarding

Table of Contents

an investment, Ramius is limited to the resources available, including information provided by the target of the investment and, in some circumstances, third party investigations. The due diligence investigation that Ramius will carry out with respect to any investment opportunity may not reveal or highlight all relevant facts that may be necessary or helpful in evaluating such investment opportunity. Moreover, such an investigation will not necessarily result in the investment being successful, which may adversely affect the performance of the Ramius funds and managed accounts and Ramius's ability to generate returns on its own invested capital from any such investment.

The Ramius real estate funds are subject to the risks inherent in the ownership and operation of real estate and the construction and development of real estate.

Investments in the Ramius real estate funds are subject to the risks inherent in the ownership and operation of real estate and real estate-related businesses and assets. These risks include those associated with general and local economic conditions, changes in supply of and demand for competing properties in an area, changes in environmental and other laws, various uninsured or uninsurable risks, natural disasters, changes in real property tax rates, changes in interest rates, the reduced availability of mortgage funds which may render the sale or refinancing of properties difficult or impracticable, environmental liabilities, contingent liabilities on disposition of assets, terrorist attacks, war and other factors that are beyond Ramius's control. During 2008 and continuing in 2009, commercial real estate markets in the United States and Japan generally experienced major disruptions due to the unprecedented lack of available capital, in the form of either debt or equity, and declines in value as a result of the overall economic decline. As a result, transaction volume has dropped precipitously, negatively impacting the valuation and performance of the Ramius real estate funds significantly. Additionally, if the Ramius real estate funds acquire direct or indirect interests in undeveloped land or underdeveloped real property, which may often be non-income producing, they will be subject to the risks normally associated with such assets and development activities, including risks relating to the availability and timely receipt of zoning and other regulatory or environmental approvals, the cost and timely completion of construction (including risks beyond the control of Ramius fund, such as weather or labor conditions or material shortages) and the availability of both construction and permanent financing on favorable terms.

Ramius is subject to intense competition which may adversely affect its ability to attract and retain investors and investment professionals.

The alternative investment management industry is extremely competitive. Competition includes numerous national, regional and local asset management firms and broker-dealers, commercial bank and thrift institutions, and other financial institutions. Many of these institutions offer products and services that are similar to, or compete with, those offered by us and have substantially more personnel and greater financial resources than Ramius does. The key areas for competition include historical investment performance, the ability to identify investment opportunities, the ability to attract and retain the best investment professionals and the quality of service provided to investors. Ramius's ability to compete may be adversely affected if it underperforms in comparison to relevant benchmarks, peer groups or competing asset managers. The competitive market environment may result in increased pressure on revenue margins, for example, by reduced management fee and incentive allocation percentages. Ramius's results of operations are dependent in part on its ability to maintain current fee levels for its products and services. In the current economic environment, many competing asset managers have experienced substantial declines in investment performance, increased redemptions, or counterparty exposures which impair their businesses. Some of these asset managers have reduced their fees in an attempt to avoid additional redemptions. Competition within the alternative investment management industry could lead to pressure on Ramius to reduce the fees that Ramius charges its clients for products and services. A failure to compete effectively in this environment may result in the loss of existing clients and business, and of opportunities to generate new business and grow assets under management, each of which could have a material adverse

Table of Contents

effect on Ramius's business, results of operations or financial condition. Furthermore, consolidation in the alternative investment management industry may accelerate, as many asset managers are unable to withstand the substantial declines in investment performance, increased redemptions, and other pressures impacting their businesses, including increased regulatory, compliance and control requirements. Some competitors may acquire or combine with other competitors. The combined business may have greater resources than Ramius does and may be able to compete more effectively against Ramius and acquire rapidly significant market share.

If Ramius or New Parent were deemed an "investment company" under the U.S. Investment Company Act, applicable restrictions could make it impractical for Ramius and New Parent to continue their respective businesses as contemplated and could have a material adverse effect on Ramius's and New Parent's businesses.

A person will generally be deemed to be an "investment company" for purposes of the U.S. Investment Company Act of 1940, if:

it is or holds itself out as being engaged primarily, or proposes to engage primarily, in the business of investing, reinvesting or trading in securities; or

absent an applicable exemption, it owns or proposes to acquire investment securities having a value exceeding 40% of the value of its total assets (exclusive of U.S. government securities and cash items) on an unconsolidated basis.

Ramius believes it is engaged primarily in the business of providing asset management and financial advisory services and not in the business of investing, reinvesting or trading in securities. Ramius also believes that the primary source of income from its business is properly characterized as income earned in exchange for the provision of services. Ramius is an alternative investment management company and does not propose to engage primarily in the business of investing, reinvesting or trading in securities. Accordingly, Ramius does not believe that it is an "orthodox" investment company as defined in Section 3(a)(1)(A) of the Investment Company Act and described in the first bullet point above, or that New Parent is now or would be so characterized upon the completion of the transactions. Ramius also believes that upon the consummation of the transactions neither Ramius nor New Parent will be an inadvertent investment company by virtue of the 40% test in Section 3(a)(1)(C) of the Investment Company Act as described in the second bullet point above.

The Investment Company Act and the rules thereunder contain detailed requirements for the organization and operation of investment companies. Among other things, the Investment Company Act and the rules thereunder limit prohibited transactions with affiliates, impose limitations on the issuance of debt and equity securities, generally prohibit the issuance of options and impose certain governance requirements. Ramius intends to conduct its operations so that neither New Parent nor Ramius will be deemed to be an investment company under the Investment Company Act. If anything were to happen which would cause Ramius or New Parent to be deemed to be an investment company under the Investment Company Act, requirements imposed by the Investment Company Act, including limitations on their respective capital structure, ability to transact business with affiliates (including subsidiaries) and ability to compensate key employees, could make it impractical for either Ramius or New Parent to continue their respective businesses as currently conducted, impair the agreements and arrangements between and among them, their subsidiaries and their senior personnel, or any combination thereof, and materially adversely affect their business, financial condition and results of operations. Accordingly, Ramius may be required to limit the amount of investments that it makes as a principal or otherwise conduct its business in a manner that does not subject Ramius or New Parent to the registration and other requirements of the Investment Company Act. Recently, legislation was proposed in the U.S. that would subject hedge funds and other private investment funds to increased SEC regulation and oversight by removing the exceptions from the definition of "investment company"

Table of Contents

typically relied upon by such funds to avoid any of the requirements of the Investment Company Act and instead replacing them with exemptions from certain of the requirements of the Investment Company Act. Should this or similar legislation be adopted, the Ramius funds may become subject to additional registration, reporting and other requirements. As a result, compliance costs and burdens upon the Ramius business may increase and the additional requirements may constrain Ramius's ability to conduct its business as currently conducted, which may adversely affect Ramius's and New Parent's business, results of operations or financial condition.

Ramius and its funds may become subject to additional regulations which could increase the costs and burdens of compliance or impose additional restrictions which could have a material adverse effect on Ramius's business and the performance of the Ramius funds.

Ramius may need to modify its strategies, businesses or operations, face increased constraints or incur additional costs in order to satisfy new regulatory requirements or to compete in a changed business environment. Ramius's business is subject to regulation by various regulatory authorities that are charged with protecting the interests of investors. The activities of certain Ramius entities are regulated primarily by the SEC, FINRA, and the National Futures Association, as well as various state agencies, within the United States and are also subject to regulation in the various other jurisdictions in which it operates, including the Financial Services Authority of the United Kingdom, the Financial Services Agency of Japan, the Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong, the German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority and the Commission of the Surveillance of the Financial Sector in Luxembourg. The activities of Ramius Securities LLC, Ramius Advisors LLC, Ramius Asia LLC, Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC, Ramius Structured Credit Group LLC and RCG Starboard Advisors, LLC are all regulated by the SEC due to their registrations as U.S. investment advisors. In addition, Ramius funds and funds of funds business are subject to regulation in the jurisdictions in which they are organized. These and other regulators in these jurisdictions have broad regulatory powers dealing with all aspects of financial services including, among other things, the authority to make inquiries of companies regarding compliance with applicable regulations, to grant permits and to regulate marketing and sales practices and the maintenance of adequate financial resources. Ramius is also subject to applicable anti-money laundering regulations and net capital requirements in the jurisdictions in which it operates. Additionally, the regulatory environment in which Ramius operates frequently changes and has seen significant increased regulation in recent years and it is possible that this trend may continue. Ramius may be materially adversely affected as a result of new or revised legislation or regulations or by changes in the interpretation or enforcement of existing laws and regulations. Such additional regulation could, among other things, increase compliance costs or limit Ramius's ability to pursue investment opportunities and strategies.

The regulatory environment continues to be turbulent as regulators globally respond to the financial crisis. There is an extraordinary volume of regulatory discussion papers, draft directives and proposals being issued globally and these initiatives are not always coordinated. The European Commission has issued a draft Directive on Alternative Investment Fund Managers, recommendations on directors' pay and pay for the financial services sector and proposals on packaged retail investment products. In addition, the Financial Services Authority of the United Kingdom has issued a discussion paper entitled "A Regulatory Response to the Global Banking Crisis" as well as undertaken an exercise to collect data to assess the systemic risk that hedge funds may or may not pose. The Bank of England is also collecting data on the systemic risk of hedge funds. Recent rulemaking by the SEC and other regulatory authorities outside the United States have imposed trading restrictions and reporting requirements on short selling, which have impacted certain of the investment strategies of the Ramius funds and managed accounts, and continued restrictions on or further regulations of short sales could negatively impact the performance of the Ramius funds and managed accounts.

Table of Contents

Increased regulatory focus could result in regulation that may limit the manner in which Ramius and the Ramius funds invest and the types of investors that may invest in the Ramius funds, materially impacting Ramius's business.

Ramius may be adversely affected if other new or revised legislation or regulations are enacted, or by changes in the interpretation or enforcement of existing rules and regulations imposed by the SEC, other U.S. or foreign governmental regulatory authorities or self-regulatory organizations that supervise the financial markets and their participants. Such changes could place limitations on the type of investor that can invest in alternative investment funds or on the conditions under which such investors may invest. Further, such changes may limit the scope of investing activities that may be undertaken by alternative investment managers as well as their funds. It is impossible to determine the extent of the impact of any new laws, regulations or initiatives that may be proposed, or whether any of the proposals will become law. Compliance with any new laws or regulations could be difficult and expensive and affect the manner in which Ramius conducts business, which may adversely impact its results of operations and financial condition.

Additionally, as a result of recent highly publicized financial scandals, investors, regulators and the general public have exhibited concerns over the integrity of both the U.S. financial markets and the regulatory oversight of these markets. As a result, the business environment in which Ramius operates is subject to heightened regulation. With respect to alternative investment management funds, in recent years, there has been debate in both U.S. and foreign governments about new rules or regulations, including increased oversight or taxation, in addition to the recently proposed Private Fund Transparency Act. As calls for additional regulation have increased, there may be a related increase in regulatory investigations of the trading and other investment activities of alternative investment management funds, including Ramius funds. Such investigations may impose additional expenses on Ramius, may require the attention of senior management and may result in fines if any of the Ramius funds are deemed to have violated any regulations.

Ramius's business may suffer as a result of loss of business from key investors.

Ramius generates a significant proportion of its revenue from a small number of its largest clients. As of June 30, 2009, affiliates of HVB and BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. constituted Ramius's largest institutional investor representing approximately 10.6% of assets under management, with the five largest investors collectively contributing approximately 21.6% of assets under management. The loss of all or a substantial portion of the business provided by one or more of these investors would have a material impact on income derived from management fees and incentive allocations and consequently have a material adverse effect on Ramius's business, results of operations or financial condition.

Ramius depends on its founders and other key senior personnel and the loss of their services would have a material adverse effect on Ramius's business, results of operations and financial condition.

Ramius depends on the efforts, skill, reputations and business contacts of its principals, Peter A. Cohen, Jeffrey M. Solomon, Morgan B. Stark and Thomas W. Strauss and other key senior personnel, the information and investment activity these individuals generate during the normal course of their activities and the synergies among the diverse fields of expertise and knowledge held by Ramius's founders and other professionals. Accordingly, Ramius's continued success will depend on the continued service of these individuals. Key senior personnel may leave Ramius in the future, and Ramius cannot predict the impact that the departure of any key senior personnel will have on Ramius's ability to achieve its investment and business objectives. The loss of the services of any of them could have a material adverse effect on Ramius's revenues, net income and cash flows and could harm Ramius's ability to maintain or grow assets under management in existing funds or raise additional funds in the future. Ramius has historically relied in part on the interests of certain of these professionals in a special allocation to Ramius's managing member to discourage them from leaving

Table of Contents

Ramius's employ. However, in connection with the transactions, the special allocation will be terminated and will no longer act as incentive for them to continue to be employed at the combined company. Ramius's senior and other key personnel possess substantial experience and expertise and have strong business relationships with investors in its funds, clients and other members of the business community. As a result, the loss of these personnel could damage Ramius's relationships with investors in the Ramius funds and members of the business community and result in the reduction of assets under management or fewer investment opportunities.

Ramius is subject to third party litigation risk and regulatory risk which could result in significant liabilities and reputational harm which, in turn, could materially adversely affect its business, results of operations and financial condition.

In general, Ramius is exposed to risk of litigation by its investors if the management of any Ramius fund is alleged to constitute negligence or dishonesty. Investors could sue to recover amounts lost by Ramius funds due to any alleged misconduct, up to the entire amount of the loss. Ramius may also be exposed to litigation by investors in the Ramius fund of funds platform for losses resulting from similar conduct at an underlying fund. Furthermore, Ramius may be subject to litigation arising from investor dissatisfaction with the performance of the Ramius funds (funds invested in by the Ramius fund of funds platform). In addition, Ramius is exposed to risks of litigation or investigation relating to transactions which presented conflicts of interest that were not properly addressed. In the majority of such actions Ramius would be obligated to bear legal, settlement and other costs, which may be in excess of any available insurance coverage. In addition, although Ramius is indemnified by the Ramius funds and funds invested in by the Ramius fund of funds platform, Ramius's rights to indemnification may be challenged. If Ramius is required to incur all or a portion of the costs arising out of litigation or investigations as a result of inadequate insurance proceeds, if any, or fails to obtain indemnification from its funds, Ramius's business, results of operations and financial condition could be materially adversely affected. In the Ramius funds, Ramius is exposed to the risk of litigation if the funds suffer catastrophic losses due to the failure of a particular investment strategy or due to the trading activity of an employee who has violated market rules or regulations. Any litigation arising in such circumstances is likely to be protracted, expensive and surrounded by circumstances which are materially damaging to Ramius's reputation and its business. In addition, Ramius faces the risk of litigation from investors in the Ramius funds if restrictions in such funds' organizational documents are violated.

Employee misconduct could harm Ramius by impairing its ability to attract and retain investors and subjecting Ramius to significant legal liability, reputational harm and the loss of revenue from Ramius's own invested capital.

There is a risk that Ramius's employees or partners, or the managers of funds invested in by the Ramius fund of funds platform, could engage in misconduct that materially adversely affects Ramius's business, including a decrease in Ramius's returns of its own invested capital. Ramius is subject to a number of obligations and standards arising from its alternative investment management business and its authority over the assets managed by Ramius. The violation of these obligations and standards by any of Ramius's employees could materially adversely affect Ramius and its investors. Specifically, FINRA has notified Ramius that it intends to recommend an enforcement action against Ramius's broker-dealer pertaining to finder's fees which were paid by another party in connection with certain transactions executed by Ramius's former securities lending business in 2003 and 2004, in violation of marketplace rules. This matter is ongoing and Ramius is unable to determine what impact it may have on Ramius's business, if any. In addition, Ramius's business requires that Ramius properly deal with confidential matters of great significance to companies in which it may invest. If Ramius's employees were improperly to use or disclose confidential information, Ramius could suffer serious harm to its reputation, financial position and current and future business relationships. It is not always possible to detect or deter misconduct, and the extensive precautions Ramius takes to detect and prevent this activity may not be effective in all cases. If one of Ramius employees were to engage in misconduct or were to be accused of such misconduct, the business and reputation of Ramius could be materially adversely affected.

Table of Contents

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This document contains or incorporates by reference a number of forward-looking statements, including statements about the financial conditions, results of operations, earnings outlook and prospects of Cowen, Ramius and the potential combined company and may include statements for the period following the completion of the transactions. You can find many of these statements by looking for words such as "plan," "believe," "expect," "intend," "anticipate," "estimate," "project," "potential," "possible" or other similar expressions.

The forward-looking statements involve particular risks and uncertainties. The ability of either Cowen or Ramius to predict results or the actual effects of its plans and strategies, or those of the combined company, is subject to inherent uncertainty. Factors that may cause actual results or earnings to differ materially from such forward-looking statements include those set forth in the section titled "Risk Factors" beginning on page 23, as well as, among others, the following:

the failure to obtain approval of the transactions by Cowen's stockholders;

the effect of governmental regulations, including the possibility of unexpected delays in obtaining regulatory approvals;

the extent and duration of continued economic and market disruptions and governmental regulatory proposals to address these disruptions;

the risk that the transactions may fail to achieve beneficial synergies or may take longer than expected to do so;

the risk of reduction in revenue from the elimination of existing and potential customers due to consolidation in the banking, retail and financial services industries and the impact of such consolidation on the existing respective customer bases of Cowen and Ramius;

delays associated with integrating Cowen and Ramius, including employees and operations, after the transactions are to be completed;

actions that may be taken by competitors, customers and suppliers of either Cowen or Ramius that may cause the transactions to be delayed or not completed;

decisions to restructure, divest or eliminate business units or otherwise change the business mix of either Cowen or Ramius;
and

those factors discussed and identified in public filings with the SEC made by Cowen.

Because these forward-looking statements are subject to assumptions and uncertainties, actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these statements, which speak only as of the date of this document or the date of any document incorporated by reference in this document.

All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements concerning the transactions or other matters addressed in this document and attributable to Cowen or Ramius or any person acting on their behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements contained or referred to in this document. Except to the extent required by applicable law or regulation, neither Cowen nor Ramius undertake any obligation to update these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this document or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

Prospective Financial Information

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

The prospective financial information included in this document was not prepared with a view toward compliance with published guidelines of the SEC or the guidelines established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants for preparation, presentation of prospective financial information. The prospective financial information included in this document has been prepared by,

Table of Contents

and is the responsibility of, Cowen's management. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP has neither examined, compiled nor performed any procedures with respect to the accompanying prospective financial information and, accordingly, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP does not express an opinion or any other form of assurance with respect thereto. The PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP report included in this document relates to Ramius's historical financial information. It does not extend to the prospective financial information and should not be read to do so.

Neither Ramius nor Cowen assumes any responsibility for the accuracy of the accompanying prospective financial information or expresses any assurance with respect thereto.

Table of Contents

THE COWEN SPECIAL MEETING

This section contains information about the special meeting of Cowen stockholders that has been called to consider and approve and adopt the transaction agreement and approve the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius, and to consider and approve the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan.

Together with this document you will be sent a notice of the special meeting and a form of proxy that is solicited by the Cowen Board of Directors. The special meeting will be held on October 30, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at 1221 Avenue of the Americas (2nd Floor Conference Room), New York, New York.

Matters to Be Considered

The purpose of the special meeting is to vote on:

a proposal to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and approve the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius as contemplated by the transaction agreement;

a proposal to approve the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan; and

a proposal to approve the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies, if there are not sufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to approve the foregoing proposals.

Proxies

Each copy of this document mailed to holders of Cowen common stock is accompanied by a form of proxy with instructions for voting by mail, by telephone or through the internet. If you hold stock in your name as a stockholder of record and are voting by mail, you should complete and return the proxy card accompanying this document to ensure that your vote is counted at the special meeting, or at any adjournment or postponement of the special meeting, regardless of whether or not you plan to attend the special meeting. You may also vote your shares by telephone or through the internet. Information and applicable deadlines for voting by telephone or through the internet are set forth in the enclosed proxy card instructions.

If you hold your stock in street name through a bank, broker, trust company or other nominee, you must direct your bank, broker, trust company or other nominee to vote in accordance with the instructions you have received from your bank, broker, trust company or other nominee.

If you hold stock in your name as a stockholder of record, you may revoke any proxy at any time before it is voted at the special meeting by signing and returning a proxy card with a later date by internet or telephone before the deadline stated on the proxy card, by delivering a proxy card with a later date or a written notice of revocation to Cowen's corporate secretary, which must be received by us before the time of the special meeting, or by voting in person at the special meeting.

Any stockholder entitled to vote in person at the special meeting may vote in person regardless of whether or not a proxy has been previously given, but simply attending the special meeting will not constitute revocation of a previously given proxy.

Written notices of revocation and other communications about revoking your proxy should be addressed to:

Cowen Group, Inc.
1221 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020
Attention: J. Kevin McCarthy, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

Table of Contents

If your shares are held in street name by a bank or broker, you should follow the instructions of your bank or broker regarding the revocation of proxies.

All shares represented by valid proxies that are received through this solicitation, and that are not revoked, will be voted in accordance with your instructions on the proxy card or as instructed via the internet or telephone. **If you make no specification on your proxy card as to how you want your shares voted, your proxy will be voted "FOR" the approval and adoption of the transaction agreement and approval of the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius, "FOR" the approval of the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan and "FOR" the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies.** According to the Cowen amended and restated by-laws, only such business that is specified in Cowen's notice of the meeting may be conducted at a special meeting of stockholders.

Solicitation of Proxies

In accordance with the transaction agreement, Cowen will bear the entire cost of proxy solicitation for the Cowen special meeting, except that Cowen and Ramius will share equally all expenses incurred in connection with the filing of the registration statement of which this document forms a part with the SEC and the printing and mailing of this document. Cowen has made arrangements with Innisfree M&A Incorporated, a proxy solicitor, to assist Cowen in soliciting proxies, and will pay the proxy solicitor a customary fee for its services plus reasonable expenses for these services. If necessary, Cowen may use several of its regular employees, who will not be specially compensated, to solicit proxies from Cowen stockholders, either personally or by telephone, facsimile, letter or other electronic means. The Cowen employees may be associated persons of Cowen and Company, LLC, a FINRA member firm. Accordingly, FINRA may consider Cowen and Company, LLC to be participating in the proxy solicitation and thus to have a "conflict of interest" (as defined under FINRA Rule 2720) because Cowen and Company, LLC is under common control with New Parent. Cowen will also request that banks, brokers, and other record holders forward proxies and proxy material to the beneficial owners of Cowen common stock and secure their voting instructions and Cowen will provide customary reimbursement to such firms for the cost of forwarding these materials.

Record Date

The close of business on September 24, 2009 has been fixed as the record date for determining the Cowen stockholders entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the special meeting. At that time, 15,043,922 shares of Cowen common stock were outstanding, held by approximately 1,946 holders of record.

Quorum

To conduct voting at the special meeting, there must be a quorum. The proposal to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and approve the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius and the proposal to approve the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan each have a quorum requirement, under the applicable NASDAQ rules and Cowen amended and restated by-laws, that the total votes cast represent a majority of outstanding votes entitled to be cast on such proposal. If you properly submit your proxy but abstain from voting on one or more of the proposals, your shares will be counted as present at the meeting for the purpose of determining a quorum. If you are a stockholder of record and you do not submit your proxy and also do not vote by ballot at the special meeting, your shares will not be counted as present at the meeting for the purpose of determining a quorum. If you hold your shares in street name and do not submit voting instructions to your broker, bank, trust company or other nominee and your broker, bank, trust company or other nominee also does not vote your shares, your shares will not be counted as present at the meeting for the purpose of determining a quorum.

Table of Contents

Vote Required

Each share of Cowen common stock outstanding on the record date entitles the holder to one vote on each matter to be voted upon by the stockholders at the special meeting. Each of the proposals has the following vote requirement in order to be approved:

approval and adoption of the transaction agreement and approval of the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of Cowen common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting;

approval of the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan requires the affirmative vote of a majority of all shares of Cowen common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the special meeting and voting affirmatively or negatively on the proposal; and

approval of any necessary adjournment of the special meeting requires the affirmative vote of a majority of all shares of Cowen common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the special meeting and voting affirmatively or negatively on the proposal, even if less than a quorum.

An abstention, failure to submit a proxy card or vote in person or broker non-vote will be treated as follows:

as a vote against the proposal to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and approve the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius;

as neither a vote for or as a vote against the proposal to approve the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan; and

as neither a vote for or as a vote against the proposal to approve the adjournment of the special meeting.

The Cowen Board of Directors urges Cowen stockholders to promptly vote by completing, dating and signing the accompanying proxy card and returning it promptly in the enclosed postage-paid envelope; calling the toll-free number listed in the proxy card instructions if voting by telephone; or accessing the internet site listed in the proxy card instructions if voting through the internet. If you hold your stock in street name through a bank or broker, please vote by following the voting instructions of your bank or broker.

Stockholders will vote at the meeting by ballot. Votes cast at the meeting, in person or by proxy, will be tallied by Computershare, Cowen's inspector of election.

As of the record date, directors and executive officers of Cowen, and its affiliates, had the right to vote 464,653 shares of Cowen common stock, or approximately 3.09% of the outstanding Cowen common shares entitled to vote at the special meeting. It is currently expected that each of these individuals will vote their shares of Cowen common stock in favor of the proposals to be presented at the special meeting, and several of the officers have agreed with Ramius to vote their shares in favor the proposal to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and approve the issuance of shares of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius. See the section titled "Other Agreements Related to the Transactions Voting Agreement" beginning on page 111 for a description of the terms of the voting agreement.

Recommendation of the Cowen Board of Directors

The Cowen Board of Directors has unanimously approved the transaction agreement and the transactions it contemplates. The Cowen Board of Directors determined that the transaction agreement and the transactions contemplated by it are advisable and in the best interests of Cowen and its stockholders and unanimously recommends that you vote "FOR" the approval and adoption of the transaction agreement and approval of the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius.

Table of Contents

See the section titled "Proposal 1: The Transactions Cowen's Reasons for the Transactions; Recommendation of Cowen Board of Directors" beginning on page 70 for a more detailed discussion of the Cowen Board of Directors' recommendation.

The Cowen Board of Directors also has unanimously approved the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan. The Cowen Board of Directors determined that the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan is advisable and in the best interests of Cowen and its stockholders. The Cowen Board of Directors unanimously recommends that you vote "FOR" the approval of the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan. Approval of the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan is not a condition to closing of the transactions contemplated by the transaction agreement. In addition, if approved, the amendment will only become effective if and when the transactions are completed.

Attending the Meeting

All holders of Cowen common stock, including stockholders of record and stockholders who hold their shares through banks, brokers or other nominee, are invited to attend the special meeting. Stockholders of record can vote in person at the special meeting. If you are not a stockholder of record, you must obtain a proxy executed in your favor from the record holder of your shares, such as a broker, bank or other nominee, to be able to vote in person at the special meeting. If you plan to attend the special meeting, you must hold your shares in your own name or have a letter from the record holder of your shares confirming your ownership and you must bring a form of personal photo identification with you to be admitted. Cowen reserves the right to refuse admittance to anyone without proper proof of share ownership and without proper photo identification.

Table of Contents

INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPANIES

Cowen

Cowen is an established provider of investment banking, equity research, sales and trading and alternative asset management services to companies and institutional investor clients. The company is a sector expert in secular growth industries, including the healthcare, technology, consumer, telecommunications, alternative energy and aerospace and defense sectors. As of June 30, 2009, Cowen had total consolidated assets of approximately \$186 million and total Cowen Group, Inc. stockholders' equity of approximately \$138 million. The principal executive offices of Cowen are located at 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10020, and its telephone number is (646) 562-1000.

Additional information about Cowen and its subsidiaries is included in documents incorporated by reference in this document. See the section titled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 195.

Ramius

Ramius is an alternative investment management firm founded in 1994 with over \$7 billion of assets under management as of July 1, 2009. Ramius, through one of its subsidiaries, has been a registered investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act since 1997 and operates through its offices in New York, London, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Munich and Luxembourg. Ramius's investment services and products include hedge funds, fund of funds, real estate and cash management. Its institutional investors include pension funds, insurance companies, banks, foundations and endowments, wealth management organizations and family offices. The principal executive offices of Ramius are located at 599 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10022, and its telephone number is (212) 845-7900.

Ramius's hedge fund and fund of funds platforms have historically sought to deliver consistent, risk-adjusted returns throughout a market cycle (which Ramius generally views as an approximate three- to five-year investment horizon). In these platforms, Ramius seeks positive performance with minimal correlation to directional market indices. Risk-adjusted returns refer to positive returns with lower volatility as compared to traditional asset classes such as equities.

Ramius believes that the following attributes are central to its business model and position it to capitalize on the opportunities Ramius believes should arise from changing industry conditions:

Ramius is a well established alternative investment manager with experienced senior leadership. Once investors return to allocating capital to alternative investments, Ramius believes that they will likely gravitate toward more experienced managers with lengthy track records and a history of producing absolute returns.

Ramius has a diversified alternative investment platform. Ramius offers investment expertise across strategies and platforms that allows it to cross-sell products. In Ramius's experience, larger institutions often favor consolidation of their manager relationships, preferring to deal with providers that can offer more than one investment product. Moreover, Ramius can offer customized solutions to fund of funds clients due to Ramius's in-house trading expertise.

Ramius has a strong institutional infrastructure. Ramius has the operational capability to address, in a client-specific way, increasing investor needs for transparency, liquidity and customization.

Ramius's own capital has given the firm stability. Ramius's own capital allows the firm to think and invest for the long term, and also enables Ramius to attract investment talent from within the industry due to its stability and culture.

Table of Contents

As part of the transactions, all of Ramius's assets (including its subsidiaries) will be transferred to Exchange Sub, a subsidiary of the newly formed holding company, with the exception of (i) \$500,000 in cash which it is retaining in order to pay ongoing administrative expenses, such as audit fees, and (ii) any recovery in excess of \$7.0 million from a pending arbitration Ramius had initiated against a securities underwriter. At the closing of the transactions, Exchange Sub will change its name to "Ramius LLC," and Ramius LLC will change its name to "RCG LLC" or another name that does not contain the word "Ramius." Immediately following the closing of the transactions, Exchange Sub will transfer to New Parent a portion of the investments previously held by Ramius.

Ramius's Investment Services and Products

Hedge Funds. Ramius's hedge funds are focused on addressing the needs of institutional investors and high net worth individuals to preserve and grow allocated capital through a risk-averse, research intensive process. Ramius offers multi-strategy hedge funds, each of which attempts to employ a series of strategies with a focus on investments that offer low correlation to each other and to the return patterns of traditional assets such as equities and fixed income. Examples of the strategies included within Ramius's multi-strategy funds include: macro-trading, merger arbitrage and activist investments, hedged equity, convertible arbitrage, private convertibles, real estate, special situations and structured credit investments. Ramius also currently offers two single-strategy hedge funds, one focused on activist investing and another focused on credit investing.

Fund of Funds. A fund of funds offers investors the opportunity to invest in a private investment vehicle whose purpose is to invest in a group of underlying hedge funds or other alternative asset investment vehicles selected by the fund of funds investment manager. Ramius offers fund of funds investment products which invest in a number of alternative asset investment vehicles which are selected by Ramius and are not affiliated with Ramius with the goal of achieving consistent and stable returns to investors. Ramius has created a number of programs including long/short equity, global activist investing, diversified absolute return, concentrated multi-strategy as well as individual solutions based on hedging overlays and hedge fund replication, varying regulatory structures and other client-driven portfolio constraints. The fund of funds program employs evaluation procedures to determine the opportunity set for each strategy, sources appropriate institutional quality sub-managers with a history of longevity and stability, conducts detailed investment, operational, legal, financial and risk due diligence on each sub-manager, and utilizes qualitative and quantitative techniques to construct portfolios of those sub-managers. The resulting portfolio allocations are continuously analyzed and adjusted according to the outlook for each strategy and sub-manager. The Ramius fund of funds program invests with approximately 54 hedge fund managers and was first established in 1998. HVB currently owns 50% of the fund of funds business. In connection with the transactions, Merger Sub will acquire HVB's interest in the fund of funds business as described below in the section titled "Management's Discussion and Analysis Changes in Connection with the Transactions Fund of Funds Business."

Real Estate Funds. The Ramius real estate funds have focused on generating long-term returns through the structuring, ownership, management, financing and construction of all real estate property types since 1999. This approach attempts to focus on real estate fundamentals and potential market inefficiencies. As of June 30, 2009, Ramius's RCG Urban American Fund owned interests in and managed approximately 12,000 multi-family housing units in the New York metropolitan area. Ramius's RCG Longview Fund provides bridge senior/subordinated mortgages, mezzanine loans, and preferred equity through its debt fund series, makes equity investments through its equity fund and, as of June 30, 2009, the members of the general partners of these funds owned interests in and/or managed approximately 34,000 residential units and approximately 35 million square feet of commercial and retail space in 37 states. The general partners of Ramius's real estate funds are owned jointly by Ramius and third parties with Ramius's ownership interest in the general partners of the real estate

Table of Contents

funds ranging from 30% to 55%. Ramius does not possess unilateral control over any of these general partners.

Cash Management and Mortgage Advisory. Ramius's cash management business provides clients with investment guidelines for managing cash and establishes investment programs for managing their cash in separately managed accounts. Ramius's cash management products are focused on preserving principal, maintaining daily liquidity and maximizing returns for investors. Portfolios are separately managed according to each investor's investment guidelines and are held at a custodian. Investor cash and other short term fixed income assets are managed for corporate, municipal, not-for-profit and other institutional clients (including hedge funds). Ramius also provides mortgage advisory services where Ramius manages collateralized debt obligations (which we refer to as CDOs) held by investors and liquidates CDOs that were historically managed by others.

Assets Under Management. The following table sets forth Ramius's assets under management as of July 1, 2009 across Ramius's investment services and products:

Platform	Total Assets under Management (dollars in millions)	Primary Strategies
Hedge Funds	2,091(3)	Multi-Strategy Single Strategy
Fund of Funds(1)	2,105	Ramius Multi-Strategy
Real Estate(2)	1,628(4)	Ramius Vintage Multi-Strategy Ramius Customized Solutions Debt
Other	1,570	Equity Cash Management
Total	\$ 7,394	Mortgage Advisory

- (1) HVB currently owns 50% of the fund of funds business. In connection with the transactions, Merger Sub will acquire HVB's interest in the fund of funds business as described in the section titled "Management's Discussion and Analysis Changes in Connection with the Transactions Fund of Funds Business."
- (2) As discussed above, Ramius owns between 30% and 55% of the general partners in the real estate business. Ramius does not possess unilateral control over any of these general partners.
- (3) This amount includes Ramius's own invested capital.
- (4) This amount reflects committed capital.

New Parent

LexingtonPark Parent Corp., a Delaware corporation, was jointly formed on June 1, 2009 in connection with the transactions and is owned by Cowen and Ramius. When the transactions are completed, New Parent will become the holding company of both Cowen and Exchange Sub,

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

which will hold substantially all of the assets of Ramius and will have assumed substantially all of Ramius's liabilities. At completion of the transactions, New Parent will also change its name to "Cowen Group, Inc." The principal executive offices of New Parent are currently located at Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801, and its telephone number is (646) 562-1000. After completion of the transactions, the principal executive offices of New Parent will be in New York, New York.

Table of Contents

Cowen stockholders, Ramius and HVB (an affiliate of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., a third party investor in Ramius) will receive New Parent Class A common stock in connection with the transactions and will become New Parent stockholders. Their rights as stockholders will be governed by the post-closing certificate of incorporation and by-laws of New Parent and the laws of the state of Delaware. The certificate of incorporation and by-laws that will govern New Parent after the transactions are completed will be substantially as set forth in Appendix D and Appendix E to this document, respectively. For information on how these documents differ from the current certificate of incorporation and by-laws governing Cowen, see the section titled "Comparison of Stockholders' Rights" beginning on page 136.

New Parent has not, to date, conducted any material activities other than those incidental to its formation and the matters contemplated by the transaction agreement, including the formation of each of Merger Sub and Exchange Sub as wholly owned subsidiaries, and the preparation of this document and the registration statement of which it forms a part. New Parent does not intend to directly undertake any operating activities other than the management of its operating subsidiaries, which will be primarily engaged in financial services activities. After the closing of the transactions, the Ramius subsidiary is intended to undertake the primary alternative investment management activities of the combined company, and the Cowen subsidiary is intended to undertake the primary sales and trading and investment banking operations of the combined company. A common infrastructure is intended to support both subsidiaries. In connection with the management of its operating subsidiaries, New Parent will employ senior management personnel. Additionally, New Parent may hold its own investments and, immediately following the consummation of the transactions will hold certain of the limited partnership interests of Ramius Enterprise LP previously held by Ramius.

Merger Sub

Lexington Merger Corp. is a Delaware corporation formed on June 1, 2009 and is a wholly owned subsidiary of New Parent. Merger Sub was formed solely for the purpose of completing the Cowen merger and the fund of funds asset exchange in connection with the transactions. At completion of the transactions, Merger Sub will merge with and into Cowen and Merger Sub will not survive the merger. The principal executive offices of Merger Sub are located at Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801.

Merger Sub has not, to date, conducted any material activities other than those incidental to its formation and the matters contemplated by the transaction agreement and the asset exchange agreement, and the preparation of this document and the registration statement of which it forms a part.

Exchange Sub

Park Exchange LLC is a Delaware limited liability company formed on June 1, 2009 and is a wholly owned subsidiary of New Parent. At completion of the transactions, Exchange Sub will hold substantially all of the assets of Ramius and will have assumed substantially all of Ramius's liabilities. After completion of the transactions, Exchange Sub will change its name to "Ramius LLC." The principal executive offices of Exchange Sub are located at Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801.

Exchange Sub has not, to date, conducted any material activities other than those incidental to its formation and the matters contemplated by the transaction agreement, and the preparation of this document and the registration statement of which it forms a part.

Table of Contents

UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statements of operations for the six months ended June 30, 2009, and for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, give effect to the transactions as if they were completed on January 1, 2008, and include all adjustments which give effect to the events that are directly attributable to the transactions, as long as the impact of such events are expected to continue and are factually supportable. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of financial condition as of June 30, 2009 gives effect to the transactions as if they had been completed on June 30, 2009 and includes all adjustments which give effect to the events that are directly attributable to the transactions and that are factually supportable. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial data shown under this heading and the accompanying notes should be read together with:

the accompanying notes to the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements;

the separate unaudited historical financial statements of Ramius as of and for the six months ended June 30, 2009 included elsewhere in this document;

the separate audited historical financial statements of Ramius as of and for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008 included elsewhere in this document;

the separate unaudited historical financial statements of Cowen as of and for the six months ended June 30, 2009 contained in its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2009, which are incorporated by reference into this document (see the section titled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 195); and

the separate audited historical financial statements of Cowen as of and for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008 contained in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, which are incorporated by reference into this document (see the section titled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 195).

In the transactions, a wholly owned subsidiary of New Parent will merge with and into Cowen, and Cowen common stockholders will have the right to receive one share of New Parent Class A common stock for each share of Cowen common stock that they own. In addition, a wholly owned subsidiary of New Parent will acquire substantially all of Ramius's assets and assume substantially all of Ramius's liabilities in exchange for the issuance to Ramius of 37,536,826 shares of New Parent Class A common stock.

The transactions will be treated under the acquisition method for accounting purposes. In this case, the transaction will be accounted for as an acquisition by Ramius of Cowen. As such, Cowen's assets acquired and liabilities assumed will be recorded at their fair value. The fair value of New Parent securities to be issued to Cowen stockholders is the purchase consideration in the transactions. The purchase consideration for Cowen under the acquisition method will be based on the stock price of Cowen on the closing date of the transactions multiplied by the number of shares issued by New Parent to the Cowen stockholders. The preliminary allocation of the purchase price assumes a Cowen stock price of \$6.95 per share (based on the closing stock price on August 10, 2009) and that 14,938,309 shares of Cowen stock are outstanding at the date of the completion of the transactions (currently based on the number of shares of Cowen common stock outstanding on June 30, 2009). Included in the 14,938,309 shares of Cowen stock are 11,880,468 freely tradable shares, 3,027,419 restricted shares and 30,422 shares underlying vested restricted stock units at the balance sheet date. The number of shares used to estimate the purchase price excludes 216,265 restricted shares at the balance sheet date that are not vesting as part of the transaction and are not effectively being purchased. Restricted shares, restricted share units and stock options of Cowen common stock at the effective time of the merger will be converted into restricted shares, restricted share units and stock options of New Parent stock on a one-for-one basis.

Table of Contents

In connection with the transactions, Merger Sub will also purchase from HVB (an affiliate of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., a third party investor in Ramius) the 50% interest in the Ramius fund of funds business not currently owned by Ramius, in exchange for 2,713,882 shares of New Parent Class A common stock and approximately \$10.4 million of additional consideration, which will be paid either with a promissory note or with cash. If paid in cash, the cash payment is expected to be made out of the proceeds of the new secured revolving credit agreement of New Parent from HVB AG (an affiliate of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.). In accordance with SFAS No. 160, "Noncontrolling interests in Consolidated Financial Statements an amendment of ARB 51" (which we refer to as SFAS 160), the acquisition of the additional interest in the Ramius fund of funds business will be treated as a capital transaction and the difference between the fair value of the consideration paid and the carrying value of the non-controlling interest will be recognized in equity.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information has been presented for informational purposes only. The pro forma information is not necessarily indicative of what the combined company's financial position or results of operations actually would have been had the transactions been completed as of the dates indicated. In addition, the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information does not purport to project the future financial position or operating results of the combined company.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information has been prepared using the acquisition method of accounting under existing U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (which we refer to as GAAP) which are subject to change and interpretation. Ramius has been treated as the acquirer in the transactions for accounting purposes. The acquisition accounting is dependent on certain valuations and other studies that have yet to commence or progress to a stage where there is sufficient information for definitive measurement. Accordingly, the pro forma adjustments are preliminary and have been made solely for the purpose of providing unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information. Differences between these preliminary estimates, including the estimates of the purchase consideration and allocation of purchase price to Cowen's assets, including intangible assets, and the final acquisition accounting will occur and these differences could have a material impact on the accompanying unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements and the combined company's future results of operations and financial position.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information does not reflect any cost savings, operating synergies or revenue enhancements that New Parent may achieve as a result of the transactions, the costs to integrate the operations of Cowen and Ramius or the costs necessary to achieve these cost savings, operating synergies and revenue enhancements.

Table of Contents**Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Statement of Financial Condition**

At June 30, 2009

	Historical		Pro Forma	New
	Ramius	Cowen	Adjustments	Parent
	(in thousands)			
Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 5,695	\$ 82,035	\$ (46,818)(a)	\$ 40,912
Cash collateral pledged	6,948			6,948
Restricted cash pursuant to escrow agreement		5,222		5,222
Securities owned, at fair value	14,005	17,221		31,226
Other investments	17,429	16,288		33,717
Receivable from brokers, dealers and clearing brokers	16,333	18,149		34,482
Fees receivable	13,138	9,972		23,110
Due from related parties	21,095	5,818		26,913
Fixed assets, net	26,535	9,327		35,862
Goodwill	20,028	2,551	(2,551)(b)	20,028
Intangible assets, net	390	223	16,777 (c)	17,390
Other assets	4,640	19,301	2,036 (d)	25,977
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds assets:</i>				
Cash and cash equivalents	4,063			4,063
Other investments, at fair value	552,753			552,753
Other assets	745			745
Total assets	703,797	186,107	(30,556)	859,348
Liabilities, Redeemable Equity and Equity				
Securities sold, not yet purchased		17,719		17,719
Payable to brokers, dealers and clearing brokers	3,817	276		4,093
Compensation payable	17,665	9,005	3,160 (e)	29,830
Lines of credit	49,948		(24,948)(f)	25,000
Fees payable	1,611			1,611
Due to related parties	13,257			13,257
Capital withdrawals payable				
Accounts payable, accrued expenses and other liabilities	21,341	18,649	26,762 (g)	66,752
Bank overdraft		426		426
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds liabilities:</i>				
Capital withdrawals payable	27,601			27,601
Accounts payable, accrued expenses and other liabilities	1,050			1,050
Total liabilities	136,290	46,075	4,974	187,339
Redeemable members' equity	306,843		(306,843)(h)	
Redeemable noncontrolling interests	260,664		(13,849)(i)	246,815
Total redeemable group equity	567,507		(320,692)	246,815
Equity				
Stockholders' equity		138,392	285,162 (j)	423,554

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

Noncontrolling interests		1,640		1,640
Total equity		140,032	285,162	425,194
Total liabilities, redeemable group equity and equity	\$ 703,797	\$ 186,107	\$ (30,556)	\$ 859,348

See accompanying notes to unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements.

Table of Contents**Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Statement of Operations**

Six Months Ended June 30, 2009

	Historical		Pro Forma	New
	Ramius	Cowen	Adjustments	Parent
	(in thousands, except per share data)			
Revenues				
Management fees	\$ 22,434	\$ 4,481	\$	\$ 26,915
Interest and dividends	178	291		469
Reimbursement from affiliates	5,490			5,490
Investment banking		17,075		17,075
Brokerage		70,623		70,623
Other	1,688	1,048		2,736
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds and other</i>	7,967			7,967
Total revenues	37,757	93,518		131,275
Operating expenses				
Employee compensation and benefits	28,786	60,533	5,895 (k)	95,214
Interest and dividends	687	159	63 (l)	909
Professional, advisory and other fees	9,170	3,751		12,921
Communications	527	5,998		6,525
Occupancy and equipment	5,073	7,642	(1,939)(m)	10,776
Floor brokerage and trade execution		6,230		6,230
Service fees		8,943		8,943
Depreciation and amortization	2,434	1,505	1,321 (n)	5,260
Client services, marketing and business development	3,313	5,263		8,576
Other	5,253	4,752	100 (o)	10,105
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds and other</i>	6,520			6,520
Total expenses	61,763	104,776	5,440	171,979
Other income (loss)				
Net loss on securities, derivatives and other investments	(3,976)			(3,976)
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds and other net realized and unrealized losses</i>	5,912			5,912
Total other income	1,936			1,936
Loss before income taxes	(22,070)	(11,258)	(5,440)	(38,768)
Income tax benefit	(49)	(410)	(p)	(459)
Net loss	(22,021)	(10,848)	(5,440)	(38,309)
Less: Net income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests	3,989	104	(798)(i)	3,295
Net loss attributable to stockholders and members	\$ (26,010)	\$ (10,952)	\$ (4,642)	\$ (41,604)

Pro forma Net Income (Loss) Per Share

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

Basic	\$ (0.69)(q)	\$ (0.95)	NA	\$ (0.75)(s)
Diluted	\$ (0.69)(q)	\$ (0.95)	NA	\$ (0.75)(s)
Pro forma Weighted Average Common				
Shares				
Basic	37,537 (q)	11,531	6,121 (r)	55,189 (t)
Diluted	37,537 (q)	11,531	6,121 (r)	55,189 (t)

See accompanying notes to unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements.

Table of Contents**Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Statement of Operations****Year Ended December 31, 2008**

	Historical		Pro Forma	
	Ramius	Cowen	Adjustments	New Parent
	(in thousands, except per share data)			
Revenues				
Management fees	\$ 70,818	\$ 12,573	\$	\$ 83,391
Interest and dividends	1,993	3,362		5,355
Reimbursement from affiliates	16,330			16,330
Investment banking		50,937		50,937
Brokerage		149,901		149,901
Other	6,853	551		7,404
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds and other</i>	31,739			31,739
Total revenues	127,733	217,324		345,057
Operating expenses				
Employee compensation and benefits	84,769	133,891	10,358 (k)	229,018
Interest and dividends	1,820	189	7 (l)	2,016
Professional, advisory and other fees	13,803	12,108		25,911
Communications	1,574	14,797		16,371
Occupancy and equipment	11,401	15,243	(3,878)(m)	22,766
Floor brokerage and trade execution		10,864		10,864
Service fees		17,920		17,920
Depreciation and amortization	4,611	2,882	3,220 (n)	10,713
Client services, marketing and business development	8,647	12,709		21,356
Goodwill impairment	10,200	50,000	(50,000)(u)	10,200
Other	13,000	11,545	200 (o)	24,745
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds and other</i>	34,268			34,268
Total expenses	184,093	282,148	(40,093)	426,148
Other income (loss)				
Net loss on securities, derivatives and other investments	(2,006)			(2,006)
Gain on exchange memberships		751		751
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds and other net realized and unrealized losses</i>	(198,485)			(198,485)
Total other (loss) income	(200,491)	751		(199,740)
(Loss) income before income taxes	(256,851)	(64,073)	40,093	(280,831)
Income tax (benefit) provision	(1,301)	8,081	3,706 (p)	10,486
Net (loss) income	(255,550)	(72,154)	36,387	(291,317)
Less: Net (loss) gain attributable to noncontrolling interests	(113,786)		5,249 (i)	(108,537)
Net (loss) income attributable to stockholders and members	\$ (141,764)	\$ (72,154)	\$ 31,138	\$ (182,780)

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

Pro forma Net Income (Loss) Per Share

Basic	\$ (3.78)(q)	\$ (6.41)	NA	\$ (3.31)(s)
Diluted	\$ (3.78)(q)	\$ (6.41)	NA	\$ (3.31)(s)

Pro forma Weighted Average Common Shares

Basic	37,537 (q)	11,254	6,398 (r)	55,189 (t)
Diluted	37,537 (q)	11,254	6,398 (r)	55,189 (t)

See accompanying notes to unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements.

Table of Contents

Notes to Unaudited Pro Forma Combined Financial Statements

Note 1 Basis of Presentation

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements give effect to the business combination of Ramius and Cowen in a transaction to be accounted for using the acquisition method of accounting, with Ramius treated as the accounting acquirer, as if the acquisition of Cowen had been completed on January 1, 2008, for statement of operations purposes, and on June 30, 2009, for statement of financial condition purposes.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial data is presented for illustrative purposes only and is not necessarily indicative of the operating results or financial position that would have occurred if the transactions had been completed during the period or as of the dates for which the pro forma data is presented, nor is it necessarily indicative of the future operating results or financial position of New Parent.

Ramius's estimated purchase price for Cowen has been allocated to the assets acquired and the liabilities assumed based upon management's preliminary estimate of their respective fair values as of the date of acquisition. Definitive allocations will be performed and finalized after the completion of the transactions. Accordingly, the purchase price allocation pro forma adjustments are preliminary, have been made solely for the purpose of providing unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial data and are subject to revision based on a final determination of fair value after the closing of the transactions.

The accompanying unaudited pro forma condensed combined statements of operations do not include the impact of the following non-recurring items directly related to the transactions:

transaction costs in connection with the acquisition yet to be incurred which will continue to be expensed as incurred;

a non-cash bargain purchase gain created from the transaction, if any;

a charge for payment of \$1.5 million to Mr. Malcolm at closing of the transaction in connection with his waiver of certain rights and entitlements contained in his existing employment agreement with Cowen; and

a non-cash credit representing unrecognized net deferred tax assets recorded upon Ramius changing its tax status from a partnership to a corporation.

Certain reclassifications have been made to the Cowen historical balances in the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements to conform to Ramius's presentation.

Note 2 Purchase Price

For the purpose of preparing the accompanying unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of financial condition as of June 30, 2009, management made the following assumptions:

Cowen stockholders exchanged their shares of Cowen common stock for the equivalent of 28.76% of New Parent Class A common stock issued and outstanding (which includes shares to be issued in conjunction with the transactions);

the estimated fair value of New Parent securities to be issued to Cowen stockholders was determined based on the closing market price of the Cowen common shares on August 10, 2009, and the estimated number of shares to be delivered at closing was based on the number of shares of Cowen common stock outstanding on June 30, 2009; and

Table of Contents**Notes to Unaudited Pro Forma Combined Financial Statements (Continued)****Note 2 Purchase Price (Continued)**

the fair value of outstanding Cowen stock options, which will immediately vest at the effective time of the transactions, has been attributed to pre-combination services and included in the consideration transferred.

The estimated fair value of New Parent Class A common stock to be issued to Cowen stockholders in the transactions represents the purchase consideration in the transactions, which was computed as follows:

	(in thousands, except per share data)
Estimated number of Cowen common shares outstanding at closing:	
Common float	11,880(1)
Restricted shares	3,028(2)
Restricted share units	30(3)
Total estimated shares to be issued to Cowen stockholders	14,938
Estimated market price of Cowen common shares	\$ 6.95(4)
Estimated purchase price of Cowen common shares	\$ 103,819
Add: Fair value of unvested restricted shares and options issued	1,509(5)
Estimated purchase price	\$ 105,328

(1)

Based on the trading float of Cowen's common shares on June 30, 2009.

(2)

Based on Cowen's unvested restricted shares outstanding on June 30, 2009. Excludes restricted shares that are not subject to accelerated vesting as a result of the transactions.

(3)

Based on Cowen's restricted share units outstanding on June 30, 2009.

(4)

The \$6.95 share price used in calculating the estimated purchase consideration represents the closing share price of Cowen common stock on August 10, 2009. The actual purchase consideration will be based upon the actual closing market price per share of Cowen common stock on the closing date of the transactions. A \$1.00 increase or decrease in the share price would increase or decrease, as applicable, the purchase consideration by approximately \$15.3 million.

(5)

In connection with the transactions, each outstanding Cowen stock option will be exchanged for one stock option of New Parent. Each newly issued stock option will be fully vested upon issuance, and will have a strike price and expiration date equal to that of the original stock option. Cowen had 892,782 stock options outstanding as of June 30, 2009. The fair value of New Parent's stock option awards was estimated to be \$0.6 million using an assumed fair value of Cowen's stock options based on a Black-Scholes valuation model. Also included in the \$1.5 million is \$0.9 million related to the fair value of pre-combination service on restricted shares that are not

subject to accelerated vesting as a result of the transactions.

Table of Contents**Notes to Unaudited Pro Forma Combined Financial Statements (Continued)****Note 2 Purchase Price (Continued)**

The following is a summary of the preliminary allocation of the purchase price as reflected in the unaudited pro forma combined statement of financial condition as of June 30, 2009:

	(in thousands)
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 82,035
Restricted cash pursuant to escrow agreement	5,222
Securities owned, at fair value	17,221
Receivable from brokers, dealers and clearing brokers	18,149
Fees receivable	9,972
Due from related parties	5,818
Other investments	16,288
Fixed assets, net	9,327
Intangible assets, net	17,000
Other assets	21,298
Securities sold, not yet purchased	(17,719)
Payable to brokers, dealers and clearing brokers	(276)
Compensation payable	(14,957)
Accounts payable, accrued expenses and other liabilities	(37,802)
Bank overdraft	(426)
Noncontrolling interest	(1,640)
Total net assets acquired	129,510
Bargain purchase gain on transactions	(24,182)(1)
Total purchase price	\$ 105,328

(1)

Represents the estimated bargain purchase gain on the transactions.

Cowen believes that all of the acquired receivables and contractual amounts receivable as reflected above in the preliminary allocation of the purchase price are recorded at fair value and are expected to be collected in full, except for \$0.4 million which was expected to be uncollectible.

The noncontrolling interest in Cowen at the balance sheet date represents the noncontrolling equity interest in Cowen Healthcare Royalty Partners GP, LLC ("CHRP GP"), the general partner to Cowen Healthcare Royalty Partners (the "CHRP Fund"), and is recorded at fair value. CHRP GP's only significant asset is its investment in CHRP Fund, which invests principally in commercial-stage biopharmaceutical products and companies through the purchase of royalty or synthetic royalty interests and structured debt and equity instruments. The CHRP Fund follows industry practices for valuation techniques including discounted cash flows, Black-Scholes valuation models and sale price of recent transactions in the same or similar securities and significant inputs such as estimated future cash flows, discount rates, volatility and dividend yield to measure the fair value of the investments in the CHRP Fund.

Based on the June 30, 2009 estimated purchase price allocation, the fair value of the net identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed of \$129.5 million exceeded the fair value of the estimated purchase price of \$105.3 million. As a result, New Parent would have recognized a bargain purchase gain of \$24.2 million if the transaction had closed at that date. Cowen's share price has traded below its book value for a substantial part of the last 52 weeks, and as the purchase consideration is determined based on the stock price of Cowen at the closing date of the transactions, the preliminary purchase price allocations have resulted in a bargain purchase gain.

Table of Contents**Notes to Unaudited Pro Forma Combined Financial Statements (Continued)****Note 3 Pro Forma Adjustments**

(a)

Reflects the adjustments to cash as follows:

	(in thousands)
Net payment on credit lines	\$ (35,318)(1)
Distributions	(9,000)(2)
Payment to Mr. Malcolm	(1,500)(3)
Credit agreement financing costs	(500)(4)
Excluded cash	(500)(5)
 Total	 \$ (46,818)

(1)

Represents a cash payment to retire \$49.9 million drawn under an existing credit agreement and payment of \$10.4 million related to the purchase of the remaining 50% interest in the Ramius fund of funds business, offset by the net effect of the issuance of a new facility of \$25.0 million.

(2)

Represents \$2.5 million of capital withdrawals to be made immediately prior to the closing of the transactions in connection with the satisfaction of tax obligations associated with the vesting of various partnership interests as a result of the transactions an aggregate of \$6.5 million of capital withdrawals to be made immediately prior to the closing by Messrs. Cohen and Stark and BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., each of which will result in a reduction of the members' equity of Ramius. See Note 3(j).

(3)

Represents a cash payment of \$1.5 million to be made to Mr. Malcolm at closing. This payment will be made pursuant to the terms of Mr. Malcolm's new employment agreement. The payment amount relates to Mr. Malcolm's waiver of certain change in control rights and potential payments under his existing employment agreement with Cowen.

(4)

Represents a cash payment for financing costs related to the retirement of Ramius's existing credit facility and borrowings under the New Parent credit agreement of \$25.0 million. The \$0.5 million financing cost will be capitalized and amortized over the life of the new credit facility, approximately two years.

(5)

Represents the cash amount of Ramius's excluded assets, which Ramius is retaining in order to pay ongoing operating expenses, such as audit fees.

(b)

Represents the adjustment to eliminate Cowen's historical goodwill. The transactions are expected to result in negative goodwill of \$24.2 million which will be recognized as a gain upon the closing of the transactions.

(c)

As of June 30, 2009, the estimated fair value of Cowen's intangible assets (other than goodwill) is \$17.0 million (representing a \$16.8 million increase in value over Cowen's

Table of Contents**Notes to Unaudited Pro Forma Combined Financial Statements (Continued)****Note 3 Pro Forma Adjustments (Continued)**

historical intangible assets). The preliminary allocations included in the unaudited pro forma combined financial data are as follows:

Intangible Asset Class	Estimated Intangible Assets Acquired (in thousands)	Estimated Average Remaining Useful Lives (years)
Trade name and trademarks	\$ 10,500	10
Customer relationships	5,600	4
Customer backlog	900	2
 Total intangible assets	 \$ 17,000	

(d)

Adjustments to other assets are comprised of:

	(in thousands)
Deferred taxes	1,633 (1)
Credit facility financing costs	500 (2)
Exchange memberships mark-down	(97)(3)
 Total	 \$ 2,036

(1)

Represents a \$1.6 million net increase related to (a) the adjustments in deferred tax assets and current taxes receivable stemming from the pro forma adjustments made to loss before taxes, (b) a net deferred tax asset established following the change in tax status of Ramius from a partnership to a corporation as a result of the transactions, and (c) a full valuation allowance recognized against the Ramius deferred tax assets.

(2)

Represents a cash payment of \$0.5 million for financing costs related to the retirement of Ramius's existing credit facility and borrowings under the New Parent credit agreement of \$25.0 million. The \$0.5 million financing cost will be capitalized and amortized over the life of the new credit agreement, approximately two years.

(3)

Represents an adjustment to Cowen's exchange memberships included in other assets, which have historically been carried at cost. This adjustment represents the estimated \$0.1 million mark-down to fair value on those memberships.

(e)

Reflects accelerated vesting of \$6.0 million of deferred cash awards granted to certain of Cowen's employees due to change in control provisions in the relevant deferred cash award agreements that would be triggered by the transactions. The actual payments under the deferred cash awards will occur on the vesting schedule in such agreements (one third on each of May 15, 2010, 2011 and 2012). This amount is partially offset by \$2.8 million, representing the previously accrued portion of Ramius partnership awards that will vest as a result of the transactions. Upon vesting of these partnership interests, the existing liability related to the unvested balances will be reclassified to members' capital, net of any cash payments made to

the employee to satisfy tax obligations.

(f)

Reflects the retirement of amounts drawn under Ramius's existing credit facility of \$49.9 million and borrowings under the New Parent credit agreement of \$25.0 million.

Table of Contents**Notes to Unaudited Pro Forma Combined Financial Statements (Continued)****Note 3 Pro Forma Adjustments (Continued)**

(g)

Reflects adjustments to accounts payable, accrued expenses and other liabilities as follows:

	(in thousands)
Unfavorable lease liability	17,059(1)
Contingent investment banking fees	7,300(2)
Deferred and non-income based taxes	2,403(3)
 Total	 \$ 26,762

(1)

Represents an estimated net impact of an unfavorable lease liability of \$18.0 million related to certain of Cowen's real estate leases that are at higher than market rates at June 30, 2009, partially offset by the removal of a previously existing rent reserve of \$0.9 million.

(2)

Represents Ramius's and Cowen's estimated contingent investment banking fees. The non-contingent portion of the transaction costs of approximately \$9.0 million is being expensed as incurred.

(3)

Represents an increase to other liabilities related to the adjustment of deferred tax liabilities stemming from the pro forma adjustments made to loss before taxes and an adjustment for non-income based taxes.

(h)

Reflects Ramius's contribution of historical redeemable members' equity to the equity of New Parent.

(i)

Reflects the adjustment to remove the 50% noncontrolling interest in the Ramius fund of funds business that will be acquired by the combined entity as part of the transactions.

(j)

Reflects the adjustments to total stockholders' equity as follows:

	(in thousands)
Estimated purchase consideration paid for Cowen	\$ 105,328 (1)
Historical stockholders' equity of Cowen	(138,392)(2)
Ramius's contributed equity	306,843 (3)
Dividend to Ramius's members and employees	(9,000)(4)
Impact of Ramius's change of control vesting	2,792 (5)
Excluded cash	(500)(6)
Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC capital effect	3,479 (7)
Payment to Mr. Malcolm	(1,500)(8)
Estimated contingent investment banking fees	(7,300)(9)
Deferred tax and non-income based tax adjustments	(770)(10)
Estimated bargain purchase gain ("negative goodwill") on transactions	24,182 (11)
 Total	 \$ 285,162

- (1) Represents the estimated purchase consideration paid to Cowen stockholders in the transactions.
- (2) Represents the elimination of the historical equity of Cowen.

Table of Contents**Notes to Unaudited Pro Forma Combined Financial Statements (Continued)****Note 3 Pro Forma Adjustments (Continued)**

- (3) Represents Ramius's contribution of historical redeemable members' equity to the equity of New Parent.
- (4) Represents Ramius cash excluded from the transactions (treated as a reduction of Ramius's historical members' capital contributed). Immediately prior to closing of the transactions, \$2.5 million of capital withdrawals will be made in connection with the satisfaction of tax obligations associated with the vesting of various partnership interests as a result of the transactions and an aggregate of \$6.5 million of capital withdrawals by Messrs. Cohen and Stark and BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.
- (5) Represents the amount of compensation liability of Ramius associated with partnership interest awards that will be reclassified to equity as a result of vesting caused by the transactions.
- (6) Represents the cash amount of Ramius's excluded assets which Ramius is retaining in order to pay ongoing operating expenses, such as audit fees.
- (7) Represents the issuance of common shares for the purchase of the remaining 50% of the fund of funds business, and the equity effect of that purchase to be accounted for under SFAS 160 as follows:

	(in thousands)
Fair value of shares issued for purchase	\$ 18,861 (a)
Equity effect of purchase	(15,382)(b)
Net impact on stockholders' equity	\$ 3,479

-
- (a) Based on the estimated Cowen share price of \$6.95 multiplied by the 2,713,882 shares to be issued to HVB.
- (b) Represents the excess of the estimated purchase consideration over the carrying value of the noncontrolling interest. This amount is treated as a capital transaction and debited to equity (as opposed to goodwill) in accordance with SFAS 160, as Ramius already owned a controlling interest in the fund of funds business. The calculation of the excess is as follows:

	(in thousands)
Fair value of shares issued	\$ 18,861
Cash consideration paid	10,370
Total purchase consideration	29,231
Less: Carrying value of 50% noncontrolling interest purchased	(13,849)
Excess of purchase consideration over carrying value of noncontrolling interest purchased	\$ 15,382

(8)

Represents a cash payment of \$1.5 million to be made to Mr. Malcolm at closing. This payment will be made pursuant to the terms of Mr. Malcolm's new employment agreement. The payment amount relates to Mr. Malcolm's waiver of certain change in control rights and potential payments under his existing employment agreement with Cowen.

Table of Contents

Notes to Unaudited Pro Forma Combined Financial Statements (Continued)

Note 3 Pro Forma Adjustments (Continued)

- (9) Reflects Ramius's and Cowen's estimated contingent investment banking fees of \$7.3 million. The non-contingent portion of the costs of approximately \$9.0 million is being expensed as incurred.
- (10) Represents (a) the adjustments to deferred tax assets and current taxes receivable stemming from the pro forma adjustments made to loss before taxes, (b) a net deferred tax asset established following the change in tax status of Ramius from a partnership to a corporation as a result of the transactions, (c) a full valuation allowance recognized against the Ramius deferred tax assets and an adjustment for non-income based taxes.
- (11) Represents the estimated bargain purchase gain ("negative goodwill") under the acquisition method, which would be recognized as a day one gain of the combined entity.
- (k) Reflects the amortization of compensation expenses resulting from a one-time award of \$25.0 million in equity to certain key employees of Ramius in connection with the transactions. This award will vest over a three-year period, with 50% of the awards vesting on each of the second and third anniversaries of the closing of the transactions. New Parent will recognize the award as compensation expense each year in relation to the services received over the requisite service period pursuant to Financial Accounting Standards Board Interpretation No. 28. Also reflects an adjustment to the base compensation and stock based compensation of two employees who entered into new employment agreements in connection with the transactions.
- (l) Reflects the removal of interest expense related to the existing credit line that will be retired as part of the transactions, partially offset by the interest expense on the New Parent credit agreement. The interest rate on the new credit lines is based on the three-month LIBOR rate plus 350 basis points. The three-month LIBOR rate used is the actual rate at June 30, 2009. For each 0.125% increase or decrease in interest rates, interest expense would increase or decrease, respectively, by approximately \$31,000.
- (m) Reflects amortization of the unfavorable lease obligation described in (g) above over the remaining lease terms.
- (n) Reflects amortization expense related to the estimated intangible assets recognized in connection with the transactions, less the historical intangible asset amortization actually recognized for the period.
- (o) Reflects an adjustment for non-income-based taxes.
- (p) Reflects the impact on current and deferred taxes of pro forma adjustments made to loss before taxes and the corresponding effect on the valuation allowance already recorded by Cowen and Ramius.
- (q) Ramius's historical pro forma EPS has been calculated assuming the 37,536,826 shares of New Parent Class A common stock that Ramius will receive upon closing of the transactions were outstanding from the beginning of the period. Cowen's EPS represents the actual results reported for that period.
- (r) Reflects the adjustment necessary to arrive at the shares outstanding assuming the transactions closed at the beginning of the periods presented. Primarily represents shares issued to HVB

Table of Contents

Notes to Unaudited Pro Forma Combined Financial Statements (Continued)

Note 3 Pro Forma Adjustments (Continued)

for the acquisition of the remaining interest in the fund of funds business and Cowen restricted share holders whose awards vest upon closing. See (t) below for further explanation.

(s)

Reflects the pro forma net loss for New Parent divided by the pro forma weighted average shares outstanding for New Parent.

(t)

Reflects the total shares of New Parent to be issued in connection with the transactions. As the unaudited pro forma combined statements of operations assume that the transactions occurred as of the beginning of the period presented, all 55,189,000 shares of New Parent Class A common stock are assumed to be outstanding for the entire period for the pro forma net loss per share calculation of New Parent. No adjustments have been made for the dilutive effects as the effects of outstanding restricted stock and awards would be anti-dilutive.

(u)

Reflects an adjustment to remove the \$50.0 million historical goodwill impairment charge of Cowen. Had the transactions been completed at the beginning of the period presented, the historical goodwill of Cowen would have been eliminated as part of the purchase price allocation.

Table of Contents

PROPOSAL 1: THE TRANSACTIONS

Background of the Transactions

The Cowen Board of Directors has periodically met with senior management of Cowen to discuss and review potential strategic directions for the company in light of the company's financial performance, developments in the financial services industry and the competitive landscape and markets in which Cowen operates. These meetings have included a review of Cowen's business and key issues and challenges faced by it, and possible strategic directions available to Cowen and the potential impact on stockholder value, including, from time to time, hypothetical acquisitions or business combinations involving various other firms in the financial services industry. In December 2008, Cowen received an unsolicited public acquisition proposal from a small financial services firm. The Cowen Board of Directors considered the proposal and concluded that such a transaction would not enhance stockholder value and had no strategic rationale. Subsequently, the financial services firm withdrew its proposal.

From time to time over the last year, Cowen received other unsolicited inquiries and proposals for a variety of potential transactions ranging from minority investments, joint ventures, sales of the company and other extraordinary transactions. None of these approaches were determined to be an attractive option for Cowen and its stockholders and Cowen did not pursue any of these unsolicited approaches nor did the Board or senior management of Cowen engage in discussions with these third parties with a view towards effecting a business combination. None of these transactions were considered to be competitive with the proposed transactions with Ramius nor were they a factor towards the decision to pursue the transaction agreement with Ramius.

In early January 2009, Mr. Malcolm (President and Chief Executive Officer of Cowen) was contacted by Mr. Solomon (a Managing Member of Ramius) requesting a meeting. Mr. Malcolm conferred with Mr. Toffolon (Chairman of the Cowen Board of Directors) regarding the request, and it was decided that Mr. Malcolm should meet with Mr. Solomon.

On January 13, 2009, Messrs. Malcolm, White (Vice President of Cowen), Solomon and Chaikin (a Managing Director of Ramius) met. At this meeting, Ramius suggested that Cowen consider a business combination with Ramius and the parties discussed the strategic benefits of a combination based on several factors, including Ramius's strategies, competitive position and prospects, the track record of Cowen and its senior management team and an apparent fit between the people and cultures and the complementary operations of the two firms. The parties discussed the use of a structure in which Ramius would merge with and into Cowen. The parties discussed that it would be difficult to agree on traditional valuation metrics given the relative nature of the businesses of the two companies and the current economic environment, and Ramius first proposed an exchange ratio based on the relative book values of the two companies. Later that same day, Mr. Malcolm apprised Messrs. Conner (Chief Financial Officer of Cowen), O'Donoghue (Head of Equities at Cowen and Company), Meltzer (Head of Investment Banking at Cowen and Company), Tarasoff (Head of Research at Cowen and Company), McCarthy (General Counsel of Cowen) and Ryles (Vice Chairman of Cowen and Company) and Mr. Toffolon of these discussions, although no decision was made to pursue any business combination at that time.

On January 20, 2009, Mr. Malcolm had dinner with Mr. Solomon where issues related to the integration of the Cowen and Ramius management teams were discussed. Mr. Solomon proposed that Mr. Malcolm and Mr. Toffolon meet with Mr. Cohen (Founder and Managing Member of Ramius) to further discuss these issues. The following day, Mr. Malcolm spoke with Mr. Toffolon and other members of senior management of Cowen. It was determined, based on the fact that management of Cowen was currently focused on completing its 2008 year-end activities, and the fact that the public offer to purchase Cowen from the small financial services firm remained outstanding, that Cowen management should not pursue a business combination with Ramius at that time. Mr. Malcolm called

Table of Contents

Mr. Solomon on February 3, 2009 and informed him of Cowen's decision, and told Mr. Solomon to call him back in a month if he wished to do so.

In early March 2009, Mr. Solomon telephoned Mr. Malcolm to request a meeting. Since the small financial services firm had publicly withdrawn its offer to purchase Cowen in late February, and since Cowen management had substantially completed its year-end activities, Mr. Malcolm agreed to meet with Mr. Solomon and the parties arranged to meet in New York City on March 6, 2009.

On March 6, 2009, Messrs. Malcolm and White met with Mr. Solomon to revisit the topics previously discussed in January, including an exchange ratio based on relative book values of the companies. The parties again discussed and confirmed their shared view that traditional valuation metrics were not suitable for this transaction. The parties agreed to continue the discussion at a meeting between Mr. Cohen and Messrs. Malcolm and Toffolon.

On March 16, Messrs. Cohen and Solomon met with Messrs. Malcolm and Toffolon to discuss their respective views for a combined company. The parties discussed possible synergies, potential structure and management of the combined entity and composition of the board of the combined entity. In particular, it was discussed that a top-level management committee would collectively manage and supervise the combined entity, but that the asset management business of Ramius and the broker-dealer business of Cowen would be managed and supervised separately. In addition, the parties discussed using Cowen's name for the combined company's broker-dealer operations, and using the Ramius name in conjunction with the asset management, hedge fund and real estate businesses.

On March 18, 2009, Mr. Solomon telephoned Mr. Malcolm to suggest that Mr. Malcolm come to the offices of Ramius in order to meet with additional members of Ramius management. Mr. Malcolm visited the Ramius offices in New York on March 23, 2009 and met with Messrs. Strauss (Managing Member of Ramius) and Stark (Managing Member of Ramius) and other members of senior management.

On March 24, 2009, Mr. Malcolm reported the status of his discussions with Ramius to the Cowen Board of Directors, including describing the potential terms of the transaction as had been discussed at the March 6 and the March 16 meetings described above, and told the Board about his trip to the Ramius offices on March 18 and whom he met with during his visit. Although no conclusion was reached that Cowen should pursue any particular strategic alternative, Mr. Malcolm was authorized by the Cowen Board of Directors to engage in further discussions with Ramius. The Cowen Board of Directors also approved the engagement of Sandler O'Neill as the company's financial advisor with respect to the potential transaction. Senior management of Cowen also engaged Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, its regular outside counsel, and advised them that it was pursuing a potential transaction with Ramius, and arrangements were discussed to facilitate mutual due diligence and management discussions between the parties.

On March 25, 2009, Cowen and Ramius entered into a confidentiality agreement and determined to hold presentations of their respective managements the following week. The parties began internally preparing their respective management presentations and due diligence request lists. The parties exchanged initial due diligence requests the following week, and on April 1, 2009 senior management of the firms met in New York, New York for a social dinner.

On April 3, 2009, Messrs. Malcolm, White, Toffolon, Conner, O'Donoghue, Meltzer, Tarasoff and Ryles met with Messrs. Cohen, Solomon, Stark, Strauss, Smith (Partner of Ramius), Boxer (Partner of Ramius), Goracy (Partner of Ramius) and Lasota (Chief Financial Officer of Ramius) and Ms. Ogilvie (Partner and Chief Operating Officer of Ramius) for mutual management presentations, where each party gave the other a high level overview of its businesses, including financial performance, strategies, management structure and infrastructure. Representatives from Sandler O'Neill and Credit Suisse

Table of Contents

(financial advisor to Ramius) were also present. The parties agreed that next steps would be to hold smaller group diligence presentations the following week.

On April 7, 2009, April 8, 2009 and April 9, 2009, the parties held small group diligence sessions, which focused on (i) budget and financials; (ii) brokerage and research; (iii) infrastructure; (iv) internal fund management; (v) fund-of funds, (vi) real estate; and (vii) investment banking. The parties also met with Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz and Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP (counsel to Ramius) to discuss potential transaction structures on April 9, 2009.

During the week of April 13, 2009, Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz and Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP began discussing the terms of a potential definitive transaction agreement and exchanged draft agreements. The parties also continued to conduct due diligence. That same week, Ramius obtained the consent of Cowen to speak with BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., a third party investor in Ramius, and its affiliates, concerning the transactions.

On April 14, 2009, Cowen held a regularly scheduled meeting of its Board of Directors. At this meeting, Sandler O'Neill presented an update on the due diligence of Ramius conducted to date.

During the week of April 20, 2009, the parties continued conducting due diligence and exchanged several drafts of the transaction agreement. The main issues discussed amongst the parties included the structure and tax consequences of the transaction, the terms related to termination of the transaction agreement and related fees and expenses and the representations and warranties of the respective parties.

During the week of April 27, 2009, the parties continued diligence, including conducting accounting diligence and diligence by Cowen and its advisors related to Ramius's relationship with Bank Austria and its affiliates, and continued negotiating the transaction agreement (as well as the terms of the asset exchange agreement and other related agreements). Cowen and Ramius discussed whether the exchange ratio should be based on the relative book values of the companies as of December 31, 2008 or as of March 31, 2009. As the audit of Ramius's 2008 year-end financial statements was not complete at this time, Cowen and Ramius also discussed, if they determined to use the year end book values, potentially including a provision in the transaction agreement where the exchange ratio would be "trued-up" after the execution of the transaction agreement to the extent that the book value for Ramius contained in Ramius's audited 2008 financial statements differed from the book value contained in the 2008 unaudited financial statements. The parties also discussed possible adjustments to book value for purposes of calculating the exchange ratio, including adjustments for a pending arbitration Ramius had initiated against a securities underwriter, the value of the 50% interest in Ramius's fund of funds business that Ramius was planning to purchase from HVB, distributions to be made to Ramius's members prior to closing and the forgiveness of Cowen's outstanding forgivable loans.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors held on May 4, 2009, Sandler O'Neill and senior management of Cowen presented their due diligence findings to date. The due diligence presented included an overview of the overall business of Ramius and of each distinct Ramius product offering (consisting of its hedge fund, fund of funds, real estate and cash management), and also of Ramius's infrastructure and management team. Sandler O'Neill also presented its findings and analysis related to the historical financial performance and earnings projections of Ramius as provided by Ramius management, and reviewed with the Board of Directors the performance of firms that Sandler O'Neill determined were comparable to Ramius. Sandler O'Neill also presented the Board of Directors with a preliminary pro forma analysis of the combined company. Based on the diligence conducted to date, Sandler O'Neill presented its preliminary financial analysis to the Board of Directors, concluding that if the transaction consideration was to be determined based on the 2008 year-end book values for the respective companies, assuming, among other things, that Ramius's audited 2008 book value did not differ from its unaudited book value and using the then-current trading value of Cowen common stock,

Table of Contents

that the transaction consideration would likely value Cowen common stock at a premium to its current trading range. Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz also updated the Board of Directors as to the current status of the negotiations of the definitive agreements relating to the transactions. The Board of Directors determined, based on the information presented by management and its advisors, that it wished to continue to perform diligence on and conduct negotiations with Ramius and its advisors.

During the next several weeks, Ramius negotiated the terms of the asset exchange agreement and related documents with HVB, an affiliate of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. Over this time period, Cowen and Ramius held several calls and conducted diligence related to, among other items, Ramius's real estate business.

During the week of May 25, 2009, Messrs. Malcolm and White had a telephone conference with Messrs. Cohen and Solomon to further discuss possible adjustments to book value for purposes of calculating the exchange ratio. The parties agreed that Ramius would transfer all of its assets to the new combined company other than a de minimus amount of cash in order to pay ongoing administrative expenses and any recovery in excess of an amount to be agreed upon by the parties from Ramius's pending arbitration against a securities underwriter. Cowen and Ramius also agreed to use the relative book values as of December 31, 2008 to calculate the exchange ratio and to make adjustments to Ramius's book value for the purchase by Ramius of the 50% interest in the fund of funds business from HVB and for distributions to be made to Ramius's members prior to closing and to Cowen's book value for an anticipated payment to a senior executive.

On May 28, 2009, a telephonic meeting of the Cowen Board of Directors was held at which Sandler O'Neill presented to the Board of Directors an update on the status of the due diligence process, including the due diligence related to Ramius's real estate business. The additional real estate due diligence presented to the Board of Directors included a description of the investment philosophy of the Ramius real estate funds, the number and type of holdings, the total equity or debt commitments, the amount of funded versus unfunded capital, any associated credit facilities and an overview of the investor base for each of the real estate funds. Sandler O'Neill also reviewed with the Board of Directors Ramius's valuation methodology and the independent mark-to-market valuations for the funds as provided by Ramius. The Board of Directors concluded based on the information presented by Sandler O'Neill that it did not require any additional information to evaluate the Ramius real estate business and the risks associated with that business in order to inform its overall decision of whether or not to approve the transactions.

On May 29, 2009, Messrs. Malcolm, White and McCarthy met with Messrs. Solomon, Chaikin and Littman (General Counsel of Ramius) to discuss the open issues that remained in the transaction agreement and other related agreements. Representatives from Sandler O'Neill, Credit Suisse, Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz and Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP were also present. The main issues discussed were whether the consummation of the transaction would be conditioned on the transaction being tax-free to Ramius's members, the termination related provisions in the transaction agreement and the associated fees and expense related issues. It was agreed at this meeting that there would be no need for the previously discussed "true-up" related to the exchange ratio, as the audit of Ramius's 2008 financial statements was complete.

On May 30, 2009, the parties reached an understanding that substantially all of the assets and liabilities of Ramius would be exchanged for common stock of the combined company at an exchange ratio of 2.4776, for a total of 40,250,708 shares issued, calculated using year-end book values for 2008 (with agreed upon adjustments). This included the shares to be issued to HVB in exchange for the remaining 50% interest in Ramius's fund of funds business not currently owned by Ramius. The parties also agreed that the transaction would be completed on a tax-free basis, that the termination fee would be \$3.5 million and agreed on the representations and warranties to be given by each party.

Table of Contents

On the morning of Tuesday, June 2, 2009, the Cowen Board of Directors met with members of Cowen's senior management and Cowen's outside legal and financial advisors. Cowen senior management reviewed with the Cowen Board of Directors the terms of the proposed transactions. Cowen senior management and Sandler O'Neill updated the Cowen Board of Directors on the status and findings to date of their due diligence investigations of Ramius. Sandler O'Neill also reviewed its financial analysis regarding the proposed transactions with the Cowen Board of Directors and rendered to the Cowen Board of Directors its oral opinion (subsequently confirmed in writing) that, as of the date of its opinion and based on and subject to the considerations in its opinion, that the proposed transaction consideration to be paid to Ramius and HVB was fair from a financial point of view to Cowen stockholders. Representatives of Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz discussed with the Board of Directors the legal standards applicable to its decisions and actions with respect to the proposed transactions and the duties of the Board of Directors in connection with the proposed transactions, and reviewed the legal terms of the proposed transactions and the proposed post-closing employment arrangements and other employee matters.

The Board of Directors of Cowen also considered potential adverse effects of the transactions if they were completed. Among the factors considered were the potential for substantial costs and operational difficulties that might be incurred in working to integrate two companies with complementary, but different, operations, and that the combined company could fail to realize some or all of the anticipated benefits of the transactions. The Board also considered the risks associated with the businesses of Ramius that are not currently risks faced by Cowen, but would be risks of the combined company. The Board of Directors also discussed that ownership of 28.76% of the combined company by current Cowen stockholders, combined with representation on the Board by four (out of ten) directors appointed by Cowen would give Cowen and its stockholders significantly less influence on the management and policies of the combined company. For a more complete discussion of the positive and negative factors considered by Cowen's board of directors in reaching its conclusion to approve the transaction agreement, please see the section titled "Cowen's Reasons for the Transactions; Recommendation of Cowen Board of Directors" beginning on page 70.

Following review and discussion among the members of the Cowen Board of Directors, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to approve the business combination with Ramius on the proposed terms.

On June 3, 2009, Ramius received the consent of its members who hold in the aggregate more than a majority of the percentage interests of Ramius to enter into the transaction agreement and effect the transactions, as well as the consent of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. In connection with obtaining these consents, Ramius entered into customary confidentiality agreements with a small group of its larger investors.

Following approval by the Cowen Board of Directors, the parties and their counsel continued to finalize and document the legal terms of the definitive agreements for the transactions, and, on the evening of June 3, 2009, the relevant parties executed the transaction agreement, the asset exchange agreement, the employment agreements and other documents related to the transactions. The transactions were announced in a joint press release early on the morning of June 4, 2009 before trading commenced on the U.S. stock exchanges.

Cowen's Reasons for the Transactions; Recommendation of Cowen Board of Directors

The Cowen Board of Directors consulted with Cowen management as well as its legal and financial advisors and determined that the transactions are in the best interests of Cowen and Cowen stockholders.

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

Table of Contents

In reaching its conclusion to approve the transaction agreement, the Cowen Board of Directors considered the following factors:

its view that the transactions bring together two businesses with complementary operations and capabilities: Ramius's global alternative investment business (hedge funds, fund of funds, real estate and cash management) with Cowen's established financial services practice (investment banking, research and sales and trading);

the fact that the combined company is expected to have diverse revenue streams, including a meaningful amount of recurring revenue;

its view that the transactions will create a combined company with the increased financial scale through a larger capital base necessary to provide greater financial stability and public market capitalization, which will increase stockholder value, enhance value to its customers and maximize cost efficiencies. Specifically, it is anticipated that the transactions will allow the combined company potentially to:

create the scale and scope necessary to put the combined company in a position to capture significant additional market share resulting from historic changes within the economy and the financial services sector;

diversify its sector coverage, including through expansion into synergistic industry verticals at Cowen in financial institutions, real estate and energy and by investing in logical new businesses, such as high net worth private client services and fixed income;

provide a potentially greater ability to access the capital and debt markets than Cowen currently enjoys;

use the relationship networks of senior Ramius personnel to strengthen Cowen's existing investment banking business;

diversify and expand its client base, allowing for greater product integration and cross-selling opportunities, by leveraging the existing and long-standing relationship networks and contacts of both Cowen and Ramius;

provide greater opportunities for employees and therefore enable the combined company to recruit and retain superior talent;

generate revenue from firm capital rather than solely from transaction-based fees; and

enhance long-term organic revenue growth rates;

the lack of disruption in providing services to the combined firm's clients, including in investment management, research, advisory and brokerage, since client-facing businesses do not have significant overlap in either revenue generation or professional staff;

the expected cost synergies and savings opportunities from the transactions and the belief that these synergies and savings opportunities can be realized by the anticipated management team for the benefit of the combined company and its stockholders;

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

Cowen's due diligence review of Ramius, and the current and historic financial condition, results of operations, prospects, earnings generation ability and risks of each of Ramius, Cowen and the combined company;

the significant investment expertise, global relationships and management experience in the financial services and asset management industries resident in the Ramius management team and its ability to provide multiple firm-wide solutions to the alternative investment needs of institutional and high net worth investors;

Table of Contents

the historical experience that the current Ramius management team has had in successfully operating public companies in the financial services area;

Ramius's long-standing relationships in commercial real estate; its ability to create customized fund of funds programs and other investment strategy solutions for institutional investors; and its new global credit platform which provides a significant opportunity for growth;

the exchange ratio based on the year-end 2008 book values of each firm valued Cowen stock on a pro forma basis at a 79.7% premium to its trading price on the day prior to announcement;

the expectation of earnings per share accretion within the first full year as a combined company;

the stock consideration will allow Cowen stockholders to participate in the benefits of a significantly larger and more diversified company, including future growth and expected synergies of the combined company;

the expectation that the Cowen merger can be completed as a reorganization for U.S. federal income tax purposes and, as a result, the exchange by Cowen stockholders of their shares of Cowen common stock for shares of New Parent Class A common stock in the transactions generally will be tax-free to Cowen stockholders;

the opinion delivered to the Cowen Board of Directors by Sandler O'Neill to the effect that, as of the date of its opinion, the proposed consideration to be delivered to Ramius and HVB in the transactions is fair from a financial point of view to Cowen's stockholders (Sandler O'Neill's opinion, including any qualifications and assumptions contained therein, is more fully described below in the section titled "Proposal 1: The Transactions Opinion of Cowen's Financial Advisor" beginning on page 73);

the review by the Cowen Board of Directors with management and its advisors of the structural, financial and other terms of the transactions, including the asset exchange consideration;

the limited number and nature of the conditions to each party's obligation to complete the transactions;

the provisions of the transaction agreement that allow Cowen's Board of Directors, under certain limited circumstances, to change its recommendation that Cowen's stockholders vote to approve the transaction agreement and to furnish information to and participate in discussions or negotiations with third parties who have made unsolicited acquisition proposals, and that provide Cowen's Board of Directors with the ability to terminate the transaction agreement in order to accept a superior proposal (subject to compliance with certain conditions and the payment of a \$3.5 million termination fee and transaction-related expenses of Ramius of up to \$750,000);

the likelihood that the regulatory and stockholder approvals needed to complete the transactions will be obtained in a timely manner and that the regulatory approvals will be obtained without the imposition of materially burdensome conditions;

the fact that Cowen's stockholders will own approximately 28.76% of the combined company on a fully diluted basis (including shares to be issued in conjunction with the transactions) immediately after the effective time of the transactions;

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

the fact that the initial board of directors of the combined company will include four (out of ten) designees selected by Cowen, and that one of the four appointees will serve as Lead Director;

Table of Contents

the fact that there are no dissenters' appraisal rights applicable to the proposed transactions; and

the interests of Cowen's directors and executive officers in the transactions (see the section titled "Proposal 1: The Transactions Interests of Certain Persons in the Transactions" beginning on page 87).

The foregoing discussion of the information and factors considered by the Cowen Board of Directors is not exhaustive, but includes material factors considered by the Board of Directors. In view of the wide variety of factors considered and the complexity of these matters, the Board of Directors did not assign relative weights to the above factors or the other factors considered by it. In addition, the Board of Directors did not reach any specific conclusion on each factor considered but conducted an overall analysis of these factors. Individual members of the Board of Directors may have given different weights to different factors.

Based on the factors outlined above, the Cowen Board of Directors determined that the transaction agreement and the transactions it contemplates are advisable, fair to and in the best interests of Cowen's stockholders. The Board of Directors unanimously recommends that Cowen's stockholders vote "FOR" the approval and adoption of the transaction agreement and the transactions it contemplates.

Opinion of Cowen's Financial Advisor

By letter dated April 6, 2009, Cowen retained Sandler O'Neill to act as its financial advisor in connection with a possible business combination with Ramius. Sandler O'Neill is a nationally recognized investment banking firm whose principal business specialty is financial institutions. In the ordinary course of its investment banking business, Sandler O'Neill is regularly engaged in the valuation of financial institutions and their securities in connection with mergers and acquisitions and other corporate transactions.

Sandler O'Neill acted as financial advisor to Cowen in connection with the proposed business combination with Ramius and participated in certain of the negotiations leading to the transaction agreement. Cowen selected Sandler O'Neill based on Sandler O'Neill's experience, reputation and familiarity with the industries in which Cowen operates. At the June 2, 2009 meeting of the Cowen Board of Directors at which the Board of Directors considered and approved the transaction agreement, Sandler O'Neill delivered to the Board of Directors its oral opinion, subsequently confirmed in writing, that, as of such date, the payment of the transaction consideration (as defined below in "Summary of Proposal" beginning on page 75) was fair to Cowen's stockholders from a financial point of view. **The full text of Sandler O'Neill's opinion is attached as Appendix F to this document. The opinion outlines the procedures followed, assumptions made, matters considered and qualifications and limitations on the review undertaken by Sandler O'Neill in rendering its opinion. The description of the opinion set forth below is qualified in its entirety by reference to the opinion. Cowen's stockholders are urged to read the entire opinion carefully in connection with their consideration of the proposed transactions.**

Sandler O'Neill's opinion speaks only as of the date of the opinion. The opinion was directed to the Cowen Board of Directors and is directed only to the fairness to Cowen's stockholders from a financial point of view of the payment of the transaction consideration. It does not address the underlying business decision of Cowen to engage in the transactions or any other aspect of the transactions and is not a recommendation to any Cowen stockholder as to how such stockholder should vote at the special meeting with respect to the transactions or any other matter.

In connection with rendering its opinion, Sandler O'Neill reviewed and considered, among other things:

the transaction agreement;

Table of Contents

certain publicly available financial statements and other historical financial information of Cowen that it deemed relevant;

certain audited financial statements and other historical financial information of Ramius that it deemed relevant;

publicly available consensus earnings per share estimates for Cowen for the years ending December 31, 2009 and December 31, 2010 and the long-term estimated growth rate as discussed with members of the senior management of Cowen;

internal earnings estimates for Ramius for the years ending December 31, 2009, December 31, 2010 and December 31, 2011 as provided to Sandler O'Neill by the management of Ramius;

the pro forma financial impact of the transactions on Cowen and on New Parent, based on assumptions relating to transaction expenses, purchase accounting adjustments and cost savings as determined by members of the senior management of Cowen;

the current market environment generally and the financial services environment in particular; and

other information, financial studies, analyses and investigations along with financial, economic and market criteria that Sandler O'Neill considered relevant.

Sandler O'Neill also discussed with members of senior management of Cowen the business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects of Cowen and held similar discussions with members of senior management of Ramius regarding the business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects of Ramius.

In performing its reviews and analyses and in rendering its opinion, Sandler O'Neill assumed and relied upon the accuracy and completeness of all the financial information, analyses and other information that was publicly available or otherwise furnished to, reviewed by or discussed with it and further relied on the assurances of members of the senior management of Cowen and Ramius that they were not aware of any facts or circumstances that would make such information inaccurate or misleading. Sandler O'Neill was not asked to and did not independently verify the accuracy or completeness of any of such information and it did not assume any responsibility or liability for the accuracy or completeness of the information. Sandler O'Neill did not make an independent evaluation or appraisal of the assets, the collateral securing assets or the liabilities, contingent or otherwise, of Cowen or Ramius or any of their respective subsidiaries, or the collectibility of any such assets, nor was it furnished with any such evaluations or appraisals.

Sandler O'Neill's opinion was necessarily based upon market, economic and other conditions as they existed on, and could be evaluated as of, the date of the opinion. Events occurring after the date the opinion was delivered to Cowen could materially affect Sandler O'Neill's opinion. Sandler O'Neill has not undertaken to update, revise, reaffirm or withdraw its opinion or otherwise comment upon events occurring after the date hereof. Sandler O'Neill assumed, in all respects material to its analysis, that all of the representations and warranties contained in the transaction agreement and all related agreements are true and correct, that each party to such agreements will perform all of the covenants required to be performed by such party under such agreements and that the conditions to closing of the transactions in the transaction agreement are not waived. Sandler O'Neill also assumed, with Cowen's consent, that there had been no material change in Cowen's or Ramius's assets, financial condition, results of operations, business or prospects since the date of the last financial statements made available to them, that Cowen and Ramius will remain as going concerns for all periods relevant to its analyses, and that the Cowen merger will qualify as a tax-free reorganization for federal income tax purposes for Cowen stockholders. With Cowen's consent, Sandler O'Neill relied upon the advice

Table of Contents

Cowen received from its legal, accounting and tax advisors as to all legal, accounting and tax matters relating to the Cowen merger and the other transactions contemplated by the transaction agreement.

In rendering its opinion, Sandler O'Neill performed a variety of financial analyses. The following is a summary of the material analyses performed by Sandler O'Neill, but is not a complete description of all the analyses underlying Sandler O'Neill's opinion. The summary includes information presented in tabular format. **To fully understand the financial analyses, these tables must be read together with the accompanying text. The tables alone do not constitute a complete description of the financial analyses.** The preparation of a fairness opinion is a complex process involving subjective judgments as to the most appropriate and relevant methods of financial analysis and the application of those methods to the particular circumstances. The process, therefore, is not necessarily susceptible to a partial analysis or summary description. Sandler O'Neill believes that its analyses must be considered as a whole and that selecting portions of the factors and analyses considered, without considering all factors and analyses, or attempting to ascribe relative weights to some or all such factors and analyses, could create an incomplete view of the evaluation process underlying its opinion. Also, no company included in Sandler O'Neill's comparative analyses described below is identical to Cowen and Ramius and no transaction is identical to the business combination of Cowen and Ramius. Accordingly, an analysis of comparable companies or transactions involves complex considerations and judgments concerning differences in financial and operating characteristics of the companies and other factors that could affect the public trading values or transaction values, as the case may be, of Cowen or Ramius and the companies to which they are being compared.

With respect to the publicly available earnings estimates and to the long-term growth rate for Cowen and to the internal earnings estimates for Ramius provided by senior management of Ramius and used by Sandler O'Neill in its analyses, members of Cowen's and Ramius's managements confirmed to Sandler O'Neill that they reflected the best currently available estimates and judgments of the respective managements of the respective future financial performances of Cowen and Ramius and Sandler O'Neill assumed that such performances would be achieved. With respect to the projections of transaction expenses, purchase accounting adjustments and cost savings relating to the transactions, the managements of the respective institutions confirmed to Sandler O'Neill that they reflected the best currently available estimates and judgments of such managements of the future financial performance of Cowen and Ramius, respectively, and Sandler O'Neill assumed for purposes of its analyses that such performances would be achieved. Sandler O'Neill expressed no opinion as to such financial projections or the assumptions on which they were based.

In performing its analyses, Sandler O'Neill also made numerous assumptions with respect to industry performance, business and economic conditions and various other matters, many of which cannot be predicted and are beyond the control of Cowen, Ramius and Sandler O'Neill. The analyses performed by Sandler O'Neill are not necessarily indicative of actual values or future results, which may be significantly more or less favorable than suggested by such analyses. Sandler O'Neill prepared its analyses solely for purposes of rendering its opinion and provided such analyses to the Cowen Board of Directors at its June 2, 2009 meeting. Estimates on the values of companies do not purport to be appraisals or necessarily reflect the prices at which companies or their securities may actually be sold. Sandler O'Neill's opinion was approved by Sandler O'Neill's Fairness Opinion Committee. Such estimates are inherently subject to uncertainty and actual values may be materially different. Accordingly, Sandler O'Neill expresses no opinion herein as to what the value of New Parent's Class A common stock will be when issued pursuant to the transaction agreement or the prices at which Cowen's or New Parent's Class A common stock may trade at any time.

Summary of Proposal. Sandler O'Neill reviewed the financial terms of the transactions that had been previously agreed upon by Cowen and Ramius. Based upon year-end December 31, 2008 adjusted book values of Cowen and Ramius, Sandler O'Neill calculated an exchange ratio of 2.4776 (or 40,250,708 shares issued, which includes the shares issued to purchase from HVB the remaining 50%

Table of Contents

interest in Ramius's fund of funds business not currently owned by Ramius) and resultant pro-forma ownership of the post transactions company for Cowen and Ramius of 28.76% and 71.24%, respectively. Utilizing the fixed exchange ratio of 2.4776, Sandler O'Neill determined Ramius will receive 37,536,826 shares of New Parent in connection with Ramius transferring substantially all of its assets to New Parent and for New Parent assuming substantially all of the liabilities of Ramius (which we refer to as the asset exchange consideration). Additionally, New Parent will purchase from HVB the remaining 50% interest in Ramius's fund of funds business not currently owned by Ramius, and New Parent will deliver to HVB 2,713,882 shares of New Parent Class A common stock (which we refer to as the affiliate consideration and together with the asset exchange consideration, the transaction consideration). Each share of Cowen common stock issued and outstanding immediately prior to the closing of the transactions will be converted into the right to receive one fully paid and nonassessable share of New Parent Class A common stock.

The exchange ratio was calculated by Sandler O'Neill using the adjusted year-end book values for each of Cowen and Ramius. More specifically, the ratio was obtained by first dividing Cowen's 2008 adjusted year-end book value by the sum of Ramius's adjusted 2008 year-end book value plus Cowen's adjusted year-end book value, which determined the ownership of the pro forma company. The number of shares to be owned by the Cowen stockholders was calculated by adding the existing shares of Cowen common stock outstanding (including shares underlying restricted stock units), the shares to be issued to certain employees at closing and the shares to be issued pursuant to outstanding options using the treasury method. As the number of shares to be owned by the Cowen stockholders was to represent 28.76% of the aggregate shares outstanding, the number of shares to be issued to Ramius and to HVB was determined by subtracting (i) the number of shares to be held by Cowen stockholders from (ii) the quotient of the number of shares owned by the Cowen stockholders divided by .2876. The per share ratio was then determined by dividing the number of shares to be issued to Ramius and to HVB by the number of shares to be held by Cowen stockholders.

Sandler O'Neill performed a number of analyses when reviewing the fairness of the transaction to Cowen's stockholders. These analyses primarily focused on the relative value placed on Cowen's shares when determining the exchange ratio. As noted above, the value placed on Cowen's shares was determined based on the 2008 adjusted year-end book value of Cowen. As such, the analyses compare various metrics to the resulting book value per share of Cowen's common stock, which was, for purposes of the transaction, determined to be approximately \$8.66.

Based upon audited December 31, 2008 financial information for Cowen and Ramius, Sandler O'Neill calculated the following adjusted year-end book values:

Adjusted Year Ended December 31, 2008 Book Values			
	Cowen	Ramius	HVB
	(dollars in thousands)		
Book Value as of 12/31/08	\$ 142,115	\$ 330,892	
Add: Purchase of 50% interest in related business joint venture(1)		\$ 25,000	
Less: Distribution adjustment(2)		\$ (7,500)	
Less: Contractual payment adjustment(3)	\$ (1,500)		
Adjusted 12/31/08 Book Value	\$ 140,615	\$ 348,392	
Ownership of Pro Forma Company	28.76%	66.44%	4.80%
Resultant Share Ownership	16,245,666(4)	37,536,826	2,713,882(5)

- (1) Reflects the equity portion of the aggregate purchase price of \$34 million for the remaining 50% of the Ramius fund of funds business joint venture with HVB; the balance of the consideration is to be paid either in cash or with a \$10.4 million promissory note.

Table of Contents

- (2) Represents a distribution adjustment.
- (3) Represents a cash compensation adjustment under the employment agreement with Mr. Malcolm entered into in connection with the transactions.
- (4) Includes shares of Cowen restricted stock and restricted stock units, based on shares of Cowen common stock outstanding as of May 31, 2009; includes 1,100,000 shares of New Parent Class A common stock to be issued to certain employees of Cowen and 13,500 shares of Cowen common stock underlying stock options using the treasury method.
- (5) Reflects shares of New Parent Class A common stock to be issued to HVB.

Sandler O'Neill performed an analysis to illustrate the potential contribution of Cowen and Ramius to pre-tax income and equity capital of the pro forma company. Based on consensus Institutional Brokers Estimate System (or I/B/E/S) analyst estimates, Cowen would contribute on a stand-alone basis 0.00%, 15.93%, 12.93% and 9.91% to pre-tax income of the pro forma company for the years 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, respectively. Based on projections provided by Ramius management, Ramius would contribute on a stand-alone basis 100.00%, 84.12%, 87.07% and 90.09% to pre-tax income of the pro forma company for the years 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, respectively. The table below shows the contribution analysis performed by Sandler O'Neill:

Contribution Analysis				
(dollars in thousands)	Ramius	Contribution	Cowen	Contribution
<i>Pre-Tax Income</i> (6)				
2009	\$ 11,776	100.00%	\$ (29,092)	0.00%
2010	\$ 35,246	84.12%	\$ 6,655	15.93%
2011	\$ 47,729	87.07%	\$ 7,088	12.93%
2012	\$ 68,640	90.09%	\$ 7,548	9.91%
<i>Equity</i>				
Adjusted 12/31/08 Book Value				
Value	\$ 348,392	71.24%	\$ 140,615	28.76%
<i>Estimated Share Split</i>				
Number of Shares	40,250,708(8)	71.24%	16,245,666(9)	28.76%

- (6) Cowen pre-tax income based on consensus I/B/E/S mean earnings per share (or EPS) estimates; Source: Bloomberg. Ramius pre-tax income is based on projections provided by its management.
- (7) Based on adjusted financial information for the year ended December 31, 2008.
- (8) Includes 2,713,882 shares of New Parent Class A common stock to be issued to HVB.
- (9) Includes shares of Cowen restricted stock and restricted stock units, based on shares of Cowen common stock outstanding as of May 31, 2009; includes 1,100,000 shares of New Parent Class A common stock to be issued to certain employees of Cowen and 13,500 shares of Cowen common stock underlying stock options using the treasury method; assumes a fixed exchange ratio based on adjusted financial information for the year ended December 31, 2008.

Sandler O'Neill compared current price per share to book value per share multiples of composite groups of broker-dealers, diversified asset managers and alternative asset managers (see Part A of "Cowen Net Present Value Analysis" beginning on page 78 for a list of broker-dealers and Part A of "Ramius Net Present Value Analysis" beginning on page 80 for lists of asset managers). Sandler O'Neill observed that both diversified and alternative asset managers historically trade at higher book value multiples than broker-dealers. As of May 29, 2009, the mean price per share to book value multiple of diversified asset managers and alternative asset managers were 147.5% and 140.2%,

Table of Contents

respectively. In comparison, the mean price per share to book value multiple of broker-dealers was 114.3%. As of May 29, 2009, Cowen's common stock was trading at 54.6% of book value. These observations imply that the resultant company of the combination of Cowen and Ramius, a broker-dealer and asset manager respectively, would likely trade at a higher book value multiple than Cowen would trade as a stand-alone company. Given the mix of the two businesses, Sandler O'Neill believes the combination of Cowen and Ramius represents a premium to the current Cowen common stock price.

Sandler O'Neill performed an analysis to illustrate the potential premium to the current Cowen common stock price by applying price-to-book value multiples to the pro forma company's price per share ranging from 60% to 150%, as selected by Sandler O'Neill based on a range starting from a 0.0% premium to the current Cowen common stock price. As demonstrated in the table below, should the pro forma company's shares trade in the public market at 60% of book value, it would reflect a 0.0% premium to Cowen's common stock price as of May 29, 2009. Results of Sandler O'Neill's analysis, shown in the table below, determined the implied premium if Cowen's common stock were to trade at various levels.

Premium to Cowen Price Per Share Based on Price / Book Value Multiple

	60%	75%	100%	125%	150%
Price Per Share	\$ 5.20	\$ 6.52	\$ 8.70	\$ 10.87	\$ 13.05
Market Capitalization (in millions)(10)	\$ 293.8	\$ 368.6	\$ 491.5	\$ 614.4	\$ 737.3
Premium to Current Cowen Stock Price(11)	0.0%	25.5%	67.3%	109.1%	151.0%

(10) Reflects 56,500,000 pro forma Class A common shares outstanding of New Parent.

(11) As of May 29, 2009.

1. **Cowen Net Present Value Analysis.** Sandler O'Neill performed an analysis that estimated the present value per share of future cash flow streams to Cowen's stockholders if the transactions were not undertaken. As part of its analysis, Sandler O'Neill performed the following analyses:

A. Comparable Company Analysis. Sandler O'Neill used publicly available information to compare selected financial and market trading information of a group of broker-dealers selected by Sandler O'Neill as being comparable to Cowen with respect to valuations and operating statistics. The group, or Peer Group, consisted of the following publicly traded broker-dealers:

Duff & Phelps Corp.	Piper Jaffray Companies
FBR Capital Markets Corp.	Sanders Morris Harris Group, Inc.
JMP Group, Inc.	Thomas Weisel Partners Group, Inc.
KBW, Inc.	

The analysis compared publicly available historical, current market and estimated financial information and the median data for the Peer Group as of and for the 12-month period ended March 31, 2009. The

Table of Contents

table below sets forth the comparative data as of and for the 12-month period ended March 31, 2009, with pricing data as of May 29, 2009.

	Cowen	Peer Group
Market Capitalization (in millions)	\$ 79	\$ 217
Price/52-Week High	49.5%	65.3%
Price/Estimated 2010 EPS(12)	20.8x	15.3x
Price/Book Value	56.4%	103.7%
Price/Tangible Book Value	57.6%	113.3%
Long-Term Growth	6.5%	14.2%
Dividend Yield	0.00%	0.00%

(12)

Based on consensus I/B/E/S median EPS estimates; Source: Bloomberg.

Sandler O'Neill noted that as of May 29, 2009, Cowen's stock price to 52-week high was 49.5%, compared to its peer median of 65.3%, which illustrated Cowen's common stock was valued relatively lower over the course of the past 52-weeks than the median trading level of Cowen's peer group. Sandler O'Neill also noted Cowen's price to book value was 56.4% as of May 29, 2009, compared to its peer median of 103.7%. These two measures illustrated the fact that shares of Cowen common stock were trading at a significant discount to the shares of its peer group as well as to its book value. In the proposed transaction, stockholders were to receive full credit for the book value of Cowen common stock.

B. Discounted Cash Flow Analysis and Terminal Value Analysis. Sandler O'Neill performed an analysis that estimated the present value per share of future cash flow streams to Cowen's stockholders. The discounted cash flow analysis applied discount rates ranging from 14% to 19%, selected by Sandler O'Neill based on the assumed discount rate of 17.54% (see footnote 13). For the periods after 2010, Sandler O'Neill assumed an annual earnings growth rate of 6.5%, based on the median estimated long-term growth rate published by equity research analysts who publish research on Cowen. To approximate the terminal value of Cowen common stock at December 31, 2012, Sandler O'Neill applied forward earnings multiples ranging from 11.50x to 19.50x. This range was selected by Sandler O'Neill as it represented a 25% deviation in either direction from the midpoint of the previously described comparable group's median forward earnings multiple. Sandler O'Neill also applied book value multiples ranging from 80.0% to 130.0%. This range was selected by Sandler O'Neill as it represented a 25% deviation in either direction from the midpoint of the previously described comparable group's median book value multiple. As illustrated in the following tables for discount rates between 14% and 19%, this analysis indicated an imputed range of values per share of Cowen's common stock of \$2.07 to \$4.07 when applying an 11.50x to 19.50x earnings multiple and \$4.22 to \$7.96 when applying an 80.0% to 130.0% book value multiple.

Cowen Price Per Share Based on Price / Estimated Forward EPS Multiple(14)

Discount Rate	11.50x	13.50x	15.50x	17.50x	19.50x
14.0%	\$ 2.40	\$ 2.82	\$ 3.24	\$ 3.65	\$ 4.07
15.0%	\$ 2.33	\$ 2.73	\$ 3.14	\$ 3.54	\$ 3.95
16.0%	\$ 2.26	\$ 2.65	\$ 3.05	\$ 3.44	\$ 3.83
17.0%	\$ 2.19	\$ 2.57	\$ 2.96	\$ 3.34	\$ 3.72
18.0%	\$ 2.13	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.87	\$ 3.24	\$ 3.61
19.0%	\$ 2.07	\$ 2.43	\$ 2.79	\$ 3.15	\$ 3.50

79

Table of Contents**Cowen Price Per Share Based on Price / Book Value Multiple(14)**

Discount Rate	80.0%	92.5%	105.0%	117.5%	130.0%
14.0%	\$4.90	\$5.67	\$6.43	\$7.20	\$7.96
15.0%	\$4.75	\$5.50	\$6.24	\$6.98	\$7.72
16.0%	\$4.61	\$5.33	\$6.05	\$6.77	\$7.49
17.0%	\$4.47	\$5.17	\$5.87	\$6.57	\$7.27
18.0%	\$4.34	\$5.02	\$5.70	\$6.38	\$7.06
19.0%	\$4.22	\$4.88	\$5.53	\$6.19	\$6.85

In connection with its analyses, Sandler O'Neill considered and discussed with the Cowen Board of Directors how the present value analyses of Cowen would be affected by changes in the underlying assumptions, including variations with respect to net income. Sandler O'Neill performed an analysis that estimated the present value per share of future cash flow streams to Cowen's stockholders under various circumstances and economic conditions that would affect the terminal earnings for the year ending December 31, 2012. Sandler O'Neill applied forward earnings multiples ranging from 11.50x to 19.50x (representing a 25% deviation in either direction from the midpoint of the previously described comparable group's median forward earnings multiple) to terminal earnings of \$3.7 million to \$25.0 million. Sandler O'Neill selected the terminal earnings range of \$3.7 million to \$25 million. This range was selected based on publicly available I/B/E/S estimates for 2009 and 2010 for Cowen and an I/B/E/S estimated long term growth rate of 6.5% for the years thereafter and this resulted in terminal year earnings of \$3.7 million. For illustrative purposes, Sandler O'Neill then applied higher terminal earnings at \$5 million and in \$5 million increments up to \$25 million. As illustrated in the following table, this analysis indicated an imputed range of values per share of Cowen's common stock of \$1.59 to \$18.35.

Cowen Price Per Share Based on Price / Estimated Forward EPS Multiple(13,14)

Terminal Earnings (\$MM)	11.50x	13.50x	15.50x	17.50x	19.50x
\$3.7	\$1.59	\$1.86	\$2.14	\$2.42	\$2.69
\$5.0	\$2.16	\$2.54	\$2.92	\$3.29	\$3.67
\$10.0	\$4.33	\$5.08	\$5.83	\$6.59	\$7.34
\$15.0	\$6.49	\$7.62	\$8.75	\$9.88	\$11.01
\$20.0	\$8.66	\$10.16	\$11.67	\$13.17	\$14.68
\$25.0	\$10.82	\$12.70	\$14.58	\$16.47	\$18.35

(13)

The discounted cash flow analysis assumed a discount rate of 17.54%, calculated as the *Risk Free Rate* (10-Year Treasury Yield as of 5/29/09 of 3.46%, Source: Bloomberg) plus *Ibbotson Industry Premium* (Security and Commodity Brokers, Dealers, Exchanges and Services Industry Premium of 4.04%) plus *Ibbotson Size Premium* (size premium for market capitalization between \$1.6 million and \$453.3 million of 3.74%) plus *Ibbotson 60-Year Equity Risk Premium* (6.30%).

(14)

Forward price/estimated EPS multiples and price/book value multiples represent 25% range around comparable median multiples as the midpoint.

Sandler O'Neill noted that the discounted cash flow and terminal value analysis is a widely used valuation methodology, but the results of such methodology are highly dependent upon the numerous assumptions that must be made, and the results thereof are not necessarily indicative of actual values or future results.

2. Ramius Net Present Value Analysis. Sandler O'Neill performed an analysis that estimated the present value of future cash flow streams to Ramius's investors.

Table of Contents

A. Comparable Company Analysis. Sandler O'Neill used publicly available information to compare selected financial and market trading information of a group of asset managers selected by Sandler O'Neill as comparable to Ramius with respect to valuations and operating statistics. In Sandler O'Neill's opinion, due to the different types of products and services offered by Ramius (hedge fund, fund of funds, real estate and cash management), there are no pure comparable companies. As a result, Sandler O'Neill selected both diversified asset managers (who primarily use more traditional, liquid investment strategies) and alternative asset managers (who primarily use more illiquid, non-traditional investments). The market price of both sets of companies is largely driven by assets under management and investment performance of those assets, each of which directly impacts revenues. The performance of Ramius is also driven largely by assets under management and investment performance of those assets. The group, or Peer Group, consisted of the following publicly traded asset managers:

Diversified	Alternative
Affiliated Managers Group, Inc.	Blackstone Group, L.P.
AllianceBernstein Holding, L.P.	Brookfield Asset Management, Inc.
Blackrock, Inc.	Fortress Investment Group, LLC
Eaton Vance Corp.	Och-Ziff Capital Management Group, LLC
Franklin Resources, Inc.	
Invesco Ltd.	
Legg Mason, Inc.	

The analysis compared publicly available historical, current market, and estimated financial information and the mean data for the Peer Group as of and for the 12-month period ended March 31, 2009. The table below sets forth the comparative data as of and for the 12-month period ended March 31, 2009, with pricing data as of May 29, 2009.

	Diversified	Alternative	Total Peer Group
Market Capitalization (in millions)	\$ 7,567	\$ 6,914	\$ 7,330
Price/52-Week High	48.9%	45.1%	47.5%
Price/Estimated 2010 EPS(15)	16.8x	17.2x	16.9x
Price/Book Value	17.6%	13.4%	16.1%
Price/Tangible Book Value	147.5%	140.2%	145.7%
Long-Term Growth	10.0%	12.8%	11.0%
Dividend Yield	3.7%	5.9%	4.5%

(15)

Based on consensus I/B/E/S median EPS estimates; Source: Bloomberg.

B. Discounted Cash Flow Analysis and Terminal Value Analysis. Sandler O'Neill performed an analysis that estimated the present value per share of future cash flow streams to Ramius's investors. The discounted cash flow analysis applied discount rates ranging from 13% to 18%, based on the assumed discount rate of 15.75% (see footnote 16). To approximate the aggregate terminal value of Ramius at December 31, 2012, Sandler O'Neill applied forward earnings multiples ranging from 12.00x to 20.00x, which represents a 25% range around the comparable group median forward earnings multiple as the midpoint. Sandler O'Neill also applied book value multiples ranging from 110.0% to 180.0%, which represents a 25% range around the comparable group mean book value multiple as the midpoint. As illustrated in the following tables for discount rates between 13% and 18%, this analysis indicated an imputed range of values Ramius equity of \$317.9 million to \$616.6 million when applying an 12.00x to 20.00x earnings multiple and \$265.1 million to \$504.9 million when applying a 110.0% to 180.0% book value multiple.

Table of Contents**Ramius Aggregate Value (in millions) Based on Price / Estimated Forward EPS Multiple(17)**

Discount Rate	12.00x	14.00x	16.00x	18.00x	20.00x
13.0%	\$369.9	\$431.6	\$493.2	\$554.9	\$616.6
14.0%	\$358.7	\$418.5	\$478.3	\$538.1	\$597.8
15.0%	\$347.9	\$405.9	\$463.9	\$521.9	\$579.8
16.0%	\$337.5	\$393.8	\$450.0	\$506.3	\$562.5
17.0%	\$327.5	\$382.1	\$436.7	\$491.3	\$545.9
18.0%	\$317.9	\$370.9	\$423.9	\$476.9	\$529.9

Ramius Aggregate Value (in millions) Based on Price / Book Value Multiple(17)

Discount Rate	110.0%	120.0%	145.0%	160.0%	180.0%
13.0%	\$308.5	\$364.6	\$406.7	\$448.8	\$504.9
14.0%	\$299.2	\$353.6	\$364.4	\$435.1	\$489.5
15.0%	\$290.2	\$342.9	\$382.5	\$422.0	\$474.8
16.0%	\$281.5	\$332.7	\$371.1	\$409.5	\$460.6
17.0%	\$273.2	\$322.8	\$360.1	\$397.3	\$447.0
18.0%	\$265.1	\$313.4	\$349.5	\$385.7	\$433.9

In connection with its analyses, Sandler O'Neill considered and discussed with the Cowen Board of Directors how the present value analyses of Ramius would be affected by changes in the underlying assumptions, including variations with respect to net income. Sandler O'Neill performed an analysis that estimated the present value per share of future cash flow streams to Ramius's investors under various circumstances that would affect the earnings streams for the years ending December 31, 2009 through 2012. Sandler O'Neill applied forward earnings multiples ranging from 12.00x to 20.00x and book value multiples from 110.0% to 180.0% to percentage over- or underperformance of budget, ranging from -40.0% to 40.0%. As illustrated in the following tables, these analyses indicated imputed ranges of Ramius's aggregate value of \$204.0 million to \$793.5 million when applying forward earnings multiples and \$257.8 million to \$506.4 million.

Ramius Aggregate Value (in millions) Based on Price / Estimated Forward EPS Multiple(16,17)

% Up (Down) From Budget	12.00x	14.00x	16.00x	18.00x	20.00x
40.0%	\$476.1	\$555.4	\$634.8	\$714.1	\$793.5
30.0%	\$442.1	\$515.8	\$589.4	\$663.1	\$736.8
20.0%	\$408.1	\$476.1	\$544.1	\$612.1	\$680.1
10.0%	\$374.1	\$436.4	\$489.8	\$561.1	\$623.5
0.0%	\$340.1	\$396.7	\$453.4	\$510.1	\$566.8
(10.0%)	\$306.1	\$357.1	\$408.1	\$459.1	\$510.1
(20.0%)	\$272.1	\$317.4	\$362.7	\$408.1	\$453.4
(30.0%)	\$238.0	\$277.7	\$317.4	\$357.1	\$396.7
(40.0%)	\$204.0	\$238.0	\$272.1	\$306.1	\$340.1

Table of Contents**Ramius Aggregate Value (in millions) Based on Price / Book Value Multiple(16,17)**

% Up (Down)					
From Budget	110.0%	130.0%	145.0%	160.0%	180.0%
40.0%	\$ 309.5	\$ 365.7	\$ 408.0	\$ 450.2	\$ 506.4
30.0%	\$ 303.0	\$ 358.1	\$ 399.4	\$ 440.8	\$ 495.8
20.0%	\$ 296.6	\$ 350.5	\$ 390.9	\$ 431.3	\$ 485.3
10.0%	\$ 290.1	\$ 342.8	\$ 382.4	\$ 421.9	\$ 474.7
0.0%	\$ 283.6	\$ 335.2	\$ 373.9	\$ 412.5	\$ 464.1
(10.0%)	\$ 277.2	\$ 327.5	\$ 365.3	\$ 403.1	\$ 453.5
(20.0%)	\$ 270.7	\$ 319.9	\$ 356.8	\$ 393.7	\$ 443.0
(30.0%)	\$ 264.2	\$ 312.3	\$ 348.3	\$ 384.3	\$ 432.4
(40.0%)	\$ 257.8	\$ 304.6	\$ 339.8	\$ 374.9	\$ 421.8

(16)

The discounted cash flow analysis assumed a discount rate of 15.75%, calculated as the *Risk Free Rate* (10-Year Treasury Yield as of 5/29/09 of 3.46%, Source: Bloomberg) plus *Ibbotson Industry Premium* (Investment Advice Industry Premium of 4.25%) plus *Ibbotson Size Premium* (size premium for market capitalization between \$453.4 million and \$1.849 billion of 1.74%) plus *Ibbotson 60-Year Equity Risk Premium* (6.30%).

(17)

Forward price/estimated EPS multiples and price/book value multiples represent 25% range around comparable median multiples as the midpoint.

Sandler O'Neill noted that the discounted cash flow and terminal value analysis is a widely used valuation methodology, but the results of such methodology are highly dependent upon the numerous assumptions that must be made, and the results thereof are not necessarily indicative of actual values or future results. In performing its analyses Sandler O'Neill made certain assumptions which included certain industry trends including little or no increase in transaction volumes and asset growth, higher rates of fund withdrawals and write downs of illiquid assets, increased head count and other exposure reductions.

3. Pro Forma Transaction Analysis. Sandler O'Neill analyzed certain potential pro forma effects of the transactions, using the following assumptions:

the transactions close on September 30, 2009;

100% of the assets and liabilities of Ramius are exchanged for New Parent Class A common stock at an exchange ratio of 2.4776x or 40,250,708 shares issued, which includes the shares issued to purchase from HVB the remaining 50% interest in Ramius's fund of funds business not currently owned by Ramius;

earnings projections for Cowen and Ramius are consistent with estimated projections as discussed with management of both companies for 2009 and 2010; and

purchase accounting adjustments, charges and transaction costs associated with the transactions and cost savings are as determined by members of the senior management of Cowen.

The analysis indicated that for the year ending December 31, 2009, the pro forma company's estimated earnings per share would be -\$0.34 (which includes 2009 fourth quarter earnings of Ramius estimated as 25% of projected full year earnings for 2009; shares of Cowen restricted stock and restricted stock units, based on shares of Cowen common stock outstanding as of May 31, 2009; 1,100,000 shares of New Parent Class A common stock to be issued to certain employees of Cowen; and 13,500 shares of Cowen common stock underlying stock options using the treasury method), compared with Cowen's estimated stand-alone 2009 earnings per share of -\$1.20 (which assumes I/B/E/S EPS estimates are fully diluted to reflect all shares of restricted stock having vested into shares of Cowen common stock). The analysis also indicated that for

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

the year ending December 31, 2010, the transactions would be approximately 89.06% accretive to Cowen's estimated earnings per share, based on the pro forma

Table of Contents

company's estimated earnings per share of \$0.52 (which includes shares of Cowen restricted stock and restricted stock units, based on shares of Cowen common stock outstanding as of May 31, 2009; 1,100,000 shares of New Parent Class A common stock to be issued to certain employees of Cowen; and 13,500 shares of Cowen common stock underlying stock options using the treasury method), compared with Cowen's estimated stand-alone 2010 earnings per share of \$0.27 (which assumes I/B/E/S EPS estimates are fully diluted to reflect all shares of restricted stock having vested into shares of Cowen common stock).

In connection with its analyses, Sandler O'Neill considered and discussed with the Cowen Board of Directors how the pro forma analyses would be affected by changes in the underlying assumptions, including variations with respect to the growth rate of earnings per share of each of Cowen and Ramius. Sandler O'Neill noted that the actual results achieved by the combined company may vary from projected results and the variations may be material.

Cowen has agreed to pay Sandler O'Neill a transaction fee in connection with the transactions of \$1.75 million (less the opinion fee described below), which is payable in cash and is contingent on the consummation of the transactions between Cowen and Ramius. Cowen also agreed to pay Sandler O'Neill a fee of \$500,000 for delivering to Cowen an opinion, which was paid in cash at the time the opinion was rendered. Cowen has also agreed to reimburse Sandler O'Neill's reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with its engagement and to indemnify Sandler O'Neill and its affiliates and their respective partners, directors, officers, employees, agents, and controlling persons against specified expenses and liabilities, including liabilities under the securities laws.

Sandler O'Neill has in the past provided other investment banking services to Cowen and received compensation for such services. In the ordinary course of its business as a broker-dealer, Sandler O'Neill may purchase securities from and sell securities to Cowen or its respective affiliates and may actively trade the debt and/or equity securities of Cowen and its respective affiliates for its own account and for the accounts of customers and, accordingly, may at any time hold a long or short position in such securities.

Ramius's Reasons for the Transactions

Ramius's managing member consulted with Ramius's legal and financial advisors and determined that the transactions are in the best interests of Ramius and its members. In reaching its conclusion to approve the transaction agreement, Ramius's managing member considered the following:

its view that Cowen is an established investment bank with a long history and strong culture and the transactions provide Ramius with an opportunity to build a financial services firm with asset management, investment banking, research and brokerage capabilities;

the fact that the transactions would provide the combined company with an expanded and permanent capital base;

the fact that the combined company is expected to have more diverse revenue streams;

its view that, as part of a public company, the combined company will be better able to attract and retain talent; and

the fact that following the completion of the transactions members of Ramius should have improved liquidity as a result of the combined company being a public company.

In the course of its deliberations, Ramius's managing member also considered a variety of risks and other potentially negative factors concerning the transaction, including the following:

the fact that, as a public company, there would be increased expenses incurred to comply with its disclosure obligations;

Table of Contents

the possibility that the synergies and other financial and strategic benefits expected to be achieved in the transactions may not be obtained on a timely basis or at all;

the risks and costs that could be borne by Ramius if the transactions are not completed, including the diversion of management and employee attention during the period after the signing of the transaction agreement, potential employee attrition and the potential effect on Ramius's business and client relations; and

the significant costs involved in connection with entering into the transaction agreement and asset exchange agreement and completing the transactions.

Public Trading Markets

Cowen common stock trades on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "COWN." When the transactions are completed, Cowen common stock will automatically be exchanged for New Parent Class A common stock, which is expected to continue to trade on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "COWN."

Dividend Policy

Cowen has not historically paid dividends on its common stock. No decision has been made at this time with respect to the dividend policy of New Parent following the completion of the transactions. Future dividends by New Parent, if any, will depend on New Parent's earnings, financial condition, cash requirements, future prospects and other factors deemed relevant by its board of directors.

Cowen Stockholders Do Not Have Dissenters' Appraisal Rights in the Transactions

Appraisal rights are statutory rights that, if applicable under law, enable stockholders to dissent from an extraordinary transaction, such as a significant business combination, and to demand that the corporation pay the fair value for their shares as determined by a court in a judicial proceeding instead of receiving the consideration offered to stockholders in connection with the extraordinary transaction. Appraisal rights are not available in all circumstances, and exceptions to these rights are provided under the Delaware General Corporation Law.

Section 262 of the Delaware General Corporation Law provides that stockholders have the right, in some circumstances, to dissent from corporate action and to instead demand payment of the fair value of their shares. Stockholders do not have appraisal rights with respect to shares of any class or series of stock if such shares of stock, or depositary receipts in respect thereof, are either (i) listed on a national securities exchange or (ii) held of record by more than 2,000 holders, unless the stockholders receive in exchange for their shares anything other than shares of stock of the surviving or resulting corporation (or depositary receipts in respect thereof) or of any other corporation that is publicly listed or held by more than 2,000 holders of record, cash in lieu of fractional shares or fractional depositary receipts described above or any combination of the foregoing.

Therefore, because Cowen common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market and holders of Cowen's common stock will receive shares of Class A common stock of New Parent as the resulting company, holders of Cowen common stock will not be entitled to dissenters' appraisal rights in the transactions with respect to their shares of Cowen common stock.

Delisting and Deregistration of Cowen Common Stock after the Transactions

When the transactions are completed, it is anticipated that the Class A common stock of New Parent will trade on NASDAQ Global Select Market under the ticker symbol "COWN." Cowen common stock currently listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market and traded under the ticker symbol "COWN" will therefore cease to be quoted on the NASDAQ Global Select Market after the

Table of Contents

closing of the transactions and will be deregistered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

Regulatory Approvals Required for the Transactions

Cowen and Ramius have each agreed to use reasonable best efforts to obtain all regulatory approvals required to complete the transactions contemplated by the transaction agreement. These approvals include approval from or notices to the SEC, FINRA, the Financial Services Administration in the United Kingdom, the Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong, the Financial Services Agency of Japan, the Commission of the Surveillance of the Financial Sector in Luxembourg, the NASDAQ, the Commodities Future Trading Commission, the Department of Justice (or the DOJ), the Federal Trade Commission (or the FTC) and various other federal, state and foreign regulatory authorities and self-regulatory organizations. Cowen and Ramius have completed, or will shortly complete, the filing of applications and notifications to obtain the required regulatory approvals.

U.S. Antitrust Clearance. Under the HSR Act and the rules promulgated thereunder by the FTC, the transactions may not be consummated until notifications have been given and certain information has been furnished to the FTC and the Antitrust Division of the DOJ and specified waiting period requirements have been satisfied. Cowen and Ramius filed the requisite HSR Act notification forms on July 8, 2009 and on July 28, 2009, the HSR Act waiting period, which was scheduled to expire at 11:59 p.m. on August 7, 2009, was terminated early. Both before and after the expiration of the waiting period, the FTC and the DOJ retain the authority to challenge the transactions on antitrust grounds.

In addition, the transactions may be reviewed by the state attorneys general in the various states in which Cowen and Ramius operate. While Cowen and Ramius believes there are substantial arguments to the contrary, these authorities may claim that there is authority, under the applicable state and federal antitrust laws and regulations, to investigate and/or disapprove the transactions under the circumstances and based on the review set forth in applicable state laws and regulations. There can be no assurance that one or more state attorneys general will not attempt to file an antitrust action to challenge the transactions. As of the date of this document, neither Cowen nor Ramius has been notified by any state attorneys general indicating that they plan to review the transactions.

Other Requisite U.S. Approvals, Notices and Consents. Notifications and/or applications requesting approval must be submitted to various regulatory and self-regulatory organizations in connection with the transactions, including applications and notices to FINRA in connection with the indirect change in control, as a result of the transactions, of particular subsidiaries directly or indirectly owned by Cowen and Ramius, including their registered broker-dealer subsidiaries. Cowen and Ramius will file and submit applications and notices required to be submitted to obtain these approvals and provide these notices.

Foreign Approvals. Approvals also may be required from, or notices must be submitted to, foreign regulatory authorities in connection with the transactions and the change in ownership of particular businesses that are controlled by Cowen and Ramius abroad, including the Financial Services Authority in the United Kingdom, the Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong, the Financial Services Agency of Japan and the Commission of the Surveillance of the Financial Sector in Luxembourg. Cowen and Ramius have filed, or shortly will file, all applications and notices required to be submitted to obtain these approvals and any other approvals that may be required to complete the transactions.

Timing. There can be no assurances that all of the regulatory approvals described above will be obtained and, if obtained, there can be no assurances as to the timing of any approvals, Cowen's and Ramius's ability to obtain the approvals on satisfactory terms or the absence of any litigation challenging such approvals.

Table of Contents

Cowen and Ramius believe that the transactions do not raise substantial antitrust or other significant regulatory concerns and that Cowen and Ramius can obtain all requisite regulatory approvals on a timely basis without the imposition of any condition that would have a material adverse effect on Cowen or Ramius. The parties' obligation to complete the transactions is conditioned on the receipt of all required regulatory approvals.

It is presently contemplated that if any governmental approvals or actions are required beyond those listed above, such approvals or actions will be sought. There can be no assurance, however, that any additional approvals or actions will be obtained. The parties are required to use their reasonable best efforts to file all the necessary documentation and obtain all consents of third parties that are necessary to complete the transactions and to comply with the terms and conditions of all consents, approvals and authorizations of any third party or governmental entity.

Interests of Certain Persons in the Transactions

In considering the recommendation of the Cowen Board of Directors that you vote to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and approve the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius, you should be aware that some of Cowen's executive officers and directors have financial interests in the transactions that are different from, or in addition to, those of Cowen's stockholders generally. The independent members of Cowen's Board of Directors were aware of and considered these interests, among other matters, in evaluating and negotiating the transaction agreement and the transactions, and in recommending to the stockholders that the transaction agreement be approved and adopted. For purposes of all of the Cowen agreements and plans described below (other than employment agreements with Messrs. Malcolm and White), the completion of the transactions contemplated by the transaction agreement will constitute a change in control.

Equity Compensation Awards. The terms of Cowen's equity compensation plans and the applicable award agreements provide that upon a change in control of Cowen unvested stock options and restricted shares will vest in full. The transaction agreement provides that, upon completion of the transaction, each then-outstanding Cowen stock option and restricted stock unit will be converted into a New Parent stock option and restricted stock unit, respectively. In addition, other than with respect to Messrs. Malcolm and White, who have waived accelerated vesting of stock-based awards upon completion of the transaction in connection with their entry into new employment agreements with Cowen and New Parent, upon completion of the transaction, each then-outstanding Cowen restricted share will be converted into the right to receive one (1) share of New Parent Class A common stock. Messrs. Malcolm's and White's restricted shares will be converted into New Parent restricted shares. Based on Cowen equity compensation holdings as of July 8, 2009, and assuming the transactions are completed on November 1, 2009, upon completion of the transactions:

the number of unvested stock options to acquire shares of Cowen common stock all at an exercise price of \$16.00 held by each of Messrs. Malcolm, White, McCarthy, Conner, Egert and Dibble, that would vest are 0, 0, 0, 6,440, 2,572, and 1,286, respectively, and the number that would not vest upon completion of the transaction, but would vest upon a subsequent qualifying termination of employment, held by each of Messrs. Malcolm, White, McCarthy, Conner, Egert and Dibble are 51,695, 9,638, 0, 0, 0, and 0, respectively; and

the number of unvested restricted shares of Cowen common stock held by each of Messrs. Malcolm, White, McCarthy, Conner, Egert and Dibble that would vest upon completion of the transaction are 0, 0, 18,992, 15,587, 7,772, and 3,046, respectively, and the number that would not vest upon completion of the transaction, but would vest upon a subsequent qualifying termination of employment, held by each of Messrs. Malcolm, White, McCarthy, Conner, Egert and Dibble are 150,498, 35,330, 0, 0, 0 and 0, respectively.

Table of Contents

Cowen's five non-employee directors (as a group) hold 14,177 restricted stock units, all of which were vested on the date of grant and do not hold any stock options or restricted shares.

The above numbers do not include any awards of restricted stock to be granted to Messrs. Malcolm or White after completion of the transactions pursuant to their new employment agreements with Cowen and New Parent as described below, the 30,000 restricted shares of New Parent Class A common stock that are to be granted to Mr. Connor, subject to the completion of the transaction, or equity-based awards that may be granted at this special meeting to Cowen's non-employee directors consistent with Cowen's policies for director compensation.

Deferred Cash Awards. In 2008, Cowen granted deferred cash awards to all of its executive officers under Cowen's equity compensation plans. The terms of Cowen's equity compensation plans and the deferred cash award agreements provide that upon a change in control of Cowen unvested deferred cash awards will vest in full, but will continue to be paid in accordance with their normal payment schedule. Based on the deferred cash awards granted to them as of July 8, 2009, and assuming the transactions are completed on November 1, 2009, upon completion of the transactions, the value of the deferred cash awards in which each of Messrs. Malcolm, White, McCarthy, Conner, Egert and Dibble will vest upon completion of the transaction are \$37,500, \$37,500, \$37,500, \$37,500, \$27,000, and \$7,500, respectively.

Employment Agreements and Severance Policy.

New Employment Agreements with Messrs. Malcolm and White. In connection with their entry into the transaction agreement, Cowen and New Parent entered into employment agreements with Messrs. Malcolm and White which will become effective when the transactions are completed and, in the case of Mr. Malcolm, will supersede his existing employment agreement with Cowen. Mr. White did not have a preexisting agreement with Cowen.

The employment agreements provide, among other things, with respect to Mr. Malcolm, that he will be employed as the Chief Executive Officer and President of New Parent's Broker-Dealer Subsidiary, will serve as a member of New Parent's Board of Directors and as a member of New Parent's Executive Management Committee and Operating Committee, and with respect to Mr. White, that he will be employed as a Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer of New Parent and will serve as a member of New Parent's Operating Committee. Messrs. Malcolm and White will be entitled to annual base salaries of \$450,000 and \$400,000, respectively, and will be eligible to receive an annual performance-based bonus as determined, with respect to Mr. Malcolm, by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors and, with respect to Mr. White, by Mr. Malcolm and the Chief Executive Officer of New Parent. Mr. Malcolm is entitled to a guaranteed minimum bonus of \$200,000 for each completed calendar year ending during the term of employment.

Under the terms of these new employment agreements, Messrs. Malcolm and White waived their rights to accelerated vesting of their Cowen equity compensation awards on completion of the transactions and Messrs. Malcolm and White also agreed not to sell any shares held by them as of the completion of the transactions or received in respect of equity awards granted prior to the completion of the transactions until the one-year anniversary of the transactions, with exceptions for qualifying terminations of their employment, a change in control of New Parent and the payment of taxes. Mr. Malcolm also waived his rights to severance under his existing agreement, which would have entitled him to a \$5 million change in control severance payment and a lump sum payment of \$2.25 million in respect of senior advisor fees in connection with a qualifying termination of his employment following completion of the transactions.

Under the terms of his new employment agreement, Mr. Malcolm will receive, in lieu of any change in control related payments under his existing employment agreement with Cowen, a cash payment of \$1.5 million and a restricted equity grant of 288,832 shares of New Parent Class A common

Table of Contents

stock when the transactions are completed. The restricted equity grant will vest in two equal installments on each of the second and third anniversaries of the completion of the transactions, subject to earlier vesting if Mr. Malcolm is terminated under specified circumstances or if there is a change in control of New Parent. When the transactions are completed, New Parent will grant Mr. White 115,533 restricted shares of New Parent Class A common stock with the same vesting and other terms as those described above for Mr. Malcolm.

If Mr. Malcolm's or Mr. White's employment is terminated by New Parent without "cause" or by the executive with "good reason," the executive will be entitled to the following:

specified accrued obligations;

vesting of his New Parent equity compensation awards and exercisability of any stock options for the remainder of their terms; and

with respect to Mr. Malcolm, a cash payment equal to the sum of \$2.25 million, his prior year's base salary and the cash portion of his prior year's bonus, as well as vesting of his interest in Cowen Healthcare Royalty Partners consistent with his existing agreement with Cowen.

Mr. Malcolm's cash severance payments are subject to his signing and not revoking a separation and release agreement.

Mr. Malcolm's employment agreement retains the senior advisor provisions from his existing employment agreement with Cowen, except that he may not retire prior to the date in the first quarter of 2012 on which 2011 annual bonuses are paid. Accordingly, if Mr. Malcolm terminates his full-time employment due to his retirement, he would serve as a senior advisor to New Parent for a three-year term, at an annual base salary of \$750,000, and New Parent would provide him, his spouse and his dependents with health and medical benefits during this three-year term (to the extent permitted by the terms of the applicable plans). Provided that Mr. Malcolm complies with the covenant not to compete to which he will be subject while a senior advisor, any unvested New Parent equity awards held by Mr. Malcolm will continue to vest in accordance with their terms. In addition, in the event of a change in control of New Parent while Mr. Malcolm is a senior advisor, he would generally be entitled to receive a lump-sum cash payment equal to the unpaid balance of his base salary for the remainder of the three-year term.

Messrs. Malcolm and White have agreed to abide by an ongoing confidentiality obligation to not solicit customers and employees while they are employed by New Parent and for one year after their employment with New Parent ends, and to not compete during the term of their employment with New Parent. In addition, if Mr. Malcolm becomes a senior advisor as described above, he would be subject to a similar agreement not to solicit while employed as a senior advisor and for two years after he is no longer employed as a senior advisor and a similar agreement not to compete while employed as a senior advisor and for one year after he is no longer employed as a senior advisor.

Existing Employment Agreement with Mr. Malcolm. As described above, Cowen is currently party to an employment agreement with Mr. Malcolm which will be superseded and replaced by the new employment agreement described above when the transactions are completed. His agreement provides that, in the event that during the twelve-month period following a change of control, Mr. Malcolm would have terminated his employment for "good reason" or Cowen would have terminated his employment without "cause," he would have been entitled to receive:

an immediate lump-sum payment in an amount equal to \$5 million, plus \$2.25 million in respect of senior advisor fees to which he would have been entitled under his existing agreement plus the cash value of three years of continued health and medical benefits for him, his spouse and his dependents;

Table of Contents

vesting of any equity compensation awards and exercisability of any stock options for the remainder of their terms; and

vesting of his interest in Cowen Healthcare Royalty Partners.

Severance Benefits. Employees without an individual employment or severance agreement providing for severance payments or benefits will be entitled to severance payments and benefits no less favorable than those agreed to in the transaction agreement if they are terminated without "cause" prior to January 1, 2011. The minimum amount of each employee's payments and benefits will be based on his years of service with Cowen as of the date of termination and the severance schedule agreed to in connection with the transactions. Assuming that the transaction is completed on November 1, 2009, Messrs. McCarthy, Conner, Egert and Dibble, respectively, would be entitled to no less than the following if terminated without cause prior to January 1, 2011:

cash severance payments of no less than approximately \$14,423, \$86,538, \$19,231 and \$14,423, respectively; and

continued medical, vision and/or dental benefits at the level of coverage that the executive and his dependents were receiving on the date the executive was terminated at active employee premium rates (with Cowen continuing to subsidize its portion of the rate) until the end of the calendar month in which the executive was terminated and eligibility for COBRA coverage thereafter, with Cowen:

paying 100% of the executive's COBRA premiums for the calendar month immediately following the calendar month in which the executive was terminated; and

paying 65% of the executive's COBRA premiums for the eight calendar months following such calendar month.

Severance benefits are contingent upon the executive's signing and not revoking a release of claims against Cowen and its affiliates. Payments under the severance policy will be reduced to the extent that they are non-deductible under Section 280G of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

Table of Contents

THE TRANSACTION AGREEMENT

The following describes aspects of the transactions, including material terms of the transaction agreement. The following description of the transaction agreement is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, the transaction agreement, which is attached to this document as Appendix A and is incorporated by reference in this document. You are urged to read the transaction agreement carefully and in its entirety, as it is the legal document governing the transactions.

Structure of the Transactions

Cowen and Ramius have jointly formed and own New Parent, a Delaware corporation. New Parent, in turn, has organized Merger Sub, a Delaware corporation, and Exchange Sub, a Delaware limited liability company, both of which are wholly owned subsidiaries of New Parent. The transaction agreement provides that, at the completion of the transactions, Merger Sub will merge with and into Cowen, with Cowen surviving the merger, and Ramius will transfer to Exchange Sub substantially all of Ramius's assets and Exchange Sub will assume substantially all of Ramius's liabilities. As a result, New Parent will be a majority-owned subsidiary of Ramius, Cowen will become a wholly owned subsidiary of New Parent, and Exchange Sub will remain a wholly owned subsidiary of New Parent. New Parent will then change its name to "Cowen Group, Inc.," and Exchange Sub will change its name to "Ramius LLC."

At the completion of the transactions, New Parent will indirectly assume all of the liabilities of Ramius with the exception of certain liabilities related to Ramius's Employee Ownership Program, liabilities relating to the portion of awards outstanding under the Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC Participation Program representing a right to receive percentage interests in Ramius and a \$500,000 secured revolving credit facility that may be made available to Ramius by HVB at closing, and issue 37,536,826 shares of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius (we refer to this as the asset exchange consideration) in exchange for Ramius transferring to Exchange Sub all of its assets with the exception of (i) \$500,000 in cash which it is retaining in order to pay ongoing administrative expenses, such as audit fees, and (ii) any recovery in excess of \$7.0 million from a pending arbitration Ramius had initiated against a securities underwriter. The arbitration pertains to a securities fraud claim involving a 2001 collateralized bond obligation and was initiated by Ramius against the underwriter on behalf of itself and certain of its funds which had purchased the collateralized bond obligation. As part of their negotiations of the transactions, Ramius and Cowen agreed that if an arbitration award was granted, New Parent would receive the first \$7.0 million and Ramius would receive any amounts awarded in excess of \$7.0 million to be allocated between the funds and Ramius (after the reimbursement to Ramius of its expenses) in proportion to the respective losses incurred from the collateralized bond obligation. At the same time, each share of Cowen common stock issued and outstanding immediately prior to the completion of the transactions will automatically be converted into the right to receive one share of New Parent Class A common stock (we refer to this as the Cowen merger consideration). As of the date of the transaction agreement, 15,134,637 shares of Cowen common stock were outstanding (including freely tradable shares, restricted shares and shares underlying restricted stock units), and thus, subject to changes in the number of shares of Cowen common stock outstanding, it is expected that approximately 15,134,637 shares of New Parent Class A common stock will be issued to current Cowen stockholders in connection with the transactions. See the section titled "Other Agreements Related to the Transactions Asset Exchange Agreement" beginning on page 106, which describes the issuance of shares of New Parent Class A common stock to HVB (an affiliate of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., a third party investor in Ramius) pursuant to the asset exchange agreement.

Table of Contents

Treatment of Cowen Equity-Based Awards

The transaction agreement specifies how equity compensation awards issued by Cowen prior to completion of the transactions will be treated in the transactions. When the transactions are completed (and except as provided with respect to Messrs. Malcolm and White who have waived accelerated vesting of their Cowen equity awards in connection with the transactions, as discussed above):

each outstanding option issued by Cowen to purchase Cowen common stock under a Cowen stock plan will vest in full and be automatically converted into an option to purchase the equivalent number of shares of New Parent Class A common stock, at an exercise price per share equal to the exercise price per share of the option immediately prior to the completion of the transactions;

each outstanding restricted share of Cowen common stock will vest in full and automatically be converted into the right to receive one share of New Parent Class A common stock; and

each outstanding restricted share unit will vest in full and be automatically converted into a restricted share unit with respect to the number of shares of New Parent Class A common stock equal to shares of Cowen common stock subject to the Cowen restricted stock unit immediately prior to the closing of the transactions, and the obligations with respect to the New Parent restricted stock units will be payable or distributable in accordance with the terms of the agreement relating to the New Parent restricted stock units.

When the transactions are completed, New Parent will assume the rights and obligations of Cowen under the Cowen stock plans with respect to the assumed stock options and assumed restricted stock units. New Parent has also agreed to reserve additional shares of New Parent Class A common stock to satisfy its obligations under the assumed stock options and assumed restricted share units and to file a registration statement with the SEC on an appropriate form to the extent necessary to register the New Parent Class A common stock subject to the assumed stock options and assumed restricted stock units.

Closing and Effective Time of the Transactions

The transactions will be completed only if all of the following occur:

the Cowen stockholders approve and adopt the transaction agreement and approve the issuance of shares of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius;

Cowen and Ramius obtain all required governmental and regulatory consents and approvals; and

all other conditions to the transactions discussed in the section titled "The Transaction Agreement - Conditions to Complete the Transactions" beginning on page 103 and in the transaction agreement are either satisfied or waived.

The transactions will become effective when each of the following events has occurred:

a certificate of merger with respect to the merger of Merger Sub with and into Cowen is filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware;

a bill of sale and assignment and assumption agreement is executed by Ramius and Exchange Sub; and

New Parent has issued the shares of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius.

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

However, Cowen and Ramius may agree to a later time for completion of the transactions and specify such time in the certificate of merger in accordance with Delaware law. In the transaction agreement, Cowen and Ramius have agreed to complete the transactions no later than three business days after the last of the conditions described in the transaction agreement have been satisfied or waived, or on another mutually agreed date. It is anticipated that the effective time of the transactions

Table of Contents

will occur during the fourth quarter of 2009, but there are no guarantees as to when or if the transactions will be completed.

Delivery of Transaction Consideration

When the transactions are completed, New Parent will deliver to Ramius a stock certificate representing the asset exchange consideration. At the same time, each certificate representing shares of outstanding Cowen common stock, and any uncertificated shares held in book-entry form, will automatically be deemed to represent the equivalent number of shares of New Parent Class A common stock. However, if an exchange of certificates is required by law or requested by a holder of Cowen common stock, New Parent will exchange the certificates on a one-share-for-one-share basis. All shares of Cowen common stock will then be cancelled.

Lost Certificates

If a certificate for Cowen common stock has been lost, stolen or destroyed, New Parent will issue the Cowen merger consideration payable under the transaction agreement when it receives appropriate evidence as to the loss, theft or destruction of the certificate, along with appropriate and customary indemnification.

Stock Transfer Books

The stock transfer books of Cowen will be closed when the transactions are completed, and there will be no further registration of transfers of shares of Cowen common stock on the records of Cowen. If, after the transactions are completed, a certificate representing shares of Cowen common stock is presented to New Parent or Cowen, the certificate will be converted into the right to receive the Cowen merger consideration with respect to the number of shares represented by the certificate.

Governance

After the completion of the transactions, the board of directors of New Parent will have ten directors. Four directors will have been appointed by Cowen, and six directors will have been appointed by Ramius. Pursuant to the asset exchange agreement, Ramius has given BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., a third party investor in Ramius and an affiliate of HVB, the right to appoint one of its six directors. Six of the ten directors will be independent under NASDAQ rules. Peter A. Cohen will serve as Chairman of the board of directors and Chief Executive Officer of New Parent, and John E. Toffolon, Jr. will serve as Lead Director of the board of directors of New Parent. For more information on the board of directors, officers and governance of New Parent after the transactions are completed, see the sections titled "Board and Management of New Parent" beginning on page 117 and "Corporate Governance of New Parent" beginning on page 124.

Representations and Warranties

The transaction agreement contains representations and warranties of each of Cowen and Ramius, made solely for the benefit of the other. The assertions embodied in those representations and warranties may have been made as of specific dates and are qualified by information in the confidential disclosure schedules that the parties have exchanged in connection with signing the transaction agreement. The disclosure schedules contain information that modifies, qualifies and creates exceptions to the representations and warranties set forth in the transaction agreement. Moreover, certain representations and warranties in the transaction agreement were used for the purpose of allocating risk between Cowen and Ramius. Accordingly, you should not rely on the representations and warranties in the transaction agreement as characterizations of the actual state of facts about Cowen or Ramius.

Table of Contents

The transaction agreement contains representations and warranties of Cowen and Ramius relating to their respective businesses, regarding, among other things, the following items:

corporate matters, including due organization and qualification;

capitalization;

authority to execute and deliver the transaction agreement and the absence of conflicts with, or violations of, organizational documents or other obligations as a result of the transactions;

required governmental filings and consents;

financial statements, internal controls and accounting or auditing practices;

broker's fees payable in connection with the transactions;

the absence of material adverse changes;

conduct of business in the ordinary course of business since December 31, 2008;

legal proceedings;

tax matters;

employee matters;

certain contracts;

property;

intellectual property;

insurance;

compliance with laws, permits, the timely filing of reports with governmental entities, and the absence of investigations and enforcement actions by regulatory agencies;

risk management instruments and derivatives;

interested party transactions;

tax treatment of the Cowen merger; and

the accuracy of information supplied for inclusion in this document and other similar documents.

In addition, Cowen has made other representations and warranties to Ramius as to the following matters:

with respect to Cowen Healthcare Royalty Partners, L.P., an indirect, non-wholly owned subsidiary of Cowen (which we refer to as CHRP), performance by Cowen and its subsidiaries under agreements relating to CHRP, due organization of CHRP, the accuracy of information included in offering and similar documents of CHRP, financial statements of CHRP, and consents and approvals related to CHRP;

state takeover laws; and

receipt of an opinion from its financial advisor.

In addition, Ramius has made representations and warranties to Cowen related to its funds and investment management and other fund agreements.

For purposes of determining whether the closing condition that requires a party's representations and warranties to be true and correct in all respects on the date the transactions are completed has been met (described later in this document), a party's representations and warranties are generally

Table of Contents

subject to a "material adverse effect" qualification. As a result, breaches of a party's representations and warranties (other than representations regarding fundamental matters relating to the capitalization of Cowen and ownership of the subsidiaries of Cowen and Ramius, which must be true in all material respects) are deemed not to have occurred under the transaction agreement for purposes of the related closing condition, unless all breaches by a party in the aggregate have, or are reasonably likely to have, a material adverse effect on that party. A material adverse effect includes any event, change, circumstance or development which has or is reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the financial condition, results of operations or business of a party and its subsidiaries taken as a whole, or the ability of a party to timely complete the transactions contemplated by the transaction agreement. In determining whether a material adverse effect has occurred or would reasonably be expected to occur with respect to the financial condition, results of operations or business of a party, the parties will disregard any effects resulting from the following:

changes, after the date of the transaction agreement, in generally accepted accounting principles or regulatory accounting requirements generally applicable to companies in the industries in which a party and its subsidiaries operate (to the extent the effects of the change do not have a materially disproportionate effect on a party relative to other industry participants);

changes, after the date of the transaction agreement, in laws, rules, regulations or the interpretation of laws, rules or regulations by governmental entities of general applicability to companies in the industries in which the party and its subsidiaries operate (to the extent the effects of the change do not have a materially disproportionate effect on a party relative to other industry participants);

actions or omissions taken with the prior written consent of the other party or expressly required by the transaction agreement;

changes in global, national or regional market conditions (including acts of terrorism and war) or general business, economic or market conditions (including generally in prevailing interest rates, currency exchange rates, credit markets and price levels or trading volumes in the securities markets), in each case generally affecting the industries in which the party or its subsidiaries operate and including changes to any previously correctly applied asset marks as a result (to the extent the effects of the change do not have a materially disproportionate effect on a party relative to other industry participants);

the execution or public disclosure of the transaction agreement, including any losses of employees that occur as a result;

failure, in and of itself, to meet earnings projections, but not including any underlying causes;

changes in the trading price of a party's common stock, in and of itself, but not including any underlying causes; or

with respect to Ramius and its subsidiaries only, withdrawals from Ramius's funds that are consistent with withdrawals from the funds over the past twelve months.

The representations and warranties in the transaction agreement do not survive the completion of the transactions.

Covenants and Agreements

Each of Cowen and Ramius has undertaken customary covenants that place restrictions on it and its subsidiaries until completion of the transactions. In general, each party has agreed to:

conduct its business in the ordinary course in all material respects;

Table of Contents

use reasonable best efforts to maintain and preserve intact its business organization and advantageous business relationships, including retaining the services of key officers and employees; and

take no action that would reasonably be expected to adversely affect or materially delay its ability (or the ability of New Parent, Merger Sub or Exchange Sub) to obtain any necessary regulatory and governmental approvals, perform its covenants or complete the transactions.

In addition to the general covenants above, each party further agreed that, except as expressly permitted by the terms of the transaction agreement (including the schedules to the agreement) or with the other party's prior written consent, it will not, and will not permit its subsidiaries to, undertake the following actions prior to completion of the transactions:

incur indebtedness or in any way assume the indebtedness of another person, except in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice and, in any event, not to exceed \$500,000;

except with respect to Ramius, adjust, split, combine or reclassify any of its capital stock;

except for distributions by Ramius that are required pursuant to the limited liability company agreement of Ramius or pursuant to any grant agreement evidencing an award under equity compensation plans of Ramius, make, declare or pay any dividend, or make any other distribution on, or directly or indirectly redeem, purchase or otherwise acquire, any shares of its capital stock or membership interests, as applicable, or any securities or obligations convertible (whether currently convertible or convertible only after the passage of time or the occurrence of certain events) into or exchangeable for or representing the right to purchase or otherwise receive any shares of its capital stock or membership interests, as applicable;

except with respect to Ramius, grant any type of equity-based award with respect to shares of capital stock under any stock plan or otherwise, or grant any person any right to acquire any shares of its capital stock or other equity interests;

except with respect to Ramius, issue any additional shares of capital stock, membership interests, voting debt or other securities, except pursuant to the exercise of Cowen stock options or the settlement or vesting of Cowen restricted shares or Cowen restricted stock units that are outstanding as of the date of the transaction agreement or issuances by a subsidiary to its parent company;

except as required by law or by the terms of existing benefit plans:

materially increase the compensation or benefits of any of the current or former members, managers, directors, officers or employees;

pay any amounts to employees not required by any current plan or agreement (other than base salary in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice);

become a party to, establish, amend, commence participation in, make any adjustment, terminate or commit itself to the adoption of any equity or equity-based compensation plan, compensation (including any employee co-investment fund), severance, pension, retirement, profit-sharing, welfare benefit or other employee benefit plan or agreement or employment agreement with or for the benefit of any employee (or newly hired employees);

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

make any guarantees of compensation or bonus to any employee (or newly hired employees); or

accelerate the vesting of any equity or equity-based compensation or other incentive compensation under any benefit plan;

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

Table of Contents

sell, transfer, pledge, lease, license, mortgage, encumber or otherwise dispose of any material amount of its properties or assets to any person (other than a subsidiary) or cancel, release or assign any material amount of indebtedness to any person, in each case other than in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice or pursuant to previously disclosed contracts;

enter into any new line of business or change in any material respect its business or operations, including any material change in the types, nature or composition of its services;

transfer ownership, or grant any license or other material rights, to any person or entity of or in respect of any material intellectual property, other than grants of non-exclusive licenses pursuant to license agreements entered into in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice;

make any material investment either by purchase of stock or securities, contributions to capital, property transfers, or purchase of any property or assets of any other person, including any investment in one or a series of transactions of more than \$1 million in the aggregate (other than pursuant to previously disclosed contracts);

amend, breach, terminate or allow to lapse any material permit other than amendments required by applicable law or in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice;

restructure or change its investment securities portfolio, its derivatives portfolio or its interest rate exposure, through purchases, sales or otherwise, or the manner in which the portfolio is classified or reported, in any material respect;

except with respect to Ramius and its Subsidiaries, and other than with respect to CHRP, form or make any investment in any pooled investment vehicle (including each portfolio or series of a portfolio, if any);

take any action, or knowingly fail to take any action, which action or failure to act could be reasonably likely to prevent the Cowen merger from qualifying as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

except with respect to Ramius, amend its charter, by-laws or other constitutive documents;

amend or waive any provisions of any confidentiality or standstill agreements in place with any third parties;

amend, otherwise modify or knowingly violate in any material respect the terms of any contract, or create, renew or amend any contract (except as may be required by applicable law) which imposes a material restriction on it, its subsidiaries' or its affiliates' ability to conduct business, other than in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice;

make any capital expenditures in excess of \$250,000;

acquire any business or person that would be material to the operation of its business, taken as a whole, or enter into any contract, letter of intent or similar arrangement with respect to the foregoing;

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

enter into, amend or become subject to any joint venture, partnership, strategic alliance, stockholders agreement, co-marketing, co-promotion, joint development or similar arrangement, except in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice;

commence or settle any material claim, action or proceeding;

Table of Contents

implement or adopt any material change in its tax financial accounting principles, practices or methods, other than as may be required by law, generally accepted accounting principles or regulatory guidelines;

file or amend any material tax return, make or change any material tax election, or settle or compromise any material tax liability or tax contest;

sell, assign, transfer, lease or otherwise dispose of, or grant any interests in, any material real property;

exercise or fail to exercise any renewal option under any material lease or other similar occupancy agreement for real property;

acquire any interest in any additional real property;

change any method of accounting or accounting practice except for any changes required by reason of a change in generally accepted accounting principles or in law; or

commit or agree to take any action prohibited by any of the conduct of business covenants made in the transaction agreement.

The transaction agreement also contains covenants relating to the preparation of this document, obtaining regulatory and Cowen stockholder approval, access to information of the other company, the authorization of the listing on shares of New Parent Class A common stock on the NASDAQ Global Select Market, controlling transaction-related litigation and public announcements with respect to the transactions contemplated by the transactions agreement. The parties have also agreed to consult with one another with respect to certain tax matters.

Reasonable Best Efforts of Cowen to Obtain the Required Stockholder Vote

Cowen has agreed to use its reasonable best efforts to hold a meeting of its stockholders as soon as is reasonably practicable for the purpose of Cowen stockholders voting on the approval and adoption of the transaction agreement and approval of the issuance of the shares of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius and the approval of the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan. Approval of the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan is not a condition to closing of the transactions contemplated by the transaction agreement. Cowen will use its reasonable best efforts to obtain such stockholder approval. The transaction agreement requires Cowen to submit the transaction agreement to a stockholder vote even if its Board of Directors no longer recommends approval and adoption of the transaction agreement. The Cowen Board of Directors has unanimously approved and adopted the transaction agreement and the transactions it contemplates and adopted resolutions directing that the transaction agreement and transactions it contemplates be submitted to the Cowen stockholders for their consideration. If Cowen has not received the requisite number of votes required to adopt the transaction agreement by the date on which the stockholder meeting is scheduled, Cowen may, or Ramius may direct Cowen to, adjourn the meeting solely for the purpose of soliciting additional proxies to a date that is no later than ten days after the date of the originally scheduled meeting.

Agreement Not to Solicit Other Offers

Cowen and Ramius have each agreed that it, its subsidiaries and each of their officers, directors, employees, agents and representatives will not, directly or indirectly:

initiate, solicit, encourage or facilitate (including by way of furnishing information) any inquiries or proposals for any "Alternative Proposal" (as defined below);

Table of Contents

participate in any discussions or negotiations regarding any "Alternative Transaction" (as defined below); or

enter into any agreement regarding an Alternative Transaction.

However, prior to Cowen obtaining its stockholder approval, the Cowen Board of Directors is permitted to furnish information concerning itself and its subsidiaries to any person that makes an Alternative Proposal, and to consider and participate in discussions and negotiations with respect to an Alternative Proposal, if:

such Alternative Proposal did not result from or arise out of a breach of the no-solicitation covenant;

Cowen enters into a confidentiality agreement with the person making the Alternative Proposal which is no less favorable than the confidentiality agreement that it entered into with Ramius; and

the Cowen Board of Directors concludes in good faith that the Alternative Proposal is reasonably likely to lead to a "Superior Proposal" (as defined below).

As used in the transaction agreement, an "Alternative Proposal" means any inquiries or proposals regarding any merger, share exchange, consolidation, sale of assets, sale of membership interests or capital stock or similar transactions involving a party or any of its subsidiaries that, if completed, would constitute an Alternative Transaction.

As used in the transaction agreement, "Alternative Transaction" means any offer, proposal or inquiry relating to, or any third party indication of interest in, the following (excluding any transactions contemplated by the transaction agreement):

a transaction in which any person or group, directly or indirectly, acquires or would acquire more than 15% of the consolidated assets of a party or its subsidiaries or 15% or more of any class of equity or voting securities (including membership interests) of a party or its subsidiaries whose assets, individually or in the aggregate, make up more than 15% of the consolidated assets of a party;

a tender offer or exchange offer that, if completed, would result in a third party beneficially owning 15% or more of the consolidated assets of a party or its subsidiaries or 15% or more of any class of equity or voting securities (including membership interests) of a party or its subsidiaries whose assets, individually or in the aggregate, make up more than 15% of the consolidated assets of a party; or

a merger, share exchange, consolidation, sale of interests, business combination, reorganization, recapitalization, liquidation or similar transaction involving a party or its subsidiaries whose assets, individually or in the aggregate, make up more than 15% of the consolidated assets of a party.

As used in the transaction agreement, "Superior Proposal" means any third party proposal to acquire all of the equity, assets, net revenue or net income of Cowen and its subsidiaries that the Cowen Board of Directors determines in its reasonable good faith judgment, after consultation with its financial advisor and outside legal counsel, would be more favorable (including from a financial point of view) to Cowen's stockholders than the transactions contemplated by the transaction agreement and is reasonably likely to be completed. In determining whether a proposal is a "Superior Proposal," the Cowen Board of Directors must take into account, among other things, all legal, financial, regulatory and other aspects of the proposal and the identity of the person making the proposal.

Table of Contents

The Cowen Board of Directors has agreed, except as provided in the next paragraph, that:

it will not, and will not publicly propose to, withdraw, modify or qualify its recommendation of the transaction agreement or the transactions to Cowen's stockholders; and

it will not, and will not publicly propose to, approve, recommend or fail to recommend against any Alternative Proposal.

The Cowen Board of Directors may nonetheless take the actions described as prohibited in the paragraph above if the following conditions are met:

it receives an unsolicited Alternative Proposal not arising out of a breach of the no-solicitation covenant that is a Superior Proposal and the Superior Proposal has not been withdrawn;

it determines in good faith, after consultation with outside legal counsel, that in light of the Superior Proposal, the failure to take such any of the actions listed above would violate its fiduciary duties to Cowen stockholders;

it has provided to Ramius, at least five business days in advance, with written notice of its intention to change its recommendation, which notice must specify the identity of the person making the proposal and the material terms of the proposal (and, if the proposal is in writing, Cowen must provide Ramius with a copy), along with a statement that the Board of Directors has determined the proposal is a Superior Proposal; and

during the notice period, Cowen and its advisors have negotiated in good faith with Ramius (if Ramius desires to negotiate) to make adjustments to the terms and conditions of the transaction agreement so that the Alternative Proposal would no longer be a Superior Proposal.

If the Alternative Proposal is amended in a material way, Cowen must provide Ramius with written notice of the material amendment at least two business days prior to changing its recommendation and, during such notice period, Cowen and its advisors must negotiate in good faith with Ramius (if Ramius desires to negotiate) to make adjustments to the terms and conditions of the transaction agreement so that the Alternative Proposal as amended would no longer be a Superior Proposal.

Cowen and Ramius have each agreed:

to notify the other party promptly (but in no event later than 24 hours) after it receives an Alternative Proposal, any material modification of an Alternative Proposal, any request for non-public information relating to such party or its subsidiaries or any request for access to the properties, books or records of the party or any of its subsidiaries;

to notify the other party orally and in writing of the receipt of an Alternative Proposal, and the notice must indicate the identity of the party making the proposal and summarize the material terms of the proposal (and, if the proposal or request for information was made in writing, the party must provide the other party with a copy of the proposal or request); and

to keep the other party fully informed, on a current basis, of any material changes in the status and any material changes in the terms of any Alternative Proposal.

Cowen has also agreed that it will not terminate, waive, amend or modify any provision of any existing standstill or confidentiality agreement that it has previously entered into and has agreed to enforce the provisions of these existing agreements.

Employee Matters

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

The employees of Ramius and the Ramius benefit plans will be transferred to Exchange Sub either immediately prior to or on completion of the transactions, except for specified Ramius benefits which

Table of Contents

will not be transferred. The current benefit plans of Cowen and Ramius will stay in effect after completion of the transactions until new plans of New Parent are put into place. The new plans must treat similarly situated employees on a substantially equivalent basis and cannot discriminate between former Cowen and former Ramius employees. In any event, for the first year after the completion of the transactions, former Cowen employees are entitled to receive compensation and benefits substantially comparable in the aggregate to the compensation and benefits to which they were entitled immediately prior to the completion of the transactions. In addition, any Cowen employees terminated without "cause" after the completion of the transactions, who are not party to an employment or severance agreement otherwise providing for severance payments or benefits, are entitled to severance benefits no less favorable than those agreed to in the transaction agreement, which are substantially identical to those applicable prior to the transactions.

With respect to any new benefit plans in which employees of Cowen or Ramius first become eligible to participate after completion of the transactions (and did not participate prior to the completion of the transactions), New Parent must:

waive all pre-existing conditions, exclusions and waiting periods applicable to the employee and his or her eligible dependents (except to the extent the pre-existing conditions, exclusions and waiting periods would apply under an analogous Cowen or Ramius benefit plan, as applicable);

provide each employee and his or her eligible dependents credit for any co-payments and deductibles paid prior to the completion of the transactions under a Cowen or Ramius benefit plan in satisfying any applicable deductible or out-of-pocket requirements under any new plans; and

provide the employees with a customary service credit for purposes of eligibility to participate, vesting credit, entitlement to benefits and levels of benefits in any new plan.

When the transactions are completed, New Parent will honor all Cowen benefit plans and Ramius benefit plans in accordance with their terms. The transactions will be treated as a "change in control" for purposes of applicable Cowen employee benefit and compensation plans and agreements, other than to the extent an individual employee waives such treatment in writing. In addition, the interests under the Ramius equity participation programs will vest in full on completion of the transactions. Exchange Sub will assume the obligations of Ramius to make the cash payments in satisfaction of the awards granted under the Ramius phantom interest program.

Indemnification and Insurance

The transaction agreement requires the current rights of the officers and directors of Cowen and the managers and members of Ramius and their respective subsidiaries to indemnification under these entities' organizational documents to continue in effect for six years after completion of the transactions. The transaction agreement also provides that, upon completion of the transactions, New Parent, the Cowen surviving corporation and Exchange Sub will indemnify, defend and hold harmless and provide advancement of expenses to, all past and present officers directors, managers and members of Cowen and Ramius and each of their subsidiaries against all losses or liabilities incurred in their capacities as a director, officer, manager or member to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law.

The transaction agreement requires New Parent to maintain, for a period of six years after completion of the transactions, Cowen's and Ramius's respective current directors' and officers' liability insurance policies, or policies of at least the same coverage and amount and containing terms and conditions that are not less advantageous than the current policies, with respect to acts or omissions occurring prior to completion of the transactions. However, New Parent is not required to incur an annual premium expense greater than 200% of the annual premiums currently paid by Cowen or Ramius. If New Parent is unable to maintain a policy because the annual premium expense is greater

Table of Contents

than 200% of Cowen's or Ramius's respective current annual directors' and officers' liability insurance premiums, New Parent is obligated to obtain as much insurance as is available for the amount that is 200% of Cowen's and Ramius's respective premiums. New Parent can satisfy these obligations by having Cowen purchase a "tail" policy prior to the completion of the transactions from an insurer with substantially the same or better credit rating as the current carriers for Cowen's and Ramius's respective existing directors' and officers' insurance policies in effect as of the date of the transaction agreement.

Assignment of Contracts and Warranties; Payment of Assumed Liabilities

At the completion of the transactions, Ramius will assign to Exchange Sub all of its rights under contracts entered into by Ramius prior to the completion of the transactions, except for specified rights under the transaction agreement, the asset exchange agreement and other agreements related to the transactions. However, no contracts will be assigned if it would violate any laws or the terms of the contract, and, if permitted under the terms of the contract, any performance obligations of Ramius will be subleased or subcontracted to Exchange Sub until the contract can be fully transferred to Exchange Sub. Ramius has agreed to use commercially reasonable efforts to obtain any required consents of counterparties to its contracts in order to be able to assign them, and Cowen has agreed to cooperate with Ramius in this effort. Cowen and Exchange Sub have also agreed to take all reasonably necessary actions to perform the obligations of Ramius under the assigned contracts in accordance with their terms if neither assignment, subleasing or subcontracting is allowed by the counterparty. Ramius will pay over to Exchange Sub any amounts received by Ramius after the closing of the transactions that result from the performance by Exchange Sub of the assigned contracts, and Exchange Sub will reimburse Ramius for any costs Ramius incurs in performing the assigned contracts after the completion of the transactions.

Exchange Sub will promptly pay all the assumed liabilities of Ramius when they become due, except to the extent that any liability is being contested in good faith and appropriate reserves have been made for the liability on the books and records of Exchange Sub.

Asset Exchange Agreement

New Parent has agreed to, and each of Ramius and Cowen have agreed to cause New Parent to, fulfill its obligations under the asset exchange agreement (see the section titled "Other Agreements Related to the Transactions Asset Exchange Agreement" beginning on page 106 for a more detailed description), including causing New Parent, on behalf of Merger Sub, to issue at the completion of the transactions the shares of New Parent Class A common stock and the additional consideration paid either in cash or debt to HVB in accordance with the terms of the asset exchange agreement. Cowen has also agreed not to take any action, or to fail to take any action, that would cause the representations made by New Parent in the asset exchange agreement not to be true in all material respects at the closing of the transactions.

Expenses and Fees

In general, each of Cowen and Ramius will be responsible for all expenses incurred by it in connection with the negotiation and completion of the transactions contemplated by the transaction agreement. However, the costs and expenses of printing and mailing this document, all filing and other fees paid to the SEC in connection with the transactions and the filing fee for the notification under the HSR Act shall be borne equally by Cowen and Ramius. Additionally, in qualifying circumstances, Cowen will be required to pay transaction-related expenses of Ramius of up to \$750,000, as further described in the section titled "The Transaction Agreement Termination Fee" beginning on page 105 below.

Table of Contents

Conditions to Complete the Transactions

The respective obligations of Cowen and Ramius to complete the transactions are subject to the fulfillment or waiver of the following conditions:

the approval and adoption of the transaction agreement by Cowen stockholders;

the approval of the listing of the New Parent Class A common stock to be issued in connection with the transactions on NASDAQ (including the shares to be issued pursuant to the asset exchange agreement), subject to official notice of issuance;

the termination or expiration of any waiting periods applicable to the transactions, including under the HSR Act, and the receipt of all other approvals required under other antitrust or competition laws;

the registration statement with respect to the New Parent Class A common stock to be issued in connection with the transaction having become effective under the Securities Act of 1933 and no stop order or proceedings for that purpose having been initiated or threatened by the SEC;

the absence of any order, decree or injunction by any court or other governmental entity or other law that prohibits or makes illegal completion of the transactions contemplated by the transaction agreement; and

all of the conditions precedent to the completion of the transactions under the asset exchange agreement (other than the closing of the transactions and other conditions that, by their nature, are intended to be satisfied at the completion of the transactions) having been satisfied.

Cowen's obligation to complete the transactions is also separately subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the following conditions:

the truth and correctness of the representations and warranties of Ramius in the transaction agreement, subject to the materiality standard provided in the transaction agreement (and as described earlier in this document), and the performance by Ramius in all material respects of its obligations under the transaction agreement and the receipt of certificates from the managing member of Ramius to that effect;

the receipt by Cowen of a legal opinion with respect to certain U.S. federal income tax consequences of the Cowen merger; and

the receipt and effectiveness of all governmental and other approvals, registrations and consents, and the expiration of all related waiting periods required to complete the transactions.

Ramius's obligation to complete the transactions is also separately subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the following conditions:

the truth and correctness of the representations and warranties of Cowen in the transaction agreement, subject to the materiality standard provided in the transaction agreement (and as described earlier in this document), and the performance by Cowen in all material respects of its obligations under the transaction agreement and the receipt of certificates from an officer of Cowen to that effect;

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

the receipt and effectiveness of all governmental and other approvals, registrations and consents, and the expiration of all related waiting periods required to complete the transactions;

execution by New Parent of the registration rights agreement granting registration rights to Ramius and to a third party investor in Ramius (see the section "Other Agreements Relating to

Table of Contents

the Transactions Registration Rights Agreement" beginning on page 109 for more information); and

the receipt of a copy of any certificates of officers of Cowen relied upon by counsel in rendering the legal opinion with respect to certain U.S. federal income tax consequences of the Cowen merger as delivered to Cowen.

There can be no assurances as to when or if all of the conditions to the transactions can or will be satisfied or waived by the appropriate party. As of the date of this document, the parties have no reason to believe that any of these conditions will not be satisfied.

Amendment and Waiver of the Transaction Agreement

Subject to applicable law, the parties may amend the transaction agreement by written agreement. However, after any approval of the transactions contemplated by the transaction agreement by the Cowen stockholders, there may not be, without further approval of those stockholders, any amendment of the transaction agreement that requires further stockholder approval under applicable law.

At any time prior to the completion of the transactions, each of Cowen and Ramius, by action taken or authorized by its respective board of directors or managing member, to the extent legally allowed, may:

extend the time for the performance of any of the obligations or other acts of the other party;

waive any inaccuracies in the representations and warranties of the other party; or

waive compliance by the other party with any of the other agreements or conditions contained in the merger agreement.

However, the extension or waiver will only be valid if it is in a written document signed on behalf of the party granting the extension or waiver, but the extension or waiver or failure to insist on strict compliance with an obligation, covenant, agreement or condition will not operate as a waiver of any subsequent other failure.

Termination of the Transaction Agreement

The transaction agreement can be terminated at any time prior to completion of the transactions by mutual written consent and by either party in the following circumstances:

if any of the required regulatory approvals are denied or completion of the transactions has been enjoined, prohibited or made illegal by a court or other governmental entity (and the denial or prohibition is final and nonappealable);

if the transactions have not been completed by December 31, 2009, unless the failure to complete the transactions by that date is due to a breach of the transaction agreement by the party seeking to terminate the transaction agreement;

if there is a breach by the other party that would cause the failure of the closing conditions described above, unless the breach is capable of being, and is, cured within thirty days following written notice of the breach to the party committing the breach (provided that the terminating party has not breached any representation, warranty, covenant or agreement that would result in the conditions to closing not being satisfied); or

if the Cowen stockholders fail to approve and adopt the transaction agreement at the special meeting convened for purposes of approving and adopting the transaction agreement.

Table of Contents

In addition, Ramius may terminate the transaction agreement in the following circumstances:

Cowen's Board of Directors fails to recommend the approval and adoption of the transaction agreement by the Cowen stockholders, or if the Board of Directors changes its recommendation, or resolves to do either of these things;

Cowen fails to call a stockholders' meeting to vote on the approval and adoption of the transaction agreement; or

Cowen materially breaches its obligations with respect to soliciting, discussing or agreeing to Alternative Proposals.

If the transaction agreement is terminated, it will become void, and there will be no liability on the part of Cowen or Ramius, except that termination will not relieve a breaching party from liability for any fraud or willful breach and the confidentiality agreement between the parties and other customary provisions will survive termination. In addition, if the transaction agreement is terminated, a termination fee is payable under certain circumstances as set forth below.

Termination Fee

The transaction agreement contains provisions requiring Cowen to pay to Ramius a termination fee of \$3.5 million and/or expenses of Ramius of up to \$750,000 in the event the transaction agreement is terminated under the following circumstances:

if Ramius terminates the transaction agreement because the Cowen Board of Directors withdrew, modified or qualified its recommendation of the transactions to the Cowen stockholders (or failed to recommend the transactions entirely), or if Cowen failed to call the stockholder meeting or materially breached its no-solicitation obligations, Cowen must pay Ramius the termination fee and Ramius's expenses;

if Cowen or Ramius terminates the transaction agreement because the Cowen stockholders did not approve the transactions, then Cowen must pay one-half of Ramius's expenses; and, if at any time after signing of the transaction agreement and before the Cowen stockholder meeting was held, an Alternative Proposal for more than 50% of the assets or stock of Cowen was announced, and within twelve months of termination of the transaction agreement, Cowen executes definitive agreements with respect to any Alternative Transaction, Cowen must pay Ramius the termination fee and the other one-half of Ramius's expenses; and

if Cowen or Ramius terminates the transaction agreement because the completion of the transactions has not occurred by December 31, 2009, and, at any time after signing of the transaction agreement and before the Cowen stockholder meeting was held, an Alternative Proposal for more than 50% of the assets or stock of Cowen was announced, then Cowen must pay Ramius's expenses, and if, within twelve months after the termination of the transaction agreement, Cowen executes definitive agreements with respect to any Alternative Transaction, Cowen must also pay Ramius the termination fee.

Schedules and Exhibits to the Transaction Agreement

Various schedules and exhibits to the transaction agreement have not been filed with the SEC. A description of these schedules and exhibits can be found in the transaction agreement, which is attached as Appendix A hereto. Any schedules omitted to be filed with the SEC will be supplementally furnished to the SEC upon the SEC's request.

Table of Contents

OTHER AGREEMENTS RELATED TO THE TRANSACTIONS

The following summary describes the material provisions of the asset exchange agreement, the registration rights agreement, the amendments to the investment agreements between Ramius and affiliates of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., a third party investor in Ramius, and the voting agreement between Ramius and certain employee stockholders of Cowen, which have been entered into in connection with the transactions. A copy of the asset exchange agreement is attached as Appendix B, and is incorporated by reference into this document.

Asset Exchange Agreement

Concurrently with the execution of the transaction agreement, Ramius, Cowen, New Parent, Merger Sub, HVB (an affiliate of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.) and HVB AG (an affiliate of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.) entered into the asset exchange agreement. Under the terms of the asset exchange agreement and subject to the terms and conditions contained in the asset exchange agreement, Merger Sub will purchase from HVB the 50% interest in the Ramius fund of funds business that HVB owns in exchange for (i) 2,713,882 shares of New Parent Class A common stock, subject to certain adjustments, and (ii) approximately \$10.4 million of additional consideration, which may be paid either in cash or debt as more fully described below. We refer to this transaction as the fund of funds asset exchange. The remaining 50% interest in the Ramius fund of funds business currently owned by Ramius will be transferred to Exchange Sub under the terms of the transaction agreement.

New Parent Class A Common Stock and Debt Consideration

As part of the consideration to be paid to HVB under the terms of the asset exchange agreement, New Parent, on behalf of Merger Sub, will deliver to HVB at the closing of the fund of funds asset exchange a promissory note in principal amount equal to approximately \$10.4 million, subject to adjustment as more fully described below. However, if New Parent enters into a \$25 million secured revolving credit facility with HVB AG at or immediately prior to the closing of the fund of funds asset exchange, New Parent will instead borrow approximately \$10.4 million under this secured revolving credit facility and pay such amount in cash to HVB.

As part of the consideration to be paid to HVB under the terms of the asset exchange agreement, New Parent, on behalf of Merger Sub, will issue 2,713,882 shares of New Parent Class A common stock to HVB (which we refer to as the HVB Shares) at the closing of the fund of funds asset exchange. If the HVB Shares would exceed 4.9% of the issued and outstanding shares of New Parent Class A common stock immediately following the closing of the fund of funds asset exchange, (i) the number of HVB Shares will be reduced so as to equal 4.9% of the issued and outstanding shares of New Parent Class A common stock and (ii) the principal amount of the promissory note to be issued to HVB (or, alternatively, the amount to be borrowed under the \$25 million secured revolving credit facility and paid in cash to HVB) will be increased by \$8.6555 for every share deducted from the HVB Shares.

Representations and Warranties of the Parties

The representations and warranties of each of the parties to the asset exchange agreement (including Cowen and Ramius) have been made solely for the benefit of the other parties to the asset exchange agreement. The assertions embodied in these representations and warranties may have been made as of specific dates and may be qualified by information in the confidential disclosure schedules that the parties have exchanged in connection with the signing of the asset exchange agreement. Disclosure schedules may contain information that modifies, qualifies and creates exceptions to the representations and warranties set forth in the transaction agreement. Moreover, certain representations and warranties in the asset exchange agreement were used for the purpose of allocating risk between the parties to the transaction agreement. Accordingly, you should not rely on the

Table of Contents

representations and warranties in the asset exchange agreement as characterizations of the actual state of facts about any of the parties to the asset exchange agreement.

Each of Ramius, HVB and New Parent has made a number of representations and warranties to each other party in the asset exchange agreement, including representations and warranties relating to the following matters:

corporate organization, qualifications to do business and corporate standing;

corporate authority to enter into the asset exchange agreement and the ancillary agreements thereto and to complete the fund of funds asset exchange;

absence of any conflict or violation of their respective organizational documents or any applicable legal requirements, as a result of entering into and carrying out the obligations contained in the asset exchange agreement; and

required approvals and consents with respect to the fund of funds asset exchange.

HVB has also made representations and warranties relating to its good and marketable title to its interest in the Ramius fund of funds business.

New Parent has also made representations and warranties relating to its capitalization and the due authorization and valid issuance of the HVB Shares.

Conditions to the Obligations of the Parties

Each party's obligation to complete the fund of funds asset exchange is subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the following conditions:

the completion of the transactions under the transaction agreement, including the asset exchange between Ramius and Exchange Sub; and

the absence of any order, injunction or decree issued by any court or agency of competent jurisdiction or other law preventing or making illegal the completion of the fund of funds asset exchange.

HVB's obligation to complete the fund of funds asset exchange is further subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the following conditions:

the representations and warranties of Ramius are accurate, subject to the materiality standard in the asset exchange agreement;

each of Ramius, New Parent, Merger Sub and Cowen must have performed and complied with, in all material respects, all of their respective covenants and obligations under the asset exchange agreement;

the HVB Shares must have been authorized for listing on NASDAQ, subject to official notice of issuance; and

if the \$25 million secured revolving credit facility has not been entered into by HVB AG and New Parent, the \$10.4 million promissory note and the related security agreement must have been executed by New Parent and its subsidiaries, as

applicable.

The obligations of Ramius, New Parent and Merger Sub to complete the fund of funds asset exchange is further subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the following conditions:

the representations and warranties of HVB are accurate, subject to the materiality standard in the asset exchange agreement;

Table of Contents

HVB and HVB AG must have performed and complied with, in all material respects, all of their respective covenants and obligations under the asset exchange agreement; and

certain agreements (including the \$10.4 million promissory note and related security agreement, if applicable) between HVB and certain of its affiliates, on the one hand, and Ramius and New Parent and certain of their respective affiliates, on the other hand, must be in full force and effect.

Designee to the New Parent Board of Directors

Under the terms of the asset exchange agreement, so long as HVB and its affiliates beneficially own at least 4.9% of the common stock of New Parent (including shares held by Ramius that are attributable to BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.), BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., a third party investor in Ramius and an affiliate of HVB, will have the right to nominate one director to the board of directors of New Parent, and New Parent will include such designee on the slate of nominees proposed by New Parent in connection with any vote to elect the board of directors of New Parent. To the extent legally permitted, the designee will also have the right to serve on committees of the board of directors of New Parent. For so long as a designee of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. serves as a director of New Parent, HVB and its affiliates will only transfer the HVB Shares in accordance with New Parent's insider trading policy.

Restrictions on Transfer

Under the terms of the asset exchange agreement, HVB has agreed to transfer restrictions with respect to the HVB Shares. Following the closing of the fund of funds asset exchange for a period of six months as described below, HVB will not transfer any of the HVB Shares other than (i) to wholly owned affiliates, (ii) to the extent necessary to prevent HVB from being in violation of federal, state or foreign banking laws, including the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended, or (iii) in non-market private sales to third party investors, so long as, without the consent of the Ramius, no such private sale, individually or in the aggregate, results in any third party investor beneficially owning in excess of 10% of the outstanding shares of New Parent Class A common stock.

Following the six-month anniversary of the closing of the fund of funds asset exchange, HVB will be allowed to freely transfer the HVB Shares to the extent that HVB, together with its affiliates (including BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.) and permitted transferees, continue to beneficially own 50% of the aggregate number of shares of New Parent common stock that HVB and its affiliates beneficially owned at the closing of the fund of funds asset exchange, including shares beneficially owned indirectly through Ramius.

In addition, these transfer restrictions will terminate following the second anniversary of the closing of the fund of funds asset exchange or after the occurrence of any of the following events:

a material breach by Ramius of certain agreements between Ramius and HVB and certain of its affiliates, which is not cured within ten days of receipt of notice by Ramius;

the failure of Ramius to vote all of its shares of New Parent Class A common stock in favor of the election to the board of directors of New Parent of a designee of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., so long as BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. is entitled to designate a nominee as discussed above;

if the managing member of Ramius ceases to be controlled by at least two of Peter A. Cohen, Morgan B. Stark, Thomas W. Strauss and Jeffrey M. Solomon; or

any merger, consolidation, tender offer or any other transaction resulting in the stockholders of New Parent immediately before such transaction owning less than a majority of the aggregate voting power of the resultant entity or any sale of all or substantially all of the assets of New Parent.

Table of Contents

Expenses

Under the terms of the asset exchange agreement, Ramius has agreed to reimburse an affiliate of HVB for up to \$650,000 of its fees and expenses incurred in connection with the fund of funds asset exchange and its evaluation of the related transactions.

Registration Rights Agreement

In connection with the transactions, BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., HVB AG and HVB (each of which is a subsidiary of UniCredit Group and which we refer to collectively as the HVB Parties), Ramius and New Parent have agreed to enter into a registration rights agreement at the closing of the transactions, which will set forth certain rights of the HVB Parties and Ramius and its members with respect to their shares of New Parent common stock (including, with respect to BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., shares held by Ramius that are attributable to BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.).

Registration Statements

Under the terms of the registration rights agreement, so long as New Parent is not eligible to use Form S-3 to register shares of its common stock, the HVB Parties (or Ramius, acting on their behalf and at their direction) will be entitled to demand that New Parent prepare and file a registration statement on Form S-1 with respect to any shares of New Parent Class A common stock held or acquired (including directly or indirectly through Ramius) by the HVB Parties, Ramius or the members of Ramius or any permitted transferee of an HVB Party and any stock of New Parent issued as a dividend or other distribution with respect to such shares of New Parent Class A common stock (which we refer to collectively as the registrable securities). Upon such demand, New Parent will use its reasonable best efforts to cause such registration statement to be declared effective, provided, that the registration statement will not be required to become effective prior to one day after the six-month anniversary of the closing of the transactions.

New Parent will also use its reasonable best efforts to qualify and maintain its eligibility to use Form S-3 for secondary sales by the HVB Parties, Ramius and the members of Ramius (including BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.) as soon as practicable following the execution of the registration rights agreement. Once New Parent is eligible to use Form S-3, it will file an automatic registration statement on Form S-3 and use its reasonable best efforts to effect and maintain the registration of all shares of registrable securities on Form S-3 and for so long as Ramius or an HVB Party holds registrable securities, subject to certain limitations.

Underwritten Offerings

New Parent will also cooperate with the HVB Parties in a distribution of registrable securities in an underwritten offering, subject to customary market cutback restrictions under which the HVB Parties will receive priority over other holders of registrable securities. New Parent will be obligated to pay all registration expenses (including the fees and expenses of one counsel for the holders of registrable securities participating in any offering) incurred in connection with the registration rights agreement other than underwriting discounts and selling commissions applicable to sales of registrable securities. Under the terms of the registration rights agreement, the HVB Parties may demand a total of six underwritten offerings and may require New Parent to support three such offerings, including by causing senior executives of New Parent to participate in marketing efforts with respect to such offerings, including customary "road shows."

If New Parent gives notice of a registered public offering of its Class A common stock involving an underwriting for its own account or for the account of the HVB Parties, New Parent will notify the holders of registrable securities of such offering and the holders of registrable securities may participate in such offering, subject to customary market cutback restrictions under which the HVB Parties will receive priority over other holders of registrable securities and New Parent.

Table of Contents

Additional Rights and Obligations

Subject to the limitations contained in the registration rights agreement, New Parent will be permitted to postpone a filing of a registration statement, and sales of registrable securities will be suspended, for a period that does not exceed sixty days, and not to exceed 120 days in any twelve-month period, if an event has occurred as a result of which any registration statement or prospectus would, in New Parent's reasonable judgment based on advice of outside counsel, contain an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading, or if New Parent notifies the holders of registrable securities that such actions would, in the good faith judgment of outside counsel, require the disclosure of material non-public information which New Parent has a bona fide business purpose for preserving as confidential and which New Parent would not otherwise be required to disclose.

The registration rights agreement will require New Parent to indemnify each holder of registrable securities against certain losses that may be suffered by such holders in connection with registrations made pursuant to the registration rights agreement. Furthermore, each holder whose registrable securities are included in a registration statement agrees to indemnify New Parent and each other holder of registrable securities to the extent that any losses result from information furnished in writing by that holder expressly for use in a registration statement.

Amendment to Investment Agreement with Ramius

In connection with the transactions, Ramius and Alpine Cayman Islands Limited, an affiliate of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., amended the investment agreement with respect to Alpine Cayman Islands Limited's investment in certain Ramius funds. Alpine Cayman Islands Limited has agreed that until September 30, 2010, it will not withdraw a portion of its investment if as a consequence of such withdrawal, the value of its investment would be less than \$250 million, subject to specified exceptions. Beginning on September 30, 2010 and on each subsequent calendar quarter end date, there is no restriction on withdrawing a portion of the investment equal to at least \$40 million from the Ramius funds plus any additional amounts that are permitted to be withdrawn from such investment on such date as is specified in the amendment to the investment agreement.

Notwithstanding the limitations described above, Alpine Cayman Islands Limited may also reduce its investments if:

following the closing of the transactions, the value of its investment in the Ramius funds and the amount of assets under management in the Ramius funds attributable to third party investors other than Alpine Cayman Islands Limited and its affiliates fall below certain levels;

if Ramius ceases to be controlled by at least two of Peter A. Cohen, Morgan B. Stark, Thomas W. Strauss and Jeffrey M. Solomon;

any merger, consolidation, tender offer or any other transaction resulting in the stockholders of New Parent immediately before such transaction owning less than a majority of the aggregate voting power of the resultant entity or any sale of all or substantially all of the assets of New Parent;

the Ramius funds are no longer managed by New Parent or one of its subsidiaries; or

certain individuals, or Ramius, directly or indirectly, on behalf of these individuals, dispose of shares of New Parent common stock other than as permitted by certain provisions of Ramius's organizational documents.

In addition, if the Ramius funds in which Alpine Cayman Islands Limited is invested suspend or otherwise restrict withdrawals from the funds, Alpine Cayman Islands Limited would be entitled to withdraw a portion of its investment in such funds on a pro rata basis with third party investors in these funds.

Table of Contents

Amendment to Investment Agreement with Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC

In connection with the transactions, Ramius and HVB AG, an affiliate of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., amended the investment agreement with respect to an investment in certain funds of Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC. It has been agreed that until September 30, 2010, a portion of this investment may not be withdrawn if after such withdrawal, the value of the investment would be less than \$350 million, subject to specified exceptions. Beginning on September 30, 2010 and on each subsequent calendar quarter end date, there is no restriction on withdrawing a portion of the investment equal to at least \$60 million from the funds of Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC plus any additional amounts that are permitted to be withdrawn from such investment on such date as is specified in the amendment to the investment agreement.

Notwithstanding the limitations described above, the investment in the Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC may be reduced if:

following the closing of the transactions, the value of the investment in the funds of Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC falls below a certain level;

if Ramius ceases to be controlled by at least two of Peter A. Cohen, Morgan B. Stark, Thomas W. Strauss and Jeffrey M. Solomon;

any merger, consolidation, tender offer or any other transaction resulting in the stockholders of New Parent immediately before such transaction owning less than a majority of the aggregate voting power of the resultant entity or any sale of all or substantially all of the assets of New Parent;

the funds of Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC are no longer managed by New Parent or one of its subsidiaries; or

certain individuals, or Ramius, directly or indirectly, on behalf of these individuals, dispose of shares of New Parent common stock other than as permitted by certain provisions of Ramius's organizational documents.

Voting Agreement

Concurrently with the execution of the transaction agreement, on June 3, 2009, Ramius entered into a voting agreement with the following stockholders of Cowen:

David M. Malcolm, Cowen's President and Chief Executive Officer;

Thomas K. Conner, Cowen's Chief Financial Officer;

J. Kevin McCarthy, Cowen's General Counsel;

Donald Meltzer, Head of Investment Banking at Cowen and Company, LLC;

John F. O'Donoghue, Head of Equities at Cowen and Company, LLC;

Barry J. Tarasoff, Head of Equity Research at Cowen and Company, LLC; and

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

Christopher A. White, Cowen's Vice President.

Messrs. Conner, Malcolm, McCarthy, Meltzer, O'Donoghue, Tarasoff and White are referred to individually as a management stockholder and collectively as the management stockholders. As of the date of the voting agreement, the management stockholders held in the aggregate 1,086,510 shares of Cowen common stock, or approximately 6.78% of the outstanding Cowen common stock entitled to vote at the Cowen special meeting.

Table of Contents

Agreement to Vote

The management stockholders have agreed that they will, between the execution of the voting agreement and the earlier of completion of the transactions and termination of the transaction agreement:

vote to approve the transaction agreement and the transactions contemplated in the transaction agreement at any meeting of the stockholders, in any action by written consent of the stockholders, or in any other circumstances where Cowen is seeking stockholder approval;

vote against any Alternative Transaction relating to Cowen; and

irrevocably grant Ramius and its designees a proxy to vote the shares of management stockholders, or to execute written consents or approvals in respect to the shares of management stockholders, to vote as directed in the above two bullets.

Transfer Restrictions

The management stockholders have also agreed to restrictions on the transfer of shares of Cowen common stock beneficially owned by the management stockholders as of the date of the voting agreement, and all additional shares of Cowen common stock acquired directly or beneficially by the management stockholders prior to the termination of the voting agreement. Except as specifically contemplated by the voting agreement, the management stockholders will not, to the extent that it prevents or impairs the performance of their obligations under the voting agreement:

sell, transfer, tender, assign, hypothecate or otherwise dispose of their shares (or agree to sell, transfer, tender, assign, hypothecate or otherwise dispose of their shares);

grant any proxy with respect to any of their shares;

enter into any voting trust or voting trust agreement with respect to any of their shares; or

permit to exist any additional security interest, lien, claim, pledge, option, right of first refusal, limitation on voting rights, charge or other encumbrance of any nature with respect to their shares.

These restrictions do not apply to transfers of shares by will or by operation of law, in which the transferee is bound by the terms of the voting agreement, or transfers in connection with estate and tax planning purposes, subject to the transferee agreeing in writing to be bound by the terms of the voting agreement.

The number of each management stockholder's shares subject to the voting agreement will be adjusted as appropriate in the event of any stock split, dividend, merger, reorganization, recapitalization or other change in capital structure of Cowen.

The voting agreement will automatically terminate when the transactions are completed or if the transaction agreement is terminated.

Transfer Restrictions on Shares of New Parent Common Stock Held by Ramius

Following the consummation of the transactions, the capital of Ramius's members in Ramius will consist primarily of shares of New Parent Class A common stock. Under Ramius's operating agreement (as it will be amended and restated at the closing of the transactions), the members of Ramius generally will not be entitled to receive any distributions of New Parent Class A common stock or other capital from Ramius, and Ramius's managing member has agreed in Ramius's operating agreement not to make any distributions of New Parent Class A common stock or other capital to these members (except for, in certain circumstances, distributions of any dividends on the shares of New Parent Class A common

stock held by Ramius and tax distributions) for specified periods of time. Following the distribution of New Parent Class A common stock to the members of Ramius in accordance with the lock-up provisions described below, such shares will be freely tradeable (subject to any applicable

Table of Contents

restrictions on transfers by affiliates). These lock-up provisions may be waived by the managing member in accordance with the terms of Ramius's operating agreement.

The minimum lock-up which is applicable to certain Ramius members provides that they may withdraw one-third of their capital in Ramius as of the end of each calendar year beginning on December 31, 2009. It is anticipated that approximately 1,934,661 shares of New Parent Class A common stock, in the aggregate, will underlie the capital that these members hold in Ramius at the closing of the transactions. In connection with a withdrawal of capital by these members of Ramius, Ramius will sell shares of New Parent common stock attributable to these members on or prior to the effectiveness of such withdrawal and will use the net proceeds of such sales to satisfy the withdrawal requests of these members in cash.

A second group of Ramius members have agreed in Ramius's operating agreement to further lock-up their capital so that they may only withdraw one-third of their capital upon each of the first, second and third anniversaries of the closing of the transactions. It is anticipated that approximately 16,708,480 shares of New Parent Class A common stock, in the aggregate, will underlie the capital that these members hold in Ramius at the closing of the transactions. Upon the withdrawal of capital by these members of Ramius, Ramius will distribute to the members the shares of New Parent common stock underlying the withdrawn capital.

Furthermore, certain Ramius members who are also principals of Ramius (some of whom are also members of Ramius's managing member and some of whom will be officers of New Parent following the closing of the transactions) have further agreed in Ramius's operating agreement not to withdraw any of their capital from Ramius (except for, in certain circumstances, distributions of any dividends on the shares of Class A common stock of New Parent held by Ramius and certain tax distributions) until the 30-month anniversary of the closing of the transactions, at which time such members would be allowed to withdraw half of their capital in Ramius. Upon the 36-month anniversary of the closing of the transactions, these individuals would be able to withdraw all of their remaining capital from Ramius. It is anticipated that approximately 9,659,592 shares of New Parent's Class A common stock, in the aggregate, will underlie the capital that these members hold in Ramius at the closing of the transactions. If, however, at any time BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. (a third party investor in Ramius) and its affiliates beneficially own less than 4.9% of the then-outstanding shares of common stock of New Parent (including shares held by Ramius that are attributable to BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.), the managing member of Ramius may elect to make distributions of capital to these principals of Ramius in accordance with the schedule set forth in the immediately preceding paragraph. If Ramius's managing member elects to make such accelerated distributions, Alpine Cayman Islands Limited (an affiliate of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.) and HVB AG may, subject to certain exceptions, reduce their respective investments in certain Ramius funds and certain funds of Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC below the agreed upon levels described in more detail in the sections titled "Other Agreements Related to the Transactions Amendment to Investment Agreement with Ramius" and "Other Agreements Related to the Transactions Amendment to Investment Agreement with Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC" respectively, beginning on pages 110 and 111. Upon the withdrawal of capital by these members of Ramius, Ramius will distribute to the members the shares of New Parent common stock underlying the withdrawn capital.

Withdrawals of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.'s capital in Ramius are subject to restrictions and limitations substantially similar to the restrictions and limitations to which the HVB shares are subject. Such restrictions and limitations are described in more detail in the section titled "Other Agreements Related to the Transactions Asset Exchange Agreement Restrictions on Transfer" beginning on page 108. Upon consummation of the transactions, approximately 8.5 million shares of New Parent Common Stock will be allocated to BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. in respect of its ownership in Ramius. In connection with a withdrawal of capital by BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., at the option of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., Ramius will either (1) sell the shares of New Parent common stock underlying the withdrawn capital and distribute the proceeds to BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. in cash or (2) distribute to BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. the shares of New Parent common stock underlying the withdrawn capital.

Table of Contents

ACCOUNTING TREATMENT

The business combination will be accounted for as an "acquisition" by Ramius of Cowen, as that term is used under generally accepted accounting principles in the U.S., for accounting and financial reporting purposes. In identifying Ramius as the acquiring entity, Cowen and Ramius took into account the relative outstanding share ownership, the composition of the governing body of New Parent and the designation of certain senior management positions. As a result, the historical financial statements of Ramius will become the historical financial statements of New Parent. The assets (including identifiable intangible assets) and liabilities (including executory contracts and other commitments) of Cowen will be recorded at their respective fair values and added to those of Ramius. Any excess of purchase price over the net fair values of Cowen assets and liabilities is recorded as goodwill (excess purchase price). Excess of fair value of Cowen's net assets over the purchase price, if any, will be recorded as a gain in earnings on the date the transactions are completed. The financial statements of New Parent issued after the transactions will reflect such fair values and will not be restated retroactively to reflect the historical financial position or results of operations of Cowen. The results of operations of Cowen will be included in the results of operations of New Parent following the completion of the transactions.

Table of Contents

MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THE COWEN MERGER

The following general discussion sets forth the anticipated material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the Cowen merger to U.S. holders (as defined below) of Cowen common stock that exchange their shares of Cowen common stock for shares of New Parent Class A common stock in the Cowen merger. This discussion does not address any tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local or foreign jurisdiction, or under any U.S. federal laws other than those pertaining to income tax. This discussion is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (which we refer to as the Code), the regulations promulgated under the Code and court and administrative rulings and decisions, all as in effect on the date of this document. These laws may change, possibly retroactively, and any change could affect the accuracy of the statements and conclusions set forth in this discussion.

This discussion addresses only those holders of Cowen common stock that hold their shares of Cowen common stock as a capital asset within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code. Further, this discussion does not address all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be relevant to you in light of your particular circumstances or that may be applicable to you if you are subject to special treatment under the U.S. federal income tax laws, including if you are:

a financial institution;

a tax-exempt organization;

an S corporation or other pass-through entity (or an investor in an S corporation or other pass-through entity);

an insurance company;

a mutual fund;

a dealer or broker in stocks and securities, or currencies;

a trader in securities that elects mark-to-market treatment;

a holder of Cowen common stock subject to the alternative minimum tax provisions of the Code;

a holder of Cowen common stock that received Cowen common stock through the exercise of an employee stock option, through a tax qualified retirement plan or otherwise as compensation;

a person that is not a U.S. holder (as defined below);

a person that has a functional currency other than the U.S. dollar;

a holder of Cowen common stock that holds Cowen common stock as part of a hedge, straddle, constructive sale, conversion or other integrated transaction; or

a U.S. expatriate.

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

Determining the actual tax consequences of the transactions to you may be complex. They will depend on your specific situation and on factors that are not within our control. You should consult with your own tax advisor as to the tax consequences of the transactions in your particular circumstances, including the applicability and effect of the alternative minimum tax and any state, local, foreign or other tax laws and of changes in those laws.

For purposes of this discussion, the term "U.S. holder" means a beneficial owner of Cowen common stock that is for U.S. federal income tax purposes (i) an individual citizen or resident of the United States, (ii) a corporation, or entity treated as a corporation, organized in or under the laws of the United States or any state thereof or the District of Columbia, (iii) a trust if (a) a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (b) such trust has made a valid election to be treated as a U.S. person for U.S. federal income tax purposes or

Table of Contents

(iv) an estate, the income of which is includible in gross income for U.S. federal income tax purposes regardless of its source.

The U.S. federal income tax consequences to a partner in an entity or arrangement treated as a partnership, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, that holds Cowen common stock generally will depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Partners in a partnership holding Cowen common stock should consult their own tax advisors.

Tax Consequences of the Cowen Merger Generally

The parties intend for the Cowen merger to be treated as a reorganization for U.S. federal income tax purposes. It is a condition to Cowen's obligation to complete the Cowen merger that Cowen receive an opinion from Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, dated the closing date of the transactions, substantially to the effect that the Cowen merger will qualify as a "reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code. The opinion will be based on officer's certificates provided by New Parent and Cowen and on customary factual assumptions. The opinion described above will not be binding on the Internal Revenue Service. New Parent and Cowen have not sought and will not seek any ruling from the Internal Revenue Service regarding any matters relating to the Cowen merger, and as a result, there can be no assurance that the Internal Revenue Service will not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position contrary to any of the conclusions set forth below. In addition, if any of the representations or assumptions on which the opinion is based are inconsistent with the actual facts, the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the Cowen merger could be adversely affected. The remainder of this discussion assumes that the Cowen merger will qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code.

As a result of the foregoing, upon exchange of your Cowen common stock for New Parent Class A common stock, you generally will not recognize gain or loss. The aggregate tax basis in the shares of New Parent Class A common stock that you receive in the Cowen merger will equal your aggregate adjusted tax basis in the Cowen common stock you surrender. Your holding period for the shares of New Parent Class A common stock that you receive in the Cowen merger will include your holding period for the shares of Cowen common stock that you surrender. If you acquired different blocks of Cowen common stock at different times or at different prices, the New Parent Class A common stock you receive will be allocated pro rata to each block of Cowen common stock, and the basis and holding period of each block of New Parent Class A common stock you receive will be determined on a block-for-block basis depending on the basis and holding period of the blocks of Cowen common stock exchanged for such block of New Parent Class A common stock.

Backup Withholding

If you are a non-corporate holder of Cowen common stock, you may be subject to information reporting and backup withholding (currently at a rate of 28%) on any cash payments you receive. You generally will not be subject to backup withholding, however, if you:

furnish a correct taxpayer identification number, certify that you are not subject to backup withholding on the Internal Revenue Service Form W-9 or successor form included in the election form/letter of transmittal you will receive and otherwise comply with all the applicable requirements of the backup withholding rules; or

provide proof that you are otherwise exempt from backup withholding.

Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules will generally be allowed as a refund or credit against your U.S. federal income tax liability, provided you timely furnish the required information to the Internal Revenue Service.

Table of Contents**BOARD AND MANAGEMENT OF NEW PARENT**

This section describes the material board and management arrangements that apply to New Parent.

Interim Board of Directors

The board of directors of New Parent currently consists of four directors, as provided for in the current certificate of incorporation and by-laws of New Parent which are to govern New Parent in the interim period prior to completion of the transactions. The directors of New Parent during this interim period are Peter A. Cohen, J. Kevin McCarthy, Jeffrey M. Solomon and Christopher A. White. Any corporate actions to be taken by New Parent during the interim period must be approved by at least one of Messrs. Cohen and Solomon and at least one of Messrs. McCarthy and White. Their biographical information is set forth below:

Name	Age	Business Experience, Public Company Directorships Held
Peter A. Cohen	63	Mr. Cohen is a founding principal of Ramius and after completion of the transactions, will serve as Chairman of New Parent's Board of Directors and as Chief Executive Officer of New Parent. The principal business address of Mr. Cohen is c/o Ramius LLC, 599 Lexington Avenue, 20th Floor, New York, New York 10022. See the section below titled "Board and Management of New Parent Post-Closing Board of Directors" beginning on page 118 for Mr. Cohen's biographical information.
J. Kevin McCarthy	44	Mr. McCarthy currently serves as General Counsel of Cowen Group, Inc. and has held this position since December 2006 and is a member of the Office of the Chief Executive. Mr. McCarthy is also the General Counsel of Cowen and Company, LLC. From 2004 until he joined Cowen in December 2006, Mr. McCarthy was a partner at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP in New York. From 1996 to 2004, Mr. McCarthy was with Credit Suisse First Boston, where he served in a variety of capacities, most recently as Managing Director and Global Head of Litigation. He began his legal career at Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP in 1990. The principal business address of Mr. McCarthy is c/o Cowen Group, Inc., 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10020.
Jeffrey M. Solomon	43	Mr. Solomon is a Managing Member of Ramius and a member of Ramius's Executive Committee and Management Board. Mr. Solomon joined Ramius when it was founded in 1994. From 1991 to 1994, Mr. Solomon was at Republic New York Securities Corporation, the brokerage affiliate of Republic National Bank (now part of the HSBC Group), where he served as Chief Administrative Officer, Head of Corporate Development and Strategic Planning. Prior to joining Republic, Mr. Solomon was in the Mergers and Acquisitions Group at Shearson Lehman Brothers. Currently, Mr. Solomon serves on the Boards of Directors of Hale & Hearty Soups, NuGo Nutrition and Tollgrade Communications, Inc. Mr. Solomon also serves on the Technical Advisory Group of the Committee on Capital Markets Regulation. The principal business address of Mr. Solomon is c/o Ramius LLC, 599 Lexington Avenue, 20th Floor, New York, New York 10022. By virtue of his positions with Ramius, Mr. Solomon may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of the common stock beneficially owned by Ramius.

Table of Contents

Name	Age	Business Experience, Public Company Directorships Held
Christopher A White	44	Mr. White currently serves as Vice President of Cowen Group, Inc., and after completion of the transactions, will serve as the Chief Financial Officer of New Parent. The principal business address of Mr. White is c/o Cowen Group, Inc., 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10020. See the section below titled "Board and Management of New Parent Executive Management" beginning on page 122 for Mr. White's biographical information.

Post-Closing Board of Directors

After completion of the transactions, it is expected that the board of directors of New Parent will consist of ten directors. Four directors will be appointed by Cowen and six directors will be appointed by Ramius (one of which Ramius has agreed pursuant to the asset exchange agreement will be appointed by BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., a third party investor in Ramius). Cowen and Ramius currently anticipate that the following individuals will serve on the initial board of directors of New Parent when the transactions are completed:

Name	Age	Business Experience, Public Company Directorships Held
Peter A. Cohen	63	Mr. Cohen will serve as Chairman of New Parent's Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer of New Parent following the closing of the transactions. Mr. Cohen is a founding principal of Ramius. From November 1992 to May 1994, Mr. Cohen was Vice Chairman and a director of Republic New York Corporation, as well as a member of its executive management committee. Mr. Cohen was also Chairman of Republic's subsidiary, Republic New York Securities Corporation. Mr. Cohen was Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Shearson Lehman Brothers from 1983 to 1990. Over his career, Mr. Cohen has served on a number of corporate, industry and philanthropic boards, including the New York Stock Exchange, The Federal Reserve International Capital Markets Advisory Committee, The Depository Trust Company, The American Express Company, Olivetti SpA, Telecom Italia SpA, Kroll, Inc. and L-3 Communications. He is presently a Trustee of Mount Sinai Medical Center and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Scientific Games Corporation.
Jules B. Kroll	68	Mr. Kroll will serve as a director of New Parent following the closing of the transactions. Mr. Kroll is Chairman of the Board of John Jay College Foundation. Since 2008, Mr. Kroll has been the President of JEMKroll Group, a family consultancy. Mr. Kroll has also been a member of the advisory board of Metalmark Capital Partners, a private equity firm, since 2007. Mr. Kroll founded Kroll Inc. in 1972, where he served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer until its acquisition by Marsh & McLennan Company in 2004. Following the acquisition of Kroll Inc., Mr. Kroll served as the Vice Chairman of Marsh Inc. and as a member of Marsh McLennan International Advisory Board until his retirement from those positions in 2008. Mr. Kroll is a former Chairman of the Board of the Georgetown Law Center.

Table of Contents

Name	Age	Business Experience, Public Company Directorships Held
David M. Malcolm	62	Mr. Malcolm will serve as a director of New Parent and as Chief Executive Officer and President of New Parent's broker-dealer subsidiary following the closing of the transactions. Mr. Malcolm is currently President and Chief Executive Officer of Cowen and has been serving in this position since March 4, 2008. Mr. Malcolm has also served as Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of Cowen and Company, LLC since March 4, 2008. Mr. Malcolm previously served as Cowen's Executive Vice Chairman from October 2006. From 2001 through 2006, Mr. Malcolm served as Head of Investment Banking. He joined Cowen in 2000 as Chairman of the Executive Committee from Société Générale, where he served as Head of Leveraged Finance. Prior to joining Société Générale in 1996, Mr. Malcolm was a Senior Managing Director at Bear Stearns. Mr. Malcolm also served as a Managing Partner of Anthem Partners, L.P., an advisory investment banking boutique. Prior to that, Mr. Malcolm was a Managing Director of The First Boston Corporation, where he founded and ran the High Yield Finance Group.
Jerome S. Markowitz	69	Mr. Markowitz will serve as a director of New Parent following the closing of the transactions. Mr. Markowitz has been a Senior Partner at Conifer Securities LLC, a boutique servicing the operational needs of investment managers, since 2006. From 1998 to 2006, Mr. Markowitz was actively involved in managing a private investment portfolio. Prior to 1998, Mr. Markowitz was Managing Director and a member of the executive committee at Montgomery Securities and was responsible for starting their private client, high yield, equity derivatives and prime brokerage divisions. Prior to joining Montgomery, Mr. Markowitz was a Managing Director of L.F. Rothschild's Institutional Equity Department. Mr. Markowitz is a director and serves on the audit committee of Market Access Inc., and also formerly served on the advisory board of Thomas Weisel Partners Group, Inc.
Jack H. Nusbaum	68	Mr. Nusbaum will serve as a director of New Parent following the closing of the transactions. Mr. Nusbaum is Chairman of the New York law firm of Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP and has been a partner in that firm for more than thirty years. Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP is outside counsel to Ramius. Mr. Nusbaum is also a director of W. R. Berkley Corporation.
L. Thomas Richards, M.D.	40	Dr. Richards has served as a director of Cowen since September 12, 2006. Dr. Richards is an Emergency Medicine physician who serves on the Clinical Faculty of UCSF Medical Center. Dr. Richards is a 2003 graduate of Harvard Medical School and a graduate of Yale College. Prior to attending medical school in 1999, Dr. Richards was an investment banker in the Mergers & Acquisitions departments of several firms, including Lazard Frères & Co, UBS Securities LLC and Cowen and Company, LLC.

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

Table of Contents

Name	Age	Business Experience, Public Company Directorships Held
Edoardo Spezzotti	56	Mr. Spezzotti will serve as a director of New Parent following the closing of the transactions. Mr. Spezzotti has been with the Unicredit Group since 2006 and is a Senior Executive Vice President, member of the Unicredit Group Management Committee and a member of the Corporate and Investment Banking Executive Committee, responsible for the Corporate and Investment Banking Integration. He held the position of Global Head of Markets & Investment Banking Division until its merger with the Corporate Banking Division in March 2009. Mr. Spezzotti is also Chairman of UniCredit CAIB Poland S.A., Vice Chairman of UniCredit Menkul Degerler A.S., Turkey and a member of the Supervisory Board of ZAO UniCredit Bank, Moscow. Prior to joining the UniCredit Group, Mr. Spezzotti was a managing partner at Esfin LLP, a corporate finance firm founded in 2004, a position he continues to hold. During his extensive career in finance Mr. Spezzotti has worked at Merrill Lynch and at Goldman Sachs in various senior positions for Italy and for the EMEA region and has advised clients on numerous mergers, acquisitions and capital markets transactions.
John E. Toffolon, Jr.	58	Mr. Toffolon will serve as Lead Director of New Parent's Board of Directors following the closing of the transactions. Mr. Toffolon has served as non-Executive Chairman of Cowen since July 2008. Mr. Toffolon previously served as Cowen's Lead Independent Director from June 2007 until his appointment as Chairman, and has been a member of Cowen's Board of Directors and has served as the Chairman of Cowen's Audit Committee since September 2006. Since May 2009, Mr. Toffolon has served as a member of the Board of Directors and as the Chairman of the audit committee of Westway Group, Inc., a leading global provider of bulk liquid storage services. Previously, Mr. Toffolon, in his capacity as a partner of The Shermen Group, served as the Chief Financial Officer and a member of the Board of Directors of Shermen WSC Acquisition Corp. since August 2006 until the business combination with Westway in May 2009. From 2001 to 2003, Mr. Toffolon served as an advisor to the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Royster- Clark, Inc., a privately-held chemicals distribution company. From 1992 to 2000, Mr. Toffolon served in various capacities, including Executive Managing Director, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Administrative Officer for Nomura Holding America, Inc. and Nomura Securities International, Inc. Mr. Toffolon also served as a member of the Boards of Directors of both Nomura companies. From 1979 to 1990, Mr. Toffolon worked at The First Boston Corporation as a Managing Director in various capacities, including Chief Financial Officer and served on the Management and Capital Commitment Committees.

Table of Contents

Name	Age	Business Experience, Public Company Directorships Held
Charles W.B. Wardell, III	64	Mr. Wardell has served as a director of Cowen since July 2006. Mr. Wardell is the Senior Advisor to the CEO and a Senior Client Partner at Korn/Ferry. Korn/Ferry International is an executive search firm with more than 70 offices throughout the world. Mr. Wardell has eight years of service with Korn/Ferry. Prior to joining Korn/Ferry, Mr. Wardell held senior positions at a number of firms, including Nordeman Grimm, American Express, Travelers, Mastercard International and Citicorp. Mr. Wardell also served as Deputy Special Assistant and Staff Assistant to Presidents Nixon and Ford, Administrative Aide to General Alexander Haig and Richard Cheney when they served as President Nixon's and Ford's Chief of Staff, respectively, and was appointed by President Ford as a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State. Mr. Wardell graduated from Harvard College and was honorably discharged as an officer in the Army after distinguished service in Vietnam. Mr. Wardell also serves on the Board of General Employment Enterprises.
Joseph R. Wright	70	Mr. Wright will serve as a director of New Parent following the closing of the transactions. Mr. Wright has served as Chief Executive Officer of Scientific Games Corporation, a supplier of technology-based products, systems and services to gaming markets worldwide, since January 1, 2009 and has served as Vice Chairman of Scientific Games Corporation's Board of Directors since May 1, 2008, of which he has been a member since 2004. From July 2006 through April 2008, he served as Chairman of Intelsat, Ltd., the world's largest provider of satellite services, and as Chief Executive Officer of PanAmSat Corporation from August 2001 until it was combined with Intelsat in July 2006. Mr. Wright was the Chairman of GRC International, Inc. from 1996 to March 2000 and was an Executive Vice President and Vice Chairman of W.R. Grace & Co. from 1989 to 1994. Mr. Wright was a member of President Reagan's Cabinet, was Director and Deputy Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget from 1982 to 1989 and was Deputy Secretary of the Department of Commerce from 1981 to 1982. He received the Distinguished Citizens Award from President Reagan in 1988. Mr. Wright is a director of Terremark Worldwide, Inc. and Federal Signal Corporation.

Director Resignation; Removal; Vacancies

Under the New Parent certificate of incorporation which will govern New Parent after the transactions are completed, a director may resign his office at any time, and any director may be removed from office with or without cause at any time by the affirmative vote of stockholders holding at least a majority of the outstanding shares of New Parent stock entitled to vote in an election of directors, given at a meeting of stockholders at which directors are elected or at a special meeting of the stockholders.

Under the New Parent post-closing certificate of incorporation, vacancies on the New Parent board of directors may be filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors then in office, even if fewer than a quorum, or by a sole remaining director.

Table of Contents**Executive Management**

Cowen and Ramius have agreed that, if and when the transactions are completed, the following persons will hold the officer positions set forth opposite their names:

Name	Age	Office and Business Experience
Peter A. Cohen	63	Mr. Cohen will serve as Chief Executive Officer of New Parent following the closing of the transactions. See the section titled "Board and Management of New Parent Post-Closing Board of Directors" beginning on page 118 for Mr. Cohen's biographical information.
David M. Malcolm	62	Mr. Malcolm will serve as the Chief Executive Officer and President of New Parent's broker-dealer subsidiary. See the section titled "Board and Management of New Parent Post-Closing Board of Directors" beginning on page 118 for Mr. Malcolm's biographical information.
Morgan B. Stark	70	Mr. Stark will serve as Chief Executive Officer and President of New Parent's hedge fund subsidiary and serve as a member of the Executive and Operating Committees of New Parent following the closing of the transactions. Mr. Stark is a founding member of Ramius and currently a member of the firm's Executive Committee. From 1979 to 1988, Mr. Stark held senior management positions at Chemical Bank and in 1989 he became President and CEO of Chemical Securities, Inc., a Section 20 securities subsidiary. From 1993 to 1995, Mr. Stark was a portfolio manager and Managing Director with Granite Capital International Group. Mr. Stark is a former Chairman and member of the United States Treasury Borrowing Advisory Committee of the Bond Market Association. He currently serves as a member of the Investors Advisory Committee on Financial Markets for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. He previously served as President, Vice President and member of the Board of Directors of the Dealer Bank Association. Mr. Stark's philanthropic activities include his positions as a member of the Board of Directors of the Founders Affiliate (Northeast) of the American Heart Association, member of the Investment Committee of the American Heart Association, member of the Board of Directors and Vice President of the Perlman Music Program and Chairman of the Endowment Committee of the Perlman Music Program.

Table of Contents

Name	Age	Office and Business Experience
Thomas W. Strauss	67	Mr. Strauss will remain as Chief Executive Officer and President of Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC and serve as a member of the Executive and Operating Committees of New Parent. Mr. Strauss is currently a managing member of Ramius, a member of the Executive Committee and Chief Executive Officer of Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC. From 1963 to 1991, Mr. Strauss was with Salomon Brothers Inc. where he was admitted as a General Partner in 1972 and was appointed to the Executive Committee in 1981. In 1986, he became President of Salomon Brothers and a Vice Chairman and member of the Board of Directors of Salomon Inc., the holding company of Salomon Brothers and Phibro Energy, Inc. In 1993, Mr. Strauss became Co-Chairman of Granite Capital International Group. Mr. Strauss is a former member of the Board of Governors of the American Stock Exchange, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, the Public Securities Association, the Securities Industry Association, the Federal Reserve International Capital Markets Advisory Committee and the U.S. Japan Business-Council. He is a past President of the Association of Primary Dealers in U.S. Government Securities. Mr. Strauss currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the U.S.-Japan Foundation and is a member of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of Mount Sinai Medical Center and Mount Sinai-NYU Health System.
Christopher A. White	44	Mr. White will serve as the Chief Financial Officer of New Parent. Mr. White has been the Vice President of Cowen Group, Inc. since its formation in February 2006 and is a member of the operating committee and Office of the Chief Executive. Mr. White has served as Chief of Staff of Cowen and Company, LLC and its predecessor entities since December 2005 and as Chief Administrative Officer of Cowen and Company, LLC and its predecessor entities since June 2006. Mr. White served as a member of SG Capital Partners, the Merchant Banking Division of Cowen and Company, LLC, from 2003 to December 2005. Prior to joining the Merchant Banking Division, Mr. White was in the Equity Capital Markets Group of Cowen and Company, LLC. Prior to joining Cowen in 1999, Mr. White worked at Salomon Smith Barney in the Equity Capital Markets Group. In addition, Mr. White has seven years experience as a practicing securities and mergers and acquisitions lawyer. Mr. White serves as a Director of Coleman Properties, LLC.

Table of Contents

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE OF NEW PARENT

When the transactions are completed, New Parent's current by-laws will be amended and restated in their entirety. The following section summarizes the certificate of incorporation and by-laws of New Parent that will govern New Parent after the completion of the transactions. Copies of the certificate of incorporation and the by-laws that will govern New Parent following completion of the transactions are attached as Appendix D and Appendix E, respectively, to this document and are incorporated herein by reference.

The following summary may not contain all of the information about the certificate of incorporation and by-laws that will govern New Parent after the completion of the transactions that may be important to you and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the complete text of the post-closing certificate of incorporation and post-closing by-laws. You are encouraged to read the certificate of incorporation and by-laws attached as Appendix D and Appendix E, respectively, in their entirety for a more complete understanding of these documents.

Corporate Name

Following the closing of the transactions, New Parent will change its name to "Cowen Group, Inc."

Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the combined company will end on December 31.

Capital Stock

The total number of shares of capital stock that New Parent will have the authority to issue under the post-closing certificate of incorporation is 510,000,000 shares, of which (a) 250,000,000 shares will be designated Class A Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share, (b) 250,000,000 shares will be designated Class B Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share, and (c) 10,000,000 shares will be undesignated preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share.

New Parent Board of Directors

Size of the New Parent Board of Directors

New Parent's board of directors will consist of not less than four and not more than twelve directors as may be fixed from time to time by resolution of New Parent's board of directors. After completion of the transactions, the New Parent board of directors will initially consist of ten directors.

Composition of the New Parent Board of Directors

Initially following the closing of the transactions, the members of New Parent's board of directors will include four individuals appointed by Cowen, three of whom will be independent under NASDAQ rules, and six individuals appointed by Ramius, three of whom will be independent under NASDAQ rules.

Of the individuals Cowen and Ramius currently anticipate will serve on the initial board of directors of New Parent, the following members will have been determined by New Parent's board of directors to be independent in accordance with applicable NASDAQ corporate governance rules and not to have a material relationship with New Parent which would impair their independence from management or otherwise compromise their ability to act as an independent director: Jules B. Kroll, Jerome S. Markowitz, Jack H. Nusbaum, L. Thomas Richards, M.D., John E. Toffolon, Jr. and Charles W.B. Wardell, III.

Table of Contents

In addition, BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. (a third party investor in Ramius) will have the right to designate one of the six individuals appointed by Ramius for nomination to the New Parent board of directors, so long as certain of its affiliates own more than 4.9% of the outstanding common stock of New Parent (including shares held by Ramius that are attributable to BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.) throughout any consecutive ninety-day period. New Parent agreed to nominate the BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. designee as part of the slate of directors proposed by New Parent in connection with any vote to elect the board of directors of New Parent, and Ramius has agreed to vote all of the shares of New Parent Class A Common Stock that it holds in favor of the election of such nominee.

See the section titled "Board and Management of New Parent Post-Closing Board of Directors" beginning on page 118 for more information on the individuals who are expected to serve on the initial board of directors of New Parent.

Classification of the New Parent Board of Directors

New Parent will have one class of directors.

Committees of the New Parent Board of Directors

The New Parent board of directors will have three standing committees: (a) an audit committee, (b) a compensation committee and (c) a nominating and corporate governance committee.

New Parent anticipates that the following directors will be members of its audit committee immediately following the consummation of the transactions: Jerome S. Markowitz, L. Thomas Richards, M.D., John E. Toffolon, Jr. and Charles W.B. Wardell, III.

New Parent anticipates that the following directors will be members of its compensation committee immediately following the consummation of the transactions: Jules B. Kroll, Jerome S. Markowitz, Edoardo Spezzotti, John E. Toffolon, Jr. and Charles W.B. Wardell, III.

New Parent anticipates that the following directors will be members of its nominating and corporate governance committee immediately following the consummation of the transactions: Jules B. Kroll, Jack H. Nusbaum, L. Thomas Richards, M.D. and Edoardo Spezzotti.

Unless and until BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. and its affiliates beneficially own, in the aggregate, less than 10% of the common stock of New Parent (including shares held by Ramius that are attributable to BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.) throughout any consecutive ninety-day period following the closing of the transactions, New Parent is obligated to use its reasonable best efforts to cause the director designated by BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. to be a member of each such committee.

Solely for the purpose of including the director designated by BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. as a member of each of the compensation committee and the nominating and governance committee, New Parent will elect to be treated as a "controlled company" for purposes of NASDAQ Rule 5615(c)(2). Under this rule, a company of which more than 50% of the voting power for the election of directors is held by an individual, a group or another company is a "controlled company" and is exempt from certain corporate governance requirements, including requirements that (1) a majority of the board of directors consist of independent directors, (2) compensation of officers be determined or recommended to the board of directors by a majority of its independent directors or by a compensation committee that is composed entirely of independent directors and (3) director nominees be selected or recommended for selection by a majority of the independent directors or by a nominating committee composed solely of independent directors. Even though New Parent will be treated as a "controlled company," New Parent currently intends that a majority of its board of directors will consist of independent directors and that each member of each of the compensation committee and the nominating and governance committee other than the director designated by BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. will be independent.

Table of Contents

Other Agreements with BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.

Following the closing of the transactions and unless and until BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. and its affiliates no longer beneficially own any shares of New Parent common stock, Ramius has agreed with BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. (1) not to vote the shares of New Parent common stock held by Ramius in favor of an amendment to the terms of the New Parent Class B common stock without the prior consent of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. and (2) to vote the shares of New Parent common stock held by Ramius as directed by BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. with respect to an amendment to the terms of New Parent's certificate of incorporation or by-laws which is intended to discriminate against BA Alpine Holdings relative to the other members of Ramius.

Until the two-year anniversary of the closing of the transactions, each of Ramius, its managing member and certain Ramius members who are also principals of Ramius (some of whom are also members of Ramius's managing member and some of whom will be officers of New Parent following the closing of the transactions) has agreed with BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. not to engage in any transaction with New Parent or any of its controlled affiliates without the prior consent of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., subject to certain exceptions.

Vacancies on the New Parent Board of Directors

Vacancies on the New Parent board of directors may be filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors then in office, although fewer than a quorum.

Matters Relating to New Parent Stockholders

Special Meetings of New Parent Stockholders

Special meetings of New Parent stockholders may be called by the Chairman of the New Parent board of directors, by the President, or by a majority of the board of directors at any time in office.

Action without a Meeting

No action may be taken by New Parent stockholders without a meeting, and New Parent stockholders may not act by written consent.

Advance Notice Requirement for Stockholder Proposals

In order for nominations or other business to be properly brought before an annual meeting by a stockholder, the stockholder must have given timely notice thereof in writing to New Parent's Corporate Secretary.

To be timely, a stockholder's notice of business must be delivered to New Parent's Corporate Secretary at the principal executive offices of New Parent:

not less than ninety nor more than 120 days prior to the first anniversary of the preceding year's annual meeting; or

if the date of the annual meeting is changed by more than thirty days from such anniversary date, notice by the stockholder to be timely must be delivered to or mailed and received at the principal executive offices of New Parent no later than the close of business on the tenth day following the earlier of (i) the date on which notice of the date of the meeting was mailed and (ii) the date on which public disclosure of the meeting date was made.

Review and Approval of Transactions with Related Persons

To minimize actual or perceived conflicts of interests, it is anticipated that New Parent's board of directors will adopt a written policy governing transactions in which New Parent is a participant, the

Table of Contents

aggregate amount involved is reasonably expected to exceed \$120,000, and any of the following persons may have a direct or indirect material interest in the transaction: (a) executive officers, directors (including nominees) and certain other highly compensated employees, (b) stockholders who own more than 5% of New Parent's common stock, and (c) any child, stepchild, parent, stepparent, spouse, sibling, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law or person (other than a tenant or employee) sharing the same household of any person described in (a) or (b) above.

To the extent permissible by applicable law, Ramius's principals and certain eligible employees, as well as such individuals' immediate family members and other investors they refer to Ramius, have historically been permitted to invest their own capital either directly in, or in side-by-side investments with, Ramius's funds. Side-by-side investments are investments in assets substantially similar to the investments of the applicable Ramius fund. Direct investment in, or side-by-side investments with, Ramius funds by such individuals are generally made on the same terms and conditions as the investments made by other third-party investors in the Ramius funds, except that such investments are subject to discounted management and performance fees. It is anticipated that following the consummation of the transactions certain Cowen employees who are eligible to make such investments will be permitted to invest their own capital either directly in, or in side-by-side investments with, Ramius's funds on the same terms currently available to Ramius employees.

Andrew Cohen, the son of Peter A. Cohen, is a Director of Ramius, and earned in 2008 approximately \$450,000 in cash, as well as \$100,000 in phantom REOP awards (as described below). Mason Stark, the son of Morgan B. Stark, is a Managing Director of Ramius, and earned in 2008 \$492,000 in cash, as well as \$150,000 in equity REOP awards (as described below). The REOP awards of both Andrew Cohen and Mason Stark will fully vest upon the closing of the transactions. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations of Ramius Changes in Connection with the Transaction Employee Ownership Program" beginning on page 155 for more information regarding Ramius's REOP program.

Ramius makes certain office systems and space available at a monthly rate of approximately \$13,500 to JEMKroll Group, a family consultancy owned and operated by Jules B. Kroll.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

Peter A. Cohen currently serves on the compensation committee of Scientific Games Corporation, whose current chief executive officer, Joseph R. Wright, is anticipated to serve as a director of New Parent.

Table of Contents**COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

Following the completion of the transactions, it is anticipated that Peter A. Cohen, Morgan B. Stark and Thomas W. Strauss, each of whom is a member of Ramius's managing member, C4S & Co., LLC (which we refer to as C4S), will serve as executive officers of New Parent. Ramius has sought to align the interests of its owners with those of the investors in Ramius's products. As such, Messrs. Cohen, Stark and Strauss have not historically received any salary or bonus as employees of Ramius; rather, through their ownership interests in Ramius, they have been entitled to receive distributions that are based on the annual profitability of Ramius. In addition, in lieu of a salary, Messrs. Cohen and Stark have historically received guaranteed payments in respect of their ownership interests in Ramius in amounts determined to be appropriate collectively by the managing members of C4S. In 2005, Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Strauss to better align his compensation with the business of Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC, specifically, and he ceased being compensated exclusively in connection with his ownership interest in C4S. Pursuant to his employment agreement and as Chief Executive Officer of Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC, Mr. Strauss receives a fixed salary in the form of a draw against distributions relating to his ownership of Ramius; however, a substantial portion of Mr. Strauss's total compensation is based on the net profits of Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC through the grant of interests under the RAPP program (see the section titled "Management's Discussion and Analysis Changes in Connection with the Transactions Employee Ownership Program" beginning on page 155 for a description of the RAPP program).

Ramius does not have a compensation committee. Historically, all compensation determinations relating to Messrs. Cohen, Stark and Strauss, including allocations of distributions in respect of their ownership of Ramius through their ownership of C4S, which is entitled to receive 35% of the net profits of Ramius, have been made collectively by the managing members of C4S.

Summary Compensation Table

The following table shows information regarding the compensation earned during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, by the Ramius executives who will serve as New Parent's executive officers following completion of the transactions.

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$)	Equity Awards (\$)	All Other Compensation(1) (\$)	Total(2) (\$)
Peter A. Cohen Managing Member	2008			\$ 143,632	\$ 143,632
Morgan B. Stark Managing Member	2008			\$ 75,869	\$ 75,869
Thomas W. Strauss Managing Member and Chief Executive Officer of Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC	2008	\$ 603,638(3)	\$ 706,672(4)	\$ 85,658	\$ 1,395,968

(1)

The amounts shown in the "All Other Compensation" column are attributable to perquisites and other personal benefits or compensation not reported elsewhere in the Summary Compensation Table. Perquisites in 2008 for each of Messrs. Cohen, Stark and Strauss include a company match under the 401(k) plan as well as company-provided group term life and long-term disability insurance and company-funded premiums for long-term care insurance for Messrs. Cohen, Stark and Strauss, and their spouses. Additionally, Mr. Cohen was reimbursed \$33,240 for tax and

Table of Contents

financial planning expenses reimbursed by Ramius as well as \$88,578 representing 60% of the total cost of a car and driver provided to him for his personal use. Mr. Stark was reimbursed \$53,506 for tax and financial planning expenses reimbursed by Ramius, and Mr. Strauss was reimbursed \$63,295 representing 50% of the total cost of a car and driver provided to him for his personal use. The cars and drivers used by Messrs. Cohen and Strauss for personal use are available for use by Ramius personnel at other times for business purposes.

- (2) Other than the "All Other Compensation" disclosed in the Summary Compensation Table above, neither Mr. Cohen nor Mr. Stark has historically received any compensation from Ramius, and each has been compensated primarily in the form of the increased value of his respective ownership interests in Ramius and C4S and distributions with respect to such interests. In 2008, Messrs. Cohen and Stark received guaranteed payments with respect to their respective ownership interests in Ramius and C4S equal to \$537,028 and \$499,522, respectively, which amounts were less than prior years' guaranteed payment, to reflect economic performance during such year.
- (3) As described below, Mr. Strauss's current employment agreement with Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC entitles him to an annual base salary of \$650,000 and a minimum annual bonus of \$500,000. Due to the financial underperformance of Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC, Mr. Strauss agreed to forego his minimum bonus in respect of Ramius's 2008 fiscal year and receive a reduced base salary for 2008.
- (4) This amount represents the dollar amount recognized during 2008 for financial statement reporting purposes in accordance with SFAS 123-R in respect of the interests in which Mr. Strauss vested in 2008 pursuant to RAPP interests awarded to him prior to 2008. For more information on the valuation assumptions used by Ramius generally with respect to awards made under the RAPP, refer to Ramius's Employee Ownership Plans Note 12 on page F-50 in the annual consolidated financial statements.

Narrative Disclosure Relating to Summary Compensation Table

Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC is currently party to an employment agreement with Mr. Strauss, which will be superseded and replaced by the new agreement with New Parent and Ramius described below. The material terms of this current agreement are summarized below. Neither Mr. Cohen nor Mr. Stark has been party to an employment agreement with Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC prior to the signing of the transaction agreement.

Basic Compensation. Mr. Strauss is entitled to an annual base salary of \$650,000 and an annual discretionary bonus of no less than \$500,000.

Severance Payments and Benefits. Mr. Strauss is entitled to payments and benefits upon certain terminations of employment, as follows.

Death or disability. In the event Mr. Strauss is terminated due to his death or disability, he or his estate will be entitled to the following: (i) accrued obligations (essentially earned but unpaid amounts under benefit programs and policies, and amounts required to be paid by law), (ii) continuation of his base salary through the end of the year in which the termination occurs and (iii) a pro rata portion of an annual bonus of \$1 million.

Resignation without good reason. In the event Mr. Strauss resigns without good reason upon at least six months' prior written notice, he will be entitled to twelve additional months of vesting with respect to his RAPP awards. On any resignation without good reason, Mr. Strauss will be entitled to the accrued obligations.

Termination without cause or resignation for good reason. In the event Mr. Strauss is terminated without cause or if he resigns for good reason, he will be entitled to the following: (i) accrued obligations, (ii) a pro rata portion of his bonus for the year in which termination occurs, (iii) an

Table of Contents

amount equal to the sum of \$575,000 and six months of base salary, (iv) continued participation for him and his dependents in Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC's health plans for twelve months (or until such time as he obtains coverage in another health plan, if earlier), (v) an award under the RAPP program (if he has not yet received one for the year in which termination occurs), and (vi) immediate vesting of all RAPP awards.

Restrictive Covenants. Mr. Strauss's agreement with Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC also subjects him to non-competition and non-solicitation obligations during the term of employment and for two years following termination of his employment.

A substantial component of Mr. Strauss's compensation is provided in the form of participation interests in the RAPP program. Mr. Strauss's annual RAPP interests vest generally on January 1st of the second, third and fourth years following the year to which the award relates, at a rate of 25%, 25% and 50%. In addition, Mr. Strauss's RAPP interests vest in full upon his death or disability, or upon an involuntary termination without cause at any time following a change in control of Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC. Fifty percent of each RAPP interest consists of deferred compensation nominally invested in one of the fund of funds platforms managed by the Ramius fund of funds business chosen by senior management during the applicable vesting period. Upon vesting in any portion of this component of the RAPP interest, Mr. Strauss becomes the owner of the fund of funds products attributable to such vested portion. The remaining 50% of each RAPP interest consists of equity units of Ramius. Mr. Strauss is not entitled to receive any distributions in respect of such an equity unit prior to their vesting. The RAPP program generally is described in more detail below in the section titled "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations of Ramius Changes in Connection with the Transaction Employee Ownership Program" beginning on page 155.

In the event of a change in control of Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC, Mr. Strauss will vest in an additional bonus amount based on the total consideration paid by the acquiror of Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC in connection with such change in control, subject to his continued employment with Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC or its successor through the third anniversary of such change in control (or an earlier involuntary termination without cause). Such additional amounts in which Mr. Strauss is eligible to vest upon such a change in control will be invested in certain of the fund of funds products managed by the Ramius fund of funds business chosen by senior management and distributed to Mr. Strauss in kind on the vesting date.

New Employment Agreements

In connection with the signing of the transaction agreement, New Parent and Ramius entered into employment letter agreements with Messrs. Cohen, Stark and Strauss. These agreements will become effective when the transactions are completed, and with respect to Mr. Strauss will supersede and replace his current employment agreement with Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC (which is described above). The material terms of the new agreements are as follows:

Mr. Cohen's Agreement

Mr. Cohen's agreement provides that he will serve as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of New Parent. During the term of his employment, Mr. Cohen will be entitled to an annual base salary of \$500,000 and an annual performance-based bonus of no less than \$250,000. In the event that Mr. Cohen's employment is terminated for any reason other than cause or by reason of his death or disability, or if he resigns for good reason (with cause, disability, and good reason each being defined in his agreement), he will be entitled to the following: (i) accrued obligations (earned but unpaid base salary and annual bonus), (ii) a lump sum cash payment equal to two times the sum of his base salary plus his annual bonus for the year in which termination occurs, (iii) immediate vesting of outstanding equity awards and (iv) all outstanding stock options will remain exercisable for the remainder of their respective terms (we refer to the benefits described in clauses (iii) and (iv) as the Equity Benefits). In

Table of Contents

the event Mr. Cohen is terminated due to his death or disability, he or his estate will be entitled to the accrued obligations and the Equity Benefits. Mr. Cohen's agreement subjects him to non-competition and non-solicitation obligations while he is employed, and non-solicitation obligations for one year following a termination of employment for any reason.

Mr. Stark's Agreement

Mr. Stark's agreement provides that he will serve as the Chief Executive Officer of New Parent's Hedge Fund Subsidiary. The material terms of Mr. Stark's agreement, including those relating to compensation, severance, and restrictive covenants, are identical to those contained in Mr. Cohen agreement, except that if Mr. Stark is terminated for any reason other than cause or by reason of his death or disability, or if he resigns for good reason (with cause, disability, and good reason each being defined in his agreement), he will also be entitled to an additional cash payment equal to \$1.5 million. In addition, Mr. Stark's agreement provides that if he retires on or after December 31, 2010, he will be employed by New Parent as a Senior Advisor beginning on the date of his retirement and for three years thereafter, which employment will be governed by a Senior Advisor Agreement. The Senior Advisor Agreement entitles Mr. Stark to an annual base salary of \$750,000 and continued vesting of his equity awards and provides that if New Parent undergoes a change in control (as defined in the Senior Advisor Agreement) during the term of Mr. Stark's employment as a senior advisor, he will be entitled to a lump sum cash payment equal to the unpaid balance of his base salary for the remainder of the three-year term of his employment. The Senior Advisor Agreement subjects Mr. Stark to non-solicitation obligations during the term of his employment and for two years thereafter, and non-competition obligations during the term of his employment and for one year thereafter.

Mr. Strauss's Agreement

Mr. Strauss's agreement provides that he will serve as the Chief Executive Officer and President of Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC. During the term of his employment, Mr. Strauss will be entitled to an annual base salary of \$450,000 and an annual performance-based bonus of no less than \$500,000. In the event that Mr. Strauss is terminated for any reason other than cause or by reason of his death or disability, or if he resigns for good reason (with cause, disability, and good reason each being defined in his agreement) he will be entitled to the following: (i) accrued obligations, (ii) a lump sum cash payment equal to two times the greater of (A) the sum of his base salary plus his annual bonus for the year in which termination occurs and (B) the value of his RAPP program award for the year prior to the year in which termination occurs and (iii) the Equity Benefits. In the event Mr. Strauss is terminated due to his death or disability, he or his estate will be entitled to the accrued obligations and the Equity Benefits. The restrictive covenants contained in Mr. Strauss's agreement are identical to those contained in Mr. Cohen's and Mr. Stark's agreements.

Special Equity Awards

Upon the completion of the transactions, Messrs. Cohen, Stark and Strauss will receive, respectively, special grants of 430,362, 430,362 and 268,615 Series IV equity interests in Ramius, which will generally vest in two equal installments on each of the second and third anniversaries of the completion of the transaction, subject to earlier vesting in the event of certain qualifying terminations of employment or a change in control of New Parent. These grants are being awarded to Messrs. Cohen, Stark and Strauss to reflect the overall change in structure of their compensation packages from equity holders of Ramius to employees of New Parent.

Table of Contents

Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End

The following table sets forth the outstanding equity awards held by Messrs. Cohen, Stark and Strauss as of December 31, 2008.

Name	Number of Units That Have Not Vested (#)	Market Value of Units That Have Not Vested (\$)
Peter A. Cohen		
Morgan B. Stark		
Thomas W. Strauss		\$ 686,383(1)

- (1) The amount in this column represents the market value as of December 31, 2008, of the portion of Mr. Strauss's unvested RAPP interests that represent equity units of Ramius, which are denominated by reference to dollar value, not number of units. Absent the transactions, in connection with which these interests will vest in full on an accelerated basis, a portion of these interests having a value of \$220,958 will vest on January 1, 2010, and the remaining portion having a value of \$465,424 will vest on January 1, 2011.

Equity Vested

The following table sets forth information relating to the vesting of unvested Ramius equity interests held by Messrs. Cohen, Stark and Strauss during 2008.

Name	Number of Units Acquired on Vesting (#)	Value Realized on Vesting (\$)
Peter A. Cohen		
Morgan B. Stark		
Thomas W. Strauss		\$ 706,672(1)

- (1) The amount in this column represents the value realized by Mr. Strauss in respect of the portion of his RAPP interests earned in prior years that vested in 2008 that represent equity units of Ramius, which are denominated by reference to dollar value, not number of units. This amount is also disclosed as having been earned by Mr. Strauss in 2008 in the Equity Awards column of the Summary Compensation Table above.

Pension Benefits

The following table sets forth information relating to the accumulated pension benefits for Messrs. Cohen, Stark and Strauss in the Ramius LLC Cash Balance Plan as of December 31, 2008.

Name	Plan Name	Number of Years of Credited Service (#)	Present Value of Accumulated Benefit (\$)	Payments During Last Fiscal Year (\$)
Peter A. Cohen	Ramius LLC Cash Balance Plan	3	\$ 534,856	
Morgan B. Stark	Ramius LLC Cash Balance Plan	3	\$ 629,243	
Thomas W. Strauss	Ramius LLC Cash	3	\$ 597,781	

Balance Plan

Ramius maintains the Ramius LLC Cash Balance Plan, pursuant to which participants receive an annual contribution credit (based on age and "tier" of participation) and an annual interest credit

Table of Contents

(based on 30-Year Treasury Bills) on the balances in their respective accounts. Based on their respective ages, the plan accounts for Messrs. Cohen, Stark and Strauss were credited in 2008 with contributions of \$170,000, \$200,000 and \$190,000, respectively. Participants may elect payments in the form of a lump sum distribution or among several annuity options. All participants are 100% vested in their account balances at all times. A participant in the plan is entitled to receive his accumulated benefits upon any separation from service.

Nonqualified Deferred Compensation

Name	Executive Contributions in Last Fiscal Year (\$)	Registrant Contributions in Last Fiscal Year (\$)	Aggregate Earnings in Last Fiscal Year (\$)	Aggregate Withdrawals/Distributions (\$)	Aggregate Balance at Last Fiscal Year-End (\$)
Peter A. Cohen					
Morgan B. Stark					
Thomas W. Strauss			\$ (439,535)(1)	\$ 706,672(2)	\$ 620,815(3)

- (1) The amount in this column represents the notional earnings (or losses) during 2008 on the portion of Mr. Strauss's RAPP interests that represents a nominal investment in Ramius fund of funds products.
- (2) The amount in this column represents the amount distributed to Mr. Strauss in 2008 in respect of that portion of his RAPP interests that vested during 2008 that represents a nominal investment in Ramius fund of funds products.
- (3) The amount in this column represents the aggregate value of that portion of Mr. Strauss's outstanding RAPP interests that represents a nominal investment in Ramius fund of funds products.

Potential Payments upon Termination or Change in Control

Pursuant to the current employment agreement between Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC and Mr. Strauss, the material terms of which have been summarized above in the Narrative Disclosure Relating to the Summary Compensation Table, Mr. Strauss is entitled to payment of compensation and benefits upon his termination of employment for certain reasons. The table below reflects the amounts that would have been payable to Mr. Strauss in the event of a (i) termination of his employment by Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC for cause or by Mr. Strauss without good reason upon less than six months' notice, (ii) termination by Mr. Strauss without good reason upon at least six months' notice, (iii) termination by Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC without cause or by Mr. Strauss for good reason and (iv) termination by reason of Mr. Strauss's death or disability, in each case assuming the applicable termination event occurred on December 31, 2008. These amounts are estimates of the amounts that would actually be paid to Mr. Strauss upon the occurrence of such a termination event at any other time during the year or following the end of fiscal year 2008. Neither Mr. Cohen nor Mr. Stark is entitled to any payments or benefits as an employee in connection with a termination of their employment.

Name	For Cause/ Voluntary Termination		Without Cause/For Good Reason Termination		Death or Disability	
	Notice	Resignation	Reason	Termination	Death or Disability	Termination
Thomas W. Strauss	Twelve Months	Vesting of RAPP Interests: \$485,315	Cash Severance: Health Coverage: Vesting of RAPP Interests: \$1,307,198	\$ 900,000 \$ 1,530	Cash Severance: Vesting of RAPP Interests: \$1,307,198	\$ 1,000,000
	Total:	\$485,315	Total:	\$1,307,198	Total:	\$2,307,198
			Total:	\$2,208,728		

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK OF NEW PARENT

The following description of the material terms of the capital stock of New Parent includes a summary of specified provisions of New Parent's certificate of incorporation that will be in effect upon completion of the transactions. This description is subject to the relevant provisions of Delaware law and is qualified by reference to New Parent's post-closing certificate of incorporation, a copy of which is attached as Appendix D to this document and is incorporated by reference in this document.

Authorized Capital Stock

New Parent will be authorized to issue 500,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, which shall consist of 250,000,000 shares of Class A common stock and 250,000,000 shares of Class B common stock, and 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share. Subject to the rights of holders of any outstanding preferred stock, the number of authorized shares of common stock or preferred stock may be increased or decreased by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares entitled to vote on such matters, but in no instance can the number of authorized shares be reduced below the number of shares then outstanding.

Common Stock

Voting Rights

Each holder of Class A common stock will be entitled to one vote per share in connection with the election of directors and on all other matters submitted to a stockholder vote, provided, however, that, except as otherwise required by law, holders of Class A common stock will not be entitled to vote on any amendment to New Parent's certificate of incorporation that relates solely to the terms of any series of New Parent preferred stock, if holders of the New Parent preferred stock series are entitled to vote on the amendment under New Parent's certificate of incorporation or Delaware law. No holder of Class A common stock may cumulate votes in voting for New Parent directors.

Each holder of Class B common stock will not be entitled to vote except as otherwise provided by law, provided however that New Parent must obtain the consent of a majority of the holders of Class B common stock to effect any amendment, alteration or repeal of any provision of the New Parent certificate of incorporation or by-laws that would adversely affect the voting powers, preferences or rights of holders of Class B common stock. Except as otherwise provided by law, Class B common stock shares will not be counted as shares held by stockholders for purposes of determining whether a vote or consent has been approved or given by the requisite percentage of shares.

Stockholders may only take action at an annual or special meeting of stockholders and are not authorized to take action by written consent or electronic transmission.

See the section entitled "Corporate Governance of New Parent Other Agreements with BA Alpine Holdings, Inc." for more information regarding certain agreements between Ramius and BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. with respect to the voting of the shares of New Parent common stock held by Ramius in certain circumstances.

Terms of Conversion

Each share of Class A common stock is convertible at the option of the holder and at no cost into one share of Class B common stock, and each share of Class B common stock is convertible at the option of the holder and at no cost into one share of Class A common stock. The conversion ratios will be adjusted proportionally to reflect any stock split, dividend, merger, reorganization, recapitalization or other change in the Class A common stock and Class B common stock. Upon conversion, converted shares resume the status of authorized and unissued shares. The certificate of incorporation of New Parent provides for two classes of common stock, and for the convertibility of each class into the other,

Table of Contents

to provide a mechanism by which holders of Class A common stock of New Parent who may be limited in the amount of voting common stock of New Parent they can hold pursuant to federal, state or foreign bank laws, to convert their shares into non-voting Class B common stock to prevent being in violation of such laws.

Dividend Rights

Subject to the preferences of the holders of any New Parent preferred stock that may be outstanding from time to time, each share of Class A common stock and Class B common stock (i) will have an equal and ratable right to receive dividends and other distributions in cash, property or shares of stock as may be declared by the New Parent board of directors out of assets or funds legally available for the payment of dividends and other distributions, and (ii) in the event of the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of New Parent, will be entitled to share equally and ratably in the assets available for distribution to New Parent stockholders.

Exchange Listing

Application will be made to list New Parent Class A common stock on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "COWN," the same symbol under which shares of Cowen common stock currently trade.

Certain Transfer Restrictions

Shares of New Parent Common Stock held by Ramius and the HVB Shares are subject to certain restrictions and limitations on transfer as described in more detail in the sections titled "Other Agreements Related to the Transactions Transfer Restrictions on Shares of New Parent Common Stock Held by Ramius" beginning on page 112 and "Other Agreements Related to the Transactions Asset Exchange Agreement Restrictions on Transfer" beginning on page 108, respectively.

Preferred Stock

New Parent's certificate of incorporation permits New Parent to issue up to 10,000,000 shares of New Parent preferred stock in one or more series with such designations, titles, voting powers, preferences and rights and such qualifications, limitations and restrictions as may be fixed by the New Parent board of directors without any further action by New Parent stockholders. The New Parent board of directors may increase or decrease the number of shares of any series of preferred stock following the issuance of that series of preferred stock, but in no instance can the number of shares of a series of preferred stock be reduced below the number of shares of the series then outstanding.

Table of Contents

COMPARISON OF STOCKHOLDERS' RIGHTS

Cowen and New Parent are both incorporated under Delaware law. Any differences, therefore, between the rights of Cowen stockholders and the rights of New Parent stockholders result solely from differences in the companies' respective certificates of incorporation and by-laws. When the transactions are completed, Cowen stockholders will exchange their shares of Cowen common stock for shares of New Parent common stock, and as a New Parent stockholder their rights will be governed by the New Parent post-closing certificate of incorporation and post-closing by-laws. The New Parent post-closing certificate of incorporation and post-closing by-laws are attached to this document as Appendix D and Appendix E, respectively.

The following is a summary of the material differences between the rights of holders of Cowen common stock and the rights of holders of New Parent Class A common stock, but does not purport to be a complete description of those differences. The Cowen amended and restated certificate of incorporation, the New Parent post-closing certificate of incorporation, the Cowen amended and restated by-laws and the New Parent post-closing by-laws are subject to amendment in accordance with their terms. Copies of these governing corporate instruments are available, without charge, to any person, including any beneficial owner to whom this document is delivered, by following the instructions listed under "Where You Can Find More Information" on page 195.

Cowen	New Parent
COMMON STOCK CONVERSION RIGHTS	

Holders of Cowen common stock do not have any conversion rights.

New Parent's post-closing certificate of incorporation provides that each share of New Parent Class A common stock is convertible at the option of the holder and at no cost into one share of New Parent Class B common stock, and each share of New Parent Class B common stock is convertible at the option of the holder and at no cost into one share of New Parent Class A common stock. The conversion ratios will be adjusted proportionally to reflect any stock split, dividend, merger, reorganization, recapitalization or other change in the Class A common stock and Class B common stock.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Size

Cowen's amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that the board of directors will consist of not less than three or more than twelve members, and the exact number of directors will be fixed from time to time by resolution adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the entire board.

New Parent's post-closing certificate of incorporation provides that the number of directors will be as from time to time fixed by, or in the manner provided by, the by-laws. New Parent's post-closing by-laws provide that the board of directors will consist of not less than four or more than twelve members, and the exact number of directors will be fixed from time to time by a resolution adopted by the board of directors.

Table of Contents

Cowen

New Parent

Classification and Term

Cowen's amended and restated certificate of incorporation divides the board of directors into three separate classes, as nearly equal in number as possible, with staggered three-year terms. At each annual meeting of stockholders, directors elected to succeed those directors whose terms expire are elected for a three-year term. A director of any class elected to fill a vacancy resulting from an increase in the number of directors will hold office for a term that coincides with the remaining term of that class. A director elected to fill a vacancy not resulting from an increase in the number of directors will have the same remaining term of his predecessor.

New Parent's post-closing certificate of incorporation does not divide the board into separate classes. Directors are elected by the stockholders at each annual meeting for a one-year term. A director elected to fill a vacancy will hold office until the next annual meeting of stockholders.

Removal

Cowen's amended and restated certificate of incorporation permits removal of a director from office only for cause and only by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 80% of the shares entitled to vote at an election of directors.

New Parent's post-closing certificate of incorporation permits removal of a director from office only by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of the outstanding voting stock.

AMENDMENT TO THE CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

Under the Delaware General Corporation Law, an amendment to the certificate of incorporation requires (1) the approval of the board of directors, (2) the approval of the holders of a majority of the outstanding stock entitled to vote upon the proposed amendment and (3) the approval of the holders of a majority of the outstanding stock of each class entitled to vote thereon as a class.

Cowen's amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that an amendment that is inconsistent with certain designated provisions (regarding, among other things, the size and classification of the board of directors; the term and removal of directors; the manner in which stockholders may take action; the power to call special meetings of stockholders; amendments to the by-laws; and amendments to the certificate of incorporation) requires the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 80% of the shares entitled to vote at an election of directors.

New Parent's post-closing certificate of incorporation does not contain any provisions altering the standards in the Delaware General Corporation Law for amendment of the certificate of incorporation.

AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS

Under the Delaware General Corporation Law, by-laws may be adopted, amended or repealed by the stockholders entitled to vote, and by the board of directors if the corporation's certificate of incorporation confers the power to adopt, amend or repeal the corporation's by-laws upon the directors.

Cowen's by-laws may be amended by the affirmative vote of a majority of the entire

New Parent's by-laws may be amended by the affirmative vote of a majority of the entire

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

board of directors or by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 80% of the shares entitled to vote at an election of directors.

board of directors or by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of the outstanding voting stock.

137

Table of Contents**COMPARATIVE MARKET PRICES AND DIVIDENDS**

Cowen common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the trading symbol "COWN." The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, the high and low sales prices of shares of Cowen common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market. Cowen did not pay any dividends during this period.

	Cowen Common Stock	
	High	Low
2007		
First Quarter	\$ 21.48	\$ 16.54
Second Quarter	\$ 19.91	\$ 15.90
Third Quarter	\$ 18.82	\$ 11.29
Fourth Quarter	\$ 14.90	\$ 8.81
2008		
First Quarter	\$ 10.83	\$ 6.29
Second Quarter	\$ 8.55	\$ 6.34
Third Quarter	\$ 10.50	\$ 5.87
Fourth Quarter	\$ 8.93	\$ 4.60
2009		
First Quarter	\$ 6.95	\$ 3.54
Second Quarter	\$ 8.75	\$ 4.34
Third Quarter (through September 29, 2009)	\$ 8.81	\$ 6.19

On June 3, 2009, the last full trading day before the announcement of the transaction agreement, the high and low sales prices of shares of Cowen common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market were \$5.00 and \$4.78, respectively. On September 29, 2009, the last full trading day before the date of this document, the high and low sale prices of shares of Cowen common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market were \$7.53 and \$7.25, respectively.

As of September 29, 2009, the last date prior to printing this document for which it was practicable to obtain this information, there were approximately 24 registered holders of Cowen common stock.

Cowen stockholders are advised to obtain current market quotations for Cowen common stock. The market price of Cowen common stock will fluctuate between the date of this document and the date on which the transactions are completed. No assurance can be given concerning the market price of Cowen common stock before or after the date on which the transactions are completed.

Table of Contents**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND
MANAGEMENT OF NEW PARENT**

The following table shows pro forma information regarding the beneficial ownership of shares of New Parent common stock as of the closing of the transactions, based on (1) known beneficial ownership, if any, of Cowen common stock as of September 24, 2009 and (2) pro forma ownership of New Parent common stock as of the closing of the transactions and shows the number of and percentage of shares owned by:

each person who is expected to own beneficially more than 5% of New Parent Class A common stock or New Parent Class B common stock;

each member of New Parent's board of directors;

each of New Parent's executive officers; and

all members of New Parent's board of directors and New Parent's executive officers as a group.

Except as indicated in the footnotes to this table, each person has sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares attributable to such person.

	Class A Common Stock	Class B Common Stock	% Common	% Voting
5% Stockholders:				
Ramius LLC	37,536,826	0	66.44%	66.44%
Executive Officers and Directors:				
Peter A. Cohen(1)(2)	37,536,826	0	66.44%	66.44%
Morgan B. Stark(1)(3)	37,536,826	0	66.44%	66.44%
Thomas W. Strauss(1)(4)	37,536,826	0	66.44%	66.44%
David M. Malcolm(5)	550,132	0	*	*
John E. Toffolon, Jr.(6)(7)	64,430	0	*	*
Jules B. Kroll	0	0	*	*
Jerome S. Markowitz(8)	322,207	0	*	*
Jack H. Nusbaum	0	0	*	*
L. Thomas Richards, M.D.(6)	12,590	0	*	*
Edoardo Spezzotti(9)	0	0	*	*
Charles W.B. Wardell, III(6)	11,590	0	*	*
Joseph R. Wright	0	0	*	*
Christopher A. White(10)	175,711	0	*	*
All directors and executive officers as a group (13 persons)	38,673,486	0	68.45%	68.45%

*
corresponds to less than 1% of New Parent common stock.

(1) The number of shares of New Parent common stock beneficially owned by Mr. Cohen, Mr. Stark and Mr. Strauss consists of the 37,536,826 shares to be issued to Ramius upon consummation of the transactions. C4S & Co., L.L.C. is the managing member of Ramius and may be considered to be the beneficial owner of any securities deemed to be beneficially owned by Ramius. C4S disclaims beneficial ownership of these securities. Mr. Cohen, Mr. Stark, Mr. Strauss and Jeffrey M. Solomon are the sole managing members of C4S and may be considered beneficial owners of any securities deemed to be beneficially owned by C4S. Messrs. Cohen, Stark, Strauss and Solomon disclaim beneficial ownership of these securities, except as otherwise expressly described below.

Table of Contents

- (2) Mr. Cohen does not disclaim beneficial ownership with respect to the 2,622,352 shares of New Parent common stock that will be held by Ramius and allocated to Mr. Cohen in connection with his ownership interest in Ramius. However, the distribution by Ramius of those shares to Mr. Cohen is subject to certain restrictions. See the section titled "Other Agreements Related to the Transactions Transfer Restrictions on Shares of New Parent Common Stock Held by Ramius" beginning on page 112. Such number of shares does not include shares attributed to unvested REOP interests in Ramius granted to Mr. Cohen in connection with the transactions.
- (3) Mr. Stark does not disclaim beneficial ownership with respect to the 2,024,289 shares of New Parent common stock that will be held by Ramius and allocated to Mr. Stark in connection with his ownership interest in Ramius and the 57,754 shares of New Parent common stock that will be held by Ramius and allocated to Sidney Stark, Mr. Stark's wife, in connection with her ownership interest in Ramius. However, the distribution by Ramius of those shares to Mr. and Mrs. Stark is subject to certain restrictions. See the section titled "Other Agreements Related to the Transactions Transfer Restrictions on Shares of New Parent Common Stock Held by Ramius" beginning on page 112. Such number of shares does not include shares attributed to unvested REOP interests in Ramius granted to Mr. Stark in connection with the transactions.
- (4) Mr. Strauss does not disclaim beneficial ownership with respect to the 1,556,152 shares of New Parent common stock that will be held by Ramius and allocated to Mr. Strauss in connection with his ownership interest in Ramius and the 1,047,977 shares of New Parent common stock that will be held by Ramius and allocated to an entity controlled by Mr. Strauss, in connection with its ownership interest in Ramius. However, the distribution by Ramius of those shares to Mr. Strauss and the entity is subject to certain restrictions. See the section titled "Other Agreements Related to the Transactions Transfer Restrictions on Shares of New Parent Common Stock Held by Ramius" beginning on page 112. Such number of shares does not include shares attributed to unvested REOP interests in Ramius granted to Mr. Strauss in connection with the transactions.
- (5) Mr. Malcolm is the Chief Executive Officer and President of New Parent's Broker-Dealer Subsidiary.
- (6) Mr. Toffolon, Dr. Richards and Mr. Wardell will receive shares of New Parent common stock with an aggregate value of \$50,000, \$25,000 and \$25,000, respectively, on the date of the special meeting based on the share price of Cowen common stock on that date. For purposes of this table, the number of shares of common stock delivered assumes a share price of \$7.62 (the closing price on July 8, 2009).
- (7) Includes 10,000 shares of common stock held by family trusts.
- (8) Represents the shares of New Parent common stock that will be held by Ramius and allocated to Mr. Markowitz in connection with his ownership interest in Ramius. However, the distribution by Ramius of those shares to Mr. Markowitz is subject to certain restrictions. See the section titled "Other Agreements Related to the Transactions Transfer Restrictions on Shares of New Parent Common Stock Held by Ramius" beginning on page 112.
- (9) Mr. Spezzotti, the designee of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. and HVB (each of which is a subsidiary of UniCredit Group), is not deemed to be the beneficial owner of (i) the approximately 8.5 million shares of New Parent common stock that will be held by Ramius and allocated to BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. or (ii) the 2,713,882 shares of New Parent common stock that will be held by HVB Alternative Advisors LLC.
- (10) Includes 200 shares of Class A common stock owned by Mr. White's children.

Table of Contents

PROPOSAL 2: AMENDED 2007 EQUITY AND INCENTIVE PLAN

Cowen currently maintains the Cowen Group, Inc. 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan (which we refer to as the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan) and the Cowen Group, Inc. 2006 Equity and Incentive Plan (which we refer to as the 2006 Equity and Incentive Plan). Under the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, Cowen has reserved a number of shares of Cowen common stock for issuance to eligible individuals in the form of stock options, stock appreciation rights (which we refer to as SARs), awards of restricted stock, restricted stock units, other stock-based awards or other cash-based awards. The 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan's term is currently scheduled to expire on April 16, 2017. For purposes of this description, references to Cowen, "we" and "us" generally refer to New Parent and references to Cowen common stock generally refer to New Parent common stock.

The total number of shares of common stock that may be delivered to participants and their beneficiaries under the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan as currently in effect is 1,500,000, subject to adjustment, as described below, and the total number of shares of common stock that may be delivered to participants and their beneficiaries under the 2006 Equity and Incentive Plan as currently in effect is 4,725,000, subject to adjustment, as provided for in the 2006 Equity and Incentive Plan. As of July 8, 2009, 486,179 shares remain available for grant under the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, and 704,873 shares remain available for grant under the 2006 Equity and Incentive Plan. Prior to the proposed transactions with Ramius, we estimated that the remaining shares available under the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan and the 2006 Equity and Incentive Plan would have been sufficient to fund equity awards through at least the annual grant for performance year 2009 to be made in 2010. However, the transactions, if approved, will increase the number of individuals eligible for awards resulting in a pool of shares that will likely be insufficient to fund equity awards for performance year 2009 to be made in 2010. Following the completion of the transactions, the shares available under the 2006 Equity and Incentive Plan and the shares available under the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan (not including the shares added as contemplated by the proposed amendment) will be available for grant to legacy Cowen employees, independent contractors and non-employee directors, new hires and other individuals to the extent permitted under applicable NASDAQ rules.

To provide a sufficient pool of equity for us to attract and retain talent over the next several years, we intend to adopt, subject to stockholder approval, an amendment to the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan (which we refer to as the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan) to add 4,000,000 shares of Cowen common stock to the pool of shares available for awards. The Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan is identical in design to the current 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, other than the proposed increase to the share pool. Upon approval of the amendment, there would be an additional 4,000,000 shares available for grant under the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, which will represent approximately 7% of the total number of shares of New Parent Class A common stock expected to be outstanding immediately after the closing of the transactions. These additional shares that will be made available for grant under the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan will be available for grant to our and our subsidiaries' entire workforce, including individuals employed by or providing services to Cowen or Ramius prior to the completion of the transactions and new hires.

A copy of the proposed amendment to the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan is attached to this document as Appendix C. The amendment will become effective upon the closing of the transactions only if it is approved by our stockholders and is also contingent on the closing of the transactions. Accordingly, if the transactions are not completed, the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan will not be amended to increase the number of shares available for grant under the plan.

Our Board of Directors believes that this proposal is in the best interests of our stockholders and supports this plan for the following reasons as discussed more fully below:

We grant annual equity awards to employees in lieu of not in addition to annual cash incentive compensation.

Table of Contents

Equity awards foster an ownership culture and are a critical tool for driving stockholder value and for recruiting, retaining and motivating employees.

The Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, the terms of our annual equity awards and our employee policies are designed to protect stockholder interests.

If our stockholders do not approve the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, we will be compelled to increase significantly the cash component of employee compensation, and we will lose a critical tool for recruiting, retaining and motivating employees.

We grant annual equity awards in lieu of not in addition to annual cash incentive compensation. Annual equity awards are part of not an addition to annual compensation. As described in the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" section of our Form 10-K/A filing, filed with the SEC on April 28, 2009, under our compensation program employees receive a percentage of their total compensation in the form of equity awards in lieu of receiving all compensation in cash or deferred cash awards. An employee's total compensation (base salary and bonus) is first determined as a dollar amount and is then entered into the equity distribution grid (or a deferred compensation grid in the case of 2008) to determine the equity percentage (or deferred percentage in the case of 2008) of their total compensation. The amount of compensation expense to us is generally the same over time, whether the compensation is paid in the form of cash, deferred cash, restricted stock or stock options.

Equity awards foster an employee ownership culture and motivate employees to create stockholder value. The use of equity as part of our compensation program is critical to our success. Our equity awards foster an ownership culture among employees by aligning the financial interests of employees with those of stockholders. Our equity awards help motivate employees to perform at peak levels because the value of these awards is linked to our successful long-term performance. We have been working since our initial public offering to increase employee ownership levels, primarily through annual incentive awards designed to reward employees' performance and to promote retention and an ownership culture among employees.

Equity awards are a critical recruitment and retention tool. We would be at a competitive disadvantage if we could not compensate our employees using equity awards. We operate in an intensely competitive environment and our success is closely correlated with recruiting and retaining talented employees and a strong management team. A competitive compensation program is therefore essential to our long-term performance. Our Board of Directors believes that equity awards are necessary to attract and retain highly talented employees. When recruiting an employee from a competitor, firms in our industry typically incur a significant cost in connection with the replacement of equity that is canceled by the employee's prior employer. If our stockholders do not approve the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, our employees would not have as significant an amount of equity at risk of cancellation and competitors could recruit them at relatively inexpensive cost. At the same time, our recruiting efforts would be compromised due to the loss of equity as a form of compensation for employees.

The terms of the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan and equity awards granted under the Plan are designed to protect stockholder interests. The Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan prohibits time vested restricted stock awards from fully vesting in less than three years, subject to certain exceptions. Furthermore, no more than one-third of such time vested restricted stock awards may vest prior to the first anniversary of the grant date and no more than two-thirds of such awards may vest prior to the second anniversary of the grant date, subject to certain exceptions. In addition, the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan prohibits the repricing of stock options and stock appreciation rights (other than an equitable adjustment in connection with a corporate transaction), prohibits our purchase of out-of-the money stock options and stock appreciation rights and prohibits the settling, cancellation or exchange of any outstanding stock option or stock appreciation right for the

Table of Contents

grant of a new stock option or stock appreciation right with a lower exercise price, nor may any stock option be granted with a reload mechanism allowing for an automatic grant of a new stock option upon exercise of an outstanding stock option.

If our stockholders do not approve the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, we will need to increase significantly the cash component of employee compensation. We do not have a sufficient number of shares available under the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan to continue our established equity compensation grant practices following the transactions, given the increased needs due to the inclusion of the Ramius employees. As of July 8, 2009, we had 486,179 shares available for issuance under the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan. If our stockholders do not approve the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, we will be compelled to increase the cash component of total compensation, thus reducing the alignment of employee and stockholder interests and losing a critical recruiting, retention and motivation tool.

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote FOR approval of the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan. The affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock present in person or represented by proxy and voting affirmatively or negatively on the proposal is required to approve the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan. Proxies will be voted FOR approval of the plan unless otherwise specified.

The following paragraphs provide the material details of the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan. The following description is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, as amended. A copy of the proposed amendment to the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan is attached as Appendix C to this proxy statement.

Purpose

As with the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, the purposes of the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan are to attract, compensate, motivate and retain (a) employees of New Parent and any of its subsidiaries and affiliates, (b) independent contractors who provide significant services to New Parent or any of its subsidiaries or affiliates and (c) non-employee directors of New Parent or any of its subsidiaries or affiliates. The Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan is also designed to encourage stock ownership by such persons, thereby aligning their interests with those of our stockholders.

Eligible Individuals

As with the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, under the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, awards may be granted to New Parent's, or any of its subsidiaries' or affiliates', officers, independent contractors, employees and non-employee directors or to any individual to whom an offer of employment has been extended.

Administration

As with the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, at the discretion of our Board of Directors, the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan will be administered either by our Board of Directors or the Compensation and Benefits Committee of our Board of Directors (which we refer to as the Committee). The Board of Directors or the Committee may appoint or delegate to the New Hire and Retention Award Committee authority of the Board of Directors or the Committee with respect to certain awards. The Committee will have the authority, in its sole discretion, to administer the plan and to exercise all the power and authority either specifically granted to it under the plan or necessary or advisable in the administration of the plan, including without limitation, the authority to grant awards, to determine the persons to whom and the time or times at which awards shall be granted, to determine the type and number of awards to be granted, the number of shares of stock to which an award may relate and the terms, conditions, restrictions and performance goals relating to any award; to determine performance goals no later than such time as is required to ensure that an underlying

Table of Contents

award which is intended to comply with the requirements of Section 162(m) of the Code, so complies; to determine whether, to what extent and under what circumstances an award may be settled, cancelled, forfeited, accelerated, exchanged or surrendered; to make adjustments in the terms and conditions (including performance goals) applicable to awards; to construe and interpret the plan and any award; to prescribe, amend and rescind rules and regulations relating to the plan; to determine the terms and provisions of the award agreements (which need not be identical for each grantee); and to make all other determinations deemed necessary or advisable for the administration of the plan.

Shares Available under the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan

Authorized Shares

The total number of shares of common stock that may be delivered to participants and their beneficiaries under the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan as currently in effect is 1,500,000, subject to adjustment, as described below, and, as of July 8, 2009, 486,179 shares remain available for grant under the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan. Under the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, there would be added an additional 4,000,000 shares of our common stock available for awards. As with the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, the number of shares available under the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan will be equitably adjusted to reflect certain transactions. Shares delivered under the plan may be either treasury shares or newly issued shares.

As with the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, under the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, the aggregate awards granted during any fiscal year to any single individual may not exceed (i) 750,000 shares subject to stock options or stock appreciation rights and (ii) 750,000 shares subject to restricted stock or other stock-based awards (other than SARs), in each case subject to adjustment as provided in the plan.

As with the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, under the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, if any shares subject to an award are forfeited, cancelled, exchanged or surrendered, or if an award terminates or expires without a distribution of shares, those shares will again be available for issuance under the plan. However, shares of stock that are exchanged by a grantee or withheld by us as full or partial payment in connection with any award under the plan, as well as any shares of stock exchanged by a grantee or withheld by us to satisfy the tax withholding obligations related to any award under the plan, will not be available for subsequent awards under the plan.

As with the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, under the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, in the event of any stock split, reverse stock split, stock dividend, recapitalization, combination of shares, reclassification of shares, spin-off or other similar change in capitalization or event, or any dividend or distribution to holders of stock other than an ordinary cash dividend, the company, in the manner determined by the Board of Directors, will equitably adjust the number and kind of shares of stock or other property (including cash) that may thereafter be issued in connection with awards or the total number of awards issuable, the number and kind of shares of stock or other property issued or issuable in respect of outstanding awards, the exercise price, grant price or purchase price relating to any award, the performance goals and the individual limitations applicable to awards; provided that, no such adjustment shall cause any award which is subject to Section 409A of the Code to fail to comply with the requirements of such section or otherwise cause any award that does not otherwise provide for a deferral of compensation under Section 409A to become subject to Section 409A.

Performance Goals and Section 162(m) of the Code

As with the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, under the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, the Committee may determine that the grant, vesting or settlement of an award granted under the plan may be subject to the attainment of one or more performance goals.

Table of Contents

Section 162(m) of the Code generally places a \$1 million annual limit on a company's tax deduction for compensation paid to the principal executive officer or any of the three most highly compensated officers other than the principal executive officer or principal financial officer, referred to as the "covered individuals." This limitation does not apply, however, to "qualified performance-based compensation." Stock options and SARs granted under the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan should be treated as "qualified performance-based compensation" for purposes of Section 162(m) since they must have an exercise price at least equal to fair market value on the date of grant and be granted to covered individuals by the Committee consisting of at least two outside directors, and the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan must limit the number of shares that may be the subject of awards granted to any single individual during any calendar year.

In addition, the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan authorizes the Committee to make awards of restricted stock or restricted stock units that are conditioned on the satisfaction of pre-established performance criteria. In the case of performance-based awards that are intended to qualify for the "qualified performance-based compensation" exemption of Section 162(m)(4) of the Code, the performance criteria that may be applied to an award granted under the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan include:

earnings including operating income, earnings before or after taxes, earnings before or after interest, depreciation, amortization or extraordinary or special items or book value per share (which may exclude nonrecurring items);

pre-tax income or after-tax income;

earnings per common share (basic or diluted);

operating profit;

revenue, revenue growth or rate of revenue growth;

return on assets (gross or net), return on investment, return on capital or return on equity;

returns on sales or revenues;

operating expenses;

stock price appreciation;

cash flow, cash flow return on investment (discounted or otherwise), net cash provided by operations or cash flow in excess of cost of capital;

implementation or completion of critical projects or processes;

economic value created;

cumulative earnings per share growth;

operating margin or profit margin;

common stock price or total stockholder return;

cost targets, reductions and savings, productivity and efficiencies;

strategic business criteria, consisting of one or more objectives based on meeting specified market penetration, geographic business expansion, customer satisfaction, employee satisfaction, human resources management, supervision of litigation, information technology and goals relating to acquisitions, divestitures, joint ventures and similar transactions and budget comparisons;

Table of Contents

personal professional objectives, including any of the foregoing performance goals, the implementation of policies and plans, the negotiation of transactions, the development of long-term business goals, formation of joint ventures, research or development collaborations and the completion of other corporate transactions; and

any combination of, or a specified increase in, any of the foregoing.

So that options and SARs granted under the Amended Stock Plan qualify for the exclusion for performance-based compensation, and to permit the Committee to grant other awards under the Amended 2007 Equity Incentive Plan that are intended to qualify for the exclusion, the Amended 2007 Equity Incentive Plan is being submitted to stockholders for approval. A vote in favor of approving the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan will be a vote approving all the material terms and conditions of the plan for purposes of the performance-based exemption under Section 162(m), including the performance measures, eligibility requirements and limits on various stock awards, in each case as described above.

Stock Options and SARs

Stock option and SARs will be evidenced by award agreements that set forth the terms and conditions of the award. As with the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, stock options granted under the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan are nonqualified stock options. A SAR confers on the participant the right to receive an amount, either in cash, common stock or property as set forth in the award agreement or as determined by the Committee, with respect to each share subject to the SAR, equal to the excess of the fair market value of one share of our common stock on the date of exercise over the grant price of the SAR. SARs may be granted alone or in tandem with a stock option. The Committee will determine all of the terms and conditions of stock options and SARs including, among other things, the number of shares subject to the award and the exercise price per share of the award, which in no event may be less than the fair market value of a share of our common stock on the date of grant (in the case of a SAR granted in tandem with a stock option, the grant price of the tandem SAR will be equal to the exercise price of the stock option), and whether the vesting of the award will be subject to the achievement of one or more performance goals. As with the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, stock options granted under the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan may not have a term exceeding ten years from the date of grant, and the award agreement will contain terms concerning the termination of the option or SAR following termination of the participant's service with us. As with the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, under the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, payment of the exercise price of a stock option granted under the plan may be made in cash or by an exchange of our common stock previously owned by the participant, through a "cashless exercise" or other procedure approved by the Committee or by a combination of the foregoing methods.

Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Units

As with the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, under the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, the terms and conditions of awards of restricted stock and restricted stock units granted under the plan will be determined by the Committee and set forth in an award agreement. A restricted stock unit confers on the participant the right to receive a share of our common stock or its equivalent value in cash, in the sole discretion of the Committee. These awards will be subject to restrictions on transferability which may lapse under those circumstances that the Committee determines which may include the attainment of one or more performance goals. The Committee may determine that the holder of restricted stock or restricted stock units may receive dividends (or dividend equivalents, in the case of restricted stock units) that may be deferred during the restricted period applicable to these awards. The award agreement will contain terms concerning the termination of the award of restricted stock or restricted stock units following termination of the participant's service with us.

Table of Contents

As with the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan requires that all restricted stock awards that are not subject to performance vesting may not fully vest in less than three years from the grant date, except in the event of a change in control. However, tranches of restricted stock may vest in less than three years but no more than one-third may vest prior to the first anniversary of the grant date and no more than two-thirds may vest prior to the second anniversary of the grant date. Restricted stock awards that do not vest solely on the passage of time may not vest prior to the first anniversary of the grant date. However, up to 15% of the maximum number of shares authorized under the plan that are granted as restricted stock awards may be granted with none of the vesting restrictions discussed above. In extraordinary circumstances, such as the death or disability of a grantee or a nonrecurring significant event affecting us or a grantee, the Board of Directors and the Compensation Committee each has the power to waive, remove or modify any restrictions applicable to the restricted stock award.

Other Stock-Based or Cash-Based Awards

As with the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan also provides for other stock-based and cash-based awards, the form and terms of which will be determined by the Committee consistent with the purposes of the plan. The vesting or payment of one of these awards may be made subject to the attainment of one or more performance goals.

Termination of Employment

Unless otherwise provided by the Committee or as set forth in an award agreement or employment contract, any unvested options, restricted stock or other cash-based or equity-based awards will be forfeited upon termination of a grantee's employment with or service to us, our affiliates or related entities; provided, however, that the Committee may waive, in whole or in part, those forfeiture conditions in the event of terminations resulting from specified causes.

Change in Control

As with the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan provides that, unless otherwise determined by the Committee or as set forth in an award agreement, in the event of a change in control (as defined in the plan), any restricted stock that was forfeitable prior to such change in control will become nonforfeitable and any unexercised option or SAR, whether or not exercisable on the date of such change in control, will become fully exercisable and may be exercised in whole or in part. As with the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, each other award granted under the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan will be treated as set forth by the Committee, in the applicable award agreement or otherwise.

Payment of Withholding Taxes

We are authorized to withhold from any payment in respect of any award granted under the plan, or from any other payment to a participant, amounts of withholding and other taxes due in connection with any transaction involving an award. The Committee is permitted to provide in the agreement evidencing an award that the participant may satisfy this obligation by electing to have us withhold a portion of the shares of our common stock to be received upon exercise or settlement of the award.

Transferability of Awards

Unless otherwise provided in an award agreement, awards granted under the plan generally may not be transferred by a grantee other than by will or the laws of descent and distribution or a transfer to a family member or family-related trust pursuant to a gift or domestic relations order.

Table of Contents

Amendment and Termination

The Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan will expire on April 16, 2017, which is the tenth anniversary of the date of the 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan's adoption. Our Board of Directors is permitted to amend, suspend or terminate the plan in whole or in part at any time, provided that no amendment, expiration or termination of the plan will adversely affect any then-outstanding award without the consent of the holder of the award. Unless otherwise determined by our Board of Directors, an amendment to the plan that requires stockholder approval in order for the plan to continue to comply with applicable law, regulations or stock exchange requirements will not be effective unless approved by our stockholders.

Registration

If this proposal is approved, we intend to register the 4,000,000 shares to be issued under the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan on a registration statement on Form S-8.

Certain Federal Income Tax Consequences

The following discussion of certain relevant federal income tax effects applicable to stock options and other stock-based awards granted under the plan is a summary only, and reference is made to the Code for a complete statement of all relevant federal tax provisions. The summary assumes that all grants comply with the non-qualified deferred compensation rules of Section 409A of the Code.

Options

With respect to nonqualified options, the grantee will recognize no income upon grant of the option, and, upon exercise, will recognize ordinary income to the extent of the excess of the fair market value of the shares on the date of option exercise over the amount paid by the grantee for the shares. Upon a subsequent disposition of the shares received under the option, the grantee generally will recognize capital gain or loss to the extent of the difference between the fair market value of the shares at the time of exercise and the amount realized on the disposition.

SARs

The recipient of a grant of stock-based SARs will not realize taxable income and we will not be entitled to a deduction with respect to such grant on the date of such grant. Upon the exercise of a SAR, the recipient will realize ordinary income equal to the fair market value of any shares received at the time of exercise. In general, we will be entitled to a corresponding deduction, equal to the amount of income realized.

Restricted Stock

A grantee who receives a grant of restricted stock will not recognize any taxable income at the time of the award, provided the shares are subject to restrictions (that is, they are nontransferable and subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture). A grantee's rights in restricted stock awarded under the plan are subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture if the rights to full enjoyment of the shares are conditioned, directly or indirectly, upon the future performance of substantial services by the grantee. However, the grantee may elect under Section 83(b) of the Code to recognize compensation income in the year of the award in an amount equal to the fair market value of the shares on the date of the award, determined without regard to the restrictions. If the grantee does not make a Section 83(b) election within thirty days of receipt of the restricted shares, the fair market value of the shares on the date the restrictions lapse, less any amount paid by the grantee for such shares, will be treated as compensation income to the grantee and will be taxable in the year the restrictions lapse. We generally

Table of Contents

will be entitled to a compensation deduction for the amount of compensation income the grantee recognizes.

Restricted Stock Units

In the case of a restricted stock unit award, a grantee will not be taxed upon the grant of such an award, but, rather, the grantee will recognize ordinary income in an amount equal to the fair market value of the common stock at the same time that the common stock, or cash having a value equal to such common stock, is issued to the grantee. We will be entitled to a deduction at the time when, and in the amount that, the grantee recognizes ordinary income.

Other Types of Awards

Other types of awards under the plan generally would result in taxable ordinary income to the grantee, the amount and timing of which would depend upon the terms and conditions of the particular award. We would generally be entitled to a corresponding tax deduction.

Tax Consequences of Change in Control

The accelerated vesting of awards under the plan in connection with a change in control could cause award holders to be subject to the federal excise tax on "excess parachute payments" and cause a corresponding loss of deduction on the part of us.

New Plan Benefits

Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan

Name and Position	Restricted Stock Awards (in shares)	Restricted Stock Unit Awards (in shares)
All Non-Executive Officer Employees, as a Group	462,132	231,066

In connection with their entry into employment agreements with Cowen and New Parent, effective as of the completion of the transactions, New Parent will grant (i) 462,132 restricted shares to certain non-executive officer employees under the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan and (ii) 231,066 restricted stock units to certain non-executive officers under the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan. In addition, New Parent may also grant up to an additional 288,832 restricted shares to employees to be determined in connection with the transactions under the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan, the granting of which is discretionary, and, accordingly, with respect to such awards we cannot determine the number, if any, or type of awards to be granted in the future to any particular person or group.

Table of Contents

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS OF RAMIUS

This discussion contains forward-looking statements, which involve numerous risks and uncertainties, including, but not limited to, those described on page 42 of this document. This Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations of Ramius should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and related notes of Ramius included in the section titled "Index to Ramius Financial Statements" beginning on page F-5 of this document. Actual results may differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements.

Business Overview

Ramius is an alternative investment management firm founded in 1994 with over \$7 billion of assets under management as of July 1, 2009. Ramius, through one of its subsidiaries, has been a registered investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act since 1997 and operates through its offices in New York, London, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Munich and Luxembourg. Ramius's investment services and products include hedge funds, fund of funds, real estate and cash management. Its institutional investors include pension funds, insurance companies, banks, foundations and endowments, wealth management organizations and family offices.

Ramius's hedge fund and fund of funds platforms have historically sought to deliver consistent, risk-adjusted returns throughout a market cycle (which Ramius generally views as an approximate three- to five-year investment horizon). In these platforms, Ramius seeks positive performance with minimal correlation to directional market indices. Risk-adjusted returns refer to positive returns with lower volatility as compared to traditional asset classes such as equities.

Ramius conducts its operations through one reportable segment, the Investment Management segment, which provides management and advisory services to its hedge funds, fund of funds, real estate and other investment platforms.

Factors Affecting its Business

Ramius's business and results of operations are impacted by the following factors:

Assets under management. Ramius's revenues from management fees are directly linked to assets under management. As a result, its future performance will depend on, among other things, its ability to retain assets under management and to grow assets under management from existing and new products. In addition, positive performance increases assets under management which results in higher management fees.

Investment performance. Ramius's revenues from incentive income are linked to the performance of the funds and accounts Ramius manages. Performance also affects assets under management because it influences investors' decisions to invest assets in, or withdraw assets from, the funds and accounts managed by Ramius.

Fee and allocation rates. Ramius's management fee revenues are linked to the management fee rates it charges as a percentage of assets under management. Its incentive income revenues are linked to the incentive allocation rates Ramius charges as a percentage of performance-driven asset growth. Ramius's incentive allocations are subject to "high-water marks," whereby incentive income is earned by Ramius only to the extent that the net asset value of a fund at the end of a measurement period exceeds the highest net asset value as of the end of the preceding measurement period for which Ramius earned incentive income. Ramius's incentive allocations are also subject, in some cases, to performance hurdles.

Investment performance of Ramius's own capital. Ramius invests its own capital and the performance of such invested capital affects its revenues. As of June 30, 2009, Ramius had an investment of approximately \$264 million in Ramius Enterprise LP, an entity which invests its

Table of Contents

capital in Ramius Enterprise Master Fund Ltd (which we refer to as the Enterprise Fund). Most of Ramius's return on its own invested capital is derived from its investment in the Enterprise Fund, with such income directly dependent on the performance of the Enterprise Fund.

Personnel, systems, controls and infrastructure. Ramius's ability to grow assets under management and produce positive performance depends on its ability to attract, retain and motivate investment and other professionals. Its business requires significant investment in its fund management platform, including infrastructure and back-office personnel.

In addition, Ramius's business and results of operations may be affected by a number of external market factors. These include global asset allocation trends, regulatory developments and overall macroeconomic activity. Due to these and other factors, its operating results may reflect significant volatility from period to period. Ramius was affected by the conditions impacting the global financial markets and the hedge fund industry during 2008, which was characterized by substantial declines in investment performance and unanticipated levels of requested redemptions. Investors sought liquidity wherever it could be obtained, often due to liquidity constraints within their own organizations. As was the case industry-wide, during 2008 Ramius's funds experienced negative investment performance and increased redemptions. Ramius's assets under management declined from \$12.9 billion as of December 31, 2007 to \$7.4 billion as of July 1, 2009. While market conditions in 2009 have stabilized somewhat and investors' liquidity needs may be less acute than in 2008, Ramius believes that the redemption cycle may not yet be complete. These conditions will continue to affect Ramius's business, and as other alternative investment managers continue to restrict fund investor liquidity, it is possible that Ramius could continue to experience elevated redemptions relative to historic levels, regardless of fund performance. However, Ramius believes the diversity of its products and services as well as the strength of its institutional platform, supported by its own capital, should benefit Ramius throughout this period.

Understanding Ramius's Results

Assets Under Management and Investment Performance

The principal drivers of Ramius's results are assets under management and investment performance. Delivering positive fund performance that is consistent with its investors' objectives is the principal determinant of the long-term success of Ramius's business as it enables Ramius to grow assets under management organically, generate investment returns on Ramius's own invested capital, should enable Ramius to attract new capital and minimize redemptions by its fund investors. Conversely, poor investment performance decreases Ramius's assets under management, can result in investor redemptions from its funds and generates losses on Ramius's own capital.

The ability of investors to contribute capital to and redeem capital from Ramius's funds can cause assets under management to fluctuate considerably from period to period. Such fluctuations also result from investment performance due to the retention and reinvestment of fund profits as well as the impact of fund losses. All of these factors impact the revenues Ramius earns from management fees, incentive income and returns on its own capital. The need of Ramius's clients to satisfy their own liquidity requirements (especially if other managers have instituted redemption restrictions) may cause some investors to redeem investments in Ramius's funds for reasons unrelated to Ramius's performance.

As of June 30, 2009, Ramius had \$264 million of its own capital invested in the Enterprise Fund. As such, the investment performance of the Enterprise Fund has a material impact on Ramius's performance. Prior to January 2008, Ramius invested its own capital directly rather than through a fund. In the fall of 2007, Ramius transferred substantially all of the direct investments on its balance sheet into the Enterprise Fund and in January 2008, Ramius began offering the Enterprise Fund to qualified investors. When Ramius refers to its investment income or losses, Ramius is referring to its

Table of Contents

direct investments prior to 2008 and primarily the investment of its own capital in the Enterprise Fund since January 2008.

Revenues

Ramius generates revenue through three principal sources: management fees, incentive income and investment income from its own capital. The amount of revenues earned from those sources is directly related to the amount of its assets under management and the investment performance of its funds. Management fees are directly impacted by any increase or decrease in Ramius's assets under management, while incentive income is impacted by its funds' performance and any increase or decrease in assets under management. Investment income from Ramius's own capital is impacted by the performance of the funds in which its capital is invested, which is principally the Enterprise Fund.

Historically, Ramius owned 50% of the Ramius fund of funds business. Although 100% of the revenues from the fund of funds business were included as revenue in Ramius's consolidated financial statements, 50% of the net income was allocated to a non-controlling interest. Following the closing of the transactions, New Parent will be the sole owner of the fund of funds business. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis - Changes in Connection with the Transactions - Fund of Funds Business" beginning on page 155 for more information. Furthermore, the general partners of Ramius's real estate funds are owned jointly by Ramius and third parties with Ramius's ownership interest in the general partners of the real estate funds ranging from 30% to 55%. Accordingly, the management fees, incentive income and investment income generated by the real estate funds are split between Ramius and the other owners of general partners. Ramius does not possess unilateral control over the general partners. Pursuant to GAAP, the management fees, incentive income and investment income received by the general partners are accounted for under the equity method and are reflected under other income instead of management fees, incentive income and investment income.

Management Fees. Ramius earns management fees based on its assets under management. The actual management fees received can vary depending on distribution fees or fee splits paid to third parties either in connection with raising the assets or structuring the investment. Management fees are generally paid on a quarterly basis at the beginning of each quarter and are prorated for capital inflows and redemptions. Accordingly, changes in Ramius's management fee revenues each quarter are influenced by changes in the applicable opening balances of assets under management, changes in average management fee rates and the relative magnitude and timing of inflows and redemptions during the respective periods. While some investors with significant investments in separately managed accounts may have separately negotiated fees, in general the management fees are as follows:

Hedge Funds. Management fees for Ramius's hedge funds are generally charged at an annual rate of up to 2% of assets under management. Management fees are generally calculated monthly based on assets under management at the end of each month before incentive allocations.

Fund of Funds. Management fees for the fund of funds are generally charged at an annual rate of up to 2% of assets under management. Management fees are generally calculated monthly based on assets under management at the beginning or end of each month before incentive allocations.

Real Estate Funds. Management fees from the real estate funds are generally charged by their general partners at an annual rate between 1% and 1.5% of total capital commitments during the investment period and of invested capital or net asset value of the applicable fund after the investment period has ended. Management fees are typically paid to the general partners on a quarterly basis, at the beginning of the quarter, in arrears, and are prorated for changes

Table of Contents

in capital commitments throughout the investment period and invested capital after the investment period.

Other. Management fees from Ramius's cash management business range from annual rates of 0.08% to 0.20% of assets, based on the average daily balances of the assets under management. Ramius also provides mortgage advisory services where Ramius manages collateralized debt obligations (which we refer to as CDOs) and liquidates CDOs that were historically managed by others. Since the fourth quarter of 2007, Ramius has rebated the management fees in connection with managing CDOs and Ramius's advisory fees from liquidating CDOs are usually negotiated fixed fees.

Incentive Income. Ramius earns incentive income based on the performance of the Ramius funds, fund of funds, real estate funds and managed accounts. Incentive allocations are typically between 10% and 20% for hedge funds and 10% for fund of funds, in each case based on the net realized and unrealized profits including investment income earned for the full year that are attributable to each investor. However, many fund of funds products and some other products have no incentive allocation. Incentive income on real estate investments is earned in the year of the sale or realization of a private investment, subject to a clawback to the extent that the applicable minimum return is not generated upon the winding up of the fund. The real estate funds have incentive allocations of 20%. In order for the real estate funds to receive incentive allocations, investors in these funds must first receive a minimum return on their investments of approximately 8%. For most of Ramius's existing funds with an incentive allocation, there is a perpetual high-water mark. As a result of negative investment performance in 2008, Ramius entered 2009 with high-water marks in many hedge funds. These high-water marks require the Ramius funds to recover cumulative losses before Ramius can begin to earn incentive income in 2009 and beyond until the high-water marks are reached with respect to the investments of the fund investors who suffered losses last year. For example, the net asset value of Ramius Multi-Strategy Fund Ltd decreased by 26.76% net of management fees in 2008. This assumes no further recovery from the 80% discount that Ramius has valued the net equity claim for assets held at Lehman Brothers International (Europe) (which we refer to as LBIE). In order for Ramius to earn an incentive fee from an investor who had participated fully in this loss, the fund will have to increase net asset value by 36.5%, net of management fees. Such analysis applies to each fund which incurred 2008 losses. Current market conditions make it difficult to predict when Ramius may exceed these high-water marks. New capital is, however, eligible for incentive allocations based solely on performance after the investment is made. The industry is currently evolving in that many new hedge funds are being created with modified high-water marks that do not prohibit the manager from receiving an incentive allocation for an indeterminate period of time. Ramius plans to introduce modified high-water marks or other benchmarks as Ramius creates new products.

Interest and Dividends. Ramius receives interest and dividends primarily from its own invested capital. Prior to 2008, when Ramius invested its capital directly, its interest and dividend revenues were significantly higher. Once Ramius invested its capital through the Enterprise Fund, it no longer received significant revenues directly from interest or dividends.

Reimbursements from Affiliates. Ramius incurs certain expenses on behalf of its operating subsidiaries, such as the fund of funds and real estate businesses. The expenses relate to the administration of such subsidiaries. In addition, pursuant to the funds' offering documents, Ramius charges certain allowable expenses to the funds, including charges and personnel costs for legal, compliance, accounting, tax compliance, marketing, risk and technology expenses that directly relate to administering the assets of the funds.

Other Revenue. Ramius periodically receives other revenue which is unrelated to its own invested capital or its activities on behalf of the Ramius funds. Historical sources of such other revenue

Table of Contents

primarily include certain placement fee income received by a non-wholly owned subsidiary of Ramius that engaged in the distribution of interests in the real estate funds.

Consolidated Ramius Funds and Certain Real Estate Entities Revenues. Certain Ramius funds and real estate entities are consolidated with Ramius pursuant to GAAP. Ramius's consolidated financial statements reflect the management fees and other revenues of certain non-wholly owned operating subsidiaries, and the portions that are attributable to other investors are allocated to a non-controlling interest. The realized and unrealized trading income from these consolidated entities is recognized in other income (loss) as described below.

Expenses

Ramius's expenses consist of compensation and benefits, interest expense and general, administrative and other expenses. In 2008, Ramius decided to focus on its larger products and rationalize or eliminate those products, strategies and businesses that were less likely to attract significant assets under management or were marginal to its business. This decision has resulted in a reduction in expenses (including a reduction in compensation expenses as a result of headcount reductions of both investment professionals and support staff). Such expense reductions began in the fourth quarter of 2008 and Ramius continues to evaluate its expenses on an ongoing basis.

Compensation and Benefits. Compensation and benefits is comprised of salaries, benefits, discretionary cash bonuses and equity-based compensation. Annual incentive compensation is variable, and the amount paid is generally based on a combination of employees' performance, their contribution to the funds and separately managed accounts, and Ramius's net income. Generally, compensation and benefits comprise a significant portion of total expenses, with annual incentive compensation comprising a majority of total compensation and benefits expenses. This annual compensation expense historically has been funded by revenues, including incentive income earned at the end of a calendar year and investment returns on Ramius's own capital. As of September 30, 2008, prior to beginning headcount reductions, Ramius had 240 employees and as of June 30, 2009, Ramius had 147 employees.

Interest and Dividends. Amounts included within interest and dividend expense historically included interest and dividends associated with Ramius investing its own capital directly. Subsequent to Ramius transferring its investments to the Enterprise Fund, such expense primarily relates to interest paid on Ramius's revolving line of credit. See the section titled "Management's Discussion and Analysis Liquidity and Capital Resources" beginning on page 183 below.

General, Administrative and Other. General, administrative and other expenses are primarily related to professional services, occupancy and equipment, business development expenses, communications, insurance and other miscellaneous expenses. These expenses may also include certain one-time charges and non-cash expenses.

Consolidated Ramius Funds and Certain Real Estate Entities Expenses. Certain Ramius funds and real estate entities are consolidated with Ramius pursuant to GAAP. Ramius's consolidated financial statements reflect the expenses of certain non-wholly owned operating subsidiaries and funds, and the portion attributable to other investors is allocated to a non-controlling interest.

Other Income (Loss)

Ramius's other income (loss) primarily consists of realized and unrealized gains or losses from the investment of its own capital and from its consolidated funds and certain non-wholly owned operating subsidiaries.

Table of Contents

Income Taxes

Historically, Ramius operated as a limited liability company and was not subject to U.S. federal or state income taxes. However, Ramius is subject to unincorporated business income tax (which we refer to as UBT), on its trade and business activities conducted in New York, New York. The effective UBT rates vary significantly between the effective rate applicable to income from business activities and the effective rate applicable to income from investment activities. Ramius is also subject to foreign taxation on income it generates in certain countries.

Non-controlling Interests

Non-controlling interests represent the pro rata share of the income or loss of the non-wholly owned consolidated entities attributable to the other owners of such entities.

Special Allocation to Ramius's Managing Member

In accordance with Ramius's existing operating agreement, Ramius's managing member has historically been entitled to receive a special allocation equal to 35% of Ramius's net profits. Following the closing of the transactions, Ramius will no longer allocate a portion of its profits to its managing member, and the principals of the managing member, in their capacities as officers of New Parent, will instead receive compensation in the form of salaries and discretionary bonuses.

Changes in Connection with the Transactions

Fund of Funds Business

The Ramius fund of funds business is currently operated as a joint venture between Ramius and HVB. Currently, the net income with respect to the fund of funds business is distributed equally to Ramius and HVB. In connection with the transactions and pursuant to the asset exchange agreement, Ramius has agreed to purchase HVB's interest in the fund of funds business through an affiliate of Ramius in exchange for approximately 2.7 million shares, or 4.9%, of New Parent Class A common stock, subject to certain adjustments, and approximately \$10.4 million of additional consideration, which may be paid either in debt or in cash. As a result, New Parent will indirectly be the sole owner of the fund of funds business and HVB will no longer participate directly in the fund of funds net income. See the section titled "Other Agreements Related to the Transactions Asset Exchange Agreement" beginning on page 106 for more information.

Special Allocation to the Managing Member

As described above, following the closing of the transactions, Ramius will no longer allocate a portion of its profits to its managing member.

Employee Ownership Program

Ramius sponsors an employee ownership plan (which we refer to as the REOP program) for certain key employees at Ramius. The REOP program provides for the granting of equity interests in Ramius to certain participants, or equity REOP. Other participants have been granted non-equity awards which track the returns of an equity interest in Ramius, or phantom REOP. Any equity REOP and phantom REOP awards which were awarded prior to the transactions (other than the \$25.0 million transaction REOP grants discussed below) will vest upon the closing of the transactions. Upon the closing, \$3.7 million in outstanding equity and phantom REOP will vest, of which \$0.9 million will be paid out in cash with respect to equity REOP to fund certain tax withholding requirements, \$2.1 million in outstanding equity REOP will convert to ownership interests in Ramius and \$0.8 million in outstanding phantom REOP will vest, which will be paid out in cash.

The Ramius fund of funds also sponsors an employee profit participation plan (which we refer to as the RAPP program) for certain key employees at the Ramius fund of funds. The RAPP program

Table of Contents

provides for the granting of equity interests in related entities with the initial grant values based on a certain percentage of profits of the fund of funds business. In years that awards are granted, one half of the amount granted represents equity units in one of the consolidated fund of funds products managed by the Ramius fund of funds business chosen by senior management and the other half of the amount granted represents equity units of Ramius. Upon closing, \$2.7 million in outstanding RAPP awards will vest, of which \$0.8 million will be paid out in cash to fund certain tax withholding requirements, \$1.0 million will convert to ownership interests in Ramius and \$0.9 million will convert to ownership interests in certain fund of funds platforms.

In connection with the transactions, Ramius has awarded an additional \$25.0 million in equity REOP to certain key employees, or the "transaction REOP." The transaction REOP is a one-time award which will vest over a three-year period, with 50% of the awards vesting on each of the second and third anniversaries of the closing of the transactions. New Parent will recognize the transaction REOP as compensation expense each year in relation to the services received over the requisite service period.

Income Taxes

Following the closing of the transactions, New Parent will be subject to U.S. federal, state and local income tax on its income. New Parent's carrying value of the Ramius business will be higher for income tax purposes than for financial reporting purposes. The net deferred tax asset that will be recognized for this difference will be limited to the tax benefit expected to be realized in the foreseeable future. This benefit will be estimated based on a number of factors, especially the amount of unrealized gains in all of the net assets of the combined company existing for tax purposes at the date of the transaction that are actually expected to be realized, for tax purposes, in the foreseeable future. If the unrealized gains at the date of the closing of the transactions that will be realized in the future increase or decrease, deferred income tax expense or benefit will be recognized accordingly.

Assets Under Management and Fund Performance***Assets Under Management***

The following table sets forth assets under management as of July 1, 2009:

Platform	Total Assets under Management (dollars in millions)	Primary Strategies
Hedge Funds	\$ 2,091 ⁽³⁾	Multi-Strategy Single Strategy
Fund of Funds⁽¹⁾	2,105	Ramius Multi-Strategy Ramius Vintage Multi-Strategy Ramius Customized Solutions
Real Estate⁽²⁾	1,628 ⁽⁴⁾	Debt Equity
Other	1,570	Cash Management Mortgage Advisory
Total	\$ 7,394	

(1)

As discussed above, HVB currently owns 50% of the fund of funds business. In connection with the transactions, New Parent will acquire HVB's interest in the fund of funds business as described above in the section titled "Management's Discussion and Analysis - Changes in Connection with the Transactions - Fund of Funds Business."

Table of Contents

- (2) As discussed above, Ramius owns between 30% and 55% of the general partners in the real estate business. Ramius does not possess unilateral control over any of these general partners.
- (3) This amount includes Ramius's own invested capital.
- (4) This amount reflects committed capital.

Ramius typically accepts new investors and additional investments from existing investors into its funds on a monthly basis. Investors in Ramius's hedge funds and fund of funds, but not cash management or real estate, generally have the right to redeem their interests on a quarterly basis, after providing the required advanced notice which typically ranges from thirty to 120 days. However, depending on the investment strategy, some products have less frequent redemption periods, such as annual or semi-annual. The funds generally have a lock-up period of one year or more from the date of investment during which time redemptions can only be made upon payment of a fee ranging from 1% to 5% of the amount being redeemed. Investors in the Enterprise Fund, however, only have the right to redeem their interests after a two-year period upon providing 120 days' notice. If an investor in the Enterprise Fund does not provide notice, the investor would then be subject to another two-year lock-up period with respect to investments in the Enterprise Fund. Investors in Ramius's real estate funds are required to meet capital calls over a designated investment period to the extent of their previously agreed capital commitments and redemptions are generally not permitted. Investors in Ramius's cash management accounts may freely withdraw capital from such accounts.

The following table sets forth the changes to Ramius's assets under management, which beginning in 2007, includes Ramius's investment in the Enterprise Fund:

	Year ended December 31,			July 1,
	2006	2007	2008	2009
	(dollars in thousands)			
Beginning Assets under Management	\$ 8,810,398	\$ 9,592,135	\$ 12,900,355	\$ 9,765,230
Net Subscriptions (Redemptions)	46,484	2,601,939	(1,066,714)	(2,462,443)
Net Performance(1)	735,253	706,281	(2,068,411)	91,308
Ending Assets under Management	\$ 9,592,135	\$ 12,900,355	\$ 9,765,230	\$ 7,394,095

- (1) Net performance reflected is representative of the net return of the most recently issued full fee paying class of fund interests offered to investors. The net returns are net of all management and incentive fees, and are calculated monthly based on the change in an investor's current month ending equity as a percentage of their prior month's ending equity, adjusted for the current month's subscriptions and redemptions. Such returns are compounded monthly in calculating the final net year to date return. Included in net performance is the effect of any foreign exchange translation adjustments.

Ramius's assets under management declined substantially during 2008 due primarily to substantial declines in investment performance and unanticipated levels of redemptions related to the unprecedented global financial market conditions, particularly during the second half of 2008. Ramius's business has been adversely affected by these global market conditions. As a result, the investment returns in the funds were adversely affected, most significantly in the second half of the year.

Assets under management as of July 1, 2009 were \$7.39 billion, a decrease of \$2.37 billion from December 31, 2008, mainly as a result of net investor outflows of \$2.46 billion from January 1, 2009 through July 1, 2009. Ramius believes these redemptions were investors' response to the continuing global financial crisis and the decline in fund performance. Ramius believes its assets under management growth rate for at least the near term will be lower than historic levels. As a result, Ramius expects that management fees will be lower in future quarters compared to prior periods until global economies and markets stabilize and assets under management begin to increase. In addition,

Table of Contents

due to the high-water marks set in 2008, Ramius may not earn incentive income in 2009 and beyond until the high-water marks are reached with respect to the investments of the fund investors who suffered losses last year.

In 2008, the decrease in assets under management was driven by net outflows of \$1.07 billion, comprised of \$3.57 billion of inflows and \$4.64 billion of outflows, including \$1.38 billion in inflows and \$1.34 billion in outflows from cash management accounts as well as an \$83.0 million inflow from an additional investment made by Ramius into the Enterprise Fund. In 2007, growth in assets under management was driven by net inflows of \$2.60 billion, comprised of \$5.87 billion of inflows and \$3.27 billion of outflows, including \$2.03 billion in inflows and \$1.89 billion in outflows from cash management accounts as well as a \$266.4 million inflow from Ramius's initial investment in the Enterprise Fund. In 2006, growth in assets under management was driven by net inflows of \$46.5 million, comprised of \$3.10 billion of inflows and \$3.05 billion of outflows, including \$1.36 billion in inflows and \$1.19 billion in outflows from cash management accounts.

Fund Performance

Performance information for Ramius's most significant funds is included throughout this discussion and analysis to facilitate an understanding of its results of operations for the periods presented. The performance information reflected in this discussion and analysis is not indicative of the future results of any particular fund. An investment in New Parent's shares is not an investment in any of Ramius's funds. There can be no assurance that any of the specified funds or Ramius's other existing or future funds will achieve similar results.

The table below sets forth performance information as of June 30, 2009 for Ramius's funds with assets greater than \$200 million as well as information with respect to Ramius's largest single-strategy hedge fund. The performance reflected below is representative of the net return of the most recently issued full fee paying class of fund interests offered for the respective fund. The net returns are net of all management and incentive fees, and are calculated monthly based on the change in an investor's current month ending equity as a percentage of their prior month's ending equity, adjusted for the current month's subscriptions and redemptions. Such returns are compounded monthly in calculating the final net year to date return.

Platform	Strategy	Largest Funds(1)	2009(2)	Performance		
				2008	2007	2006
Hedge Funds	Multi-Strategy	Ramius Multi-Strategy Fund Ltd. <i>(Inception Jan. 1, 1996)</i>	1.59%	(22.64)%(3)	6.05%	12.51%
		Ramius Enterprise LP <i>(Inception Jan. 1, 2008)</i>	(0.45)%	(25.38)%(3)	24.91%(4)	13.63%(4)
	Single Strategy	Ramius Value and Opportunity Overseas Fund Ltd. <i>(Inception Mar. 1, 2006)</i>	6.04%	(20.81)%	6.34%	23.77%
Fund of Funds	Ramius Multi-Strategy	Ramius Multi-Strategy FOF Ltd. <i>(Inception Jan. 1, 1998)</i>	4.27%	(24.22)%	9.08%	6.94%
	Ramius Vintage Multi-Strategy	Ramius Vintage Multi-Strategy FOF Ltd. <i>(Inception Jan. 1, 2006)</i>	6.82%	(27.76)%	11.87%	8.99%
	Managed Accounts	Activist Portfolio with Hedging Overlay <i>(Inception Sept. 1, 2007)</i>	3.28%	(8.90)%	2.47%	na
		Low Volatility Multi-Strategy Fund <i>(Inception Aug. 1, 2005)</i>	3.40%	(18.17)%	9.41%	3.79%
Real Estate	Debt	RCG Longview Debt Fund IV, L.P. <i>(Inception Nov. 12, 2007)</i>	(5.78)%(5)	(8.57)%	8.34%	na
	Equity	RCG Longview Equity Fund, L.P. <i>(Inception Nov. 22, 2006)</i>	(1.61)%(5)	(14.85)%	(3.64)%	(18.76)%
Other	Cash Management		(0.10)%	3.67%	5.24%	5.05%

Table of Contents

- (1) Funds with assets under management greater than \$200 million and Ramius's largest single-strategy fund. The inception date for a fund represents the initial date that the fund accepted capital from third party investors. As of July 1, 2009, the net assets of the funds presented above were \$4.28 billion, or 57.9% of the total assets under management as of July 1, 2009 of \$7.39 billion. These funds represent funds with net assets generally greater than \$200 million and Ramius' largest single-strategy hedge fund. Excluded from the table above are funds with \$3.11 billion, or 42.1% of total assets under management as of July 1, 2009. These include a total of 62 smaller individual funds and managed accounts.
- (2) Performance for 2009 year to date as of June 30, 2009.
- (3) Performance does not reflect any decrease in valuation for LBIE assets which have been segregated. See section titled "Management's Discussion and Analysis Assets Under Management and Fund Performance Fund Performance 2008 Fund Performance Lehman Brothers" beginning on page 159 for more information.
- (4) Reflects returns on Ramius's own invested capital prior to the creation of the Enterprise Fund with the application to such performance of (i) an annual management fee of 2% on average invested assets; (ii) an annual performance fee of 20% on net income; and (iii) annual estimated expenses of 0.26% on average invested assets. See section titled "Management's Discussion and Analysis Assets Under Management and Fund Performance" beginning on page 156 for more information.
- (5) Returns for each year represent net internal rates of return to limited partners after management fees and incentive allocations, if any, and are computed on a year-to-year basis consistent with industry standards. Incentive allocations are computed based on a hypothetical liquidation of net assets of each fund as of the balance sheet date. Returns are calculated for the investors as a whole. The computation of such returns for an individual investor may vary from these returns based on different management fee and incentive arrangements and the timing of capital transactions. The hypothetical liquidation value may not reflect the ultimate value that may be realized from the real estate investments, particularly given the relatively long period of time that the real estate investments may be held under the terms of the real estate fund documents.

2009 Fund Performance

As 2009 began, market conditions remained unstable and investor liquidity issues had yet to be resolved. In the second quarter market conditions began to stabilize. At Ramius, performance in more liquid strategies has started to improve as conditions have improved across a number of markets and strategies in which Ramius engages. In particular, the actions of the U.S. Treasury and the Federal Reserve Board have infused markets with liquidity and have led to significant tightening in credit spreads which has carried over into the equity markets as well. Ramius continues to experience challenges in the less liquid portions of its portfolio which have continued to be a drag on performance through the second quarter. A portion of this performance is related to mark-to-market valuations as opposed to permanent impairment.

2008 Fund Performance

In 2008, the majority of the decline in performance was attributable to unprecedented levels of market volatility, a lack of liquidity in global markets and, beginning in the third quarter, investors' demands for liquidity wherever it could be obtained. These factors resulted in substantial declines in the value of almost every asset class globally. The combination of declining asset values, illiquid markets and redemption demands in turn forced a large part of the hedge fund (and fund of funds) industry to impose restrictions on redemptions (such as gates or outright suspensions), and to create a variety of investor structures (side pockets, liquidating and retention classes) in order to bring portfolio assets and liquidity requirements into a manageable balance.

Lehman Brothers. Certain of the hedge funds managed by Ramius used Lehman Brothers International (Europe) (which we refer to as LBIE) as one of their prime brokers and some of these funds also held assets through accounts at Lehman Brothers, Inc. (which we refer to as LBI). As a result of LBIE being placed into administration on September 15, 2008 by order of the English Court and LBI entering liquidation proceedings under the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970, as amended, the assets, including securities and cash, held by Ramius and the hedge funds in their LBIE accounts and LBI accounts were frozen at LBIE and LBI, respectively.

The net assets of the Ramius hedge funds held at LBIE at the time of administration, which Ramius refers to as the total net equity claim, were approximately \$232.6 million. Given the great degree of uncertainty as to the status of the assets held at LBIE and the process and prospects of the return of those assets, Ramius has valued the total net equity claim at an 80% discount, or approximately \$46.5 million, which Ramius believes is a reasonable estimate of value that

Table of Contents

ultimately may be recovered with respect to the total net equity claim. Since the status and ultimate resolution of the assets under LBIE's administration proceedings is uncertain, Ramius decided that only the investors who were invested at the time of the Administration should participate in any profit/loss relating to the estimated recoverable Lehman claim. As such, Ramius has segregated the Lehman claims for the benefit of such investors for so long as they remained in the funds. These segregated Lehman claims do not earn management fees.

In November 2008, one of the hedge funds managed by Ramius was appointed as a member of the unsecured creditors' committee of LBIE and representatives of Ramius have been attending regular meetings of the creditors' committee and assisting in the creation of a scheme of arrangement to provide a framework for returning assets to clients.

In addition, Ramius currently estimates that the combined net exposure of the hedge funds to LBI amounts to approximately \$23.8 million in cash and securities. Ramius believes that the funds have a reasonable claim against LBI with respect to the return of these assets based on the facts currently available and believes the LBI exposure should be fully recoverable.

As a result of Ramius being an investor in Ramius Enterprise LP and due to Ramius's additional direct exposure to LBIE, Ramius had a total exposure to LBIE of \$12.94 million and a total exposure to LBI of \$1.64 million, as of June 30, 2009.

2007 Fund Performance

Performance in 2007 was bifurcated between a strong first half and a modestly weak second half. Turmoil in the capital markets in the second half of the year caused Ramius to de-leverage the portfolios and employ significant macro-portfolio hedges, which helped protect performance. This period was the start of the unwinding of the massive overleveraging of the capital markets and adjustment in housing, mortgages, commodities and other asset classes.

2006 Fund Performance

Performance in 2006 was generally strong with solid performance coming from across the firm. In 2006, global liquidity was readily available, debt markets were extremely receptive, allowing for record issuance of both investment-grade and high-yield debt, driving global announced transaction volume to record highs.

Results of Operations

In the discussion and analysis that follows, certain line items are not comparable from period to period as a result of the consolidation and deconsolidation of numerous funds. One of the most significant changes over the past three years was as a result of Ramius conducting investment activity for its own capital through the Enterprise Fund rather than directly. Ramius owned 100% of the Enterprise Fund since the fund's formation in 2007 until the fund was opened to outside investors in early 2008. As a result of these changes, different accounting treatment was applied to Ramius's investments in each of these periods.

2006

In 2006, Ramius invested its own capital directly in public and private securities, real estate, third party funds and funds managed by Ramius. Furthermore, due to Ramius's control of certain funds and entities, Ramius had to consolidate the assets and liabilities as well as the income and expenses of numerous fund entities. As a result:

The impact of direct investments in everything other than Ramius managed funds and certain entities appear on each line item in the financial statements; and

Investments in Ramius managed funds and certain entities are presented in the captions Consolidated Ramius funds and certain real estate investments and the allocation of the portion

Table of Contents

of such results attributable to outside investors is presented under Net income (loss) attributable to non-controlling interests.

2007

Beginning October 1, 2007 Ramius transferred the vast majority of its direct investments to the Enterprise Fund which at that time was a wholly-owned investment company. As a wholly-owned entity, the financial performance of the entire Enterprise Fund was consolidated on a line by line basis in Ramius's financial statements. In addition, twenty-three other Ramius funds were deconsolidated from Ramius's financial statements.

2008

On January 1, 2008 Ramius contributed substantially all of its remaining directly owned investments into the Enterprise Fund and opened the fund to outside investors. As part of accepting outside capital Ramius established a master feeder structure for the Enterprise Fund with all of its capital invested through the domestic feeder. As a result:

The offshore feeder fund, which consists entirely of outside capital, was not consolidated resulting in management fees, incentive income and reimbursements to the extent expenses are allocated to the offshore feeder fund being presented on the respective lines in Ramius's statement of operations; and

The domestic feeder fund, however, was consolidated resulting in the financial results of such fund being presented in the captions Consolidated Ramius funds and certain real estate investments and the allocation of the portion of such results attributable to outside investors presented under Net income (loss) attributable to non-controlling interests. In the Statement of Financial Condition, Ramius records the fair value of its investment in the Enterprise Fund indirectly through the domestic feeder fund.

To provide comparative information of Ramius's operating results for the periods presented, a discussion of Economic Income of the Investment Management segment, its only reportable segment, follows the discussion of its total consolidated GAAP results. Economic Income reflects, on a consistent basis for all periods presented in Ramius's financial statements, income earned from the Ramius funds and managed accounts and from its own invested capital. Economic Income excludes certain adjustments required under GAAP. See the section titled "Management's Discussion and Analysis Segment Analysis Investment Management Economic Income" beginning on page 172 and Notes 20 and 11 to Ramius's audited annual and unaudited interim consolidated financial statements on pages F-65 and F-93, respectively, for a reconciliation of Economic Income to total Company net income (loss).

Table of Contents

GAAP Quarterly Comparison

Three Months Ended June 30, 2009 Compared with the Three Months Ended June 30, 2008

Consolidated Statement of Operations

	Three Months Ended, June 30,		Period-to-Period %	
	2009	2008	\$ Change	Change
Revenues				
Management fees	\$ 10,923	\$ 19,076	\$ (8,153)	(42.7)%
Incentive fees		862	(862)	(100.0)%
Interest and dividends	87	287	(200)	(69.7)%
Reimbursement from affiliates	2,096	4,895	(2,799)	(57.2)%
Other Revenues	669	1,324	(655)	(49.5)%
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds and certain real estate entities revenues</i>	3,257	7,387	(4,130)	(55.9)%
Total revenues	17,032	33,831	(16,799)	(49.7)%
Expenses				
Employee compensation and benefits	13,879	25,854	(11,975)	(46.3)%
Interest and dividends	338	395	(57)	(14.4)%
General, Administrative and Other Expenses	15,497	11,354	4,143	36.5%
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds and certain real estate entities expenses</i>	3,143	7,503	(4,360)	(58.1)%
Total expenses	32,857	45,106	(12,249)	(27.2)%
Other income (loss)				
Net gain (loss) on securities, derivatives and other investments	(4,235)	2,037	(6,272)	NM
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds and certain real estate entities net gains</i>	9,259	38,097	(28,838)	(75.7)%
Total other income (loss)	5,024	40,134	(35,110)	(87.5)%
Income (loss) before income taxes	(10,801)	28,859	(39,660)	NM
Income taxes	17	119	(102)	(85.7)%
Net income (loss)	(10,818)	28,740	(39,558)	NM
Less: Income (loss) attributable to non-controlling interests	6,393	9,786	(3,393)	(34.7)%
Net income (loss) available to all Redeemable Members	\$ (17,211)	\$ 18,954	\$ (36,165)	NM

Revenues*Management Fees*

Management fees decreased \$8.2 million, or 43%, to \$10.9 million for the three months ended June 30, 2009 compared with \$19.1 million in the second quarter of 2008. The decrease was primarily due to the decrease in assets under management as a result of fund redemptions and

fund performance.

Table of Contents

Incentive Income

There was almost no incentive income for the three months ended June 30, 2009 and 2008. As previously discussed, 2008 performance in the funds resulted in losses and although \$0.8 million of incentive income was accrued for the second quarter of 2008, no incentive income was earned for the year. In addition, due to the losses in 2008, many of the funds now have high-water marks such that Ramius will not earn incentive income with respect to the assets of the fund investors who suffered such losses last year until these investors recover their losses. See the section titled "Management Discussion and Analysis Assets Under Management and Fund Performance Fund Performance" beginning on page 158 for a further discussion of 2009 and 2008 fund performance.

Interest and Dividends

Interest and dividends decreased \$0.2 million, or 70%, to \$0.1 million for the three months ended June 30, 2009 compared with \$0.3 million in the second quarter of 2008. The decrease was primarily attributable to a combination of lower average interest rates and lower average interest bearing assets in the second quarter of 2009 compared with the second quarter of 2008.

Reimbursements from Affiliates

Ramius's reimbursements from affiliates decreased \$2.8 million, or 57%, to \$2.1 million for the three months ended June 30, 2009 compared with \$4.9 million in the second quarter of 2008. The decrease was attributable to a decrease in the reimbursement for expenses allocated to the funds as a result of lower assets under management in 2009 period. Such allocations made to the funds are partly based on a percentage of assets under management.

Other Revenue

Other revenue decreased \$0.6 million, or 50%, to \$0.7 million for the three months ended June 30, 2009 compared with \$1.3 million in the second quarter of 2008. The decrease was primarily due to the elimination of stock loan fee income as Ramius exited that business in 2008, partially offset by an increase in retail commissions in 2009.

Consolidated Ramius Funds and Certain Real Estate Entities Revenues

Consolidated Ramius funds and certain real estate entities revenues decreased \$4.1 million, or 56%, to \$3.3 million for the three months ended June 30, 2009 compared with \$7.4 million in the second quarter of 2008. The decrease was primarily attributable to a decrease in the interest and dividends earned by the Enterprise Fund.

Expenses

Employee Compensation and Benefits

Employee compensation and benefits expenses decreased \$12.0 million, or 46%, to \$13.9 million for the three months ended June 30, 2009 compared with \$25.9 million in the second quarter of 2008. The decrease was driven by lower accruals for incentive compensation and a reduction in head count from 239 employees as of June 30, 2008 compared to 147 employees as of June 30, 2009.

Interest and Dividends

Interest and dividend expense remained substantially unchanged at \$0.3 million for the three months ended June 30, 2009 compared to \$0.4 million in the second quarter of 2008.

Table of Contents

General, Administrative and Other Expenses

General, administrative and other expenses increased \$4.1 million, or 37%, to \$15.5 million for the three months ended June 30, 2009 compared with \$11.4 million in the second quarter of 2008. This increase was primarily attributable to \$5.1 million in professional, advisory and other fees associated with the transaction and an arbitration initiated by Ramius.

Consolidated Ramius Funds and Certain Real Estate Entities Expenses

Consolidated Ramius funds and certain real estate entities expenses decreased \$4.4 million, or 58%, to \$3.1 million for the three months ended June 30, 2009 compared with \$7.5 million in the second quarter of 2008. The decrease was attributable to the decrease in interest and dividend expense recognized by the Enterprise Fund.

Other Income (Loss)

Other income decreased \$35.1 million, or 88%, to \$5.0 million for the three months ended June 30, 2009 compared with \$40.1 million in the second quarter of 2008. The 2009 performance was affected by unrealized losses due to adjusting the recorded value of certain portions of the private investment portfolio, such as real estate, to their respective fair market values. As previously described, Ramius invests its own capital primarily in the Enterprise Fund with any gains or losses on Ramius's own capital shown under Consolidated Ramius Funds for that period. The gains and losses shown under Consolidated Ramius Funds reflect the consolidated total performance for such funds, and the portion of those gains or losses that are attributable to other investors is allocated to a non-controlling interest. See the section titled "Management's Discussion and Analysis Assets Under Management and Fund Performance Fund Performance" beginning on page 158 for a further discussion of 2009 and 2008 fund performance.

Income Taxes

Income taxes decreased \$0.1 million resulting in a tax expense of \$0.02 million for the three months ended June 30, 2009 compared with the second quarter of 2008.

Income (Loss) Attributable to Non-controlling Interests

Income attributable to non-controlling interests decreased \$3.4 million, to \$6.4 million for the three months ended June 30, 2009 compared with a gain of \$9.8 million in the second quarter of 2008. The decrease was the result of lower performance of the Ramius consolidated funds and entities in 2009 compared to 2008.

Table of Contents

**Six Months Ended June 30, 2009 Compared with the Six Months Ended June 30, 2008
Consolidated Statement of Operations**

	Six Months Ended, June 30,		Period-to-Period %	
	2009	2008	\$ Change	Change
Revenues				
Management fees	\$ 22,434	\$ 38,648	\$(16,214)	(42.0)%
Incentive fees		862	(862)	(100)%
Interest and dividends	178	913	(735)	(80.5)%
Reimbursement from affiliates	5,490	6,598	(1,108)	(16.8)%
Other Revenues	1,688	2,385	(697)	(29.2)%
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds and certain real estate entities revenues</i>	7,967	14,238	(6,271)	(44.0)%
Total revenues	37,757	63,644	(25,887)	(40.7)%
Expenses				
Employee compensation and benefits	28,786	51,934	(23,148)	(44.6)%
Interest and dividends	687	754	(67)	(8.9)%
General, Administrative and Other Expenses	25,770	22,184	3,586	16.2%
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds and certain real estate entities expenses</i>	6,520	14,018	(7,498)	(53.5)%
Total expenses	61,763	88,890	(27,127)	(30.5)%
Other income (loss)				
Net gain (loss) on securities, derivatives and other investments	(3,976)	1,323	(5,299)	NM
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds and certain real estate entities net gains</i>	5,912	17,413	(11,501)	(66.0)%
Total other income (loss)	1,936	18,736	(16,800)	(89.7)%
Income (loss) before income taxes	(22,070)	(6,510)	(15,560)	239.0%
Income taxes	(49)	184	(233)	NM
Net income (loss)	(22,021)	(6,694)	(15,327)	229.0%
Less: Income (loss) attributable to non-controlling interests	3,989	(3,389)	7,378	NM
Net income (loss) available to all Redeemable Members	\$ (26,010)	\$ (3,305)	\$ (22,706)	687.0%

Revenues*Management Fees*

Management fees decreased \$16.2 million, or 42%, to \$22.4 million for the six months ended June 30, 2009 compared with \$38.6 million in the first six months of 2008. The decrease was primarily due to the decrease in assets under management of \$2.37 billion as a result of fund redemptions and fund performance between December 31, 2008 and July 1, 2009.

Incentive Income

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

There was almost no incentive income for the six months ended June 30, 2009 and 2008. As previously discussed, 2008 performance in the funds resulted in losses and although \$0.8 million of incentive income was accrued for the first six months of 2008, no incentive income was earned for the year. In addition, due to the losses in 2008, many of the funds now have high-water marks such that

Table of Contents

Ramius will not earn incentive income with respect to the assets of the fund investors who suffered such losses last year until these investors recover their losses. See the section titled "Management Discussion and Analysis Assets Under Management and Fund Performance Fund Performance" beginning on page 158 for a further discussion of 2009 and 2008 fund performance.

Interest and Dividends

Interest and dividends decreased \$0.7 million, or 81%, to \$0.2 million for the six months ended June 30, 2009 compared with \$0.9 million in the first six months of 2008. The decrease was primarily attributable to a combination of lower average interest rates and lower average interest bearing assets in the first six months of 2009 compared with the first six months of 2008.

Reimbursements from Affiliates

Ramius's reimbursements from affiliates decreased \$1.1 million, or 17%, to \$5.5 million for the six months ended June 30, 2009 compared with \$6.6 million for the first six months of 2008. The decrease was attributable to a decrease in the reimbursement for expenses allocated to the funds as a result of lower assets under management in 2009. Such allocations made to the funds are partly based on a percentage of assets under management.

Other Revenue

Other revenue decreased \$0.7 million, or 29%, to \$1.7 million for the six months ended June 30, 2009 compared with \$2.4 million in the first six months of 2008. The decrease was primarily due to the elimination of stock loan fee income as Ramius exited that business in 2008, partially offset by an increase in retail commissions in 2009.

Consolidated Ramius Funds and Certain Real Estate Entities Revenues

Consolidated Ramius funds and certain real estate entities revenues decreased \$6.2 million, or 44%, to \$8.0 million for the six months ended June 30, 2009 compared with \$14.2 million in the first six months of 2008. The decrease was primarily attributable to a decrease in the interest and dividends earned by the Enterprise Fund.

Expenses

Employee Compensation and Benefits

Employee compensation and benefits expenses decreased \$23.1 million, or 45%, to \$28.8 million for the six months ended June 30, 2009 compared with \$51.9 million in the first six months of 2008. The decrease was driven by lower accruals for incentive compensation and a reduction in head count from 239 employees as of June 30, 2008 compared to 147 employees as of June 30, 2009.

Interest and Dividends

Interest and dividend expense remained substantially unchanged at \$0.7 million for the six months ended June 30, 2009 compared to \$0.8 million for the first six months of 2008.

General, Administrative and Other Expenses

General, administrative and other expenses increased \$3.6 million, or 16%, to \$25.8 million for the six months ended June 30, 2009 compared with \$22.2 million in the first six months of 2008. This increase was primarily attributable to an increase in professional, advisory and other fees associated with the transaction as well as legal fees incurred in connection with an arbitration initiated by Ramius. This increase was partially offset by a decrease in occupancy and equipment as a result of Ramius

Table of Contents

subleasing its former office space for the entire six months ended June 30, 2009 and only for the second quarter of 2008.

Consolidated Ramius Funds and Certain Real Estate Entities Expenses

Consolidated Ramius funds and certain real estate entities expenses decreased \$7.5 million, or 54%, to \$6.5 million for the six months ended June 30, 2009 compared with \$14.0 million in the first six months of 2008. The decrease was attributable to the decrease in interest and dividend expense recognized by the Enterprise Fund.

Other Income (Loss)

Other income decreased \$16.8 million, or 90%, to \$1.9 million for the six months ended June 30, 2009 compared with \$18.7 million in the first six months of 2008. While the performance of Ramius's own invested capital and the consolidated Ramius funds in the second quarter of 2009 improved with a gain of \$5.02 million compared to a \$3.09 million loss in the first quarter of 2009, the aggregate performance was affected by unrealized losses due to adjusting the recorded value of certain portions of the private investment portfolio, such as real estate, to their respective fair market values. As previously described, Ramius invests its own capital primarily in the Enterprise Fund with any gains or losses on Ramius's own capital shown under Consolidated Ramius Funds for that period. The gains and losses shown under Consolidated Ramius Funds reflect the consolidated total performance for such funds, and the portion of those gains or losses that are attributable to other investors is allocated to a non-controlling interest. See the section titled "Management's Discussion and Analysis Assets Under Management and Fund Performance Fund Performance" beginning on page 158 for a further discussion of 2009 and 2008 fund performance.

Income Taxes

Income taxes decreased \$0.23 million resulting from in a tax benefit of \$0.05 million for the six months ended June 30, 2009 compared with a provision for taxes of \$0.18 million in the first six months of 2008. The decrease was due to the recording of a tax benefit during the first six months of 2009 due to an amendment of a prior year local tax return that will result in a refund, partially offset by higher foreign income subject to taxation.

Income (Loss) Attributable to Non-controlling Interests

Income attributable to non-controlling interests increased \$7.4 million, to \$4.0 million for the six months ended June 30, 2009 compared with a loss of \$3.4 million in the first six months of 2008. The year over year change was the result of improved performance in certain of the Ramius consolidated funds. This was primarily related to Ramius's three consolidated funds of funds, which comprise the majority of Ramius's non-controlling interests.

Table of Contents

Year Ended December 31, 2008 Compared with the Year Ended December 31, 2007
Consolidated Statement of Operations

	Year ended December 31,		Period-to-Period	
	2008	2007	\$ Change	% Change
(dollars in thousands)				
Revenues				
Management fees	\$ 70,818	\$ 73,950	\$ (3,132)	(4.2)%
Incentive income		60,491	(60,491)	(100.0)
Interest and dividends	1,993	16,356	(14,363)	(87.8)
Reimbursement from affiliates	16,330	7,086	9,244	130.5
Other Revenue	6,853	5,086	1,767	34.7
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds and certain real estate entities revenues</i>	31,739	25,253	6,486	25.7
Total revenues	127,733	188,222	(60,489)	(32.1)
Expenses				
Employee compensation and benefits	84,769	123,511	(38,742)	(31.4)
Interest and dividends	1,820	20,679	(18,859)	(91.2)
General, administrative and other expenses	53,036	58,341	(5,305)	(9.1)
Goodwill impairment	10,200		10,200	NM
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds and certain real estate entities expenses</i>	34,268	21,014	13,254	63.1
Total expenses	184,093	223,545	(39,452)	(17.7)
Other income (loss)				
Net gain (loss) on securities, derivatives and other investments	(2,006)	94,078	(96,084)	NM
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds and certain real estate entities net gains (losses)</i>	(198,485)	84,846	(283,331)	NM
Total other income (loss)	(200,491)	178,924	(379,415)	NM
Income (loss) before income taxes	(256,851)	143,601	(400,452)	NM
Income taxes	(1,301)	1,397	(2,698)	NM
Net income (loss)	(255,550)	142,204	(397,754)	NM
Less: Income (loss) attributable to non-controlling interests	(113,786)	66,343	(180,129)	NM
Less: Special allocation to the Redeemable Managing Member		26,551	(26,551)	(100.0)
Net income (loss) available to all Redeemable Members	\$ (141,764)	\$ 49,310	\$ (191,074)	NM

Revenues*Management Fees*

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

Management fees decreased \$3.1 million, or 4%, to \$70.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2008 compared with \$73.9 million in 2007. The decrease was primarily due to a net decrease of \$4.2 million from fees earned on managing CDOs, primarily as a result of Ramius electing to rebate certain CDO management fees, and a \$0.9 million decrease in management fees from the fund of funds business. These decreases were partially offset by an increase in management fees from hedge

Table of Contents

funds of \$1.9 million (net of \$3.1 million in management fees from Ramius Enterprise LP that are eliminated in consolidation).

Incentive Income

Ramius earned no incentive income for the year ended December 31, 2008 compared with \$60.5 million in 2007. The lack of incentive income in 2008 was driven by the negative performance in the Ramius funds resulting from challenging market conditions. See the section titled "Management's Discussion and Analysis Assets Under Management and Fund Performance Fund Performance" beginning on page 158 for a further discussion of 2008 fund performance.

Interest and Dividends

Interest and dividends decreased \$14.4 million, or 88%, to \$2.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2008 compared with \$16.4 million in 2007. The decrease was primarily attributable to Ramius no longer investing its capital directly in interest and dividend bearing products. Prior to 2008, when Ramius invested its capital directly, its interest and dividend revenues were significantly higher. Once Ramius invested its capital through the Enterprise Fund, interest and dividends were included in Consolidated Ramius Funds and Certain Real Estate Entities revenues.

Reimbursements from Affiliates

Reimbursements from affiliates increased \$9.2 million, or 130%, to \$16.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2008 compared with \$7.1 million in 2007. In 2008, Ramius conducted a review of the expenses it allocated to its funds and determined that it was not making sufficient allocations. Therefore, as permitted under the respective funds' offering documents, Ramius allocated back to certain of its funds and management companies a higher percentage of expenses that Ramius had incurred on behalf of those funds than it had in 2007. In addition, beginning in 2008, the investment expenses attributable to Ramius's own invested capital were allocated to the Enterprise Fund and recognized as a reimbursement to Ramius. Prior to 2008, such expenses had been borne directly by Ramius.

Other Revenue

Other revenue increased \$1.8 million, or 35%, to \$6.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2008 compared with \$5.1 million in 2007. The increase was primarily attributable to \$3.2 million of placement fee income received by a non-wholly owned subsidiary of Ramius that engaged in the distribution of interests in the real estate funds and \$1.6 million of securities lending income. In 2007, other revenue primarily included \$2.9 million of placement fee income and \$1.9 million of securities lending income. In 2008, Ramius ceased its securities lending activities and it is currently closing its subsidiary that engages in the distribution of interests in real estate funds.

Consolidated Ramius Funds and Certain Real Estate Entities Revenues

Consolidated Ramius funds and certain real estate entities revenues increased \$6.5 million, or 26%, to \$31.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2008 compared with \$25.2 million in 2007. The increase was primarily attributable to the consolidation of the Enterprise Fund. Specifically, in consolidating the Enterprise Fund, the interest and dividends from the Enterprise Fund are classified in this category whereas the other trading income is classified as other income (loss) below. This increase was partially offset by lower interest and dividend income for the year ended December 31, 2008.

Table of Contents

Expenses

Employee Compensation and Benefits

Employee compensation and benefits expenses decreased \$38.7 million, or 31%, to \$84.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2008 compared with \$123.5 million in 2007. The decrease was primarily driven by a \$42.5 million decrease in incentive compensation, partially offset by a \$3.7 million increase in salaries and benefits.

Interest and Dividends

Interest and dividend expense decreased \$18.9 million, or 91%, to \$1.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2008 compared with \$20.7 million in 2007. The decrease was primarily due to the consolidation of the Enterprise Fund, which resulted in the interest and dividend expense associated with Ramius investing its own capital being borne by the Enterprise Fund instead of directly by Ramius and accounted for under Consolidated Ramius Funds and certain real estate entities.

General, Administrative and Other Expenses

General, administrative and other expenses decreased \$5.3 million, or 9%, to \$53.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2008 compared with \$58.3 million in 2007. The decrease was primarily the result of a \$14.8 million reduction in professional, advisory and other fees. Such fees were higher in 2007 primarily due to \$5.5 million in legal fees incurred in connection with an arbitration initiated by Ramius and the voluntary reimbursement to certain unconsolidated Ramius funds for third party advisory fees of \$7.1 million previously recorded by the funds. This reduction was partially offset by additional expenses incurred by Ramius from renovating and relocating to new office space. In 2007, Ramius leased and renovated its new principal office space in New York City. Ramius moved into its new office space in March 2008 and entered into a sublease for its former office space for the remainder of the term of the existing lease. The renovation, relocation and sublease resulted in a \$4.2 million increase in occupancy and equipment expenses and a \$2.5 million increase in depreciation and amortization.

Goodwill

Ramius recorded a goodwill impairment charge of \$10.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2008. This non-cash charge related to the impairment of its 50% ownership of the fund of funds business. In the fourth quarter of 2008, Ramius conducted its annual goodwill impairment test and, due to the decline in assets under management and the resulting decline in expected management fees and incentive income, recognized an impairment. The assets under management declined by \$1.30 billion, or 33%, at the Ramius fund of funds reporting unit, primarily due to the difficult market environment in the second half of 2008.

Consolidated Ramius Funds and Certain Real Estate Entities Expenses

Consolidated Ramius funds and certain real estate entities expenses increased \$13.3 million, or 63%, to \$34.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2008 compared with \$21.0 million in 2007. The increase was attributable to the consolidation of the Enterprise Fund, partially offset by a \$6.3 million reduction in professional and advisory fees.

Other Income (Loss)

Other income (loss) decreased \$379.4 million to a loss of \$200.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2008 compared with income of \$178.9 million in 2007. The decrease was attributable to the investment performance of Ramius's own invested capital and the consolidated Ramius funds. In

Table of Contents

2007, Ramius direct investments resulted in a gain of \$94.0 million. As previously described, most of Ramius's investments beginning in the fourth quarter of 2007 were made through the Enterprise Fund with any gains or losses on Ramius's own invested capital are shown under Consolidated Ramius Funds for that period. The gains and losses in 2007 and 2008 shown under Consolidated Ramius Funds reflect the consolidated total performance for such funds, and the portion of those gains or losses that are attributable to other investors is allocated to a non-controlling interest. See the section titled "Management's Discussion and Analysis Assets Under Management and Fund Performance Fund Performance" beginning on page 158 for a further discussion of 2008 fund performance.

Income Taxes

Income taxes decreased \$2.7 million to a benefit of \$1.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2008 compared with income tax expense of \$1.4 million in 2007. The decrease was due to the reduction in 2008 of a tax provision for prior periods and lower foreign and local income subject to taxation.

Income (Loss) Attributable to Non-controlling Interests

Income (loss) attributable to non-controlling interests decreased \$180.1 million to a loss of \$113.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2008 compared with income of \$66.3 million in 2007. The decrease was attributable to the allocation of losses incurred by the Ramius consolidated funds and entities to other investors of such funds and entities.

Table of Contents

Year Ended December 31, 2007 Compared with the Year Ended December 31, 2006
Consolidated Statement of Operations

	Year ended December 31,		Period-to-Period %	
	2007	2006	\$ Change	Change
(dollars in thousands)				
Revenues				
Management fees	\$ 73,950	\$ 65,635	\$ 8,315	12.7%
Incentive income	60,491	81,319	(20,828)	(25.6)
Interest and dividends	16,356	17,189	(833)	(4.9)
Reimbursement from affiliates	7,086	4,070	3,016	74.1
Other Revenue	5,086	8,038	(2,952)	(36.7)
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds and certain real estate entities revenues</i>	25,253	35,897	(10,644)	(29.7)
Total revenues	188,222	212,148	(23,926)	(11.3)
Expenses				
Employee compensation and benefits	123,511	112,433	11,078	9.9
Interest and dividends	20,679	17,694	2,985	16.9
General, Administrative and Other Expenses	58,341	36,583	21,758	59.5
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds and certain real estate entities expenses</i>	21,014	39,300	(18,286)	(46.5)
Total expenses	223,545	206,010	17,535	8.5
Other income				
Net gain on securities, derivatives and other investments	94,078	54,765	39,313	71.8
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds and certain real estate entities net gains</i>	84,846	78,656	6,190	7.9
Total other income	178,924	133,421	45,503	34.1
Income before income taxes	143,601	139,559	4,042	2.9
Income taxes	1,397	4,814	(3,417)	(71.0)
Net income	142,204	134,745	7,459	5.5
Less: Income attributable to non-controlling interests	66,343	74,189	(7,846)	(10.6)
Less: Special allocation to the Redeemable Managing Member	26,551	21,195	5,356	25.3
Net income available to all Redeemable Members	\$ 49,310	\$ 39,361	\$ 9,949	25.3%

Revenues*Management Fees*

Edgar Filing: Cowen Group, Inc. - Form PRER14A

Management fees increased \$8.3 million, or 13%, to \$73.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2007 compared with \$65.6 million in 2006. The increase was primarily driven by an increase in assets under management in Ramius funds of \$3.3 billion between December 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006.

Table of Contents

Incentive Income

Incentive income decreased \$20.8 million, or 26%, to \$60.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2007 compared with \$81.3 million in 2006. The decrease was attributable to a \$32.3 million decrease in incentive income from Ramius hedge funds due to lower investment performance in 2007 compared to 2006, partially offset by a \$12.7 million increase in incentive income from the fund of funds business. See the section titled "Management's Discussion and Analysis Assets Under Management and Fund Performance Fund Performance" beginning on page 158 for a further discussion of 2007 fund performance.

Interest and Dividends

Interest and dividends decreased \$0.8 million, or 5%, to \$16.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2007 compared with \$17.2 million in 2006.

Reimbursements from Affiliates

Reimbursements from affiliates increased \$3.0 million, or 74%, to \$7.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2007 compared with \$4.1 million in 2006. The increase was attributable to an increase in aggregate assets under management resulting in Ramius allocating a larger portion of the expenses it incurred on behalf of the funds back to the funds as allowed under the respective offering documents.

Other Revenue

Other revenue decreased \$3.0 million, or 37%, to \$5.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2007 compared with \$8.0 million in 2006. The decrease in 2007 was primarily related to placement fee income received by a non-wholly owned subsidiary of Ramius that engaged in the distribution of interests in the real estate funds and securities lending income.

Consolidated Ramius Funds and Certain Real Estate Entities Revenues

Consolidated Ramius funds and certain real estate entities revenues decreased \$10.6 million, or 30%, to \$25.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2007 compared with \$35.9 million in 2006. The decrease was primarily due to having to consolidate twenty-three fewer funds for 2007 as compared to 2006.

Expenses

Employee Compensation and Benefits

Employee compensation and benefits expenses increased \$11.1 million, or 10%, to \$123.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2007 compared with \$112.4 million in 2006. The increase was primarily attributable to higher headcount in 2007 as Ramius continued to develop its investment strategies in connection with expanding its business.

Interest and dividends

Interest and dividends increased \$3.0 million, or 17%, to \$20.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2007 compared with \$17.7 million in 2006. The increase was primarily due to a \$4.5 million increase in interest and dividends recognized in connection with Ramius investing its capital which was partially offset by a \$1.5 million decrease in interest expense due to lower average amounts outstanding under its revolving credit facility in 2007.

General, Administrative and Other Expenses

General, administrative and other expenses increased \$21.8 million, or 60%, to \$58.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2007 compared with \$36.6 million in 2006. The increase was primarily

Table of Contents

driven by a \$15.9 million increase in professional, advisory and other fees. Such fees were higher in 2007 primarily due to \$5.5 million in legal fees incurred in connection with an arbitration initiated by Ramius and the voluntary reimbursement to certain unconsolidated Ramius funds for third party advisory fees of \$7.1 million previously recorded by the funds. There was also a \$5.6 million increase in other expenses as a result of expenses in general increasing across several categories including travel, communication and other office expenses primarily due to an increase in headcount. There were also additional expenses incurred by Ramius in 2007 in connection with renovating new office space. In 2007, Ramius leased and began renovating its new principal office space in New York City. The new lease and renovation resulted in a \$3.7 million increase in occupancy and equipment related expenses.

Consolidated Ramius Funds and Certain Real Estate Entities Expenses

Consolidated Ramius funds and certain real estate entities expenses decreased \$18.3 million, or 47%, to \$21.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2007 compared with \$39.3 million in 2006. The decrease was primarily due to having to consolidate twenty-three fewer funds in 2007 as compared to 2006.

Other Income

Other income increased \$45.5 million, or 34%, to \$178.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2007 compared with \$133.4 million in 2006. The increase was attributable to the investment performance of Ramius's own invested capital and the consolidated Ramius funds. As previously described, most of Ramius's investments beginning in the fourth quarter of 2007 were made through the Enterprise Fund with any gains or losses on Ramius's own invested capital are shown under the Consolidated Ramius Funds. The gains and losses in 2007 and 2006 shown under Consolidated Ramius Funds reflect the consolidated performance for such funds, and the portion of those gains or losses that are attributable to other investors is allocated to a non-controlling interest. In 2007, Ramius completed an offering of interests in Ramius resulting in net proceeds of \$99.5 million. The increase in other income in 2007 is primarily a result of the investment of these proceeds and improved performance. See the section titled "Management's Discussion and Analysis Assets Under Management and Fund Performance Fund Performance" beginning on page 158 for a further discussion of 2007 and 2006 fund performance.

Income Taxes

Income tax expense decreased \$3.4 million, or 71%, to \$1.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2007 compared with \$4.8 million in 2006. These results were due to the recording of a tax provision in 2006 for prior periods and lower foreign and local income subject to taxation.

Income Attributable to Non-controlling Interests

Income attributable to non-controlling interests decreased \$7.9 million, or 11%, to \$66.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2007 compared with \$74.2 million in 2006. The decrease was attributable to a reduction in the amount of real estate entities being consolidated in 2007 as compared to 2006, resulting in less income being allocated to outside investors not controlled by Ramius.

Segment Analysis

Investment Management Economic Income

Ramius conducts all of its operations through the Investment Management segment. The performance measure for the Investment Management segment is Economic Income, which management uses to evaluate the financial performance of and make operating decisions for the segment. Accordingly, management assesses its business by analyzing the performance of the Investment Management segment and believes that investors should review the same performance

Table of Contents

measure that it uses to analyze its segment and business performance. In addition, management believes that Economic Income is helpful to gain an understanding of its segment results of operations because it reflects such results on a consistent basis for all periods presented.

Economic Income may not be comparable to similarly titled measures used by other companies. Ramius uses Economic Income as a measure of its segment's operating performance, not as a measure of liquidity. Economic Income should not be considered in isolation or as a substitute for operating income, net income, operating cash flows, investing and financing activities, or other income or cash flow statement data prepared in accordance with GAAP. As a result of the adjustments made to arrive at Economic Income described above, Economic Income has limitations in that it does not take into account certain items included or excluded under GAAP, including its consolidated funds. Economic Income is considered by management as a supplemental measure to the GAAP results to provide a more complete understanding of its segment's performance as management measures it. For a reconciliation of Economic Income to GAAP net income (loss) for the periods presented and additional information regarding the reconciling adjustments discussed above, see Notes 20 and 12 to Ramius's audited annual and unaudited interim consolidated financial statements on pages F-65 and F-95 of this document, respectively.

In general, Economic Income is a pre-tax measure that (i) presents the segment's results of operations without the impact resulting from the consolidation of any of the Ramius funds, (ii) excludes goodwill impairment, (iii) excludes allocations to Ramius's managing member, as there will be no such allocations in the future, and (iv) will exclude the reorganization expenses for the transaction and the transaction REOP. In addition, Economic Income Revenue includes investment income that represents the income Ramius has earned in investing its own capital, including realized and unrealized gains and losses, interest and dividends, net of associated investment related expenses. For GAAP purposes, these items are included in each of their respective line items. Economic Income Revenues also includes management fees, incentive income and investment income earned through Ramius's investment as a general partner in certain real estate entities. For GAAP purposes, all of these items are recorded in other income (loss). In addition, Economic Income Expenses are reduced by reimbursement from affiliates, which for GAAP purposes is shown as part of revenue.

Economic Income Revenues

Ramius's Economic Income revenues are generated from three principal sources: management fees, incentive income and investment income from its own capital. The amount of revenues earned from those sources is directly related to the amount of its assets under management and the investment performance of its funds. Management fees are directly impacted by any increase or decrease in Ramius's assets under management, while incentive income is impacted by its funds' performance and any increase or decrease in assets under management. Investment income from Ramius's own capital is impacted by the performance of the funds in which its capital is invested, which is principally the Enterprise Fund. Ramius periodically receives other Economic Income revenue which is unrelated to its own invested capital or its activities on behalf of the Ramius funds, such as certain placement fee income received by a non-wholly owned subsidiary of Ramius that engaged in the distribution of interests in the real estate funds.

For a more detailed discussion regarding management fees and incentive income with respect to Ramius's hedge funds, fund of funds, real estate funds and cash management business, see the section titled "Understanding Ramius's Results-Revenues" beginning on page 152.

Economic Income Expenses

Ramius's Economic Income expenses consist of compensation and benefits, non-compensation expenses and reimbursement from affiliates. For a more detailed discussion regarding these categories of expenses, see the section titled "Understanding Ramius's Results-Expenses" on page 154.

Table of Contents*Non-controlling Interests*

Non-controlling interests represent the pro rata share of the income or loss of the non-wholly owned consolidated entities attributable to the other owners of such entities.

Segment Quarterly Comparison**Three Months Ended June 30, 2009 Compared with the Three Months Ended June 30, 2008**

	Three months ended June 30,		Period-to-Period %	
	2009	2008	\$ Change	Change
Economic Income Revenues				
Management Fees	\$ 14,045	\$ 23,785	\$ (9,740)	(41.0)%
Incentive Income (Loss)	(7,177)	549	(7,726)	NM
Investment Income	3,352	26,593	(23,241)	(87.4)%
Other Revenue	231	561	(330)	(58.8)%
Total Economic Income Revenues	10,451	51,488	(41,037)	(79.7)%
Economic Income Expenses				
Compensation & Benefits	13,879	25,854	(11,975)	(46.3)%
Non-compensation expenses	14,762	11,159	3,603	32.3%
Reimbursement from affiliates	(2,342)	(5,005)	2,663	(53.2)%
Total Economic Income Expenses	26,299	32,008	(5,709)	(17.8)%
Net Economic Income (before non-controlling interest)	(15,848)	19,480	(35,328)	NM
Non-Controlling Interest	(1,346)	(407)	(939)	230.7%
Economic Income (Loss)	\$ (17,194)	\$ 19,073	\$ (36,267)	NM

Economic Income Revenues

Management Fees. Management fees for the segment decreased \$9.8 million, or 41%, to \$14.0 million for the three months ended June 30, 2009 compared with \$23.8 million in the second quarter of 2008. The decrease was due to lower in assets under management during the current period as a result of fund redemptions and fund performance over the past 12 months.

Incentive Income (Loss). Incentive income for the segment decreased \$7.7 million to a loss of \$7.2 million for the three months ended June 30, 2009 compared to insignificant incentive income for the second quarter ended June 30, 2008 which primarily is a result of a reversal of previously recorded incentive income allocations from Ramius's interests in the general partners in certain real estate funds pursuant to the terms of the governing documents of such funds. These governing documents state that if the limited partners in these funds would not receive the required cumulative preferred return due to them, the general partner would be obligated to reimburse all incentive income allocations previously received, net of taxes. Based on a hypothetical liquidation of the real estate funds as of June 30, 2009 at then-recorded values, these limited partners would not receive their required cumulative preferred return since the fair values of the underlying investments held by these funds have been marked down from previously recorded values in part due to the continued deterioration in the commercial real estate markets. As a result, Ramius has recognized its share of this reversal of incentive income by the general partners for this obligation. In addition, there was a \$4.4 million accrual pertaining to a subordination agreement entered into by one of the general partners for a real estate fund with one of the fund's investors. Furthermore, many of the funds now have high-water marks so that Ramius will not earn incentive income with respect to the investments of the fund investors who suffered such losses last year until the investors recover their losses. See the section titled "Management's Discussion

Table of Contents

and Analysis Assets Under Management and Fund Performance Fund Performance" beginning on page 158 for a further discussion of 2009 fund performance.

Investment Income (Loss). Investment income for the segment decreased \$23.2 million, or 87%, to \$3.4 million for the three months ended June 30, 2009 compared with \$26.6 million in the second quarter of 2008. The 2009 performance was affected by unrealized losses due to adjusting the recorded value of certain portions of the private investment portfolio, such as real estate, to their respective fair market values. See the section titled "Management's Discussion and Analysis Assets Under Management and Fund Performance Fund Performance" beginning on page 158 for a further discussion of 2009 and 2008 fund performance.

Other Revenue. Other revenue for the segment decreased \$0.3 million, or 59%, to \$0.2 million for the three months ended June 30, 2009 compared with \$0.6 million for the second quarter of 2008.

Economic Income Expenses

Compensation and Benefits. Compensation and benefits expenses for the segment decreased \$12.0 million, or 46%, to \$13.9 million for the three months ended June 30, 2009 compared with \$25.9 million in the second quarter of 2008. The decrease was driven by lower accruals for incentive compensation expense and a reduction in head count from 239 employees as of June 30, 2008 compared to 147 employees as of June 30, 2009.

Non-compensation Expenses. The following table shows the components of the non-compensation expenses for the segment for the three months ended June 30, 2009 and 2008:

	Three months ended		Period-to-Period	
	June 30,		\$	%
	2009	2008	Change	Change
Non-compensation expenses:				
Interest expense	\$ 330	\$ 345	\$ (15)	(4.3)%
Professional, advisory and other fees	7,162	3,092	4,070	131.6%
Occupancy and equipment	2,542	2,923	(381)	(13.0)%
Depreciation and amortization	1,198	1,091	107	9.8%
Other	3,530	3,708	(178)	(4.8)%
	\$ 14,762	\$ 11,159	\$ 3,603	32.3%

Non-compensation expenses for the segment increased \$3.6 million, or 32%, to \$14.8 million for the three months ended June 30, 2009 compared with \$11.2 million for the second quarter of 2008. This increase was primarily attributable to \$5.1 million in professional, advisory and other fees associated with the transaction and an arbitration initiated by Ramius.

Reimbursement from Affiliates. Ramius's reimbursements from affiliates for the segment decreased \$2.7 million, or 53%, to \$2.3 million for the three months ended June 30, 2009 compared with \$5.0 million for the second quarter of 2008. The decrease was attributable to a decrease in the reimbursement for expenses allocated to the funds as a result of lower assets under management in the 2009 period. Such allocations made to the funds are partly based on a percentage of assets under management.

Non-Controlling Interest. Non-Controlling Interest represents the portion of the net income or loss attributable to certain Ramius non-wholly owned subsidiaries that is allocated to other investors.

Table of Contents**Six Months Ended June 30, 2009 Compared with the Six Months Ended June 30, 2008**

	Six months ended June 30,		Period-to-Period %	
	2009	2008	\$ Change	Change
Economic Income Revenues				
Management Fees	\$ 28,459	\$44,489	\$ (16,030)	(36.0)%
Incentive Income (Loss)	(10,547)	608	(11,155)	NM
Investment Income	2,969	14,238	(11,269)	(79.1)%
Other Revenue	589	779	(190)	(24.4)%
Total Economic Income Revenues	21,470	60,114	(38,644)	(64.3)%
Economic Income Expenses				
Compensation & Benefits	28,786	51,934	(23,148)	(44.6)%
Non-compensation expenses	23,574	19,504	4,070	20.9%
Reimbursement from affiliates	(5,756)	(6,739)	983	(14.6)%
Total Economic Income Expenses	46,604	64,699	(18,095)	