

HENNESSY ADVISORS INC
Form 10-Q
January 18, 2011
Table of Contents

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

FORM 10-Q

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

For the Quarterly Period Ended December 31, 2010

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

For the Transition Period From _____ to _____

Commission File Number 000-49872

HENNESSY ADVISORS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Edgar Filing: HENNESSY ADVISORS INC - Form 10-Q

California
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

68-0176227
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

7250 Redwood Blvd., Suite 200

Novato, California
(Address of principal executive office)

94945
(Zip Code)

(415) 899-1555

(Issuer's telephone number)

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

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

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

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

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

As of January 5, 2011 there were 5,734,919 shares of common stock issued and outstanding.

Table of Contents

HENNESSY ADVISORS, INC.

INDEX

| | Page Number |
|--|----------------|
| PART I. Financial Information | |
| Item 1. Unaudited Condensed Financial Statements | |
| <u>Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2010 (unaudited) and September 30, 2010</u> | 3 |
| <u>Statements of Operations for the three months ended December 31, 2010 and 2009 (unaudited)</u> | 4 |
| <u>Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity for the three months ended December 31, 2010 (unaudited)</u> | 5 |
| <u>Statements of Cash Flows for the three months ended December 31, 2010 and 2009 (unaudited)</u> | 6 |
| <u>Notes to Unaudited Condensed Financial Statements</u> | 7 |
| Item 2. <u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u> | 17 |
| Item 4. <u>Controls and Procedures</u> | 25 |
| PART II. <u>Other Information</u> | 26 |
| Item 2. <u>Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u> | 26 |
| Item 6. <u>Exhibits</u> | 27 |
| <u>Signatures</u> | 27 |

Table of Contents**Hennessy Advisors, Inc.****Balance Sheets****(In thousands, except share and per share amounts)**

| | December 31, 2010 (Unaudited) | September 30, 2010 |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 7,312 | \$ 8,054 |
| Investments in marketable securities, at fair value | 5 | 5 |
| Investment fee income receivable | 654 | 619 |
| Prepaid expenses | 129 | 186 |
| Deferred income tax asset | 77 | 118 |
| Other current assets | 25 | 22 |
| Total current assets | 8,202 | 9,004 |
| Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of \$409 and \$383, respectively | 164 | 180 |
| Management contracts | 22,284 | 22,284 |
| Investment in the Hennessy Micro Cap Growth Fund, LLC, at fair value | 422 | 364 |
| Other assets, net of accumulated amortization of \$103 and \$101, respectively | 65 | 67 |
| Total assets | \$ 31,137 | \$ 31,899 |
| Liabilities and Stockholders Equity | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Accrued liabilities and accounts payable | \$ 353 | \$ 1,005 |
| Income taxes payable | 35 | 18 |
| Current portion of deferred rent | 49 | 50 |
| Current portion of long-term debt | 625 | 573 |
| Total current liabilities | 1,062 | 1,646 |
| Long-term debt | 2,396 | 2,552 |
| Long-term portion of deferred rent | 12 | 24 |
| Deferred income tax liability | 3,353 | 3,177 |
| Total liabilities | 6,823 | 7,399 |
| Commitments and Contingencies (Note 9) | | |
| Stockholders equity: | | |
| Adjustable rate preferred stock, \$25 stated value, 5,000,000 shares authorized: zero shares issued and outstanding | | |
| Common stock, no par value, 15,000,000 shares authorized: 5,734,919 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2010 and 5,709,839 at September 30, 2010 | 9,460 | 9,456 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | (90) | (148) |
| Retained earnings | 14,944 | 15,192 |

Edgar Filing: HENNESSY ADVISORS INC - Form 10-Q

| | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Total stockholders equity | 24,314 | 24,500 |
| Total liabilities and stockholders equity | \$ 31,137 | \$ 31,899 |

See accompanying notes to unaudited condensed financial statements

- 3 -

Table of Contents**Hennessy Advisors, Inc.****Statements of Operations****(In thousands, except share and per share amounts)****(Unaudited)**

| | Three Months ended December 31, | |
|---|--|---------------|
| | 2010 | 2009 |
| Revenue | | |
| Investment advisory fees | \$ 1,730 | \$ 1,782 |
| Shareholder service fees | 214 | 209 |
| Other | 5 | 7 |
| Total revenue | 1,949 | 1,998 |
| Operating expenses | | |
| Compensation and benefits | 555 | 723 |
| General and administrative | 567 | 524 |
| Mutual fund distribution | 166 | 179 |
| Sub-advisor fees | 158 | 176 |
| Amortization and depreciation | 28 | 28 |
| Total operating expenses | 1,474 | 1,630 |
| Operating income | 475 | 368 |
| Interest expense | 17 | 10 |
| Other expense, net | | 6 |
| Income before income tax expense | 458 | 352 |
| Income tax expense | 192 | 149 |
| Net income | \$ 266 | \$ 203 |
| Earnings per share: | | |
| Basic | \$ 0.05 | \$ 0.04 |
| Diluted | \$ 0.05 | \$ 0.04 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding: | | |
| Basic | 5,714,841 | 5,692,790 |
| Diluted | 5,719,554 | 5,697,476 |

See accompanying notes to unaudited condensed financial statements

Table of Contents**Hennessy Advisors, Inc.****Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity****Three Months Ended December 31, 2010****(In thousands, except share data)****(Unaudited)**

| | Common Shares | Common Stock | Retained Earnings | Other Comprehensive Loss | Total Stockholders Equity |
|---|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Balance at September 30, 2010 | 5,709,839 | \$ 9,456 | \$ 15,192 | \$ (148) | \$ 24,500 |
| Net Income | | | 266 | | 266 |
| Dividends paid | | | (514) | | (514) |
| Unrealized gain on investment in Hennessy Micro Cap Growth Fund, LLC | | | | 58 | 58 |
| Employee and director restricted stock vested | 26,835 | | | | |
| Repurchase of vested employee restricted stock for tax withholding | (1,755) | (4) | | | (4) |
| Deferred restricted stock unit compensation | | 70 | | | 70 |
| Tax effect of RSU vesting | | (62) | | | (62) |
| Balance at December 31, 2010 | 5,734,919 | \$ 9,460 | \$ 14,944 | \$ (90) | \$ 24,314 |

See accompanying notes to unaudited condensed financial statements

Table of Contents**Hennessy Advisors, Inc.****Statements of Cash Flows****(Unaudited)**

| | Three Months Ended December 31, | |
|--|--|-----------------|
| | 2010 | 2009 |
| | (In thousands) | |
| Cash flows from operating activities: | | |
| Net income | \$ 266 | \$ 203 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash used in operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 28 | 28 |
| Deferred income taxes | 217 | 228 |
| Tax effect from restricted stock unit vesting | (62) | (79) |
| Restricted stock units vested | (4) | (12) |
| Deferred restricted stock unit compensation | 70 | 129 |
| (Increase) decrease in operating assets: | | |
| Investment fee income receivable | (35) | (107) |
| Prepaid expenses | 57 | 33 |
| Other current assets | (3) | (63) |
| Other assets | | (1) |
| Increase (decrease) in operating liabilities: | | |
| Accrued liabilities and accounts payable | (652) | (1,036) |
| Income taxes | 17 | 1 |
| Current portion of deferred rent | (1) | (4) |
| Long-term portion of deferred rent | (12) | (1) |
| Net cash used in operating activities | (114) | (681) |
| Cash flows used in investing activities: | | |
| Purchases of property and equipment | (10) | (28) |
| Payments related to acquisition of management contracts | | (42) |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (10) | (70) |
| Cash flows used in financing activities: | | |
| Principal payments on bank loan | (104) | (206) |
| Dividend payment | (514) | |
| Net cash used in financing activities | (618) | (206) |
| Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents | (742) | (957) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period | 8,054 | 5,747 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period | \$ 7,312 | \$ 4,790 |
| Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information: | | |
| Unrealized gain on investment | \$ 58 | \$ 34 |

Edgar Filing: HENNESSY ADVISORS INC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | |
|----------------|--|----|----|-------|
| Cash paid for: | | | | |
| Income taxes | | \$ | | \$ |
| Interest | | \$ | 15 | \$ 11 |

See accompanying notes to unaudited condensed financial statements

Table of Contents

Hennessy Advisors, Inc.

Notes to Unaudited Condensed Financial Statements

(1) Basis of Financial Statement Presentation

The accompanying condensed balance sheet as of September 30, 2010, which has been derived from audited financial statements, and the unaudited interim condensed financial statements as of December 31, 2010 have been prepared pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and include the accounts of Hennessy Advisors, Inc. (the "Company"). Certain information and footnote disclosures, normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, have been condensed or omitted pursuant to such rules and regulations. In the opinion of management, the financial statements reflect all adjustments, consisting only of normal recurring adjustments, necessary for a fair presentation of the financial position at December 31, 2010, the operating results for the three months ended December 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, and the cash flows for the three months ended December 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009. These financial statements and notes should be read in conjunction with the Company's audited financial statements and notes thereto for the year ended September 30, 2010, included in the Company's Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The operating activities of the Company consist of providing investment management and shareholder services to ten open-end mutual funds (collectively the "Hennessy Funds"), seven of which also have institutional share classes; and investment management services to one non-registered private pooled investment fund, the Hennessy Micro Cap Growth Fund, LLC. The Company serves as investment advisor for all classes of the Hennessy Cornerstone Growth Fund, the Hennessy Cornerstone Growth Fund, Series II, the Hennessy Focus 30 Fund, the Hennessy Cornerstone Large Growth Fund, the Hennessy Cornerstone Value Fund, the Hennessy Select Large Value Fund, the Hennessy Select SPARX Japan Fund, the Hennessy Select SPARX Japan Smaller Companies Fund, the Hennessy Total Return Fund, the Hennessy Balanced Fund, and the Hennessy Micro Cap Growth Fund, LLC.

(2) Management Contracts

As of December 31, 2010, Hennessy Advisors had contractual management agreements with Hennessy Funds, Inc. for the Hennessy Balanced Fund and the Hennessy Total Return Fund; with Hennessy Mutual Funds, Inc. for all classes of the Hennessy Cornerstone Growth Fund, the Hennessy Cornerstone Value Fund, and the Hennessy Focus 30 Fund; with Hennessy Funds Trust for all classes of the Hennessy Cornerstone Growth Fund, Series II, the Hennessy Cornerstone Large Growth Fund, and the Hennessy Select Large Value Fund; and with Hennessy SPARX Funds Trust for all classes of the Hennessy Select SPARX Japan Fund and the Hennessy Select SPARX Japan Smaller Companies Fund.

The management agreements for the Hennessy Cornerstone Large Growth Fund and the Hennessy Select Large Value Fund were approved by the Board of Trustees of Hennessy Funds Trust on March 3, 2009 (and subsequently approved by shareholders) for an initial period of two years, to be renewed annually thereafter; and the management agreements for the Hennessy Select SPARX Japan Fund and the Hennessy Select SPARX Japan Smaller Companies Fund were approved by the Board of Trustees of Hennessy SPARX Funds Trust on July 13, 2009 (and subsequently approved by shareholders) for an initial period of two years, to be renewed annually thereafter.

Table of Contents

The management agreements for the other Hennessy Funds are renewed annually by (1) the board of directors or trustees of the applicable investment company or by a majority vote of the outstanding shares of the applicable fund and (2) by the vote of a majority of the directors or trustees of the applicable investment company who are not parties to the management agreement and are disinterested directors or trustees. These management agreements were renewed by the Board of Directors of the Hennessy Funds, Inc. and Hennessy Mutual Funds, Inc. and by the Board of Trustees of the Hennessy Funds Trust on March 3, 2010 for a period of one year.

Other than non-renewal, two other circumstances might lead to termination of the management agreements: (1) the assignment of a management agreement to another advisor automatically terminates the agreement (assignment includes an indirect assignment by transferring a controlling block of our common stock); and (2) the termination of the agreement by the Company or by one of the Hennessy Funds investment companies upon 60 days prior written notice.

Under the terms of the management agreements, each fund bears all expenses incurred in its operation that are not specifically assumed by Hennessy Advisors, the administrator or the distributor. Hennessy Advisors bears the expense of providing office space, shareholder servicing, fulfillment, clerical and bookkeeping services and maintaining books and records of the Hennessy Funds.

The Company waives its investment management fees to comply with contractual expense ratio limitations for certain of the Hennessy Funds. The fee waivers are calculated daily by our fund accountants and are expensed monthly by the Company as an offset to revenue. The fees are deducted from the management fee income, and are deducted from the funds received from our fund accountants in the subsequent month.

In the past, fees have only been waived based on contractual obligations. However, the Company regularly analyzes the fees and has the right to waive fees at its discretion to compete with other mutual funds with lower expense ratios. Any decision to waive fees would not apply to previous periods, but would apply on a going forward basis.

Hennessy Advisors is also the Managing Member of the Hennessy Micro Cap Growth Fund, LLC (the Micro Cap Fund). Hennessy Advisors will serve as the Managing Member until its resignation or removal. The Managing Member may voluntarily resign with 30 days prior written notice to the other members or 60 days prior written notice if there is not then a remaining Managing Member. At any time, the Managing Member may designate an additional Managing Member or designate a successor Managing Member with no further consent or approval required from the other members. The Managing Member may be removed at any time, with or without cause, by the vote of the other members owning a majority-in-interest of the capital accounts of the Disinterested Members, defined as members other than members who are the Managing Member or affiliates of the Managing Member.

Table of Contents

Under the terms of the management agreement for the Micro Cap Fund, the Managing Member bears all organizational expenses (defined as expenses incurred in connection with and directly related to the formation, qualification and funding of the Micro Cap Fund), but the Micro Cap Fund bears all of its operating, investment and other expenses. However, the Managing Member is responsible for the ordinary and extraordinary costs of administering the Micro Cap Fund, including any placement fees incurred in connection with the offering of interests in the Micro Cap Fund.

Hennessy Advisors, as the Managing Member of the Micro Cap Fund, has the right to reduce or waive the management fee or incentive allocation (as defined in Note 5) chargeable to any member's account without the consent of or notice to any other member.

As of December 31, 2010, no events or changes in circumstances occurred that indicated potential impairment of the management contracts.

(3) Investment in the Hennessy Micro Cap Growth Fund, LLC

On October 30, 2007, Hennessy Advisors invested \$0.5 million in the Micro Cap Fund. The investment currently represents approximately 23.5% of the total subscriptions in the Micro Cap Fund. The Micro Cap Fund is a limited liability company for which Hennessy Advisors is the Managing Member.

The investment is classified as an available-for-sale security, and is included on the balance sheet at market value. The fair market value of the investment at December 31, 2010 was \$0.4 million.

The accounting method the Company uses for its equity investments is generally dependent upon the influence the Company has over the investee. If there are investments where the Company can exert control over the financial and operating policies of the investee, which generally exists if there is a 50% or greater voting interest (the Company's ownership in the Micro Cap Fund is approximately 23.5%), the investee will be consolidated into the Company's financial statements. Further, as managing member of an investee, the Company is generally presumed to control the investee (and should consolidate the investee into the Company's financial statements) unless this presumption is overcome because members of the investee other than the Company and its affiliates have the substantive ability to dissolve the investee or otherwise remove the Company as the managing member without cause. After considering the above with respect to the investment in the Micro Cap Fund and the Financial Accounting Standards Board's (FASB) guidance on investment in equity and variable interest entities with respect to the investment in the Micro Cap Fund, the Company determined that the Micro Cap Fund should not be consolidated because the investment is less than 25% of the total investment, and the Company can be removed from the position of managing member at any time, with or without cause, by the vote of the other members owning a majority-in-interest of the capital accounts of the Disinterested Members (defined as members other than members who are the Managing Member or affiliates of the Managing Member).

Table of Contents

(4) Bank Loan

On March 11, 2004, Hennessy Advisors secured financing from US Bank National Association to acquire the management contracts for certain Lindner Funds. The loan agreement required fifty-nine (59) monthly payments in the amount of \$94,060 plus interest at the bank's prime rate less one percent. On July 1, 2005, the loan was amended to provide an additional \$6.7 million to fund acquisition of the management contract for the Henlopen Fund. An additional \$2.0 million was loaned to the Company on September 27, 2010, and the loan was amended to require 60 monthly payments in the amount of \$52,083 plus interest at the bank's prime rate (currently 3.25%, in effect since December 17, 2008) less one percent (effective interest rate of 2.25%) and is secured by the Company's assets. The final installment of the then outstanding principal and its interest are due September 30, 2015. The loan agreement includes certain reporting requirements and loan covenants requiring the maintenance of certain financial ratios. The Company is in compliance for the three month period ended December 31, 2010.

In connection with securing the financing discussed above, Hennessy Advisors incurred loan costs in the amount of \$31,250. These costs are included in other assets and the unamortized balance of \$31,250 (as of the loan amendment date of September 27, 2010) is being amortized on a straight-line basis over 60 months.

(5) Investment Advisor and Shareholder Service Fee Revenue

Investment advisory and shareholder services, which are the primary sources of revenue, are recorded when earned. The Company receives investment advisory fees monthly at an annual rate of 0.74% of the average daily net assets of the Hennessy Cornerstone Growth Fund, the Hennessy Cornerstone Growth Fund, Series II, the Hennessy Focus 30 Fund, the Hennessy Cornerstone Large Growth Fund, and the Hennessy Cornerstone Value Fund; at an annual rate of 0.85% of the average daily net assets of the Hennessy Select Large Value Fund; at an annual rate of 1.00% of the Hennessy Select SPARX Japan Fund; and at an annual rate of 1.20% of the Hennessy Select SPARX Japan Smaller Companies Fund. The annual advisory fee for the Hennessy Balanced Fund and the Hennessy Total Return Fund is 0.60%, and the annual advisory fee for the Micro Cap Fund is 2.0% of the aggregate capital accounts of the members, but no management fee is charged to the capital account of the Company.

The Company has delegated the day-to-day portfolio management of the Hennessy Select Large Value Fund, the Hennessy Select SPARX Japan Fund and the Hennessy Select SPARX Japan Smaller Companies Fund (the "Select Funds") to sub-advisors. Hennessy Advisors pays RBC Global Asset Management (U.S.) Inc. at an annual rate of 0.35% of the average daily net assets of the Hennessy Select Large Value Fund; and Hennessy Advisors pays SPARX Asset Management Co., Ltd. at an annual rate of 0.35% of the average daily net assets of the Hennessy Select SPARX Japan Fund and of 0.20% of the average daily net assets of the Hennessy Select SPARX Japan Smaller Companies Fund.

Fees are earned for shareholder support services provided for each of the original class shares of the ten Hennessy Funds. The shareholder servicing fees are charged at an annual rate of 0.1% of average daily net assets.

Table of Contents

In the Micro Cap Fund, an additional incentive allocation can potentially be earned on any member's balance, other than the Company's balance. The allocation is determined at the end of each calendar quarter as 20% of the amount by which net profits (defined as the amount by which the net asset value on the last day of a period exceeds the net asset value on the commencement of the same period), if any, exceed the positive balance, if any, of a member's loss carryforward (defined as a memorandum account kept for each member having an initial balance of zero that is increased by the net loss, if any, allocated to each member for each calendar period). The incentive fee is calculated and earned on the last day of the quarter, at which point it would be recognized in accordance with FASB guidance on revenue recognition, which specifies that the following criteria must be met for revenue recognition: persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, delivery has occurred or the service has been rendered, the fee is fixed and determinable, and collectability is probable. The incentive income is not subject to any clawback provisions that would require us to return fees to investors. There was no incentive fee earned in the three months ended December 31, 2010 and 2009.

(6) Income Taxes

The following is our tax position at December 31, 2010 and 2009:

The provision for income taxes comprised of the following for the three months ended December 31, 2010 and 2009:

| | 12/31/2010 | 12/31/2009 |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Current | | |
| Federal | \$ 30,000 | \$ 800 |
| State | 7,200 | |
| | 37,200 | 800 |
| Deferred | | |
| Federal | 132,300 | 126,300 |
| State | 22,100 | 21,800 |
| | 154,400 | 148,100 |
| Total | \$ 191,600 | \$ 148,900 |

The principal reasons for the differences from the federal statutory rate of 34% are as follows:

| | 12/31/2010 | 12/31/2009 |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Federal tax at statutory rate | 34.00% | 34.00% |
| State tax at statutory rate | 5.54% | 5.83% |
| Permanent differences | 2.30% | 2.42% |
| Effective Tax Rate | 41.84% | 42.25% |

Table of Contents

The tax effects of temporary differences that give rise to significant portions of deferred tax assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2010 and 2009 are presented below:

| | 12/31/2010 | 12/31/2009 |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Current deferred tax assets: | | |
| Accrued compensation | \$ 20,800 | \$ 90,600 |
| Accrued rent | 24,300 | 1,300 |
| State taxes | 2,500 | |
| Net operating loss | | 72,100 |
| Other | 29,200 | 9,200 |
| Total deferred tax assets | 76,800 | 173,200 |
| Noncurrent deferred tax liabilities: | | |
| Net operating loss | 40,700 | |
| Property and equipment | (1,800) | (18,700) |
| Management contracts | (3,392,100) | (2,747,900) |
| Total deferred tax liabilities | (3,353,200) | (2,766,600) |
| Net deferred tax liabilities | \$ (3,276,400) | \$ (2,593,400) |

The Company files U.S. federal and state tax returns and has determined that its major tax jurisdictions are the United States and California. The tax years ended in 2006 through 2009 remain open and subject to examination by the appropriate governmental agencies in the U.S., and the 2003 through 2009 tax years remain open in California.

The Company's effective tax rate for the three months ended December 31, 2010 and 2009, were 41.8% and 42.3%, respectively, and differ from the federal statutory rate of 34% primarily due to the effects of state income taxes.

(7) Earnings or Loss per Share

Basic earnings or loss per share are determined by dividing net earnings or loss by the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding, while diluted earnings or loss per share are determined by dividing net earnings or loss by the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding adjusted for the dilutive effect of common stock equivalents.

There were 678,025 common stock equivalents, consisting of unexercised options and unvested RSUs, excluded from the per share calculations for the three months ended December 31, 2010 because they were anti-dilutive. There were 774,344 common stock equivalents, consisting of unexercised options and unvested RSUs, excluded from the per share calculations for the three months ended December 31, 2009 because they were anti-dilutive.

Table of Contents

(8) Stock-Based Compensation

On May 2, 2001, the Company established an omnibus incentive plan (the Plan) providing for the issuance of options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, performance awards, and stock loans for the purpose of attracting and retaining executive officers and key employees. The maximum number of shares which may be issued under the Plan is 25% of the outstanding common stock of the Company, subject to adjustment by the compensation committee of the Board of Directors. The 25% limitation does not invalidate any awards made prior to a decrease in the number of outstanding shares, even though such awards have resulted or may result in shares constituting more than 25% of the outstanding shares being available for issuance under the Plan. Shares available under the Plan which are not awarded in one particular year may be awarded in subsequent years. The compensation committee of the Board of Directors has the authority to determine the awards granted under the Plan, including among other things, the individuals who receive the awards, the times when they receive them, vesting schedules, performance goals, whether an option is an incentive or nonqualified option and the number of shares to be subject to each award. However, no participant may receive options or stock appreciation rights under the Plan for an aggregate of more than 75,000 shares in any calendar year. The exercise price and term of each option or stock appreciation right is fixed by the compensation committee except that the exercise price for each stock option which is intended to qualify as an incentive stock option must be at least equal to the fair market value of the stock on the date of grant and the term of the option cannot exceed 10 years. In the case of an incentive stock option granted to a 10% shareholder, the exercise price must be at least 110% of the fair market value on the date of grant and cannot exceed five years. Incentive stock options may be granted only within ten years from the date of adoption of the Plan. The aggregate fair market value (determined at the time the option is granted) of shares with respect to which incentive stock options may be granted to any one individual, which stock options are exercisable for the first time during any calendar year, may not exceed \$100,000. An optionee may, with the consent of the compensation committee, elect to pay for the shares to be received upon exercise of their options in cash or shares of common stock or any combination thereof.

As the exercise price of all options granted under the Plan was equal to the market price of the underlying common stock on the grant date and all options were granted and fully vested prior to the adoption of the revised FASB guidance on Stock Compensation, no stock-based employee compensation cost related to options granted was recognized in net income. There were no options granted during the three months ended December 31, 2010 and 2009.

Table of Contents

Under the Plan, participants may be granted restricted stock units (RSUs), representing an unfunded, unsecured right to receive a Company common share on the date specified in the recipient's award. The Company issues new shares for shares delivered for RSU recipients. The RSUs granted under the Plan vest over four years, at a rate of 25 percent per year. The Company recognizes compensation expense on a straight-line basis over the four-year vesting term of each award. There were no RSUs granted during the three months ended December 31, 2010 and 2009. RSU activity for the three months ended December 31, 2010 was as follows:

| | Restricted Stock Unit Activity Three Months Ended December 31, 2010 | |
|--|---|---|
| | Number of Restricted Share Units | Weighted Fair Value Per Share at Each Date |
| Non-vested Balance at September 30, 2010 | 43,527 | \$ 5.84 |
| Granted | | |
| Vested (1) | (7,989) | \$ 8.80 |
| Forfeited | | |
| Non-vested Balance at December 31, 2010 | 35,538 | \$ 5.18 |

- (1) The restricted stock units vested includes partially vested shares. Shares of common stock have not been issued for the partially vested shares, but the related compensation costs have been expensed. Additionally, some of the shares issued in the current year were partially vested (and expensed) in the prior fiscal year. There were 25,080 shares of common stock issued for restricted stock units vested (net of shares repurchased for tax withholding) in the three months ended December 31, 2010.

Restricted Stock Unit Compensation

Three Months Ended December 31, 2010

| | (In Thousands) |
|--|----------------|
| Total expected compensation expense related to Restricted Stock Units | \$ 2,181 |
| Compensation Expense recognized as of December 31, 2010 | (1,997) |
| Unrecognized compensation expense related to RSUs at December 31, 2010 | \$ 184 |

As of December 31, 2010, there was \$0.2 million of total RSU compensation expense related to non-vested awards not yet recognized, which is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average vesting period of 1.6 years.

(9) Commitments and Contingencies

The Company's headquarters is located in leased office space under a single non-cancelable operating lease at 7250 Redwood Blvd., Suite 200, in Novato, California. On April 1, 2010, the Company signed an amended lease agreement for the Novato office space extending the term through March 31, 2012 with an option for an additional three years thereafter.

Table of Contents

The Company's portfolio trading operation is located in leased office space under a non-cancelable lease at One Landmark Square, Suite 424, in Stamford, Connecticut. The lease was amended on April 1, 2008 and expires September 30, 2011.

As of December 31, 2010, there were no material changes in the leasing arrangements that would have a significant effect on future minimum lease payments reported in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2010.

(10) Fair Value Measurements

In September, 2006, the FASB issued new standard Fair Value Measurements, which was effective for our fiscal year 2009. In February, 2008, the FASB issued a new standard which delayed the effective date for all non-financial assets and liabilities, except those that are recognized or disclosed at fair value in the financial statements on a recurring basis, to the fiscal year beginning after November 15, 2008 (our fiscal year 2010). The Company adopted the fair value measurement for all financial and non-financial assets and liabilities as of October 1, 2009. Based on the scope of the new accounting guidance, all of the non-financial assets and non-financial liabilities on the Company's balance sheet are excluded from the new accounting guidance. The standard 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. It also establishes a fair value hierarchy consisting of the following three levels that prioritize the inputs to the valuation techniques used to measure fair value:

Level 1 quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that are accessible at the measurement date.

Level 2 from other than quoted market prices that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly (namely, similar assets or from markets that are not active).

Level 3 unobservable and shall be used to measure fair value to the extent that observable inputs are not available (namely, reflecting an entity's own assumptions).

Table of Contents

Based on the definitions, the following table represents the Company's assets categorized in the level 1 to 3 hierarchy as of December 31, 2010:

| | Fair Value Measurements at Reporting Date (amounts in thousands) | | | |
|---|---|---------------|-----------|-----------------|
| | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Total |
| Money market fund deposits | \$ 7,312 | \$ | \$ | \$ 7,312 |
| Mutual fund investments | 5 | | | 5 |
| Investment in domestic equities | | 422 | | 422 |
| Total | \$ 7,317 | \$ 422 | \$ | \$ 7,739 |
| Amounts included in: | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 7,312 | \$ | \$ | \$ 7,312 |
| Investments in marketable securities | 5 | | | 5 |
| Investment in the Hennessy Micro Cap Fund | | 422 | | 422 |
| Total | \$ 7,317 | \$ 422 | \$ | \$ 7,739 |

(11) New Accounting Pronouncements

In June, 2009, the FASB issued amendments to accounting for Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities. The amendment requires ongoing reassessments of whether an enterprise is the primary beneficiary of a variable interest entity. It also eliminates the quantitative approach previously required for determining the primary beneficiary of a variable interest entity. The amendment is effective for annual and interim reporting periods in fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2009 (the Company's fiscal year 2011). We have evaluated the amendment and determined that the effect on our financial statements or results of operations financial statements is immaterial.

In January, 2010, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 2010-06, Improving Disclosure about Fair Value Measurements. This ASU will add new requirements for disclosures into and out of Levels 1 and 2 fair value measurements and information on purchases, sales, issuances and settlements on a gross basis in the reconciliation of Level 3 fair value measurements. It also clarifies existing fair value disclosures about the level of disaggregation, inputs and valuation techniques. The guidance in the ASU is effective for annual and interim reporting periods in fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2010 (the Company's fiscal year 2012). We do not anticipate the adoption of the new guidance to have any effect on our financial statements or results of operations.

There have been no other significant changes in the Company's critical accounting policies and estimates during the three months ended December 31, 2010 as compared to what was previously disclosed in the Company's Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2010 as filed with the SEC on December 3, 2010.

Table of Contents

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations
Forward Looking Statements

Certain statements in this report are forward-looking within the meaning of the federal securities laws. Although management believes that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, future levels of activity, performance or achievements cannot be guaranteed. Additionally, management does not assume responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of these statements. There is no regulation requiring an update of any of the forward-looking statements after the date of this report to conform these statements to actual results or to changes in our expectations.

Our business activities are affected by many factors, including, without limitation, redemptions by mutual fund shareholders, general economic and financial conditions, movement of interest rates, competitive conditions, industry regulation, fluctuation in the stock market, and others, many of which are beyond the control of our management.

Statements regarding the following subjects are forward-looking by their nature:

our business strategy, including our ability to identify and complete future acquisitions;

market trends and risks;

our assumptions about changes in the market place, especially with the extreme volatility in the global and US financial markets;

our estimates for future performance;

our estimates regarding anticipated revenues and operating expenses; and

our ability to retain the mutual fund assets we currently manage.

Although we seek to maintain cost controls, a significant portion of our expenses are fixed and do not vary greatly. As a result, substantial fluctuations in our revenue can directly impact our net income from period to period.

Overview

We derive our operating revenue from management fees and shareholder servicing fees paid to us by the Hennessy Funds. These fees are calculated as a percentage of the average daily net assets in our mutual funds and vary from fund to fund. The fees we receive fluctuate with changes in the total net asset value of the assets in our mutual funds, which are affected by our investment performance, redemptions, completed acquisitions of management agreements, market conditions and the success of our marketing efforts. Average assets under management were \$896.4 million and \$933.0 million for the three months ended December 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

Table of Contents

Total assets under management were \$885.4 million as of December 31, 2010. Our total assets under management have decreased since December 31, 2009, due to redemptions, partly offset by market appreciation and inflows. The following table illustrates the changes in assets under management from December 31, 2009 through December 31, 2010:

| | Assets Under Management | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|------------|-----------------------------|------------|------------|
| | At Each Quarter End, December 31, 2009 through December 31, 2010 | | | | |
| | 12/31/2009 | 3/31/2010 | 6/30/2010 (In Thousands) | 9/30/2010 | 12/31/2010 |
| Beginning assets under management | \$ 923,404 | \$ 944,915 | \$ 960,816 | \$ 812,595 | \$ 892,465 |
| Acquisition inflows | | | | | |
| Organic inflows | 39,117 | 36,134 | 16,185 | 41,125 | 23,894 |
| Redemptions | (70,015) | (71,086) | (74,029) | (47,706) | (100,443) |
| Market appreciation (depreciation) | 52,409 | 50,853 | (90,377) | 86,451 | 69,438 |
| Ending assets under management | \$ 944,915 | \$ 960,816 | \$ 812,595 | \$ 892,465 | \$ 885,354 |

The principal asset on our balance sheet, management contracts net of accumulated amortization, represents the capitalized costs incurred in connection with the acquisition of management agreements. As of December 31, 2010, this asset had a net balance of \$22.3 million.

The principal liability on our balance sheet is the bank debt incurred in connection with the acquisition of the management agreements for the Lindner Funds and the Henlopen Fund. As of December 31, 2010, this liability had a balance of \$3.0 million.

Table of Contents

Results of Operations

The following table displays items in the statements of operations as dollar amounts and as percentages of total revenue for the three months ended December 31, 2010 and 2009:

| | Three Months Ended December 31, | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | 2010 | 2009 | Percent of Total Revenue | Percent of Total Revenue |
| | Amounts | Percent of Total Revenue | Amounts | Percent of Total Revenue |
| Revenue: | | | | |
| Investment advisory fees | \$ 1,730 | 88.8% | \$ 1,782 | 89.2% |
| Shareholder service fees | 214 | 11.0 | 209 | 10.5 |
| Other | 5 | 0.2 | 7 | 0.3 |
| Total revenue | 1,949 | 100.0 | 1,998 | 100.0 |
| Operating expenses: | | | | |
| Compensation and benefits | 555 | 28.5 | 723 | 36.2 |
| General and administrative | 567 | 29.1 | 524 | 26.2 |
| Mutual fund distribution | 166 | 8.5 | 179 | 9.0 |
| Sub-advisor fees | 158 | 8.1 | 176 | 8.8 |
| Amortization and depreciation | 28 | 1.4 | 28 | 1.4 |
| Total operating expenses | 1,474 | 75.6 | 1,630 | 81.6 |
| Operating income | 475 | 24.4 | 368 | 18.4 |
| Interest expense | 17 | 0.9 | 10 | 0.5 |
| Other income | | | 6 | 0.3 |
| Income before income tax expense | 458 | 23.5 | 352 | 17.6 |
| Income tax expense | 192 | 9.9 | 149 | 7.4 |
| Net income | \$ 266 | 13.6% | \$ 203 | 10.2% |

Revenues: Total revenue decreased 2.5% to \$1.9 million in the three months ended December 31, 2010, due to decreased average assets under management. Investment advisory fees decreased 2.9% to \$1.7 million in the three months ended December 31, 2010, but shareholder service fees increased 2.4% to \$0.2 million in the three months ended December 31, 2010. The decrease in investment advisory fees is due to decreases in the average daily net assets of our mutual funds, which can differ considerably from total net assets of our mutual funds at the end of an accounting period.

The increase in shareholder servicing fees is due to the implementation of a shareholder servicing fee on the original class shares of the Hennessy SPARX Japan Fund and the Hennessy SPARX Japan Smaller Companies Fund June 1, 2010.

Average daily net assets in our mutual funds for the three months ended December 31, 2010 decreased by \$36.6 million, or 3.9%, to \$896.4 million from \$933.0 million in the prior comparable period. The decrease in average daily net assets is attributable to net outflows. The largest net outflows were from the Hennessy Cornerstone Growth Fund (\$55.3 million) and the Hennessy Focus 30 Fund (\$39.4 million). The net outflows are partly offset by market appreciation in the Hennessy Focus 30 Fund (\$34.4 million) and the Hennessy Cornerstone Growth Fund (\$21.7 million).

Table of Contents

Almost a quarter of the total average daily net assets (\$210.1 million) for the period are concentrated in the Hennessy Cornerstone Growth Fund. All of the largest funds generate revenue at a rate of 0.84% of daily average assets, except for the Hennessy Select Large Value Fund, which generates revenue at a rate of 0.95% of daily average assets. However, the Company pays a sub-advisor fee of 0.35% of daily average assets of the Hennessy Select Large Value Fund, which reduces the net income generated by the fund for the Company.

Total net assets in our mutual funds decreased by \$59.6 million, or 6.3%, as of December 31, 2010, from \$944.9 million as of the end of the prior comparable period. The \$59.6 million decrease in net mutual funds assets is attributable to net outflows of \$175.9 million, offset by market appreciation of \$116.4 million. Redemptions as a percentage of assets under management increased from an average of 2.6% per month to 3.8% per month during the same period due to increased net outflows, as discussed below.

The decrease in assets under management is due to net outflows from the funds as investors remain apprehensive of the equity market. Despite investor fear, there has been market appreciation since the prior period, which has partially offset the net outflows.

The market appreciation was due, among other factors, to the following:

During the most recent economic downturn, many public companies reduced their expenses, such as their number of employees, creating leaner, more profitable companies. The increased corporate profits have created an upturn in the stock market.

Even though the markets remain volatile, some investors are gradually returning to the equity market.

The economy has shown signs of strengthening, which has encouraged appreciation in the stock market. Redemptions from the funds were due, among other factors, to the following:

The economic environment remains a difficult one, which is still requiring some investors to draw-down liquid investments, such as investments in mutual funds, to pay for daily living expenses.

The equity market is still quite volatile, and the fear created by that volatility continues to send many mutual fund investors from equity mutual funds to fixed income investment products.

While each of the ten funds had positive performance for the calendar year ended December 31, 2010, and over half of the funds outperformed their relative benchmarks, current shareholders are uneasy and are liquidating their equity investments. Prospective investors are either investing their money in fixed income vehicles or remaining on the sidelines.

Table of Contents

In the past, the Company has been obligated to waive fees to comply with contractual expense ratio limitations. The Company does not normally waive fees, nor does it anticipate waiving fees, on a voluntary basis. The Company waived fees of \$159 for the three months ended December 31, 2010, a decrease of \$34,000, or 99.5%, from the prior comparable period. The decrease is mainly due to the expiration of contractual waivers for the Hennessy Select Large Value Fund and the Hennessy Cornerstone Large Growth Fund (on March 31, 2010) and for the Hennessy Select SPARX Japan Fund and the Hennessy Select SPARX Japan Smaller Companies Fund (on February 28, 2010).

Although the Company may earn incentive income on the Micro Cap Fund, the Company did not earn incentive income for the three months ended December 31, 2010.

Operating Expenses: Total operating expenses decreased 9.6% to \$1.48 million in the three months ended December 31, 2010, from \$1.63 million in the prior comparable period. The decrease is mainly due to decreased compensation and benefits expense. As a percentage of total revenue, total operating expenses decreased by 6.0% to 75.6% in the three months ended December 31, 2010, as compared to 81.6% in the prior comparable period.

Compensation and Benefits: Compensation and benefits decreased 23.2% to \$0.56 million in the three months ended December 31, 2010, from \$0.72 million in the prior comparable period. The decrease resulted primarily from the elimination of a position in January, 2010, as well as a retirement in June, 2010. As a percentage of total revenue, compensation and benefits decreased by 7.7% to 28.5% for the three months ended December 31, 2010, compared to 36.2% in the prior comparable period.

General and Administrative Expenses: General and administrative expense increased 8.2% to \$0.57 million in the three months ended December 31, 2010, from \$0.52 million in the prior comparable period, primarily due to increased public relations expense (mainly for media tours promoting our mutual funds to the investing public). As a percentage of total revenue, general and administrative expense increased by 2.9% to 29.1% in the three months ended December 31, 2010, from 26.2% in the prior comparable period.

Mutual Fund Distribution Expenses: Distribution expense decreased 7.3% to \$0.17 million in the three months ended December 31, 2010, from \$0.18 million in the prior comparable period. As a percentage of total revenue, distribution expense decreased by 0.5% to 8.5% for the three months ended December 31, 2010, compared to 9.0% in the prior comparable period.

The mutual fund distribution expense consists of fees paid for our mutual funds to be offered on various financial platforms. The platforms allow consumers to purchase shares from numerous mutual fund companies through a single location, which provides those customers with a single statement of investments and a single source for mutual fund information and customer service. When our funds are purchased through one of these platforms, such as Charles Schwab, Fidelity, TD Ameritrade or Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, the platform typically charges us an asset based fee which is recorded in mutual fund distribution expense in our statement of operations. The fees increase or decrease in line with the value of the funds held on the platforms, which can be affected by inflows, outflows and market impact.

The decreased costs in the current period are due to a decrease in the value of average assets held through mutual fund platforms such as Charles Schwab, Fidelity and TD Ameritrade due to net outflows. For the three months ended December 31, 2010, the value of the mutual funds held on Charles Schwab (the platform that makes up over half of our mutual fund fees) decreased by more than 13% from the prior comparable period, mainly due to net outflows.

Table of Contents

The incremental assets purchased through the mutual fund platforms are not as profitable as those purchased in direct shareholder accounts due to the participation fees paid on assets held in the various mutual fund platforms. All of our funds are impacted by activity on the financial platforms as they are all available on several platforms.

Sub-advisor Fee Expense: Sub-advisor fee expense decreased 10.2% to \$0.16 million in the three months ended December 31, 2010, from \$0.18 million in the prior comparable period. The decrease is a result of a decrease in sub-advised assets in the current period, mainly due to net outflows. As a percentage of total revenue, sub-advisor fee expense decreased by 0.7% to 8.1% for the three months ended December 31, 2010, compared to 8.8% in the prior comparable period.

Amortization and Depreciation Expense: Amortization and depreciation expense remained the same at \$0.03 million in the three months ended December 31, 2010 as compared to the prior comparable period. As a percentage of total revenue, amortization and depreciation expense remained the same at 1.4% for the three months ended December 31, 2010 as compared to the prior comparable period.

Interest Expense: Interest expense increased by 70% from the prior comparable period due to an amendment to the loan providing an additional \$2.0 million on September 27, 2010. Monthly principal payments of \$0.05 million began in November, 2010. As a percentage of total revenue, interest expense increased by 0.4% to 0.9% for the three months ended December 31, 2010, compared to 0.5% in the prior comparable period.

Other Income: Other income decreased by 100% from the prior comparable period due to lower interest rates earned on our cash. As a percentage of total revenue, other income decreased by 0.3% to 0% for the three months ended December 31, 2010, compared to 0.3% in the prior comparable period.

Income Taxes: The provision for income taxes increased 28.9% to \$0.2 million in the three months ended December 31, 2010, from \$0.1 million in the prior comparable period. The change is due to increased income before tax in the current period.

Net Income: Net income increased by 31.0% to a net income of \$0.3 million in the three months ended December 31, 2010, from \$0.2 million in the prior comparable period, as a result of the factors discussed above.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In June, 2009, the FASB issued amendments to accounting for Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities. The amendment requires ongoing reassessments of whether an enterprise is the primary beneficiary of a variable interest entity. It also eliminates the quantitative approach previously required for determining the primary beneficiary of a variable interest entity. The amendment is effective for annual and interim reporting periods in fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2009 (the Company's fiscal year 2011). We have evaluated the amendment and determined that the effect on our financial statements or results of operations financial statements is immaterial.

In January, 2010, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 2010-06, Improving Disclosure about Fair Value Measurements. This ASU will add new requirements for disclosures into and out of Levels 1 and 2 fair value measurements and information on purchases, sales, issuances and settlements on a gross basis in the reconciliation of Level 3 fair value measurements. It also clarifies existing fair value disclosures about the level of disaggregation, inputs and valuation techniques. The guidance in the ASU is effective for annual and interim reporting periods in fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2010 (the Company's fiscal year 2012). We do not anticipate the adoption of the new guidance to have any effect on our financial statements or results of operations.

Table of Contents

Critical Accounting Policies

Accounting policies, methods, and estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based upon management's current judgments. Those judgments are normally based on knowledge and experience with regard to past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting policies, methods, and estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ markedly from management's current judgment.

Our operating revenues consist of contractual management and shareholder servicing fees. We earn our management fees through portfolio management of our mutual funds and private pooled equity fund, and we earn our shareholder servicing fees by assisting customers in purchases, sales, distribution and customer service. The revenues are earned and calculated daily by our fund accountant. In accordance with the FASB guidance on revenue recognition, the fees are recognized monthly by the Company. Our contractual agreements provide persuasive evidence that an arrangement exists with fixed and determinable fees, and the services are rendered daily. The collectability is probable as the fees are received from our fund accountant in the month subsequent to the month in which the services are provided.

The management agreements acquired by the Company are considered intangible assets with an indefinite life. In June 2001, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued the FASB guidance Intangibles Goodwill and Other. It states that goodwill and intangible assets with indefinite useful lives are not amortized, but are tested at least annually for impairment. We fully implemented the provisions of the FASB guidance on October 1, 2002, at which time we ceased amortization of these intangible assets. Impairment analysis is conducted quarterly and coincides with our quarterly and annual financial reporting.

In conducting the impairment analysis, the future revenues are calculated as a percent of assets under management based on our existing management agreements with the Hennessy Funds. The future expenses are based on projections of our current expenses, adjusted for changes in the assets under management. For example, variable expenses such as platform fees and sub-advisor fees grow in direct proportion with our assets under management. Other semi-variable expenses, such as office rent and professional services, grow at a rate slower than the growth in assets under management. Specifically, the projected revenues and expenses are based on assumptions about the growth of our assets under management. Since our management contracts have an indefinite life, the projections of revenues and expenses in theory are calculated into perpetuity. The actual values, however, were calculated over the future 15 years, and the value developed for the periods beyond the 15 year forecast is reflected in the terminal value calculation. Ultimately, growth rates of equities over the long-term were used in estimating future rates, primarily based on the consistent tendency of returns to center about the 11% range, as evidenced by S&P 500 returns since inception. In addition, studies have concluded that in general, flows into various mutual fund groups are highly correlated with market performance, which suggests the Hennessy Funds will average reasonable inflows over the future 15 years in response to market appreciation.

Table of Contents

We engaged an independent valuation firm and measured the fair value of the management contracts by incorporating our estimates and assumptions into a projection of future revenues, based in part upon estimates of assets under management growth and client attrition, and expenses. Based on the analysis, we concluded that projected revenues exceed projected expenses by an amount that is greater than the current carrying value of the management contracts. We therefore concluded that the management contract assets are not impaired as of September 30, 2010. We continually evaluate whether events or circumstances have occurred that indicate the management contracts may be impaired. If future valuations in the marketplace decline, the valuation of management agreements acquired may become impaired and net earnings would be negatively impacted by the resulting impairment adjustment. As of December 31, 2010, no events or circumstances occurred that indicated potential impairment of the management contracts.

The costs related to the Company's acquisition of management contracts are capitalized as incurred. The costs are defined as an intangible asset per FASB standard Intangibles Goodwill and Other. The acquisition costs include legal fees, fees for soliciting shareholder approval and a percent of asset costs to acquire the management contracts. The amounts are included in the management contract asset totaling \$22.3 million as of December 31, 2010.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

We continually review our capital requirements to ensure that we have sufficient funding available to support our growth strategies. Management anticipates that cash and other liquid assets on hand as of December 31, 2010 will be sufficient to meet our short-term capital requirements. To the extent that liquid resources and cash provided by operations are not adequate to meet long-term capital requirements, management plans to raise additional capital through debt or equity markets. There can be no assurance that we will be able to borrow funds or raise additional equity.

Total assets under management as of December 31, 2010 were \$885.4 million, which was a decrease of \$7.1 million, or 0.7%, from September 30, 2010. The primary source of our revenue, liquidity and cash flow are our fees, which are based on and generated by our average assets under management. Property and equipment and management agreements acquired totaled \$22.4 million as of December 31, 2010. We also invested \$0.5 million in the Micro Cap Fund on October 30, 2007. We intend to keep this investment, decreasing our short-term liquidity. Our remaining assets are very liquid, consisting primarily of cash and receivables derived from mutual fund asset management activities. As of December 31, 2010, we had cash and cash equivalents of \$7.3 million.

Table of Contents

The following table summarizes key financial data relating to our liquidity and use of cash for the three months ended December 31, 2010 and 2009:

| | For the Three Months Ended December 31, (unaudited, in thousands) | |
|---|--|-----------------|
| | 2010 | 2009 |
| Cash flow data: | | |
| Operating cash flows | \$ (114) | \$ (681) |
| Investing cash flows | (10) | (70) |
| Financing cash flows | (618) | (206) |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | \$ (742) | \$ (957) |

The decrease in cash used in operating activities is due to the second payment on the acquisition of the Tamarack funds of \$0.7 million which was paid in October, 2009.

The decrease in cash used for investing activities is due to \$0.04 million paid to acquire the SPARX funds in the prior period.

The increase in cash used for financing activities is due to a \$0.5 million annual dividend payment made in November, 2010.

Our Bank Loan: We have an outstanding bank loan with U.S. Bank National Association. We incurred \$7.9 million of indebtedness in connection with acquiring the management agreements for the Lindner Funds and an additional \$6.7 million of indebtedness in connection with acquiring the management agreement for The Henlopen Fund. The indebtedness we incurred to acquire the management agreement of The Henlopen Fund was rolled into a single loan with the indebtedness we incurred to acquire the management agreements of the Lindner Funds. On September 27, 2010, we amended the loan to borrow an additional \$2.0 million, which bears interest at U.S. Bank National Association's prime rate, as set by U.S. Bank National Association from time to time, less one percent (2.25% as of December 17, 2008) and is secured by the Company's assets. The loan was amended to require 60 monthly payments in the amount of \$52,083 plus interest, with the final installment of the then outstanding principal and interest due on September 30, 2015. The loan agreement includes certain reporting requirements and loan covenants requiring the maintenance of certain financial ratios. We are in compliance with our loan covenants as of December 31, 2010. As of December 31, 2010, we have \$3.0 million currently outstanding under our bank loan.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

An evaluation was performed by management of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, as of December 31, 2010. Based on that evaluation, management, including the Company's principal executive and principal financial officers, concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures are effective.

Table of Contents

There has been no change in the internal control over financial reporting identified in connection with the evaluation required by paragraph (d) of Rules 13a-15 and 15d-15 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that occurred during the Company's most recent fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

Part II. OTHER INFORMATION

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

We purchased shares underlying vested RSU s from employees to provide withholding and tax payments on behalf of our employees. The stock repurchases are presented in the following table for the three months ended December 31, 2010:

| Period | Total number of shares purchased (a) | Average price paid per share (b) | Total number of shares purchased as part of publicly announced plans or programs (4) (c) | Maximum number of shares that may yet be purchased under the plans or programs (4) (d) |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| October 2010 | 0 | \$ 0.00 | 0 | 908,807 |
| November 2010 (1) | 1,316 | \$ 2.46 | 0 | 908,807 |
| December 2010 (2) | 439 | \$ 2.70 | 0 | 908,807 |
| Total (3) | 1,755 | \$ 2.52 | 0 | 908,807 |

- (1) The shares repurchased on November 1, 2010 and November 15, 2010 were repurchased, according to the employee s instructions, to pay for tax expense and withholding on the compensation recognized for vested RSU s, granted on November 15, 2006 and November 1, 2008, and were not purchased pursuant to the stock buyback program described below. Withholding requirements are at statutory rates.
- (2) The shares repurchased on December 6, 2010 were repurchased, according to the employee s instructions, to pay for tax expense and withholding on the compensation recognized for vested RSU s, granted on December 6, 2007, and were not purchased pursuant to the stock buyback program described below.
- (3) The total shares repurchased were purchased at a weighted average price of \$2.52 share.
- (4) The share repurchases related to the RSUs were not completed pursuant to a plan or program, and are therefore not subject to a maximum per a plan or program. The Company has adopted a stock buyback program which it announced August 5, 2010. Pursuant to the program, the Company is authorized to purchase a maximum on 1,000,000 shares. The program has no expiration date.

Table of Contents

Item 6. Exhibits

- 31.1 Rule 13a-14a Certification of the Chief Executive Officer
- 31.2 Rule 13a-14a Certification of the Chief Financial Officer
- 32.1 Written Statement of the Chief Executive Officer, Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350
- 32.2 Written Statement of the Chief Financial Officer, Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350
Signatures

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

HENNESSY ADVISORS, INC.

Date: January 18, 2011

By: /s/ Teresa M. Nilsen
Teresa M. Nilsen, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer
and Secretary

EXHIBIT INDEX

- 31.1 Rule 13a 14a Certification of the Chief Executive Officer
- 31.2 Rule 13a 14a Certification of the Chief Financial Officer
- 32.1 Written Statement of the Chief Executive Officer, Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350
- 32.2 Written Statement of the Chief Financial Officer, Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350