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PRECISION DRILLING CORP
Form 6-K
November 09, 2004

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

FORM 6-K

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

For November 9, 2004

Commission File Number: 001-14534

PRECISION DRILLING CORPORATION
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

4200, 150 - 6TH AVENUE S.W.
CALGARY, ALBERTA
CANADA T2P 3Y7
(Address of principal executive offices)

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

Form 20-F Form 40-F

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

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

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

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

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

Yes No

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the

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(2) EXCLUDES CURRENT PORTION OF LONG-TERM DEBT

OVERVIEW

Diluted earnings per share from continuing operations were \$0.68 for the quarter ended September 30, 2004 compared to \$0.66 in 2003. Revenue and operating earnings both increased by 26% with the acquisition of Reeves Oilfield Services Ltd. (OReves0) and the land drilling operations of GlobalSantaFe Corporation contributing significantly to the increase. This improvement was achieved despite a 13% reduction in Canadian drilling activity, which was hampered by the much reported wet weather conditions in western Canada. Although activity levels were lower than the third quarter of 2003, anticipated strong demand for services going into the winter drilling season has provided support for pricing improvements across most of our service lines in Canada.

The increased value of the Canadian dollar relative to the US dollar had a significant negative impact in the third quarter of 2004, reducing before tax earnings by \$6.8 million. Most of the Corporation's international operations are carried on in US dollars and as a result the 6% strengthening of the Canadian dollar versus the US dollar had a two fold impact. First, the Canadian dollar equivalent of our net US dollar denominated monetary asset position declined, leading to a foreign exchange loss being recorded, and second, the Canadian dollar equivalent of US dollar denominated operating cash flow was reduced.

Stock-based compensation expense amounted to \$4.9million (\$0.08 per share) in the quarter compared to \$1.9 million (\$0.04 per share) in the third quarter of 2003.

During the quarter the Corporation completed the issuance of 4,400,000 common shares for net proceeds of \$276.5 million which funds were used to repay bank borrowings incurred to finance the acquisition of Reeves. The Corporation enjoys a strong balance sheet with a debt to debt plus equity ratio of 0.25, an undrawn revolving credit facility of \$335 million and cash on hand of \$79.4 million.

In September, the Corporation launched a branding campaign focused on its Technology Services segment. This important milestone in the Corporation's technology services development will see all the businesses that currently make up the Technology Services segment combined under one brand, OPrecision Energy Services0. The segment will have three product lines: Wireline Services, Drilling & Evaluation Services and Production Services.

The Corporation will be undertaking its annual planning and budget review in the fourth quarter. In conjunction with this process the annual assessment of the carrying value of the Corporation's investment in the Energy Services segment will be completed.

SEGMENT REVIEW

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Ni
	2004	2003	2004
OPERATING EARNINGS: (1)			
Contract Drilling	\$ 71,469	\$ 62,011	\$ 261,396
Energy Services	9,245	275	21,886
Rental and Production	9,507	9,175	28,861

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Corporate and Other	(13,147)	(10,503)	(36,401)
	\$ 77,074	\$ 60,958	\$ 275,742

(1) SEE EXPLANATION ON PAGE 8

CONTRACT DRILLING

(Stated in thousand of dollars, except per day/hour amounts)

Three months ended September 30,	2004	% OF REVENUE	2004
Revenue	\$ 287,721		\$ 227,400
Expenses:			
Operating	171,870	59.8	139,100
General and administrative	16,713	5.8	7,500
Depreciation and amortization	24,474	8.5	19,900
Foreign exchange	3,195	1.1	(1,100)
Operating earnings (1)	\$ 71,469	24.8	\$ 62,000

Number of drilling rigs (end of period)	274	2
Drilling operating days	12,774	11,800
Drilling revenue per operating day	17,437	14,300
Number of service rigs (end of period)	239	2
Service rig operating hours	112,637	110,400
Service revenue per operating hour	479	400

Nine months ended September 30,	2004	% OF REVENUE	2004
Revenue	\$ 857,711		\$ 701,800
Expenses:			
Operating	493,141	57.5	436,600
General and administrative	36,300	4.2	23,200
Depreciation and amortization	63,565	7.4	58,200
Foreign exchange	3,309	0.4	(2,000)
Operating earnings (1)	\$ 261,396	30.5	\$ 185,800

Number of drilling rigs (end of period)	274	2
Drilling rig operating days	36,229	33,700
Drilling revenue per operating day	17,915	15,300
Number of service rigs (end of period)	239	2
Service rig operating hours	344,316	326,300
Service revenue per operating hour	498	400

(1) SEE EXPLANATION ON PAGE 8

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Contract Drilling revenue increased by 26% in the third quarter compared to the same period in 2003 as a result of the acquisition of 31 internationally based rigs in May 2004, and pricing increases in the Canadian market. These positive factors were mitigated somewhat by lower activity levels in Canada as a result of wet weather conditions hindering the movement and operation of drilling rigs. Western Canada received 23% more rainfall in the third quarter of 2004 than in the third quarter of 2003 contributing to a 13% reduction in well completions.

Operating earnings as a percentage of revenue declined to 25% from 27% in 2003. Improved margins in the Canadian market were more than offset by lower margins realized internationally. Reduced spending by PEMEX, the Mexican National Oil Company, reduced our activity and profitability in that country. In addition, expenses were incurred in connection with the integration of the GlobalSantaFe land drilling business. Foreign exchange fluctuations also contributed to the reduced profitability of the Contract Drilling segment.

The Canadian drilling rig fleet achieved 9,479 operating days for a utilization rate of 46% in the quarter compared to 10,848 operating days and a 52% utilization rate in 2003. The service rig operation was less affected by the wet conditions in western Canada and saw a slight increase in operating hours from 110,447 in 2003 to 112,637 in 2004.

ENERGY SERVICES

(Stated in thousand of dollars)

Three months ended September 30,	2004	% OF REVENUE	2003
Revenue	\$ 229,246		\$ 174,597
Expenses:			
Operating	161,661	70.5	126,077
General and administrative	17,532	7.7	18,527
Depreciation and amortization	24,334	10.6	17,557
Research and engineering	13,097	5.7	13,207
Foreign exchange	3,377	1.5	(1,047)
Operating earnings (1)	\$ 9,245	4.0	\$ 27,767
Wireline jobs performed	10,366		11,857
Directional wells drilled	646		767

(1) SEE EXPLANATION ON PAGE 8

Nine months ended September 30,	2004	% OF REVENUE	2003
Revenue	\$ 627,890		\$ 512,307
Expenses:			
Operating	447,113	71.2	376,527
General and administrative	50,141	8.0	52,567

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Depreciation and amortization	67,528	10.8	54,30
Research and engineering	37,279	5.9	30,83
Foreign exchange	3,943	0.6	(2,09

Operating earnings (1)	\$ 21,886	3.5	\$ 17

Wireline jobs performed	29,886		29,60
Directional wells drilled	2,512		2,12

(1) SEE EXPLANATION ON PAGE 8

Compared to the same period in 2003, revenues in the Energy Services sector increased 31% in the third quarter of 2004. This growth was primarily achieved in international operations. Revenue from Canadian operations remained relatively flat year over year where the impact of adverse weather conditions was offset by the addition of Reeves. The same is true for operating earnings where overall results increased \$9.0 million, despite the inclusion of a foreign exchange loss of \$3.4 million. The addition of Reeves contributed significantly to the profitability of the Energy Services segment in the quarter. The biggest geographical improvements came from operations in the United States, Latin America and Asia Pacific.

Wireline Services generated the largest increase in results from 2003 levels, with improvements coming from both the core business as well as from the addition of Reeves. Continued capital spending in 2004, to round out LWD and RST service offerings, resulted in increased depreciation charges and a slight decline in operating earnings for Drilling & Evaluation Services. Business levels for this product line have not yet reached a sustainable threshold where the global fleet is enjoying continuous utilization of assets. The outlook for the balance of the year appears promising as we are experiencing an increase in jobs being awarded for our drilling and evaluation services. The Production Services business experienced mixed performances with some regions achieving excellent results, while others, such as Canada, struggled in adverse business environments. With renewal of a key North Sea contract and the start-up of other international projects before year end we are anticipating a strong finish to 2004.

In spite of utilization growing pains within our drilling and evaluation business we have been encouraged by the performance of our new RST and LWD tools. Several key customer trials were successfully completed around the world in the third quarter, with both reliability and performance demonstrating top tier industry standards. With respect to Wireline, we have been very encouraged by the addition of Reeves to our existing business. We believe Reeves' unique technology, as well as its cost effective service solutions, will provide exciting opportunities for our formation evaluation business in mature basins.

RENTAL AND PRODUCTION

(Stated in thousand of dollars)

Three months ended September 30,	2004	% OF REVENUE	200

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Revenue	\$	53,080		\$	48,85
Expenses:					
Operating		37,326	70.3		34,06
General and administrative		2,587	4.9		2,58
Depreciation and amortization		3,626	6.8		3,07
Foreign exchange		34	0.1		(4

Operating earnings (1)	\$	9,507	17.9	\$	9,17

Equipment rental days (000's)		198			20
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			% OF		
Nine months ended September 30,		2004	REVENUE		200

Revenue	\$	160,128		\$	162,31
Expenses:					
Operating		113,305	70.8		113,69
General and administrative		7,773	4.8		7,18
Depreciation and amortization		10,199	6.4		9,36
Foreign exchange		(10)	--		43

Operating earnings (1)	\$	28,861	18.0	\$	31,63

Equipment rental days (000's)		617			59
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(1) SEE EXPLANATION ON PAGE 8

The Rental and Production segment saw a 9% increase in revenue in the third quarter of 2004 over the same period in 2003, with the majority of the increase coming from the industrial plant maintenance business. The Canadian rental business experienced a slight decrease in rental days; however the impact on revenue was more than offset by pricing increases. Operating margins remained relatively consistent year over year in both businesses.

CORPORATE AND OTHER

CORPORATE AND OTHER EXPENSES

Expenses in the third quarter associated with Corporate activities have increased by \$2.6 million year over year. Much of the increase occurred in conjunction with the Corporation's expanded worldwide operations with approximately \$0.7 million resulting from the expense associated with stock options issued in the third quarter.

OTHER ITEMS

The effective tax rate on earnings in the third quarter from continuing operations before income taxes and non-controlling interest was 37% compared to 33% in the prior year. The increased tax rate is a result of unforeseen expenses

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during the quarter that are not tax affected. The most significant is the foreign exchange loss that occurred on translation of our foreign subsidiaries with another one being share-based compensation expense.

Interest expense increased in the third quarter of 2004 compared to the same period of the prior year as a result of additional debt incurred to finance business acquisitions.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Cash provided by continuing operations amounted to \$309.4 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2004 with capital expenditures, net of proceeds of disposal, totaling \$168.0 million. The acquisition of Reeves and the land drilling business of GlobalSanteFe for a combined purchase price of \$671.5 million was financed by a US \$300 million public note issue and the issuance of 4,400,000 common shares for net proceeds of \$276.5 million. Additional cash was realized from the disposal of investments and discontinued operations (\$55.2 million) and from the exercise of stock options (\$50.4 million).

The Corporation's outstanding debt is now solely comprised of its three debenture issues. Of these unsecured debentures, \$200 million matures in 2007, \$150 million matures in 2010 and \$382 million matures in 2014. Cash on hand at September 30, 2004 amounted to \$79.4 million and it is anticipated that cash reserves will continue to grow as cash flow from operations should exceed capital spending. The Corporation's liquidity position is also bolstered by its undrawn \$335 million revolving bank credit facility.

The Corporation's long-term debt to long-term debt plus equity ratio is 0.25 at September 30, 2004, well within our long-term target of 0.30. During October the Corporation issued 73,650 shares on the exercise of stock options.

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY

(Stated in thousands of dollars except per share amounts, which are presented on a diluted basis)

Quarters ended	2003		2004	
	December 31	March 31	June 30	Sept
Revenue	523,646	659,365	416,317	
Operating earnings (1)	91,173	169,631	29,037	
Earnings from continuing operations	61,434	106,082	15,982	
Per share	1.11	1.88	0.28	
Net earnings	52,958	100,519	15,995	
Per share	0.95	1.79	0.28	
Funds provided by continuing operations	108,252	178,186	38,947	
Quarters ended	2002		2003	
	December 31	March 31	June 30	Sept
Revenue	367,775	583,313	342,246	
Operating earnings (1)	11,330	117,033	12,314	
Earnings from continuing operations	4,497	73,525	8,489	
Per share	0.08	1.33	0.15	
Net earnings	6,616	83,129	8,622	
Per share	0.12	1.51	0.16	

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Funds provided by continuing operations	34,758	131,406	21,215
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(1) NON-GAAP MEASURE

OPERATING EARNINGS IS NOT A RECOGNIZED MEASURE UNDER CANADIAN GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES (GAAP). MANAGEMENT BELIEVES THAT IN ADDITION TO NET EARNINGS, OPERATING EARNINGS IS A USEFUL SUPPLEMENTAL MEASURE AS IT PROVIDES AN INDICATION OF THE RESULTS GENERATED BY THE CORPORATION'S PRINCIPAL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF HOW THOSE ACTIVITIES ARE FINANCED OR HOW THE RESULTS ARE TAXED IN VARIOUS JURISDICTIONS. INVESTORS SHOULD BE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT OPERATING EARNINGS SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO NET EARNINGS DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAAP AS AN INDICATOR OF PRECISION'S PERFORMANCE. PRECISION'S METHOD OF CALCULATING OPERATING EARNINGS MAY DIFFER FROM OTHER COMPANIES AND, ACCORDINGLY, OPERATING EARNINGS MAY NOT BE COMPARABLE TO MEASURES USED BY OTHER COMPANIES.

DISCLOSURE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

CERTAIN STATEMENTS CONTAINED IN THIS INTERIM REPORT, INCLUDING STATEMENTS WHICH ARE RELATED TO DRIVERS FOR IMPROVED EARNINGS, CUSTOMER REQUESTS FOR SERVICES AND DRILLING ACTIVITY AND THE OUTLOOK FOR THE BALANCE OF THE YEAR FOR OUR ENERGY SERVICES SEGMENT, STATEMENTS WHICH MAY CONTAIN WORDS SUCH AS OANTICIPATEO, OCOULDO, OSHOULD, OEXPECTO, OBELIEVEO, OWILLO AND SIMILAR EXPRESSIONS AND STATEMENTS RELATING TO MATTERS THAT ARE NOT HISTORICAL FACTS ARE FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE UNITED STATES PRIVATE SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM ACT OF 1995. SUCH FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS INVOLVE KNOWN AND UNKNOWN RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES WHICH MAY CAUSE THE ACTUAL RESULTS, PERFORMANCE OR ACHIEVEMENTS OF PRECISION TO BE MATERIALLY DIFFERENT FROM ANY FUTURE RESULTS, PERFORMANCES OR ACHIEVEMENTS EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED BY SUCH FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS. SUCH FACTORS INCLUDE FLUCTUATIONS IN THE MARKET FOR OIL AND GAS AND RELATED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES; COMPETITION; POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN COUNTRIES IN WHICH PRECISION DOES BUSINESS; THE DEMAND FOR SERVICES PROVIDED BY PRECISION; CHANGES IN LAWS AND REGULATIONS, INCLUDING ENVIRONMENTAL, TO WHICH PRECISION IS SUBJECT AND OTHER FACTORS, WHICH ARE DESCRIBED IN FURTHER DETAIL IN PRECISION'S FILINGS WITH THE U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

Stated in thousands of dollars

		SEPTEMBER
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>		
		(una
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$	
Accounts receivable		6
Inventory		1
Assets of discontinued operations		
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Property, plant and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation		8
Intangibles, net of accumulated amortization		1,9
Goodwill		1
Other assets		7

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Assets of discontinued operations

	\$	3,6

LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities:		
Bank indebtedness	\$	3
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		3
Income taxes payable		
Current portion of long-term debt		
Liabilities of discontinued operations		

Long-term debt (NOTE 8)		3
Future income taxes		7
Future income taxes of discontinued operations		3
Non-controlling interest		
Shareholders' equity:		
Share capital (NOTE 9)		1,2
Contributed surplus		
Cumulative translation adjustment		

	SEPTEMB
Stated in thousands of dollars	
	(una
Retained earnings	9
	2,2
Subsequent event (NOTE 10)	
	\$ 3,6

Common shares outstanding (000's)	
Common share purchase options outstanding (000's)	

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF EARNINGS AND RETAINED EARNINGS (UNAUDITED)

		Three months ended September 30,		
		2004	2003	

Stated in thousands of dollars, except per share amounts				
2003				
		(restated - Note 5)		
Revenue	\$	570,047	\$ 450,942	\$ 1,
Expenses:				
Operating		370,784	299,156	1,
General and administrative		48,408	38,166	
Depreciation and amortization		53,888	41,789	
Research and engineering		13,097	13,208	

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Foreign exchange	6,796	(2,335)		
	492,973	389,984		1,
Operating earnings	77,074	60,958		
Interest	13,087	8,540		
Gain on disposal of investments	(2,532)	(1,862)		
Earnings from continuing operations before income taxes and non-controlling interest	66,519	54,280		
Income taxes:				
Current	20,659	4,316		
Future	3,770	13,509		
	24,429	17,825		
Earnings from continuing operations before non-controlling interest	42,090	36,455		
Non-controlling interest	1,056	--		
Earnings from continuing operations	41,034	36,455		
Discontinued operations, net of tax (NOTE 4)	1,673	(690)		
Net earnings	42,707	35,765		
Retained earnings, beginning of period	910,793	705,556		
Retained earnings, end of period	\$ 953,500	\$ 741,321		\$
Earnings per share from continuing operations:				
Basic	\$ 0.69	\$ 0.67		\$
Diluted	\$ 0.68	\$ 0.66		\$
Earnings per share:				
Basic	\$ 0.72	\$ 0.66		\$
Diluted	\$ 0.71	\$ 0.65		\$
Common shares outstanding (000's)	60,673	54,639		
Weighted average shares outstanding (000's)	59,154	54,514		
Diluted shares outstanding (000's)	59,908	55,334		

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOW (UNAUDITED)

	Three months ended September 30,			
Stated in thousands of dollars	2004	2003		
			(restated - Note 5)	
Cash provided by (used in):				
Continuing operations:				
Earnings from continuing operations	\$ 41,034	\$ 36,455		\$
Items not affecting cash:				
Stock-based compensation	4,934	1,946		
Depreciation and amortization	53,888	41,789		
Gain on disposal of investments	(2,532)	(1,862)		
Future income taxes	3,770	13,509		
Non-controlling interest	1,056	--		

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Amortization of deferred financing costs	465	321
Unrealized foreign exchange loss (gain) on long-term monetary items	480	(394)
<hr/>		
Funds provided by continuing operations	103,095	91,764
Changes in non-cash working capital balances	(60,639)	(83,491)
<hr/>		
	42,456	8,273
Funds provided by (used in) discontinued Operations (NOTE 4)	1,898	1,450
Changes in non-cash working capital balances of discontinued operations	(5,260)	(849)
<hr/>		
	(3,362)	601
Investments:		
Business acquisitions (NOTE 7)	(1,160)	--
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(83,629)	(69,049)
Purchase of intangibles	(314)	--
Proceeds on sale of property, plant and equipment	13,371	5,500
Proceeds on disposal of investments	5,829	2,960
Proceeds on disposal of discontinued operations	8,553	--
Investments	1,340	144
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	(56,010)	(60,445)
Financing:		
Increase in long-term debt	--	35,980
Repayment of long-term debt	(161,994)	(4,486)
Deferred financing costs on long-term debt	(627)	--
Issuance of common shares on exercise of options	13,584	6,115
Issuance of common shares (NOTE 9)	276,455	--
Change in bank indebtedness	(71,795)	21,275
<hr/>		
	55,623	58,884
<hr/>		
Increase in cash	38,707	7,313
Cash, beginning of period	40,715	10,957
<hr/>		
Cash, end of period	\$ 79,422	\$ 18,270
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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) (TABULAR AMOUNTS STATED IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS, EXCEPT PER SHARE AMOUNTS)

1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

These interim financial statements were prepared using accounting policies and methods of their application consistent with those used in the preparation of the Corporation's audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2003, except as noted below. These interim financial statements conform in all respects to the requirements of generally accepted accounting principles in Canada for annual financial statements with the exception of certain note disclosures regarding balance sheet items and transactions occurring prior to the current reporting period. As a result, these interim financial statements should be read in conjunction with the Corporation's audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2003 contained in the Corporation's 2003 annual report.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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(a) FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSLATION

Accounts of foreign operations which are considered financially and operationally integrated are translated to Canadian dollars using average exchange rates for the reporting period for revenue and expenses. Monetary assets and liabilities are translated at period end current exchange rate and non-monetary assets and liabilities are translated using historical rates of exchange. Gains or losses resulting from these translation adjustments are included in net earnings.

With the acquisitions completed in the second quarter of 2004 the Corporation has international operations which are considered financially and operationally independent. These self sustaining operations are translated to Canadian dollars using average rates for the reporting period for revenue and expenses and period end rates for all assets and liabilities. Gains and losses resulting from these translation adjustments are included as a component of shareholders' equity in the cumulative translation adjustment account.

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at rates in effect at the time of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities are translated at current rates. Gains or losses are included in net earnings.

(b) HEDGING

The Corporation has designated its US \$300.0 million 5.625% long-term notes as a hedge of its investment in certain self sustaining foreign operations. Gains or losses resulting from the translation of these notes at period end exchange rates are included in the cumulative translation adjustment account.

3. SEASONALITY OF OPERATIONS

The majority of the Corporation's operations are carried on in Canada. The ability to move heavy equipment in the Canadian oil and natural gas fields is dependent on weather conditions. As warm weather returns in the spring, the winter's frost comes out of the ground rendering many secondary roads incapable of supporting the weight of heavy equipment until they have thoroughly dried out. The duration of this "spring breakup" has a direct impact on the Corporation's activity levels. In addition, many exploration and production areas in northern Canada are accessible only in winter months when the ground is frozen hard enough to support equipment. The timing of freeze up and spring breakup affects the ability to move equipment in and out of these areas. As a result, late March through May is traditionally our slowest time.

4. DISPOSAL OF DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS

On February 12, 2004, the Corporation sold substantially all of the assets of Fleet Cementers Inc. for proceeds of \$25.7 million. On May 7, 2004 the Corporation sold the assets of the Polar Completions division for proceeds of \$15.0 million, subject to working capital adjustments. On August 31, 2004 the Corporation sold its 65% interest in United Diamond Ltd. for proceeds of \$8.5 million. Additional proceeds in the amount of up to \$9.5 million is receivable with respect to the sale of United Diamond Ltd., contingent upon the extent of future business undertaken between the Corporation and United Diamond Ltd. No portion of the \$9.5 million of contingent proceeds has been recognized. These assets were included in what is now called the Energy Services segment (previously Technology Services) and were disposed of as they were not a core component to the Corporation's energy services globalization strategy.

Effective January 1, 2003, the Corporation sold Energy Industries Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary included in the Rental and Production segment.

Effective May 2003, the Corporation sold its 50% interest in Energy

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Equipment Rentals General Partnership (OEERO) and Oil Drilling Exploration (Argentina) SA (OOD&EO). Both entities were included in the Contract Drilling segment.

Results of the operations of these businesses have been classified as results of discontinued operations. The following table provides additional information with respect to amounts included in the results of discontinued operations.

	Three months ended September 30,	
	2004	2003

Revenue		
Fleet Cementers, Polar Completions and United Diamond	\$ 5,756	\$ 17,155
Other	--	--

	5,756	17,155

Gain on disposal of Energy Industries	--	--
Gain on disposal of EER and OD&E	--	--
Loss on disposal of Fleet Cementers' assets	(14)	--
Loss on disposal of United Diamond	(254)	--

	(268)	--

Results of operations before income taxes and non-controlling interest		
Fleet Cementers, Polar Completions and United Diamond	1,952	204
Other	--	--
Writedown of assets held for sale	--	--

	1,952	204
Income tax expense (recovery)	(327)	620

Results of operations, before non-controlling interest	2,279	(416)
Non-controlling interest	338	274

	1,941	(690)

Discontinued operations	\$ 1,673	\$ (690)

The following table provides additional information with respect to amounts included in funds provided by (used in) discontinued operations:

	Three months ended September 30,	
	2004	2003

Net earnings (loss) of discontinued operations	\$ 1,673	\$ (690)
Items not affecting cash:		
Loss (gain) on disposal of discontinued operations	268	--
Depreciation and amortization	84	1,897

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Stock-based compensation	--	61
Writedown of assets of discontinued operations	--	--
Future income taxes	(465)	(92)
Non-controlling interest	338	274
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Funds provided by (used in) discontinued operations	\$ 1,898	\$ 1,450
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>		

5. STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION

Effective January 1, 2004, the Corporation has adopted the revised Canadian accounting standards with respect to accounting for stock-based compensation. Under the new standard, the fair value of common share purchase options is calculated at the date of grant and that value is recorded as compensation expense over the vesting period of those grants. The Corporation has retroactively applied this standard, with restatement of prior years, to all common share purchase options granted since January 1, 2002. This has resulted in a charge to net earnings for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2004 of \$4.9 million and \$8.9 million (2003 - \$2.0 million and \$6.0 million) respectively, and a reduction to opening retained earnings of \$14.5 million at January 1, 2004 (\$6.3 million at January 1, 2003).

Included in shareholders' equity at September 30, 2004 is \$1.9 million (December 31, 2003 - \$215,000) relating to stock-based compensation on options that were exercised.

6. SEGMENT INFORMATION

	Contract Drilling	Energy Services	Rental and Production	
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Three months ended September 30, 2004				
Revenue	\$ 287,721	\$ 229,246	\$ 53,080	\$
Operating earnings (loss)	71,469	9,245	9,507	
Research and engineering	--	13,097	--	
Depreciation and amortization	24,474	24,334	3,626	
Total assets	1,863,678	1,557,996	177,993	
Goodwill	383,041	355,672	28,702	
Capital expenditures	34,551	43,464	2,126	
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	Contract Drilling	Energy Services	Rental and Production	
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Three months ended September 30, 2003				
Revenue	\$ 227,490	\$ 174,593	\$ 48,859	\$
Operating earnings (loss)	62,011	275	9,175	
Research and engineering	--	13,208	--	
Depreciation and amortization	19,961	17,558	3,072	
Total assets	1,342,054	1,260,539	174,117	
Goodwill	257,531	241,340	28,572	
Capital expenditures	32,798	27,609	2,269	
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	Contract Drilling	Energy Services	Rental and Production	
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Nine months ended September 30, 2004				
Revenue	\$ 857,711	\$ 627,890	\$ 160,128	\$
Operating earnings (loss)	261,396	21,886	28,861	

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Research and engineering	--	37,279	--
Depreciation and amortization	63,565	67,528	10,199
Total assets	1,863,678	1,557,996	177,993
Goodwill	383,041	355,672	28,702
Capital expenditures*	74,086	92,901	11,611

Nine months ended September 30, 2003	Contract Drilling	Energy Services	Rental and Production	
Revenue	\$ 701,884	\$ 512,305	\$ 162,312	\$
Operating earnings (loss)	185,834	173	31,636	
Research and engineering	--	30,834	--	
Depreciation and amortization	58,234	54,307	9,364	
Total assets	1,342,054	1,260,539	174,117	
Goodwill	257,531	241,340	28,572	
Capital expenditures*	62,794	148,817	9,463	

* EXCLUDES BUSINESS ACQUISITIONS

7. ACQUISITIONS

During the year the Corporation made several acquisitions, the most significant of which were:

On May 14, 2004 the Corporation purchased all of the issued and outstanding shares of Reeves Oilfield Services Ltd. ("Reeves"). Reeves provides open hole and cased hole logging services to the oil and gas industry. It has established operations in Canada, the United States, Australia, Africa, Europe and the Middle East.

On May 21, 2004, the Corporation purchased all of the worldwide land drilling assets, located in Venezuela and the Middle East, from GlobalSantaFe Corporation ("Global SantaFe").

These acquisitions have been accounted for by the purchase method with the results of the acquired operations included in the financial statements from the effective date of acquisition. Details of the transactions are as follows:

	Reeves	GlobalSantaFe	Other
Net assets acquired at assigned values:			
Working capital	\$ 23,000 (a)	\$ 11,639	\$ --
Intangibles	95,203	6,139	--
Property, plant and equipment	42,026	296,407	500
Goodwill	113,358	125,510	130
Future income taxes	(33,522)	--	--
Minority interest	(8,246)	--	--
	231,819	439,695	630
Consideration:			
Cash	\$ 231,819	\$ 439,695	\$ 630

(a) includes cash of \$12,142

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8. LONG-TERM DEBT

On May 28, 2004 the Corporation issued US \$300.0 million of long-term notes, bearing interest at 5.625% and maturing on June 1, 2014. These notes are redeemable at any time by the Corporation upon paying a redemption price equal to the greater of an amount calculated with reference to the yield on a United States treasury security with the same maturity and par. Proceeds of the offering was used to repay indebtedness incurred in connection with the acquisition of the worldwide land based drilling assets of GlobalSantaFe Corporation.

9. SHARE CAPITAL

In the third quarter of 2004 the Corporation issued 4,400,000 common shares at US \$49.80 for net proceeds of approximately \$276.5 million. Proceeds of the offering were used primarily to repay indebtedness incurred in connection with the acquisition of all the issued and outstanding shares of Reeves Oilfield Services Ltd.

10. SUBSEQUENT EVENT

On October 15, 2004 the Corporation purchased 43.5% of the issued and outstanding shares of Allegheny Wireline Services Inc. ("Allegheny") for cash consideration of US \$17.5 million. The remaining 56.5% of the issued and outstanding shares of Allegheny had been acquired by the Corporation as part of the acquisition of Reeves Oilfield Services Ltd. on May 14, 2004. This acquisition will be accounted for by the purchase method with the increased proportion of Allegheny's results of operations included in the financial statements from the effective date of acquisition.

SHAREHOLDER INFORMATION

DIRECTORS

W.C. (MICKEY) DUNN (2) (3)
Edmonton, Alberta

ROBERT J.S. GIBSON (1) (3)
Calgary, Alberta

PATRICK M. MURRAY (1)
Dallas, Texas

FREDERICK W. PHEASEY (2) (3)
Edmonton, Alberta

ROBERT L. PHILLIPS (2) (3)
Vancouver, British Columbia

HANK B. SWARTOUT
Calgary, Alberta

H. GARTH WIGGINS (1)
Calgary, Alberta

- (1) Audit Committee member
- (2) Compensation Committee member
- (3) Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee member

OFFICERS

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HANK B. SWARTOUT
Chairman of the Board, President
and Chief Executive Officer

DALE E. TREMBLAY
Senior Vice President Finance
and Chief Financial Officer

IAN E. KELLY
Senior Vice President
International Drilling

JOHN R. KING
Senior Vice President
Energy Services

M.J. (MICK) MCNULTY
Senior Vice President
Operations Finance

R.T. (BOB) GERMAN
Vice President and
Chief Accounting Officer

JAN M. CAMPBELL
Corporate Secretary

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