

HARSCO CORP
Form 10-Q
July 31, 2012
Table of Contents

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
FORM 10-Q

✓ QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 or 15 (d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the Quarterly Period Ended June 30, 2012

or

.. 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 001-03970

HARSCO CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

23-1483991

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

(I.R.S. employer identification number)

350 Poplar Church Road, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17011
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code 717-763-7064

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 o

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 o

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 definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer ✓

Accelerated filer o

Non-accelerated filer o

Smaller reporting company o

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

YES o NO ✓

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the registrant's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

Class

Outstanding at July 13, 2012

Common stock, par value \$1.25 per share

80,584,628

Table of ContentsHARSCO CORPORATION
FORM 10-Q
INDEX

| | Page |
|--|-----------|
| <u>PART I — FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u> | |
| <u>Item 1.</u> | |
| <u>Financial Statements</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets (Unaudited)</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income (Unaudited)</u> | <u>4</u> |
| <u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss) (Unaudited)</u> | <u>6</u> |
| <u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (Unaudited)</u> | <u>7</u> |
| <u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Equity (Unaudited)</u> | <u>8</u> |
| <u>Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)</u> | <u>9</u> |
| <u>Item 2.</u> | |
| <u>Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u> | <u>26</u> |
| <u>Item 3.</u> | |
| <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u> | <u>39</u> |
| <u>Item 4.</u> | |
| <u>Controls and Procedures</u> | <u>39</u> |
| <u>PART II — OTHER INFORMATION</u> | |
| <u>Item 1.</u> | |
| <u>Legal Proceedings</u> | <u>40</u> |
| <u>Item 1A.</u> | |
| <u>Risk Factors</u> | <u>40</u> |
| <u>Item 2.</u> | |
| <u>Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u> | <u>40</u> |
| <u>Item 3.</u> | |
| <u>Defaults Upon Senior Securities</u> | <u>40</u> |
| <u>Item 4.</u> | |
| <u>Mine Safety Disclosures (Not Applicable)</u> | <u>40</u> |
| <u>Item 5.</u> | |
| <u>Other Information</u> | <u>40</u> |
| <u>Item 6.</u> | |
| <u>Exhibits</u> | <u>41</u> |
| <u>SIGNATURES</u> | <u>42</u> |

Table of Contents

PART I — FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

HARSCO CORPORATION

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (Unaudited)

| (In thousands) | June 30 2012 | December 31 2011 |
|--|-----------------|---------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 121,369 | \$ 121,184 |
| Trade accounts receivable, net | 615,198 | 618,475 |
| Other receivables | 33,014 | 44,431 |
| Inventories | 260,961 | 241,934 |
| Other current assets | 114,738 | 133,407 |
| Total current assets | 1,145,280 | 1,159,431 |
| Property, plant and equipment, net | 1,208,058 | 1,274,484 |
| Goodwill | 671,598 | 680,901 |
| Intangible assets, net | 83,964 | 93,501 |
| Other assets | 157,020 | 130,560 |
| Total assets | \$ 3,265,920 | \$ 3,338,877 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Short-term borrowings | \$ 25,745 | \$ 51,414 |
| Current maturities of long-term debt | 2,195 | 3,558 |
| Accounts payable | 242,306 | 252,329 |
| Accrued compensation | 85,293 | 92,603 |
| Income taxes payable | 14,003 | 8,409 |
| Dividends payable | 16,516 | 16,498 |
| Insurance liabilities | 21,579 | 25,075 |
| Advances on contracts | 94,880 | 111,429 |
| Other current liabilities | 205,888 | 220,953 |
| Total current liabilities | 708,405 | 782,268 |
| Long-term debt | 949,625 | 853,800 |
| Deferred income taxes | 22,593 | 27,430 |
| Insurance liabilities | 60,433 | 60,864 |
| Retirement plan liabilities | 320,783 | 343,842 |
| Other liabilities | 44,492 | 50,755 |
| Total liabilities | 2,106,331 | 2,118,959 |
| COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES | | |
| HARSCO CORPORATION STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY | | |
| Preferred stock | — | — |
| Common stock | 140,055 | 139,914 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 151,619 | 149,066 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | (383,347) | (364,191) |
| Retained earnings | 1,946,518 | 1,996,234 |
| Treasury stock | (745,205) | (744,644) |
| Total Harsco Corporation stockholders' equity | 1,109,640 | 1,176,379 |
| Noncontrolling interests | 49,949 | 43,539 |
| Total equity | 1,159,589 | 1,219,918 |

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total liabilities and equity | \$3,265,920 | \$3,338,877 |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|

See accompanying notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents
HARSCO CORPORATION
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME (Unaudited)

| (In thousands, except per share amounts) | Three Months Ended | | Six Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|-----------|------------------|-------------|
| | June 30 | | June 30 | |
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| Revenues from continuing operations: | | | | |
| Service revenues | \$598,823 | \$723,516 | \$1,197,523 | \$1,377,043 |
| Product revenues | 171,752 | 151,575 | 325,387 | 277,103 |
| Total revenues | 770,575 | 875,091 | 1,522,910 | 1,654,146 |
| Costs and expenses from continuing operations: | | | | |
| Cost of services sold | 469,998 | 572,216 | 953,423 | 1,098,194 |
| Cost of products sold | 114,782 | 94,997 | 225,024 | 179,438 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 125,594 | 141,162 | 254,797 | 278,951 |
| Research and development expenses | 2,686 | 1,373 | 4,746 | 2,713 |
| Other expenses | 22,876 | 910 | 62,968 | 1,381 |
| Total costs and expenses | 735,936 | 810,658 | 1,500,958 | 1,560,677 |
| Operating income from continuing operations | 34,639 | 64,433 | 21,952 | 93,469 |
| Interest income | 882 | 619 | 1,556 | 1,339 |
| Interest expense | (11,608) | (12,644) | (24,432) | (24,579) |
| Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes and equity income | 23,913 | 52,408 | (924) | 70,229 |
| Income tax expense | (10,446) | (13,335) | (14,944) | (17,735) |
| Equity in income of unconsolidated entities, net | 128 | 125 | 297 | 336 |
| Income (loss) from continuing operations | 13,595 | 39,198 | (15,571) | 52,830 |
| Discontinued operations: | | | | |
| Loss on disposal of discontinued business | (515) | (744) | (1,165) | (2,072) |
| Income tax benefit related to discontinued business | 193 | 286 | 437 | 789 |
| Loss from discontinued operations | (322) | (458) | (728) | (1,283) |
| Net income (loss) | 13,273 | 38,740 | (16,299) | 51,547 |
| Less: Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests | (562) | (1,013) | (359) | (2,389) |
| Net income (loss) attributable to Harsco Corporation | \$12,711 | \$37,727 | \$(16,658) | \$49,158 |
| Amounts attributable to Harsco Corporation common stockholders: | | | | |
| Income (loss) from continuing operations, net of tax | \$13,033 | \$38,185 | \$(15,930) | \$50,441 |
| Loss from discontinued operations, net of tax | (322) | (458) | (728) | (1,283) |
| Net income (loss) attributable to Harsco Corporation common stockholders | \$12,711 | \$37,727 | \$(16,658) | \$49,158 |

(continued on next page)

Table of Contents

HARSCO CORPORATION

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME - Continued (Unaudited)

| (In thousands, except per share amounts) | Three Months Ended | | Six Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|---------|------------------|------------|
| | June 30 | | June 30 | |
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| Weighted-average shares of common stock outstanding | 80,631 | 80,749 | 80,605 | 80,722 |
| Basic earnings (loss) per common share attributable to Harsco Corporation common stockholders: | | | | |
| Continuing operations | \$0.16 | \$0.47 | \$(0.20) | \$0.62 |
| Discontinued operations | — | (0.01) | (0.01) | (0.02) |
| Basic earnings (loss) per share attributable to Harsco Corporation common stockholders | \$0.16 | \$0.47 | (a) \$(0.21) | \$0.61 (a) |
| Diluted weighted-average shares of common stock outstanding | 80,882 | 81,010 | 80,605 | 80,977 |
| Diluted earnings (loss) per common share attributable to Harsco Corporation common stockholders: | | | | |
| Continuing operations | \$0.16 | \$0.47 | \$(0.20) | \$0.62 |
| Discontinued operations | — | (0.01) | (0.01) | (0.02) |
| Diluted earnings (loss) per share attributable to Harsco Corporation common stockholders | \$0.16 | \$0.47 | (a) \$(0.21) | \$0.61 (a) |
| Cash dividends declared per common share | \$0.205 | \$0.205 | \$0.41 | \$0.41 |
| (a) Does not total due to rounding | | | | |

See accompanying notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

HARSCO CORPORATION

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS) (Unaudited)

| | Three Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|-------------|
| | June 30 | |
| (In thousands) | 2012 | 2011 |
| Net income | \$13,273 | \$38,740 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss): | | |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments, net of deferred income taxes | (67,119 |) 19,420 |
| Net gains on cash flow hedging instruments, net of deferred income taxes of \$(680) and \$(225) in 2012 and 2011, respectively | 1,939 | 911 |
| Pension liability adjustments, net of deferred income taxes of \$(2,118) and \$(1,158) in 2012 and 2011, respectively | 14,267 | 2,735 |
| Unrealized loss on marketable securities, net of deferred income taxes of \$3 and \$2 in 2012 and 2011, respectively | (5 |) (3 |
| Total other comprehensive income (loss) | (50,918 |) 23,063 |
| Total comprehensive income (loss) | (37,645 |) 61,803 |
| Less: Comprehensive (income) loss attributable to noncontrolling interests | 316 | (1,528 |
| Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to Harsco Corporation | \$(37,329 |) \$60,275 |
| | Six Months Ended | |
| | June 30 | |
| (In thousands) | 2012 | 2011 |
| Net income (loss) | \$(16,299 |) \$51,547 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss): | | |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments, net of deferred income taxes | (31,079 |) 54,232 |
| Net gains on cash flow hedging instruments, net of deferred income taxes of \$(895) and \$(1,742) in 2012 and 2011, respectively | 2,701 | 6,688 |
| Pension liability adjustments, net of deferred income taxes of \$(1,325) and \$947 in 2012 and 2011, respectively | 8,849 | (2,236 |
| Unrealized gain (loss) on marketable securities, net of deferred income taxes of \$(1) and \$2 in 2012 and 2011, respectively | 2 | (3 |
| Total other comprehensive income (loss) | (19,527 |) 58,681 |
| Total comprehensive income (loss) | (35,826 |) 110,228 |
| Less: Comprehensive (income) loss attributable to noncontrolling interests | 12 | (3,148 |
| Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to Harsco Corporation | \$(35,814 |) \$107,080 |

See accompanying notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

HARSCO CORPORATION

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (Unaudited)

| | Six Months Ended | |
|--|------------------|------------|
| | June 30 | |
| (In thousands) | 2012 | 2011 |
| Cash flows from operating activities: | | |
| Net income (loss) | \$(16,299 |) \$51,547 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation | 126,889 | 137,631 |
| Amortization | 11,067 | 17,295 |
| Equity in income of unconsolidated entities, net | (297 |) (336 |
| Dividends or distributions from unconsolidated entities | 154 | 160 |
| Harsco 2011/2012 Restructuring Program non-cash adjustments | 19,558 | — |
| Other, net | (15,984 |) (3,992 |
| Changes in assets and liabilities, net of acquisitions and dispositions of businesses: | | |
| Accounts receivable | (5,564 |) (87,027 |
| Inventories | (24,850 |) (14,507 |
| Accounts payable | (7,951 |) 9,382 |
| Accrued interest payable | 31 | 405 |
| Accrued compensation | (5,719 |) 1,919 |
| Harsco Infrastructure Segment 2010 Restructuring Program accrual | (2,751 |) (11,146 |
| Harsco 2011/2012 Restructuring Program accrual | (3,508 |) — |
| Other assets and liabilities | (39,029 |) (34,466 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 35,747 | 66,865 |
| Cash flows from investing activities: | | |
| Purchases of property, plant and equipment | (107,845 |) (166,876 |
| Proceeds from sales of assets | 36,573 | 33,388 |
| Other investing activities, net | 1,348 | 3,831 |
| Net cash used by investing activities | (69,924 |) (129,657 |
| Cash flows from financing activities: | | |
| Short-term borrowings, net | (26,366 |) 57,597 |
| Current maturities and long-term debt: | | |
| Additions | 219,076 | 166,924 |
| Reductions | (124,176 |) (162,460 |
| Cash dividends paid on common stock | (33,029 |) (33,042 |
| Dividends paid to noncontrolling interests | (2,072 |) (600 |
| Contributions from noncontrolling interests | 7,985 | 660 |
| Common stock issued - options | 725 | 1,330 |
| Other financing activities, net | (2,708 |) — |
| Net cash provided by financing activities | 39,435 | 30,409 |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash | (5,073 |) 3,440 |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | 185 | (28,943 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period | 121,184 | 124,238 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period | \$121,369 | \$95,295 |

See accompanying notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

HARSCO CORPORATION

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF EQUITY (Unaudited)

| (In thousands, except share and per share amounts) | Harsco Corporation Stockholders' Equity | | | Retained Earnings | Accumulated | | Noncontrolling Interests | Total |
|---|---|-------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-------|
| | Common Stock | | Additional Paid-in Capital | | Other Comprehensive Loss | | | |
| | Issued | Treasury | | | | | | |
| Balances, January 1, 2011 | \$ 139,514 | \$(737,106) | \$ 141,298 | \$ 2,073,920 | \$(185,932) | \$ 36,451 | \$ 1,468,145 | |
| Net income | | | | 49,158 | | 2,389 | 51,547 | |
| Cash dividends declared: | | | | | | | | |
| Common @ \$0.41 per share | | | | (33,092) | | | (33,092) | |
| Noncontrolling interests | | | | | | (761) | (761) | |
| Translation adjustments, net of deferred income taxes of \$(7,473) | | | | | 53,473 | 759 | 54,232 | |
| Cash flow hedging instrument adjustments, net of deferred income taxes of \$(1,742) | | | | | 6,688 | | 6,688 | |
| Contributions from noncontrolling interests | | | | | | 1,181 | 1,181 | |
| Pension liability adjustments, net of deferred income taxes of \$947 | | | | | (2,236) | | (2,236) | |
| Marketable securities unrealized gains, net of deferred income taxes of \$2 | | | | | (3) | | (3) | |
| Stock options exercised, 86,022 shares | 108 | | 1,206 | | | | 1,314 | |
| Vesting of restricted stock units, net 92,630 shares | 151 | (910) | 985 | | | | 226 | |
| Amortization of unearned portion of stock-based compensation, net of forfeitures | | | 1,874 | | | | 1,874 | |
| Balances, June 30, 2011 | \$ 139,773 | \$(738,016) | \$ 145,363 | \$ 2,089,986 | \$(128,010) | \$ 40,019 | \$ 1,549,115 | |

| (In thousands, except share and per share amounts) | Harsco Corporation Stockholders' Equity | | | Retained Earnings | Accumulated | | Noncontrolling Interests | Total |
|---|---|-------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-------|
| | Common Stock | | Additional Paid-in Capital | | Other Comprehensive Loss | | | |
| | Issued | Treasury | | | | | | |
| Balances, January 1, 2012 | \$ 139,914 | \$(744,644) | \$ 149,066 | \$ 1,996,234 | \$(364,191) | \$ 43,539 | \$ 1,219,918 | |
| Net income (loss) | | | | (16,658) | | 359 | (16,299) | |
| Cash dividends declared: | | | | | | | | |
| Common @ \$0.41 per share | | | | (33,058) | | | (33,058) | |
| Noncontrolling interests | | | | | | (2,068) | (2,068) | |
| Translation adjustments, net of deferred income taxes of \$2,357 | | | | | (30,708) | (371) | (31,079) | |
| Cash flow hedging instrument adjustments, net of deferred income taxes of \$(895) | | | | | 2,701 | | 2,701 | |
| | | | | | | 8,490 | 8,490 | |

Edgar Filing: HARSCO CORP - Form 10-Q

| | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| Contributions from noncontrolling interests | | | | | | | |
| Pension liability adjustments, net of deferred income taxes of \$(1,325) | | | | | 8,849 | | 8,849 |
| Marketable securities unrealized gains, net of deferred income taxes of \$(1) | | | | | 2 | | 2 |
| Stock options exercised, 38,900 shares | 49 | | 661 | | | | 710 |
| Vesting of restricted stock units and other, net 48,519 shares | 92 | (561 |) 584 | | | | 115 |
| Amortization of unearned portion of stock-based compensation, net of forfeitures | | | | 1,308 | | | 1,308 |
| Balances, June 30, 2012 | \$ 140,055 | \$(745,205) | \$ 151,619 | \$ 1,946,518 | \$(383,347) | \$ 49,949 | \$ 1,159,589 |

See accompanying notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

HARSCO CORPORATION

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited)

1. Basis of Presentation

Harsco Corporation (the “Company”) has prepared these unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements based on Securities and Exchange Commission rules that permit reduced disclosure for interim periods. In the opinion of management, all adjustments (all of which are of a normal recurring nature) that are necessary for a fair presentation are reflected in the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements. The December 31, 2011 Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet information contained in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q was derived from the 2011 audited consolidated financial statements, but does not include all disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“U.S. GAAP”) for an annual report. The unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements, including the notes thereto, included in the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

The Company’s management has evaluated all activity of the Company and concluded that subsequent events are properly reflected in the Company’s unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements and notes as required by U.S. GAAP.

Operating results and cash flows for the three and six months ended June 30, 2012 are not indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 2012.

2. Recently Adopted and Recently Issued Accounting Standards

The following accounting standards have been adopted in 2012:

On January 1, 2012, the Company adopted Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) issued changes related to fair value measurement and disclosure. The changes are the result of convergence with International Financial Reporting Standards and clarify certain fair value measurement concepts and expand on existing disclosure requirements on Level 3 fair value measurements. The adoption of these changes did not have a material impact on the Company’s consolidated financial statements.

On January 1, 2012, the Company adopted FASB issued changes related to the presentation of comprehensive income. The changes remove certain presentation options and require entities to report components of comprehensive income in either a continuous statement of comprehensive income or two separate but consecutive statements. There were no changes to the items that are reported in other comprehensive income. In December 2011, the FASB indefinitely deferred a requirement dealing with the presentation of reclassification adjustments out of accumulated other comprehensive income. Other than the sequencing of financial statements, the adoption of these changes did not have an impact on the Company’s consolidated financial statements.

On January 1, 2012, the Company adopted FASB issued changes related to testing for goodwill impairment. The changes allow for an assessment of qualitative factors to determine whether it is necessary to perform the two-step impairment test. The adoption of these changes will not have an impact on the Company’s consolidated financial statements, but it may impact the manner in which the Company performs testing for goodwill impairment.

The following accounting standard has been issued and becomes effective for the Company at a future date:

In December 2011, the FASB issued changes related to offsetting assets and liabilities. The changes require additional disclosure information regarding offsetting assets and liabilities to enable users of financial statements to understand the effect on financial position. Management is currently evaluating these changes and believes that it may require additional disclosure, but will not have a material impact on the Company’s consolidated financial statements. These changes become effective for the Company on January 1, 2013 with retrospective application required.

Table of Contents

3. Acquisitions and Dispositions

Acquisitions

Certain of the Company's acquisitions in prior years included contingent consideration features for which defined goals needed to be met by the acquired business in order for payment of the consideration. Each quarter until settlement of these contingencies, the Company assessed the likelihood that an acquired business would achieve the goals and the resulting fair value of the contingency. In accordance with U.S. GAAP, these adjustments were recognized in operating income in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income as a component of the Other expenses line item. The Company's assessment of these performance goals resulted in the following reductions to previously recognized contingent consideration liabilities:

| | Three Months Ended | | Six Months Ended | |
|---|--------------------|------|------------------|---------|
| | June 30 | | June 30 | |
| (In thousands) | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| Reduction of contingent consideration liabilities | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$3,966 |

All contingent consideration liabilities have been settled and there was no recorded contingent consideration liability as of June 30, 2012 or December 31, 2011.

Dispositions - Assets Held-for-Sale

Throughout the past several years and in conjunction with the 2011/2012 Restructuring Program and the Fourth Quarter 2010 Harsco Infrastructure Program, management approved the sale of certain long-lived assets throughout the Company's operations. At June 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, assets held-for-sale of \$1.5 million and \$7.2 million, respectively, were recorded as Other current assets on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets.

4. Accounts Receivable and Inventories

Accounts receivable consist of the following:

| (In thousands) | June 30 2012 | December 31 2011 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Trade accounts receivable | \$634,981 | \$636,304 |
| Less: Allowance for doubtful accounts | (19,783) | (17,829) |
| Trade accounts receivable, net | \$615,198 | \$618,475 |

Other receivables (a) \$33,014 \$44,431

(a) Other receivables include insurance claim receivables, employee receivables, tax claim receivables and other miscellaneous receivables not included in Trade accounts receivable, net.

The provision for doubtful accounts related to trade accounts receivable was as follows:

| | Three Months Ended | | Six Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|---------|------------------|---------|
| | June 30 | | June 30 | |
| (In thousands) | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| Provision for doubtful accounts related to trade accounts receivable | \$3,936 | \$1,592 | \$6,863 | \$3,748 |

Inventories consist of the following:

| (In thousands) | June 30 2012 | December 31 2011 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Finished goods | \$83,754 | \$78,445 |
| Work-in-process | 43,813 | 34,041 |
| Raw materials and purchased parts | 95,894 | 92,995 |
| Stores and supplies | 37,500 | 36,453 |
| Inventories | \$260,961 | \$241,934 |

Table of Contents

5. Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment consists of the following:

| (In thousands) | June 30 2012 | December 31 2011 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Land | \$26,084 | \$26,729 |
| Land improvements | 19,184 | 17,960 |
| Buildings and improvements | 185,185 | 186,799 |
| Machinery and equipment | 2,872,748 | 2,977,521 |
| Uncompleted construction | 71,492 | 66,719 |
| Gross property, plant and equipment | 3,174,693 | 3,275,728 |
| Less: Accumulated depreciation | (1,966,635) | (2,001,244) |
| Property, plant and equipment, net | \$1,208,058 | \$1,274,484 |

6. Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

The following table reflects the changes in carrying amounts of goodwill by segment (there is no goodwill associated with the Harsco Industrial Segment) for the six months ended June 30, 2012:

| (In thousands) | Harsco Metals & Minerals Segment | Harsco Infrastructure Segment | Harsco Rail Segment | Consolidated Totals |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Balance at December 31, 2011 | \$411,876 | \$259,715 | \$9,310 | \$680,901 |
| Changes to goodwill (a) | — | (2,264) | — | (2,264) |
| Foreign currency translation | (3,864) | (3,175) | — | (7,039) |
| Balance at June 30, 2012 | \$408,012 | \$254,276 | \$9,310 | \$671,598 |

(a) Changes to goodwill relate principally to the allocation of goodwill, in accordance with U.S. GAAP, to components of the Harsco Infrastructure Segment which were disposed of as part of the 2011/2012 Restructuring Program.

The Company's 2011 annual goodwill impairment testing did not result in any impairment of the Company's goodwill. The fair values of the Harsco Metals business and the Harsco Infrastructure Segment exceeded carrying value by approximately 7.4% and 9.1%, respectively. The Company tests for goodwill impairment annually, and whenever events or circumstances make it more likely than not that impairment may have occurred. The Company performs its annual goodwill impairment test as of October 1 and monitors for interim triggering events on an ongoing basis. The Company determined that as of June 30, 2012, no interim goodwill impairment testing was necessary. There can be no assurance that the Company's annual goodwill impairment testing will not result in a charge to earnings. Should the Company's analysis indicate a further degradation in the overall markets served by the Harsco Metals business or Harsco Infrastructure Segment, impairment losses for associated assets could be required. Any impairment could result in the write-down of the carrying value of goodwill to its implied fair value.

Intangible assets by class consist of the following:

| (In thousands) | June 30, 2012 | | December 31, 2011 | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Gross Carrying Amount | Accumulated Amortization | Gross Carrying Amount | Accumulated Amortization |
| Customer related | \$181,778 | \$124,472 | \$183,576 | \$119,708 |
| Non-compete agreements | 1,349 | 1,306 | 1,353 | 1,301 |
| Patents | 6,320 | 5,154 | 6,884 | 5,145 |
| Technology related | 29,184 | 15,822 | 29,497 | 14,614 |
| Trade names | 18,825 | 10,017 | 18,538 | 8,379 |
| Other | 10,645 | 7,366 | 10,749 | 7,949 |
| Total | \$248,101 | \$164,137 | \$250,597 | \$157,096 |

Table of Contents

Amortization expense for intangible assets was as follows:

| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended | | Six Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|---------|------------------|----------|
| | June 30 | | June 30 | |
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| Amortization expense for intangible assets | \$4,099 | \$7,943 | \$9,407 | \$15,792 |

The estimated amortization expense for the next five fiscal years based on current intangible assets and excluding the potential effect of future foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations is as follows:

| (In thousands) | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|---------|
| Estimated amortization expense | \$17,500 | \$15,750 | \$13,500 | \$8,750 | \$7,500 |

7. Debt and Credit Agreements

In March 2012, the Company entered into an Amended and Restated Five Year Credit Agreement (“Credit Agreement”) in the amount of \$525 million through a syndicate of 14 banks. The Credit Agreement matures in March 2017. The Company has the option to increase the amount of the Credit Agreement to \$550 million. The Credit Agreement amends and restates the Company’s multi-year revolving credit facility which was set to mature in December 2012. There were no borrowings outstanding under the multi-year revolving credit facility upon execution of the Credit Agreement.

The Credit Agreement contains covenants stipulating a maximum debt to capital ratio of 60%; a maximum subsidiary consolidated indebtedness to consolidated tangible assets ratio of 10%; and a minimum total consolidated earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (“EBITDA”) to consolidated interest charges ratio of 3.0:1. At June 30, 2012 the Company was in compliance with these covenants. Borrowings under the Credit Agreement are available in most major currencies with active markets and at interest rates based upon LIBOR, plus a margin. During the six months ended June 30, 2012, the Company expensed \$0.5 million of previously deferred financing costs associated with the multi-year revolving credit facility for banks which did not participate in the Credit Agreement or banks with decreased obligations under the Credit Agreement, all of which occurred in the first quarter of 2012.

At June 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the Company had \$107.6 million and \$40.0 million, respectively, of commercial paper outstanding. At June 30, 2012, \$13.0 million and \$94.6 million of commercial paper outstanding was classified as short-term borrowings and long-term debt, respectively, in the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets. At December 31, 2011, all commercial paper outstanding was classified as short-term borrowings in the Consolidated Balance Sheets. Classification of commercial paper outstanding is based on the Company's ability and intent to repay such amounts over the subsequent twelve months, as well as reflects the Company's intent and ability to borrow for a period longer than a year. To the extent the Company expects to repay the commercial paper within the subsequent twelve months, the amounts are classified as short-term borrowings.

Table of Contents

8. Employee Benefit Plans

| | Three Months Ended | | | |
|---|---------------------|----------|---------------------|-----------|
| | June 30 | | International Plans | |
| Defined Benefit Net Periodic Pension Cost (In thousands) | U. S. Plans 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| Defined benefit plans: | | | | |
| Service cost | \$471 | \$391 | \$862 | \$1,144 |
| Interest cost | 3,203 | 3,381 | 11,062 | 12,320 |
| Expected return on plan assets | (3,899 |) (4,138 |) (10,690 |) (13,715 |
| Recognized prior service costs | 47 | 62 | 96 | 110 |
| Recognized losses | 1,155 | 749 | 3,747 | 2,849 |
| Amortization of transition liability | — | — | — | 15 |
| Settlement/curtailment gain | — | — | (366 |) — |
| Defined benefit plans net periodic pension cost | \$977 | \$445 | \$4,711 | \$2,723 |
| | Six Months Ended | | | |
| | June 30 | | International Plans | |
| Defined Benefit Net Periodic Pension Cost (In thousands) | U. S. Plans 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| Defined benefit plans: | | | | |
| Service cost | \$943 | \$783 | \$1,926 | \$2,239 |
| Interest cost | 6,411 | 6,770 | 22,441 | 24,303 |
| Expected return on plan assets | (7,806 |) (8,285 |) (21,735 |) (26,248 |
| Recognized prior service costs | 95 | 124 | 194 | 213 |
| Recognized losses | 2,313 | 1,499 | 7,479 | 5,627 |
| Amortization of transition liability | — | — | 8 | 29 |
| Settlement/curtailment loss (gain) | — | — | (2,061 |) 30 |
| Defined benefit plans net periodic pension cost | \$1,956 | \$891 | \$8,252 | \$6,193 |
| Company Contributions | | | | |
| | Three Months Ended | | Six Months Ended | |
| | June 30 | | June 30 | |
| (In thousands) | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| Defined benefit pension plans: | | | | |
| United States | \$2,049 | \$559 | \$2,638 | \$1,007 |
| International | 3,559 | 4,063 | 22,171 | 20,917 |
| Multiemployer pension plans | 4,479 | 6,281 | 7,774 | 10,100 |
| Defined contribution pension plans | 3,485 | 5,151 | 8,434 | 9,859 |

The Company currently anticipates contributing an additional \$3.5 million and \$8.0 million for the U.S. and international defined benefit pension plans, respectively, during the remainder of 2012.

Table of Contents

9. Income Taxes

Income tax expense from continuing operations was impacted primarily due to certain losses from continuing operations being generated in jurisdictions where no tax benefit can be recognized for the three and six months ended June 30, 2012 compared with the three and six months ended June 30, 2011. These losses with no tax benefit resulted in income tax expense despite an overall loss from continuing operations for the six months ended June 30, 2012 and impacted effective income tax rates for all periods in 2012.

An income tax benefit from an uncertain tax position may be recognized when it is more-likely-than-not that the position will be sustained upon examination, including resolutions of any related appeals or litigation processes, based on technical merits. The unrecognized income tax benefit at June 30, 2012 was \$37.0 million including interest and penalties. Within the next twelve months, it is reasonably possible that up to \$4.5 million of unrecognized income tax benefits will be recognized upon settlement of tax examinations and the expiration of various statutes of limitations.

10. Commitments and Contingencies

Environmental

The Company is involved in a number of environmental remediation investigations and cleanups and, along with other companies, has been identified as a “potentially responsible party” for certain waste disposal sites. While each of these matters is subject to various uncertainties, it is probable that the Company will agree to make payments toward funding certain of these activities and it is possible that some of these matters will be decided unfavorably to the Company. The Company has evaluated its potential liability, and its financial exposure is dependent upon such factors as the continuing evolution of environmental laws and regulatory requirements, the availability and application of technology, the allocation of cost among potentially responsible parties, the years of remedial activity required and the remediation methods selected. The Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets as of June 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011 include accruals in Other current liabilities of \$2.1 million and \$2.5 million, respectively, for environmental matters. The amounts charged against pre-tax income related to environmental matters totaled \$0.3 million and \$0.5 million for the three and six months ended June 30, 2012, respectively. The amounts charged against pre-tax income related to environmental matters totaled \$0.6 million and \$0.8 million for the three and six months ended June 30, 2011, respectively.

The Company evaluates its liability for future environmental remediation costs on a quarterly basis. Actual costs to be incurred at identified sites in future periods may vary from the estimates, given inherent uncertainties in evaluating environmental exposures. The Company does not expect that any sum it may have to pay in connection with environmental matters in excess of the amounts recorded or disclosed above would have a material adverse effect on its financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

Brazilian Tax Disputes

The Company is involved in a number of tax disputes with federal, state and municipal tax authorities in Brazil. These disputes are at various stages of the legal process, including the administrative review phase and the collection action phase, and include assessments of fixed amounts of principal and penalties, plus interest charges that increase at statutorily determined amounts per month and are assessed on the aggregate amount of the principal and penalties. In addition, the losing party at the collection action or court appeals phase could be subject to a charge to cover statutorily mandated legal fees, which are generally calculated as a percentage of the total assessed amounts due, inclusive of penalty and interest. A large number of the claims relate to value-added (“ICMS”), services and social security tax disputes. The largest proportion of the assessed amounts relate to ICMS claims filed by the State Revenue Authorities from the State of São Paulo, Brazil (the “SPRA”), encompassing the period from January 2002 to May 2005.

In October 2009, the Company received notification of the SPRA’s final administrative decision regarding the levying of ICMS in the State of São Paulo in relation to services provided to a customer in the State between January 2004 and May 2005. As of June 30, 2012, the principal amount of the tax assessment from the SPRA with regard to this case is approximately \$3 million, with penalty, interest and fees assessed to date increasing such amount by an additional \$28 million. Any increase in the aggregate amount since the Company’s last Annual Report on Form 10-K

is due to an increase in assessed interest and statutorily mandated legal fees for the quarter. All such amounts include the effect of foreign currency translation.

Another ICMS tax case involving the SPRA refers to the tax period from January 2002 to December 2003, and is still pending at the administrative phase, where the aggregate amount assessed by the tax authorities in August 2005 was \$12 million (the amounts with regard to this claim are valued as of the date of the assessment since it has not yet reached the collection phase), composed of a principal amount of approximately \$3 million, with penalty and interest assessed through that date increasing such amount by an additional \$9 million. All such amounts include the effect of foreign currency translation.

Table of Contents

The Company continues to believe that it is not probable it will incur a loss for these assessments by the SPRA and continues to believe that sufficient coverage for these claims exists as a result of the Company's customer's indemnification obligations and such customer's pledge of assets in connection with the October 2009 notice, as required by Brazilian procedure.

The Company intends to continue its practice of vigorously defending itself against these tax claims under various alternatives, including judicial appeal. The Company will continue to evaluate its potential liability with regard to these claims on a quarterly basis; however, it is not possible to predict the ultimate outcome of these tax-related disputes in Brazil.

Customer Disputes

The Company, through its Harsco Metals & Minerals Segment, provides services to various subsidiaries and affiliates of ArcelorMittal ("ArcelorMittal") on a number of sites worldwide through long-term service contracts. Currently, ArcelorMittal and the Company are involved in several commercial disputes, a few of which have resulted in legal action. Both the Company and ArcelorMittal are working to resolve these matters. Although results of operations and cash flows for a given period could be adversely affected by a negative outcome in these or other lawsuits, claims and proceedings, management believes that the ultimate outcome of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

Other

In the United States, the Company has been named as one of many defendants (approximately 90 or more in most cases) in legal actions alleging personal injury from exposure to airborne asbestos over the past several decades. In their suits, the plaintiffs have named as defendants, among others, many manufacturers, distributors and installers of numerous types of equipment or products that allegedly contained asbestos.

The Company believes that the claims against it are without merit. The Company has never been a producer, manufacturer or processor of asbestos fibers. Any component within a Company product that may have contained asbestos would have been purchased from a supplier. Based on scientific and medical evidence, the Company believes that any asbestos exposure arising from normal use of any Company product never presented any harmful levels of airborne asbestos exposure, and, moreover, the type of asbestos contained in any component that was used in those products was protectively encapsulated in other materials and is not associated with the types of injuries alleged in the pending suits. Finally, in most of the depositions taken of plaintiffs to date in the litigation against the Company, plaintiffs have failed to specifically identify any Company products as the source of their asbestos exposure.

The majority of the asbestos complaints pending against the Company have been filed in New York. Almost all of the New York complaints contain a standard claim for damages of \$20 million or \$25 million against the approximately 90 defendants, regardless of the individual plaintiff's alleged medical condition, and without specifically identifying any Company product as the source of plaintiff's asbestos exposure.

As of June 30, 2012, there are 18,626 pending asbestos personal injury claims filed against the Company. Of these cases, 18,126 are pending in the New York Supreme Court for New York County in New York State. The other claims, totaling 500, are filed in various counties in a number of state courts, and in certain Federal District Courts (including New York), and those complaints generally assert lesser amounts of damages than the New York State court cases or do not state any amount claimed.

As of June 30, 2012, the Company has obtained dismissal by stipulation, or summary judgment prior to trial, in 26,128 cases.

In view of the persistence of asbestos litigation nationwide, the Company expects to continue to receive additional claims. However, there have been developments during the past several years, both by certain state legislatures and by certain state courts, which could favorably affect the Company's ability to defend these asbestos claims in those jurisdictions. These developments include procedural changes, docketing changes, proof of damage requirements and other changes that require plaintiffs to follow specific procedures in bringing their claims and to show proof of damages before they can proceed with their claim. An example is the action taken by the New York Supreme Court (a trial court), which is responsible for managing all asbestos cases pending within New York County in the State of

New York. This Court issued an order in December 2002 that created a Deferred or Inactive Docket for all pending and future asbestos claims filed by plaintiffs who cannot demonstrate that they have a malignant condition or discernible physical impairment, and an Active or In Extremis Docket for plaintiffs who are able to show such medical condition. As a result of this order, the majority of the asbestos cases filed against the Company in New York County have been moved to the Inactive Docket until such time as the plaintiffs can show that they have incurred a physical impairment. As of June 30, 2012, the Company has been listed as a defendant in 804 Active or In Extremis asbestos cases in New York County. The Court's Order has been challenged by some plaintiffs.

Table of Contents

Except with regard to the legal costs in a few limited, exceptional cases, the Company's insurance carrier has paid all legal and settlement costs and expenses to date related to the Company's U.S. asbestos cases. The Company has liability insurance coverage under various primary and excess policies that the Company believes will be available, if necessary, to substantially cover any liability that might ultimately be incurred on these claims.

The Company intends to continue its practice of vigorously defending these claims and cases. It is not possible to predict the ultimate outcome of asbestos-related lawsuits, claims and proceedings due to the unpredictable nature of personal injury litigation. Despite this uncertainty, and although results of operations and cash flows for a given period could be adversely affected by asbestos-related lawsuits, claims and proceedings, management believes that the ultimate outcome of these cases will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

The Company is subject to various other claims and legal proceedings covering a wide range of matters that arose in the ordinary course of business. In the opinion of management, all such matters are adequately covered by insurance or by established reserves, and, if not so covered, are without merit or are of such kind, or involve such amounts, as would not have a material adverse effect on the financial position, results of operations or cash flows of the Company. Insurance liabilities are recorded when it is probable that a liability has been incurred for a particular event and the amount of loss associated with the event can be reasonably estimated. Insurance reserves have been estimated based primarily upon actuarial calculations and reflect the undiscounted estimated liabilities for ultimate losses, including claims incurred but not reported. Inherent in these estimates are assumptions that are based on the Company's history of claims and losses, a detailed analysis of existing claims with respect to potential value, and current legal and legislative trends. If actual claims differ from those projected by management, changes (either increases or decreases) to insurance reserves may be required and would be recorded through income in the period the change was determined. When a recognized liability is covered by third-party insurance, the Company records an insurance claim receivable to reflect the covered liability. Insurance claim receivables are included in Other receivables on the Company's Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets. See Note 1, "Summary of Significant Accounting Policies," to the Company's consolidated financial statements included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 for additional information on Accrued Insurance and Loss Reserves.

11. Reconciliation of Basic and Diluted Shares

| (In thousands, except per share amounts) | Three Months Ended | | Six Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|
| | June 30 | | June 30 | |
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| Income (loss) from continuing operations attributable to Harsco Corporation common stockholders | \$ 13,033 | \$ 38,185 | \$(15,930) | \$ 50,441 |
| Weighted-average shares outstanding - basic | 80,631 | 80,749 | 80,605 | 80,722 |
| Dilutive effect of stock-based compensation | 251 | 261 | — | 255 |
| Weighted-average shares outstanding - diluted | 80,882 | 81,010 | 80,605 | 80,977 |
| Earnings (loss) from continuing operations per common share, attributable to Harsco Corporation common stockholders: | | | | |
| Basic | \$0.16 | \$0.47 | \$(0.20) | \$0.62 |
| Diluted | \$0.16 | \$0.47 | \$(0.20) | \$0.62 |

Table of Contents

The following average outstanding stock-based compensation units were not included in the three and six month computation of diluted earnings per share because the effect was antidilutive:

| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended | | Six Months Ended | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------|------------------|------|
| | June 30 | 2011 | June 30 | 2011 |
| Restricted stock units | — | — | 101 | — |
| Stock options | 372 | — | 428 | — |
| Stock appreciation rights | 318 | — | 300 | — |
| Other | — | — | 178 | — |

12. Derivative Instruments, Hedging Activities and Fair Value

Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities

The Company uses derivative instruments, including foreign currency forward exchange contracts, commodity contracts and cross-currency interest rate swaps, to manage certain foreign currency, commodity price and interest rate exposures. Derivative instruments are viewed as risk management tools by the Company and are not used for trading or speculative purposes.

All derivative instruments are recorded on the balance sheet at fair value. Changes in the fair value of derivatives used to hedge foreign currency denominated balance sheet items are reported directly in earnings along with offsetting transaction gains and losses on the items being hedged. Derivatives used to hedge forecasted cash flows associated with foreign currency commitments or forecasted commodity purchases may be accounted for as cash flow hedges, as deemed appropriate and if the criteria for hedge accounting are met. Gains and losses on derivatives designated as cash flow hedges are deferred as a separate component of equity and reclassified to earnings in a manner that matches the timing of the earnings impact of the hedged transactions. Generally, at June 30, 2012, these deferred gains and losses will be reclassified to earnings over 10 to 15 years from the balance sheet date. The ineffective portion of all hedges, if any, is recognized currently in earnings.

The fair values of outstanding derivative contracts recorded as assets and liabilities on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets at June 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011 were as follows:

| (In thousands) | Asset Derivatives | | Liability Derivatives | |
|---|------------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------|
| | Balance Sheet Location | Fair Value | Balance Sheet Location | Fair Value |
| June 30, 2012 | | | | |
| Derivatives designated as hedging instruments: | | | | |
| Cross currency interest rate swaps | Other assets | 55,367 | Noncurrent liabilities | — |
| Total derivatives designated as hedging instruments | | \$55,367 | | \$— |
| Derivatives not designated as hedging instruments: | | | | |
| Foreign currency forward exchange contracts | Other current assets | \$1,241 | Other current liabilities | \$1,260 |

Table of Contents

| (In thousands) | Asset Derivatives | | Liability Derivatives | |
|---|------------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------|
| | Balance Sheet Location | Fair Value | Balance Sheet Location | Fair Value |
| December 31, 2011 | | | | |
| Derivatives designated as hedging instruments: | | | | |
| Foreign currency forward exchange contracts | Other current assets | \$274 | Other current liabilities | \$— |
| Cross currency interest rate swaps | Other assets | 44,636 | Noncurrent liabilities | 1,792 |
| Total derivatives designated as hedging instruments | | \$44,910 | | \$1,792 |
| Derivatives not designated as hedging instruments: | | | | |
| Foreign currency forward exchange contracts | Other current assets | \$2,912 | Other current liabilities | \$1,207 |

The effect of derivative instruments on the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income and the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for the three and six months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011 was as follows:

Derivatives Designated as Hedging Instruments

| (In thousands) | Amount of Gain (Loss) Recognized in Other Comprehensive Income ("OCI") on Derivative - Effective Portion | | Location of Gain (Loss) Reclassified from Accumulated OCI into Income - Effective Portion | Amount of Gain (Loss) Reclassified from Accumulated OCI into Income - Effective Portion | Location of Gain (Loss) Recognized in Income on Derivative - Ineffective Portion and Amount Excluded from Effectiveness Testing | Amount of Gain (Loss) Recognized in Income on Derivative - Ineffective Portion and Amount Excluded from Effectiveness Testing | |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|--------------|
| | | | | | | | |
| For the three months ended June 30, 2012: | | | | | | | |
| Foreign currency forward exchange contracts | \$ 179 | | Cost of services and products sold | \$ 222 | | | \$ — |
| Cross-currency interest rate swaps | 2,440 | | | — | Cost of services and products sold | | 19,992 (a) |
| | \$ 2,619 | | | \$ 222 | | | \$ 19,992 |
| For the three months ended June 30, 2011: | | | | | | | |
| Foreign currency forward exchange contracts | \$ (172) | | | \$ — | | | \$ — |
| Cross-currency interest rate swaps | 1,308 | | | — | Cost of services and products sold | | (4,676) (a) |
| | \$ 1,136 | | | \$ — | | | \$ (4,676) |

(a) These gains (losses) offset foreign currency fluctuation effects on the debt principal.

Table of Contents

| (In thousands) | Amount of Gain (Loss) Recognized in Other Comprehensive Income ("OCI") Derivative - Effective Portion | Location of Gain (Loss) Reclassified from Accumulated OCI into Income - Effective Portion | Amount of Gain (Loss) Reclassified from Accumulated OCI into Income - Effective Portion | Location of Gain (Loss) Recognized in Income on Derivative - Ineffective Portion and Amount Excluded from Effectiveness Testing | Amount of Gain (Loss) Recognized in Income on Derivative - Ineffective Portion and Amount Excluded from Effectiveness Testing |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| For the six months ended June 30, 2012: | | | | | |
| Foreign currency forward exchange contracts | \$ (183) | Cost of services and products sold | \$ 256 | | \$ — |
| Cross-currency interest rate swaps | 3,779 | | — | Cost of services and products sold | 8,745 (a) |
| | \$ 3,596 | | \$ 256 | | \$ 8,745 |

For the six months
ended June 30,
2011:

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------|--|------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Foreign currency forward exchange contracts | \$ (699) | | \$ — | | \$ — |
| Cross-currency interest rate swaps | 9,129 | | — | Cost of services and products sold | (23,457) (a) |
| | \$ 8,430 | | \$ — | | \$ (23,457) |

(a) These gains (losses) offset foreign currency fluctuation effects on the debt principal.

Derivatives Not Designated as Hedging Instruments

| (In thousands) | Location of Gain (Loss) Recognized in Income on Derivative | Amount of Gain (Loss) Recognized in Income on Derivative for the Three Months Ended June 30 (a) | 2012 | 2011 |
|---|--|---|-------------|------|
| Foreign currency forward exchange contracts | Cost of services and products sold | \$ 7,199 | \$ (1,956) | (a) |

(a) These gains (losses) offset amounts recognized in cost of services and products sold principally as a result of intercompany or third party foreign currency exposures.

| (In thousands) | Location of Gain (Loss) Recognized in Income on Derivative | Amount of Gain (Loss) Recognized in Income on Derivative for the Six Months Ended June 30 (a) | 2012 | 2011 |
|---|--|---|-------------|------|
| Foreign currency forward exchange contracts | Cost of services and products sold | \$ 2,505 | \$ (7,077) | (a) |

(a) These gains (losses) offset amounts recognized in cost of services and products sold principally as a result of intercompany or third party foreign currency exposures.

Foreign Currency Forward Exchange Contracts

The Company conducts business in multiple currencies and, accordingly, is subject to the inherent risks associated with foreign exchange rate movements. The financial position and results of operations of substantially all of the Company's foreign subsidiaries are measured using the local currency as the functional currency. Foreign currency-denominated assets and liabilities are translated into U.S. dollars at the exchange rates existing at the respective balance sheet dates, and income and expense items are translated at the average exchange rates during the respective periods. The aggregate effects of translating the balance sheets of these subsidiaries are deferred and recorded in Accumulated other comprehensive loss, which is a separate component of equity.

The Company uses derivative instruments to hedge cash flows related to foreign currency fluctuations. At June 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the Company had \$346.4 million and \$324.5 million of contracted amounts, respectively, of foreign currency forward exchange contracts outstanding. These contracts are part of a worldwide program to minimize foreign

Table of Contents

currency exchange operating income and balance sheet exposure by offsetting foreign currency exposures of certain future payments between the Company and its various subsidiaries, suppliers or customers. The unsecured contracts outstanding at June 30, 2012 mature at various times within six months and are with major financial institutions. The Company may be exposed to credit loss in the event of non-performance by the contract counterparties. The Company evaluates the creditworthiness of the counterparties and does not expect default by them. Foreign currency forward exchange contracts are used to hedge commitments, such as foreign currency debt, firm purchase commitments and foreign currency cash flows for certain export sales transactions.

The following tables summarize, by major currency, the contractual amounts of the Company's foreign currency forward exchange contracts in U.S. dollars at June 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011. The "Buy" amounts represent the U.S. dollar equivalent of commitments to purchase foreign currencies, and the "Sell" amounts represent the U.S. dollar equivalent of commitments to sell foreign currencies. The recognized gains and losses offset amounts recognized in cost of services and products sold principally as a result of intercompany or third party foreign currency exposures.

June 30, 2012

| (In thousands) | Type | U.S. Dollar Equivalent | Maturity | Recognized Gain (Loss) |
|-------------------------|------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| British pounds sterling | Sell | \$3,577 | July 2012 | \$20 |
| British pounds sterling | Buy | 2,215 | July 2012 | (7) |
| Euros | Sell | 194,376 | July 2012 through December 2012 | 879 |
| Euros | Buy | 106,313 | July 2012 through August 2012 | (801) |
| Other currencies | Sell | 2,558 | July 2012 through September 2012 | 7 |
| Other currencies | Buy | 37,361 | July 2012 through August 2012 | (117) |
| Total | | \$346,400 | | \$(19) |

December 31, 2011

| (In thousands) | Type | U.S. Dollar Equivalent | Maturity | Recognized Gain (Loss) |
|-------------------------|------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| British pounds sterling | Sell | \$18,350 | January 2012 | \$(20) |
| British pounds sterling | Buy | 4,364 | January 2012 | (12) |
| Euros | Sell | 178,889 | January 2012 through October 2012 | 2,345 |
| Euros | Buy | 105,247 | January 2012 through April 2012 | (878) |
| Other currencies | Sell | 2,957 | January 2012 through March 2012 | 62 |
| Other currencies | Buy | 14,656 | January 2012 | 235 |
| Total | | \$324,463 | | \$1,732 |

In addition to foreign currency forward exchange contracts, the Company designates certain loans as hedges of net investments in foreign subsidiaries. The Company recorded pre-tax net gains of \$2.5 million and \$6.9 million during the three and six months ended June 30, 2012, respectively, and pre-tax net losses of \$2.3 million and \$9.2 million during the three and six months ended June 30, 2011, respectively, into Accumulated other comprehensive loss, which is a separate component of stockholders' equity.

Cross-Currency Interest Rate Swaps

The Company uses cross-currency interest rate swaps in conjunction with certain debt issuances in order to secure a fixed local currency interest rate. Under these cross-currency interest rate swaps, the Company receives interest based on a fixed or floating U.S. dollar rate and pays interest on a fixed local currency rate based on the contractual amounts in dollars and the local currency, respectively. The cross-currency interest rate swaps are recorded on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets at fair value, with changes in value attributed to the effect of the swaps' interest spread recorded in Accumulated other comprehensive loss, which is a separate component of equity. Changes in value attributed to the effect of foreign currency fluctuations are recorded in the income statement and offset currency fluctuation effects on the debt principal.

Table of Contents

Cross-Currency Interest Rate Swaps

| (In millions) | Contractual Amount | Interest Rates | |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | Receive | Pay |
| Maturing 2018 | \$ 250.0 | Fixed U.S. dollar rate | Fixed euro rate |
| Maturing 2020 | 220.0 | Fixed U.S. dollar rate | Fixed British pound sterling rate |
| Maturing 2013 | 1.8 | Floating U.S. dollar rate | Fixed Indian rupee rate |

Fair Value of Derivative Assets and Liabilities and Other Financial Instruments

Fair value is 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 (an exit price). The Company utilizes market data or assumptions that the Company believes market participants would use in valuing the asset or liability, including assumptions about risk and the risks inherent in the inputs to the valuation technique.

The fair value hierarchy distinguishes between (1) market participant assumptions developed based on market data obtained from independent sources (observable inputs) and (2) an entity's own assumptions about market participant assumptions developed based on the best information available in the circumstances (unobservable inputs). The fair value hierarchy consists of three broad levels, which gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are described below:

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

Level 2—Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, including quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active; inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability (e.g., interest rates); and inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

Level 3—Inputs that are both significant to the fair value measurement and unobservable.

In instances in which multiple levels of inputs are used to measure fair value, hierarchy classification is based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety. The Company's assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgment, and considers factors specific to the asset or liability.

At June 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, all derivative assets and liabilities were valued at Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy. The following table indicates the different financial instruments of the Company at June 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011:

Level 2 Fair Value Measurements

| (In thousands) | June 30 2012 | December 31 2011 |
|---|-----------------|---------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Foreign currency forward exchange contracts | \$1,241 | \$3,186 |
| Cross-currency interest rate swaps | 55,367 | 44,636 |
| Liabilities | | |
| Foreign currency forward exchange contracts | 1,260 | 1,207 |
| Cross-currency interest rate swaps | — | 1,792 |

Table of Contents

The following table reconciles the beginning and ending balances for liabilities measured on a recurring basis using unobservable inputs (Level 3) for the three and six months ended June 30:

| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended | | Six Months Ended | |
|---|--------------------|------|------------------|----------|
| | June 30 | 2011 | June 30 | 2011 |
| Balance at beginning of period | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$3,872 |
| Fair value adjustments included in earnings | — | — | — | (3,966) |
| Effect of exchange rate changes | — | — | — | 94 |
| Balance at end of period | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— |

The Company primarily applies the market approach for recurring fair value measurements and endeavors to utilize the best available information. Accordingly, the Company utilizes valuation techniques that maximize the use of observable inputs, such as forward rates, interest rates, the Company's credit risk and counterparties' credit risks, and which minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The Company is able to classify fair value balances based on the ability to observe those inputs. Commodity derivatives, foreign currency forward exchange contracts and cross-currency interest rate swaps are classified as Level 2 fair value based upon pricing models using market-based inputs. Model inputs can be verified, and valuation techniques do not involve significant management judgment. The carrying amounts of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable, accrued liabilities and short-term borrowings approximate fair value due to the short-term maturities of these assets and liabilities. At June 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the total fair value of long-term debt, including current maturities, was \$1.0 billion and \$935.1 million, respectively, compared to carrying value of \$951.8 million and \$857.4 million, respectively. Fair values for debt are based on quoted market prices (Level 1) for the same or similar issues or on the current rates offered to the Company for debt of the same remaining maturities.

13. Review of Operations by Segment

| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended | | Six Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|-----------|------------------|-------------|
| | June 30 | 2011 | June 30 | 2011 |
| Revenues From Continuing Operations | | | | |
| Harsco Metals & Minerals | \$364,923 | \$423,789 | \$724,874 | \$815,526 |
| Harsco Infrastructure | 234,570 | 298,334 | 472,542 | 559,901 |
| Harsco Rail | 79,627 | 77,945 | 147,675 | 140,547 |
| Harsco Industrial | 91,455 | 75,023 | 177,819 | 138,172 |
| Total revenues from continuing operations | \$770,575 | \$875,091 | \$1,522,910 | \$1,654,146 |
| Operating Income (Loss) From Continuing Operations | | | | |
| Harsco Metals & Minerals | \$31,001 | \$35,252 | \$53,312 | \$63,857 |
| Harsco Infrastructure | (24,349) | (5,088) | (77,891) | (22,579) |
| Harsco Rail | 12,035 | 22,520 | 21,366 | 30,643 |
| Harsco Industrial | 16,955 | 13,044 | 30,953 | 23,718 |
| Corporate | (1,003) | (1,295) | (5,788) | (2,170) |
| Total operating income from continuing operations | \$34,639 | \$64,433 | \$21,952 | \$93,469 |

Table of Contents

Reconciliation of Segment Operating Income to Income (Loss) From Continuing Operations Before Income Taxes and Equity Income

| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended | | Six Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|-----------|------------------|------------|
| | June 30 | | June 30 | |
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| Segment operating income | \$35,642 | \$65,728 | \$27,740 | \$95,639 |
| General corporate | (1,003 |) (1,295 |) (5,788 |) (2,170 |
| Operating income from continuing operations | 34,639 | 64,433 | 21,952 | 93,469 |
| Interest income | 882 | 619 | 1,556 | 1,339 |
| Interest expense | (11,608 |) (12,644 |) (24,432 |) (24,579 |
| Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes and equity income | \$23,913 | \$52,408 | \$(924 |) \$70,229 |

14. Other Expenses

This income statement classification includes restructuring costs for employee termination benefit costs, product rationalization and costs to exit activities; former CEO separation costs; net gains on the disposal of non-core assets; currency translation adjustments recognized in earnings; and business combination accounting adjustments for contingent consideration related to acquisitions by the Company.

| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended | | Six Months Ended | |
|---|--------------------|----------|------------------|----------|
| | June 30 | | June 30 | |
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| Restructuring costs (see Note 15) | \$29,660 | \$2,422 | \$65,109 | \$7,258 |
| Former CEO separation costs | — | — | 4,125 | — |
| Net gains from disposal of non-core assets | (821 |) (1,758 |) (1,222 |) (2,814 |
| Currency translation adjustments recognized in earnings | (6,754 |) — | (6,754 |) — |
| Contingent consideration adjustments | — | — | — | (3,966 |
| Other | 791 | 246 | 1,710 | 903 |
| Other expenses | \$22,876 | \$910 | \$62,968 | \$1,381 |

15. Restructuring Programs

The Company instituted restructuring programs in 2010 and 2011 as detailed below. The overall objective of the programs is to balance short-term profitability goals with long-term strategies to establish platforms upon which the affected businesses can grow with reduced fixed investment and generate annual operating expense savings. The programs have been instituted in response to the continuing impact of global financial and economic uncertainty on the Company's end markets, particularly in the Company's Harsco Infrastructure Segment.

Within the Harsco Infrastructure Segment, these restructuring programs are part of an ongoing transformation strategy to improve organizational efficiency and enhance profitability and stockholder value. The strategy includes optimizing the Segment as a more streamlined, efficient, cost-effective, disciplined and market-focused global platform.

2011/2012 Restructuring Program

Under the 2011/2012 Restructuring Program, the Company is optimizing rental assets and sale inventories by removing non-core assets under an expanded product rationalization and branch structure reduction program undertaken in its Harsco Infrastructure Segment; optimizing office structures in the Harsco Infrastructure and Harsco Metals & Minerals Segments; and reducing the global workforce in the Harsco Infrastructure and Harsco Metals & Minerals Segments. As previously disclosed in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the Year Ended December 31, 2011, the Company incurred approximately \$101 million in pre-tax charges under this program in 2011.

Additional charges of approximately \$33 million are expected to be incurred in the second half of 2012. Benefits under this program, in the form of reduced costs, are expected to be over \$36 million in 2012 and more than \$65 million when fully annualized in 2013.

Table of Contents

The restructuring accrual for the 2011/2012 Restructuring Program at June 30, 2012 and the activity for the six months then ended are as follows:

| (In thousands) | Accrual December 31 2011 | Additional Expenses Incurred (a) | Non-Cash Charges / Adjustments | Net Cash Expenditures | Foreign Currency Translation | Remaining Accrual June 30 2012 |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Harsco Infrastructure Segment | | | | | | |
| Employee termination benefit costs | \$ 14,500 | \$ 12,863 | \$ (326) | \$ (17,848) | \$ (10) | \$ 9,179 |
| Cost to exit activities | 2,833 | 35,958 | 732 | (29,784) | (97) | 9,642 |
| Total Harsco Infrastructure Segment (b) | 17,333 | 48,821 | 406 | (47,632) | (107) | 18,821 |
| Harsco Metals & Minerals Segment | | | | | | |
| Employee termination benefit costs | 12,737 | 707 | — | (5,493) | (276) | 7,675 |
| Harsco Rail Segment | | | | | | |
| Employee termination benefit costs | 50 | 67 | — | (100) | — | 17 |
| Harsco Corporate | | | | | | |
| Employee termination benefit costs | 351 | 341 | — | (625) | — | 67 |
| Total | \$ 30,471 | \$ 49,936 | \$ 406 | \$ (53,850) | \$ (383) | \$ 26,580 |

(a) Includes principally the recognition of additional expenses due to timing considerations under U.S. GAAP, as well as adjustments to previously recorded restructuring charges resulting from changes in facts and circumstances in the implementation of these activities.

(b) The table does not include \$15.2 million of non-cash product rationalization expense or \$14.5 million of proceeds from asset sales under the 2011/2012 Restructuring Program for this Segment as these items did not impact the restructuring accrual during the six months ended June 30, 2012.

Cash expenditures related to the remaining accrual at June 30, 2012 are expected to be paid principally throughout the remainder of 2012 with certain exit activity costs for lease terminations expected to be paid over the remaining life of the leases.

Fourth Quarter 2010 Harsco Infrastructure Program

Under the Fourth Quarter 2010 Harsco Infrastructure Program, the Harsco Infrastructure Segment reduced its branch structure; consolidated and/or closed administrative office locations; reduced its global workforce; and rationalized its product lines.

The restructuring accrual for the Fourth Quarter 2010 Harsco Infrastructure Program at June 30, 2012 and the activity for the six months then ended are as follows:

| (In thousands) | Accrual December 31 2011 | Adjustments to Previously Recorded Restructuring Charges (a) | Cash Expenditures | Foreign Currency Translation | Remaining Accrual June 30 2012 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|----------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Harsco Infrastructure Segment | | | | | |
| Cost to exit activities | \$ 11,929 | \$ (892) | \$ (1,646) | \$ (122) | \$ 9,269 |
| Employee termination benefit costs | 211 | (147) | (61) | (3) | — |
| Other | 7 | (5) | — | (2) | — |
| Total | \$ 12,147 | \$ (1,044) | \$ (1,707) | \$ (127) | \$ 9,269 |

(a) Adjustments to previously recorded restructuring charges resulted from changes in facts and circumstances in the implementation of these activities.

Approximately one-fourth of the remaining accrual at June 30, 2012 related to this program is expected to be paid throughout 2012. Approximately \$6.3 million related to payment of multiemployer pension plan withdrawal liabilities is expected to be paid through 2023 under contractual payment terms with the related plan administrators. Certain exit activity costs for lease terminations are expected to be paid over the remaining life of the leases.

Table of Contents

Prior Restructuring Programs

Other restructuring actions were undertaken in 2010, in addition to the Fourth Quarter 2010 Harsco Infrastructure Program described above, to reduce the Company's cost structure.

The restructuring accrual for those prior restructuring programs at June 30, 2012 and the activity for the six months then ended are as follows:

| (In thousands) | Accrual December 31 2011 | Cash Expenditures | Foreign Currency Translation | Remaining Accrual June 30 2012 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Harsco Metals & Minerals Segment | | | | |
| Employee termination benefit costs | \$1,280 | \$(55 |) \$(15 |) \$1,210 |
| Cost to exit activities | 727 | (62 |) — | 665 |
| Total | \$2,007 | \$(117 |) \$(15 |) \$1,875 |

The majority of the remaining cash expenditures of \$1.9 million related to these actions are expected to be paid throughout 2012 and 2013.

Table of Contents

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

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements as well as the Company's audited consolidated financial statements, including the notes thereto, included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, which includes additional information about the Company's critical accounting policies, contractual obligations, practices and the transactions that support the financial results, and provides a more comprehensive summary of the Company's outlook, trends and strategies for 2012 and beyond.

Certain amounts included in Item 2 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q are rounded in millions and all percentages are calculated based on actual amounts. As a result, minor differences may exist due to rounding.

Forward-Looking Statements

The nature of the Company's business and the many countries in which it operates subject it to changing economic, competitive, regulatory and technological conditions, risks and uncertainties. In accordance with the "safe harbor" provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, the Company provides the following cautionary remarks regarding important factors that, among others, could cause future results to differ materially from the results contemplated by forward-looking statements, including the expectations and assumptions expressed or implied herein. Forward-looking statements contained herein could include, among other things, statements about the Company's management's confidence and strategies for performance; expectations for new and existing products, technologies and opportunities; and expectations regarding growth, sales, cash flows, earnings and Economic Value Added ("EVA®"). These statements can be identified by the use of such terms as "may," "could," "expect," "anticipate," "intend," "believe" or other comparable terms.

Factors that could cause actual results to differ, perhaps materially, from those implied by the forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to: (1) changes in the worldwide business environment in which the Company operates, including general economic conditions; (2) changes in currency exchange rates, interest rates, commodity and fuel costs and capital costs; (3) changes in the performance of stock and bond markets that could affect, among other things, the valuation of the assets in the Company's pension plans and the accounting for pension assets, liabilities and expenses; (4) changes in governmental laws and regulations, including environmental, tax and import tariff standards; (5) market and competitive changes, including pricing pressures, market demand and acceptance for new products, services and technologies; (6) unforeseen business disruptions in one or more of the many countries in which the Company operates due to political instability, civil disobedience, armed hostilities, public health issues or other calamities; (7) the seasonal nature of the Company's business; (8) the Company's ability to successfully enter into new contracts and complete new acquisitions or strategic ventures in the timeframe contemplated, or at all; (9) the integration of the Company's strategic acquisitions; (10) the amount and timing of repurchases of the Company's common stock, if any; (11) ongoing global financial and credit crises and economic conditions generally, which could result in the Company's customers curtailing development projects, construction, production and capital expenditures, which, in turn, could reduce the demand for the Company's products and services and, accordingly, the Company's revenues, margins and profitability; (12) the outcome of any disputes with customers; (13) the financial condition of the Company's customers, including the ability of customers (especially those that may be highly leveraged and those with inadequate liquidity) to maintain their credit availability; (14) the Company's ability to successfully implement and receive the expected benefits of cost-reduction and restructuring initiatives, including the achievement of expected cost savings in the expected time frame; (15) risk and uncertainty associated with intangible assets; and (16) other risk factors listed from time to time in the Company's SEC reports. A further discussion of these, along with other potential risk factors, can be found in Part I, Item 1A, "Risk Factors," of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011. The Company cautions that these factors may not be exhaustive and that many of these factors are beyond the Company's ability to control or predict. Accordingly, forward-looking statements should not be relied upon as a prediction of actual results. The Company undertakes no duty to update forward-looking statements except as may be required by law.

Table of Contents

Executive Overview

| | Three Months Ended | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|--------|----|
| | June 30 | | | | |
| Revenues by Segment (In millions) | 2012 | 2011 | Change | % | |
| Harsco Metals & Minerals | 364.9 | 423.8 | \$(58.9) | (13.9) |)% |
| Harsco Infrastructure | 234.6 | 298.3 | (63.8) | (21.4) |) |
| Harsco Rail | 79.6 | 77.9 | 1.7 | 2.2 | |
| Harsco Industrial | 91.5 | 75.0 | 16.4 | 21.9 | |
| Total revenues | \$770.6 | \$875.1 | \$(104.5) | (11.9) |)% |
| | Six Months Ended | | | | |
| | June 30 | | | | |
| Revenues by Segment (In millions) | 2012 | 2011 | Change | % | |
| Harsco Metals & Minerals | 724.9 | 815.5 | \$(90.7) | (11.1) |)% |
| Harsco Infrastructure | 472.5 | 559.9 | (87.4) | (15.6) |) |
| Harsco Rail | 147.7 | 140.5 | 7.1 | 5.1 | |
| Harsco Industrial | 177.8 | 138.2 | 39.6 | 28.7 | |
| Total revenues | \$1,522.9 | \$1,654.1 | \$(131.2) | (7.9) |)% |
| | Three Months Ended | | | | |
| | June 30 | | | | |
| Revenues by Region (In millions) | 2012 | 2011 | Change | % | |
| Western Europe | \$268.9 | \$337.7 | \$(68.8) | (20.4) |)% |
| North America | 307.1 | 302.7 | 4.4 | 1.4 | |
| Latin America (a) | 80.7 | 89.4 | (8.7) | (9.7) |) |
| Middle East and Africa | 40.2 | 55.6 | (15.4) | (27.7) |) |
| Asia-Pacific | 48.8 | 48.4 | 0.4 | 0.7 | |
| Eastern Europe | 24.9 | 41.3 | (16.4) | (39.6) |) |
| Total revenues | \$770.6 | \$875.1 | \$(104.5) | (11.9) |)% |

(a) Includes Mexico.

| | Six Months Ended | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|--------|----|
| | June 30 | | | | |
| Revenues by Region (In millions) | 2012 | 2011 | Change | % | |
| Western Europe | \$547.5 | \$645.8 | \$(98.3) | (15.2) |)% |
| North America | 580.1 | 567.1 | 13.0 | 2.3 | |
| Latin America (a) | 167.8 | 170.9 | (3.1) | (1.8) |) |
| Middle East and Africa | 77.7 | 106.5 | (28.8) | (27.0) |) |
| Asia-Pacific | 98.0 | 93.6 | 4.4 | 4.7 | |
| Eastern Europe | 51.9 | 70.2 | (18.3) | (26.1) |) |
| Total revenues | \$1,522.9 | \$1,654.1 | \$(131.2) | (7.9) |)% |

(a) Includes Mexico.

Revenues for the Company during the second quarter and first half of 2012 were \$770.6 million and \$1.5 billion, respectively, compared with \$875.1 million and \$1.7 billion, respectively, in the second quarter and first half of 2011.

Foreign currency translation decreased revenues by \$60.1 million and \$74.3 million, respectively, for the second quarter and first half of 2012 in comparison with the second quarter and first half of 2011. Revenues from emerging markets (those outside North America and Western Europe) were approximately 26% in the first half of 2012 compared with 27% in first half of 2011.

Table of Contents

| Operating Income (Loss) by Segment (In millions) | Three Months Ended | | | |
|---|--------------------|--------|----------|----------|
| | June 30 | | Change | % |
| Harsco Metals & Minerals | \$31.0 | \$35.3 | \$(4.3) | (12.1)% |
| Harsco Infrastructure | (24.3) | (5.1) | (19.3) | (378.6)% |
| Harsco Rail | 12.0 | 22.5 | (10.5) | (46.6)% |
| Harsco Industrial | 17.0 | 13.0 | 3.9 | 30.0% |
| Corporate | (1.0) | (1.3) | 0.3 | 22.5% |
| Total operating income | \$34.6 | \$64.4 | \$(29.8) | (46.2)% |

| Operating Income (Loss) by Segment (In millions) | Six Months Ended | | | |
|---|------------------|--------|----------|----------|
| | June 30 | | Change | % |
| Harsco Metals & Minerals | \$53.3 | \$63.9 | \$(10.5) | (16.5)% |
| Harsco Infrastructure | (77.9) | (22.6) | (55.3) | (244.9)% |
| Harsco Rail | 21.4 | 30.6 | (9.3) | (30.3)% |
| Harsco Industrial | 31.0 | 23.7 | 7.2 | 30.5% |
| Corporate | (5.8) | (2.2) | (3.6) | (166.7)% |
| Total operating income | \$22.0 | \$93.5 | \$(71.5) | (76.5)% |

| Operating Margin by Segment | Three Months Ended | | Six Months Ended | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| | June 30 | | June 30 | |
| Harsco Metals & Minerals | 8.5 | % 8.3 | 7.4 | % 7.8 |
| Harsco Infrastructure | (10.4) | (1.7) | (16.5) | (4.0) |
| Harsco Rail | 15.1 | 28.9 | 14.5 | 21.8 |
| Harsco Industrial | 18.5 | 17.4 | 17.4 | 17.2 |
| Consolidated operating margin | 4.5 | % 7.4 | % 1.4 | % 5.7 |

The Operating income from continuing operations for the second quarter and first half of 2012 was \$34.6 million and \$22.0 million, respectively, compared with operating income from continuing operations of \$64.4 million and \$93.5 million, respectively, in the second quarter and first half of 2011. This decrease was principally driven by \$29.6 million and \$65.1 million, respectively of pre-tax restructuring charges associated with the 2011/2012 Restructuring Program in the second quarter and first half of 2012. Diluted earnings per share from continuing operations for the second quarter of 2012 were \$0.16 and diluted loss per share from continuing operations for the first half of 2012 were \$0.20, compared with diluted earnings per share from continuing operations of \$0.47 and \$0.62, respectively for the second quarter and first half of 2011.

Benefits realized under the 2011/2012 Restructuring Program had a positive pre-tax effect on operating income of approximately \$20 million in the first half of 2012. Under the 2011/2012 Restructuring Program, the Company expects to realize reduced costs of approximately \$36 million in 2012 and \$65 million on an annualized basis in 2013. These estimates have not changed from prior reported estimates. Savings under the Company's Fourth Quarter 2010 Harsco Infrastructure Program have previously been estimated at \$60 million per year and the Company expects to realize that amount in 2012 from the 2010 actions.

The Company continues to have sufficient available liquidity and has been able to obtain all necessary financing. The Company currently expects operational and business needs to be met with cash from operations and commercial paper borrowings for 2012. The need to supplement cash from operations with commercial paper borrowings for the remainder of 2012 is due to cash payments related to the Company's previously announced restructuring actions. See Liquidity and Capital Resources under Part I, Item 2, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" for further discussion on cash flows.

Table of Contents

Harsco Metals & Minerals Segment:

| | Three Months Ended | Six Months Ended |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|
| Significant Impacts on Revenues (In millions) | June 30, 2012 | June 30, 2012 |
| Revenues — 2011 | \$423.8 | \$815.5 |
| Net decreased volume | (23.0) | (46.1) |
| Impact of foreign currency translation | (35.9) | (44.5) |
| Revenues — 2012 | \$364.9 | \$724.9 |

Significant Impacts on Operating Income:

- Lower global steel production and demand. Overall, steel production by customers under services contracts was down 7% in the second quarter of 2012 compared to the same period in the prior year.
- Results for the second quarter and first half of 2012 reflect the impact of the Company's decision to exit lower-margin contracts.
- These impacts were partially offset by improved results from this Segment's roofing granules and abrasives business and overall cost reductions from the 2011/2012 Restructuring Program.
- Foreign currency translation decreased operating income for this Segment by approximately \$4 million for both the second quarter and first half of 2012 compared with the same periods in the prior year.

Harsco Infrastructure Segment:

| | Three Months Ended | Six Months Ended |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|
| Significant Impacts on Revenues (In millions) | June 30, 2012 | June 30, 2012 |
| Revenues — 2011 | \$298.3 | \$559.9 |
| Impact of exited operations | (22.6) | (30.6) |
| Net decreased volume | (18.6) | (29.0) |
| Impact of foreign currency translation | (22.5) | (27.8) |
| Revenues — 2012 | \$234.6 | \$472.5 |

Significant Impacts on Operating Income:

- During the second quarter and first half of 2012, pre-tax restructuring charges of \$28.4 million and \$64.0 million, respectively, were incurred as part of the 2011/2012 Restructuring Program.
- Decreased volumes of equipment rentals and erection and dismantling services, primarily in North America.
- These impacts were partially offset by the realization of expected cost savings resulting from restructuring initiatives implemented in 2010 and 2011.
- Foreign currency translation decreased operating income for this Segment by approximately \$1 million for both the second quarter and first half of 2012 compared with the same periods in the prior year.

Harsco Rail Segment:

| | Three Months Ended | Six Months Ended |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|
| Significant Effects on Revenues (In millions) | June 30, 2012 | June 30, 2012 |
| Revenues — 2011 | \$77.9 | \$140.5 |
| Net increased volume | 2.3 | 7.8 |
| Impact of foreign currency translation | (0.6) | (0.6) |
| Revenues — 2012 | \$79.6 | \$147.7 |

Significant Effects on Operating Income:

-

This Segment's operating income for the first half of 2012 was lower than the first quarter of 2011 due principally to an \$8.0 million pre-tax one-time gain from the reduction of estimated costs related to the first phase of the Company's large equipment order to the Ministry of Railways of China that occurred in the second quarter of 2011.

Operating income was negatively impacted in the first half of 2012 by the mix and timing of equipment orders, parts sales and service revenues.

Table of Contents

Harsco Industrial Segment:

| | Three Months Ended | Six Months Ended |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|
| Significant Effects on Revenues (In millions) | June 30, 2012 | June 30, 2012 |
| Revenues — 2011 | \$75.0 | \$138.2 |
| Net increased volume | 17.5 | 41.0 |
| Impact of foreign currency translation | (1.0 |) (1.4 |
| Revenues — 2012 | \$91.5 | \$177.8 |

Significant Effects on Operating Income:

Increased market demand with gains in market share in the principally energy-related markets served by these businesses.

Operating income was positively affected by lower material costs in the first half of 2012 compared with the same period in the prior year.

Outlook, Trends and Strategies

In addition to items noted in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, the following significant items, risks, trends and strategies are expected to affect the Company for the remainder of 2012 and beyond:

The Company will continue to place a strong focus on expansion into targeted emerging markets to improve the balance of its geographic footprint. More specifically, the Company's global growth strategies include steady, targeted expansion, particularly in Asia-Pacific, the Gulf Region of the Middle East and Africa and Latin America to further complement the Company's already strong presence throughout Europe and North America. Although the Harsco Metals & Minerals Segment will continue to be impacted by exited contracts that did not meet minimum return requirements, underlying growth for the Company overall is also expected to be achieved through the provision of additional services to existing customers; new contracts in both developed and targeted growth markets focusing on environmental solutions that reduce the impact of customer waste streams and provide other beneficial uses; and targeted strategic ventures and partnerships in strategic countries and market sectors. This strategy is targeted to result in approximately 35% of revenue from emerging markets by 2015. This growth will come both organically and through investments such as the previously announced China's Taiyuan Iron & Steel (Group) Co, Ltd. ("TISCO") strategic venture. Over time, a balanced geographic footprint should also benefit the Company through further diversification of its customer base.

The Company's intention with regard to the use of operating cash flow is to take a balanced approach. The first use of cash flows will be to continue to pay the Company's cash dividend, which has been paid every year since 1939.

Second, the Company plans to allocate capital expenditures to projects that have the appropriate long-term return characteristics with the highest Economic Value Added ("EVA®") potential and return on capital employed.

The Company has maintained a capital structure with a balance sheet debt to capital ratio approximating 40% for the last several years. That ratio has increased to 45.7% at June 30, 2012 primarily due to decreased equity resulting from restructuring charges incurred in 2011 and 2012; foreign currency translation adjustments and pension liability adjustments in 2011, including a deferred tax valuation allowance recorded related to U.K. pension liabilities; and higher outstanding commercial paper balances as of June 30, 2012.

A majority of the Company's revenue is generated from customers located outside the United States, and a substantial portion of the Company's assets and employees are located outside the United States. United States income tax and international withholding taxes have not been provided on undistributed earnings for certain non-U.S. subsidiaries, as the Company considers such earnings as indefinitely reinvested in the operations of those subsidiaries. Any tax reform that reduces the Company's ability to defer U.S. taxes on profit indefinitely reinvested outside the United States

could have a negative impact on the Company's ability to compete in the global marketplace. The Company does not believe that substantive U.S. legislative corporate tax reform is realistic for 2012, given the current U.S. political environment. However, the Company will monitor events in the U.S. Legislature closely for any favorable or unfavorable legislation.

Fluctuations in the U.S. dollar can have significant impacts in the Harsco Metals & Minerals and Harsco Infrastructure Segments, as approximately 80% of the revenues generated in these Segments are from outside the United States.

Table of Contents

Volatility in energy and commodity costs (e.g., diesel fuel, natural gas, steel, etc.) and worldwide demand for these commodities could impact the Company's operations, both in cost increases or decreases to the extent that such increases or decreases are not passed on to customers. However, volatility in energy and commodity costs may provide additional service opportunities for the Harsco Metals & Minerals Segment as customers may outsource more services to reduce overall costs. Volatility may also affect opportunities in the Harsco Infrastructure Segment for additional plant maintenance and capital improvement projects. Similarly, natural gas price volatility may affect opportunities in the Harsco Industrial Segment.

Defined benefit net periodic pension costs for 2012 are expected to be approximately \$9 million higher than 2011. Contributing to this increased expense are lower discount rates at December 31, 2011 and a lower than expected return on plan assets in 2011. These two factors are primary drivers of the Company's defined benefit net periodic pension costs as substantially all of the Company's significant defined benefit plans have been frozen to eliminate future service benefits.

- The Company may be required to record impairment charges in the future to the extent it cannot generate future cash flows at a level sufficient to recover the net book value of a reporting unit. As part of the Company's annual goodwill impairment testing, estimates of fair value are based on assumptions regarding future operating cash flows and growth rates of each reporting unit, the weighted-average cost of capital ("WACC") applied to these cash flows and current market estimates of value. Based on the uncertainty of future growth rates and other assumptions used to estimate goodwill recoverability, future reductions in a reporting unit's cash flows could cause a material non-cash impairment charge to goodwill, which could have a material adverse effect on the Company's results of operations and financial condition. See Application of Critical Accounting Policies under Part II, Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

Harsco Metals & Minerals Segment:

The Company expects results for the Harsco Metals & Minerals Segment for the third quarter of 2012 to approximate the third quarter of 2011, based on average steel production capacity utilization remaining at the lower end of historical norms, continued announcements of selective furnace shutdowns at certain customer steel-mill sites and continuing negative pressure on economic growth, particularly in the Eurozone and the United States.

The 25-year environmental solutions contract for on-site metal recovery in China that was awarded in July 2011 to the Company's previously announced venture with Taiyuan Iron & Steel (Group) Co., Ltd. ("TISCO") will effectively address the environmentally beneficial processing and metal recovery of TISCO's stainless and carbon steel slag production by-products across a range of potential commercial applications. The Company anticipates that the venture has the potential to generate new revenues of an estimated \$30 million per year initially, beginning after the start-up of operations in the fourth quarter of 2012, and ramping up to a projected run rate of approximately \$50 million to \$60 million per year when fully operational. The Company and TISCO will respectively share a 60%-40% relationship in the partnership and the Company consolidates the financial statements of the venture.

The Company has recently announced a new 20-year environmental services contract for the environmentally-beneficial handling and processing of steelmaking by-products with Tangshan Iron & Steel, the flagship site of China's largest steelmaker, Hebei Iron & Steel (HBIS) Group, the second largest producer of steel in the world. This contract significantly expands Harsco's existing resource recovery services at the Tangshan works under a new strategic venture relationship led by Harsco that focuses directly on improving the surrounding environment from steelmaking operations.

The industrial abrasives and roofing granules business within the Harsco Metals & Minerals Segment generates value by collecting and processing boiler slag, a coal combustion by-product ("CCP"), into commercially useful products that put this material to beneficial use in products such as roofing materials and blasting abrasives. In May 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") released a proposed rule that set out two different options with regard to the regulation of CCPs produced by coal-fired utility boilers. One option would regulate CCPs as hazardous waste when the CCPs are destined for disposal in landfills and surface impoundments. The second option would regulate the

disposal of CCPs as solid waste by issuing minimum national criteria for proper management of these nonhazardous, solid wastes. Neither proposal changes the EPA's prior determination that beneficially used CCPs, including the Company's products, are exempt from the hazardous waste regulations. The adoption, terms and timing of any new regulation controlling disposal of CCPs remain uncertain, however, and there can be no assurance that any CCP regulation will continue to provide for an exemption for beneficial use of CCPs. The Company will continue to closely monitor the EPA's proposal.

Table of Contents

Harsco Infrastructure Segment:

The Company expects this Segment to realize an operating loss for 2012 due to the substantial restructuring expenses that will be incurred under the 2011/2012 Restructuring Program and continued market softness.

As expected, this Segment is realizing the anticipated cost benefits resulting from the successful implementation of the Fourth Quarter 2010 Harsco Infrastructure Restructuring Program and the 2011/2012 Restructuring Program. The Company currently expects to see the full benefit of Fourth Quarter 2010 Harsco Infrastructure Restructuring Program in 2012 and the full benefits of the 2011/2012 Restructuring Program in 2013. However, other factors, including higher pension costs, are expected to partially offset these benefits.

The Company has initiated strategies to reposition the Harsco Infrastructure Segment and is focusing increasingly on projects in the global industrial maintenance and civil infrastructure construction sectors, as well as developing this business in economies outside the United States and Western Europe that have greater prospects for both near-term and long-term growth. The Segment has been shifting from small, essentially independent branches that serve smaller projects to an integrated business with resources able to focus on larger projects that will have a longer duration and which require highly engineered solutions. Local focus on the customer will continue, and customer service should improve through coordinated asset management, sales effectiveness and operational excellence.

Harsco Rail Segment:

Bidding and contract signings within the Harsco Rail Segment continue to be strong and full-year results are still expected to meet original expectations.

The outlook for this Segment continues to be favorable. The global demand for railway maintenance-of-way equipment, parts, and services continues to be strong.

The Harsco Rail Segment expects to develop a larger presence in certain developing countries as track construction and maintenance needs grow. Additionally, sales opportunities along with strategic acquisitions and/or joint ventures in the Harsco Rail Segment will be considered if the appropriate strategic opportunities arise.

Harsco Industrial Segment:

The outlook for the Harsco Industrial Segment for the remainder of 2012 is guarded due to volatility in energy-related end markets. This Segment expects to see continued growth in both revenues and income in 2012 and beyond, principally due to its focus on the energy sector, its globalization of the business and its renewed emphasis on product development and differentiation.

Worldwide supply and demand for steel and other commodities impact raw material costs for the Harsco Industrial Segment. The Company has implemented strategies to help mitigate, but not eliminate, the potential impact that changes in steel and other commodity prices could have on operating income. If steel or other commodity costs associated with the Company's manufactured products increase and the costs cannot be passed on to the Company's customers, operating income would be adversely affected. Conversely, reduced steel and other commodity costs would improve operating income to the extent such savings are not transferred to customers.

Table of Contents

Results of Operations

| (Dollars in millions, except per share amounts) | Three Months Ended | | Six Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|---------|------------------|-----------|
| | June 30 | 2011 | June 30 | 2011 |
| Revenues from continuing operations | \$770.6 | \$875.1 | \$1,522.9 | \$1,654.1 |
| Cost of services and products sold | 584.8 | 667.2 | 1,178.4 | 1,277.6 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 125.6 | 141.2 | 254.8 | 279.0 |
| Other expenses | 22.9 | 0.9 | 63.0 | 1.4 |
| Operating income from continuing operations | 34.6 | 64.4 | 22.0 | 93.5 |
| Interest expense | (11.6 |) (12.6 |) (24.4 |) (24.6 |
| Income tax expense | (10.4 |) (13.3 |) (14.9 |) (17.7 |
| Income (loss) from continuing operations | 13.6 | 39.2 | (15.6 |) 52.8 |
| Diluted earnings (loss) per common share from continuing operations attributable to Harsco Corporation common stockholders | 0.16 | 0.47 | (0.20 |) 0.62 |

Comparative Analysis of Consolidated Results

Revenues

Revenues for the second quarter of 2012 decreased \$104.5 million or 11.9% from the second quarter of 2011.

Revenues for the first half of 2012 decreased \$131.2 million or 7.9% from the first half of 2011. These decreases were attributable to the following significant items:

| Change in Revenues — 2012 vs. 2011 | Three Months Ended | Six Months Ended |
|--|--------------------|------------------|
| (In millions) | June 30, 2012 | June 30, 2012 |
| Effect of foreign currency translation. | \$(60.1 |) \$(74.3 |
| Net decreased revenues in the Harsco Metals & Minerals Segment due principally to contracts that have been exited or not renewed due to the Company's minimum return requirements, as well as decreased steel production by customers. | (23.0 |) (46.1 |
| Impact of exited operations in the Harsco Infrastructure Segment. | (22.6 |) (30.6 |
| Net decreased revenues in the Harsco Infrastructure Segment due principally to decreased volumes in erection and dismantling services, principally in North America. | (18.6 |) (29.0 |
| Increased market demand with gains in market share in the principally energy-related markets served by the businesses in the Harsco Industrial Segment. | 17.5 | 41.0 |
| Net increased revenues in the Harsco Rail Segment due principally to increased contract services revenues and equipment sales. | 2.3 | 7.8 |
| Total change in revenues — 2012 vs. 2011 | \$(104.5 |) \$(131.2 |

Cost of Services and Products Sold

Cost of services and products sold for the second quarter of 2012 decreased \$82.4 million or 12.4% from the second quarter of 2011. Cost of services and products sold for the first half of 2012 decreased \$99.2 million or 7.8% from the first half of 2011. These decreases were attributable to the following significant items:

| Change in Cost of Services and Products Sold — 2012 vs. 2011 | Three Months Ended | Six Months Ended |
|---|--------------------|------------------|
| (In millions) | June 30, 2012 | June 30, 2012 |
| Effect of foreign currency translation. | \$(47.0 |) \$(58.2 |
| Impact of exited operations in the Harsco Infrastructure Segment. | (21.1 |) (29.1 |

Edgar Filing: HARSCO CORP - Form 10-Q

| | | | | |
|--|---------|---|---------|---|
| Decreased costs due to changes in revenues (exclusive of the effect of foreign currency translation, and including the impact of increased energy and fluctuations in commodity costs included in selling prices). | (18.5 |) | (24.0 |) |
| Principally product mix and higher costs including commodities. | 4.2 | | 12.1 | |
| Total change in cost of services and products sold — 2012 vs. 2011 | \$(82.4 |) | \$(99.2 |) |

33

Table of Contents

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

Selling, general and administrative expenses for the second quarter of 2012 decreased \$15.6 million or 11.0% from the second quarter of 2011. Selling, general and administrative expenses for the first half of 2012 decreased \$24.2 million or 8.7% from the first half of 2011. Selling, general and administrative expenses as a percentage of revenues decreased to 16.7% from 16.9% for the first half of 2012 compared with the first half of 2011. The change in selling, general and administrative expenses were attributable to the following significant items:

| Change in Selling, General and Administrative Expenses — 2012 vs. 2011 | Three Months Ended | Six Months Ended |
|---|--------------------|------------------|
| (In millions) | June 30, 2012 | June 30, 2012 |
| Decreased compensation expense due to the realization of cost savings benefits from restructuring activities and exited operations in the Harsco Infrastructure Segments. | \$(6.5 |) \$(11.0 |
| Effect of foreign currency translation. | (8.2 |) (10.5 |
| Decreased professional fees. | (1.5 |) (2.9 |
| Lower facility rental costs. | (1.4 |) (2.3 |
| Increased commissions, primarily due to higher sales in the Harsco Rail and Harsco Industrial Segments. | 2.8 | 3.1 |
| Higher bad debt expense. | 2.6 | 3.5 |
| Other, net. | (3.4 |) (4.1 |
| Total change in selling, general and administrative expenses — 2012 vs. 2011 | \$(15.6 |) \$(24.2 |

Other Expenses

This income statement classification includes restructuring costs for employee termination benefit costs, product rationalization and costs to exit activities; former CEO separation costs; net gains on the disposal of non-core assets; currency translation adjustments recognized in earnings; and business combination accounting adjustments for contingent consideration related to acquisitions by the Company. The most significant change in Other expenses relates to restructuring costs that were incurred principally in the Harsco Infrastructure Segment. Additional information on other expenses is included in Note 14, "Other Expenses," in Part I, Item 1, Financial Statements.

Interest Expense

Interest expense decreased \$1.0 million and \$0.1 million from the second quarter and first half of 2011, respectively. The decrease in the second quarter of 2012 was due to lower foreign currency exchange rates and decreased deferred financing costs. For the first half of 2012, the favorability in the second quarter of 2012 was mostly offset by the expensing of previously deferred financing costs and higher commercial paper balances in the first quarter of 2012.

Income Tax Expense

Income tax expense from continuing operations was impacted primarily due to certain losses from continuing operations being generated in jurisdictions where no tax benefit can be recognized for the three and six months ended June 30, 2012 compared with the three and six months ended June 30, 2011. These losses with no tax benefit resulted in income tax expense despite an overall loss from continuing operations for the six months ended June 30, 2012 and impacted effective income tax rates for all periods in 2012.

Income (loss) from Continuing Operations

The \$13.6 million income from continuing operations in the second quarter of 2012 was \$25.6 million lower than income from continuing operations for the same period of 2011 of \$39.2 million. The \$15.6 million loss from continuing operations in the first half of 2012 was \$68.4 million lower than income from continuing operations for the same period of 2011 of \$52.8 million. The decreases principally resulted from the \$29.6 million and \$65.1 million pre-tax restructuring charges related to the 2011/2012 Restructuring Program for the three and six months ended June 30, 2012, primarily in the Harsco Infrastructure Segment.

Table of Contents

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Overview

The Company continues to have sufficient available liquidity and has been able to obtain all necessary financing. The Company currently expects operational and business needs to be met with cash from operations supplemented with borrowings from time to time due to historical patterns of seasonal cash flow and for the funding of various projects. The Company continues to implement and execute capital efficiency initiatives to enhance liquidity. These initiatives have included prudent allocation of capital spending to projects where the highest returns can be achieved while redeploying existing capital investments; optimization of worldwide cash positions; reductions in discretionary spending; and frequent evaluation of customer and business-partner credit risk. These initiatives have been successful in helping counteract strained global financial markets. While global financial markets have improved for certain highly rated credit issuers, the stresses that markets have been under since 2008 are still reflected in tightened credit conditions for the funding of non-residential construction projects, particularly commercial construction. These tightened credit conditions, along with the sovereign debt crisis in Europe and economic austerity measures implemented in the United Kingdom and other European economies, have restrained growth in the Harsco Infrastructure Segment. These unfavorable conditions in the credit markets also continue to impact some of the Company's current and potential customers.

During the first half of 2012, the Company's operations provided \$35.7 million in operating cash flow, a decrease from the \$66.9 million generated in first half of 2011. Approximately \$56 million of operating cash was disbursed in the first half of 2012 for restructuring costs associated with the Fourth Quarter 2010 Harsco Infrastructure Program and the 2011/2012 Restructuring Program compared to approximately \$15 million of operating cash disbursed in the first half of 2011 for restructuring costs associated with the Fourth Quarter 2010 Harsco Infrastructure Program. In the first half of 2012, the Company invested \$107.8 million in capital expenditures, mostly for the Harsco Metals & Minerals Segment, compared with \$166.9 million invested in the first half of 2011. The Company paid \$33.0 million in stockholder dividends in the first half of both 2012 and 2011.

The Company's net cash borrowings increased by \$68.5 million in the first half of 2012, primarily to fund capital expenditures, principally in the Harsco Metals & Minerals Segment. The Company's debt to total capital ratio increased to 45.7% at June 30, 2012 from 42.7% at December 31, 2011. The increase at June 30, 2012 is primarily due to increased commercial paper borrowings and decreased total equity as a result of currency translation adjustments and a net loss for the first half of 2012. Similarly, the Company's net debt to net capital ratio, which incorporates the Company's cash and cash equivalents, increased to 42.5% at June 30, 2012 from 39.2% at December 31, 2011.

In March 2012, the Company executed an Amended and Restated Five-Year Credit Agreement ("Credit Agreement") in the amount of \$525 million through a syndicate of 14 banks. The Credit Agreement matures in March 2017. The Company has the option to increase the amount of the Credit Agreement to \$550 million. The Credit Agreement amends and restates the Company's multi-year revolving credit facility which was set to mature in December 2012. There were no borrowings outstanding under the multi-year revolving credit facility at the time of the Credit Agreement.

The Company plans to sustain its balanced portfolio through its strategy of redeploying discretionary cash for disciplined organic growth and international or market-segment diversification; for potential strategic ventures, alliances and partnerships; for growth in long-term, high-return service contracts for the Harsco Metals & Minerals Segment, principally in targeted growth markets or for customer diversification; and for strategic investments or possible acquisitions in the Harsco Rail Segment. The Company also foresees continuing its long and consistent history of paying dividends to stockholders.

The Company continues its focus on improving working capital efficiency. The Company's globally integrated enterprise initiatives are being used to continue to further improve the effective and efficient use of working capital, particularly accounts receivable and inventories.

The Company also generated \$36.6 million in cash from asset sales in the first half of 2012, which included \$14.5 million from disposal of equipment under the 2011/2012 Restructuring Program.

Table of Contents

Sources and Uses of Cash

The Company's principal sources of liquidity are cash from operations, issuance of commercial paper and borrowings under its various credit agreements, augmented periodically by cash proceeds from non-core asset sales. The primary drivers of the Company's cash flow from operations are the Company's revenues and income. The Company's long-term Harsco Metals & Minerals Segment contracts, in addition to the backlog of certain equipment orders within the Harsco Rail Segment, provide predictable cash flows for the near-term years. Cash returns on capital investments made in prior years, for which limited cash is currently required, are a significant source of cash from operations. Depreciation expense related to these investments is a non-cash charge. The Company also continues to maintain working capital at a manageable level based upon the requirements and seasonality of the businesses.

Major uses of operating cash flows and borrowed funds include: capital investments, principally in the Harsco Metals & Minerals Segment; payroll costs and related benefits; dividend payments; pension funding payments; inventory purchases for the Harsco Rail and Harsco Industrial Segments; income tax payments; debt principal and interest payments; insurance premiums and payments of self-insured casualty losses; machinery, equipment, automobile and facility lease payments; and in 2012, significant payments under the 2011/2012 Restructuring Plan. Cash is also used for targeted, strategic acquisitions as appropriate opportunities arise.

Resources available for cash requirements

The Company meets its ongoing cash requirements for operations and growth initiatives by utilizing cash from operations, issuance of commercial paper and borrowings under its various credit agreements, augmented periodically by cash proceeds from non-core asset sales. Public markets in the United States and Europe are accessed through the Company's commercial paper programs and through discrete-term note issuance to investors. The Company has various bank credit facilities that are available throughout the world. The Company expects to utilize public debt markets, bank credit facilities and cash from operations to meet its cash requirements in the future.

The following table illustrates the amounts outstanding under credit facilities and commercial paper programs and available credit at June 30, 2012:

| (In millions) | June 30, 2012 | | |
|--|----------------|---------------------|------------------|
| | Facility Limit | Outstanding Balance | Available Credit |
| U.S. commercial paper program | \$550.0 | \$107.6 | \$442.4 |
| Euro commercial paper program | 248.9 | — | 248.9 |
| Multi-year revolving credit facility (a) | 525.0 | — | 525.0 |
| Bilateral credit facility (b) | 25.0 | — | 25.0 |
| Totals | \$1,348.9 | \$107.6 | \$1,241.3 |

(a) U.S.-based program.

(b) International-based program.

(c) Although the Company has significant available credit, for practical purposes, the Company limits aggregate commercial paper and credit facility borrowings at any one-time to a maximum of \$550 million (the aggregate amount of the multi-year and bilateral credit facilities).

For more information on the Company's bank credit facilities and long-term notes, see Note 7, "Debt and Credit Agreements," to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 and Note 7, "Debt and Credit Agreements," in Part I, Item 1, Financial Statements.

Credit Ratings and Outlook

The following table summarizes the Company's current debt ratings:

| Rating Agency | Long-term Notes | U.S.-Based Commercial Paper | Watch / Outlook |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Standard & Poor's | BBB | A-2 | Negative Outlook |
| Moody's | Baa3 | P-3 | Negative Outlook |
| Fitch | BBB | F3 | Negative Outlook |

Table of Contents

The Company's euro commercial paper program has not been rated since the euro market does not require it. In May 2012, Fitch downgraded the Company's long-term and short-term credit ratings to BBB and F3, respectively, while maintaining a negative outlook. In June 2012, Standard & Poor's upgraded the Company's short-term credit rating to A-2 while maintaining a long-term credit rating of BBB and a negative outlook. These rating agency actions had no immediate impact on the Company's borrowing costs. Future downgrades to the Company's credit ratings may increase borrowing costs to the Company, while an improvement in the Company's credit ratings may decrease borrowing costs to the Company. Additionally, future downgrades in the Company's credit ratings may result in reduced access to certain short-term credit markets, but will not reduce access to the Company's \$525 million multi-year revolving credit facility or the Company's \$25 million bilateral credit facility.

Working Capital Position

Changes in the Company's working capital are reflected in the following table:

| (Dollars in millions) | June 30 2012 | December 31 2011 | Increase (Decrease) |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Current Assets | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$121.4 | \$121.2 | \$0.2 |
| Trade accounts receivable, net | 615.2 | 618.5 | (3.3) |
| Other receivables | 33.0 | 44.4 | (11.4) |
| Inventories | 261.0 | 241.9 | 19.0 |
| Other current assets | 114.7 | 133.4 | (18.7) |
| Total current assets | 1,145.3 | 1,159.4 | (14.2) |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Notes payable and current maturities | 27.9 | 55.0 | (27.0) |
| Accounts payable | 242.3 | 252.3 | (10.0) |
| Accrued compensation | 85.3 | 92.6 | (7.3) |
| Income taxes payable | 14.0 | 8.4 | 5.6 |
| Other current liabilities | 338.9 | 374.0 | (35.1) |
| Total current liabilities | 708.4 | 782.3 | (73.9) |
| Working Capital | \$436.9 | \$377.2 | \$59.7 |
| Current Ratio (a) | 1.6 | 1.5 | |

(a) Calculated as Total current assets/Total current liabilities

Working capital increased \$59.7 million in the first half of 2012 due principally to the following factors:

Other current liabilities decreased \$35.1 million due to a decrease in customer advances related to the delivery of certain machines in the Harsco Rail Segment, the timing of payment for non-income taxes and the timing of restructuring payments;

Notes payable and current maturities decreased by \$27.0 million primarily due to the timing of repayment intentions on certain outstanding debt;

Inventories increased \$19.0 million primarily in the Harsco Rail Segment due to the timing of shipments; and

Accounts payable decreased \$10.0 million primarily in the Harsco Metals & Minerals Segment due to the timing of payments.

These working capital increases were offset by the following:

Other current assets decreased by \$18.7 million primarily due to a reduction in assets held for sale, the reduction in prepayments related to certain customer contracts and a change in the classification of deferred income taxes; and

Other receivables decreased by \$11.4 million primarily in the Harsco Metals & Minerals Segment due to cash receipts.

Table of Contents

Certainty of Cash Flows

The certainty of the Company's future cash flows is underpinned by the long-term nature of the Company's metals services contracts, the order backlog for the Company's railway track maintenance services and equipment, and overall discretionary cash flows (operating cash flows plus cash from asset sales in excess of the amounts necessary for capital expenditures to maintain current revenue levels) generated by the Company. Historically, the Company has utilized these discretionary cash flows for growth-related capital expenditures, strategic acquisitions, debt repayment and dividend payments.

The types of products and services that the Company provides are not subject to rapid technological change, which increases the stability of related cash flows. Additionally, the Company believes each of its businesses in its balanced portfolio is a leader in the industries and major markets the Company serves. Due to these factors, the Company is confident in its future ability to generate positive cash flows from operations.

Cash Flow Summary

The Company's cash flows from operating, investing and financing activities, as reflected in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows, are summarized in the following table:

| (In millions) | Six Months Ended | |
|---|------------------|----------|
| | June 30 2012 | 2011 |
| Net cash provided (used) by: | | |
| Operating activities | \$35.7 | \$66.9 |
| Investing activities | (69.9 |) (129.7 |
| Financing activities | 39.4 | 30.4 |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash | (5.1 |) 3.4 |
| Net change in cash and cash equivalents | \$0.2 | \$(28.9 |

Cash Provided by Operating Activities — Net cash provided by operating activities in the first half of 2012 was \$35.7 million, a decrease of \$31.1 million from the first half of 2011. The decrease is due to increased cash outflows associated with the 2011/2012 Restructuring Program and the Fourth Quarter 2010 Harsco Infrastructure Program, the timing of accounts payable disbursements, and increased inventory levels, partially offset by improved accounts receivable collections.

Cash Used by Investing Activities — Net cash used in investing activities in the first half of 2012 was \$69.9 million, a decrease of \$59.7 million from the first half of 2011. Capital investments in the first half of 2012 totaled \$107.8 million and decreased \$59.0 million compared with the first half of 2011. The decrease in capital investments was supplemented by proceeds from asset sales of \$36.6 million, which included \$14.5 million from disposal of equipment under the 2011/2012 Restructuring Program.

Cash Provided by Financing Activities — Net cash provided by financing activities in the first half of 2012 was \$39.4 million, an increase of \$9.0 million from first half of 2011. The change was primarily due to increased commercial paper borrowings and contributions from noncontrolling interests by strategic venture partners.

The following table summarizes the Company's debt and capital positions at June 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011.

| (Dollars in millions) | June 30 | December 31 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| Notes payable and current maturities | \$27.9 | \$55.0 |
| Long-term debt | 949.6 | 853.8 |
| Total debt | 977.6 | 908.8 |
| Total equity | 1,159.6 | 1,219.9 |
| Total capital | \$2,137.2 | \$2,128.7 |
| Total debt to total capital (a) | 45.7 | % 42.7 |

(a) Calculated as Total debt/Total capital.

The Company's debt as a percent of total capital increased in the first half of 2012 due principally to increased commercial paper borrowings and decreased total equity as a result of currency translation adjustments and a net loss

for the first half of 2012.

38

Table of Contents

Debt Covenants

The Company's credit facilities contain a covenant stipulating a maximum debt to capital ratio of 60%. One credit facility also contains a covenant requiring a minimum net worth of \$475 million, and another limits the proportion of subsidiary consolidated indebtedness to a maximum of 10% of consolidated tangible assets and a minimum ratio of total consolidated earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization ("EBITDA") to consolidated interest charges of 3.0:1. The Company's 5.75% and 2.70% notes include covenants that permit the note holders to redeem their notes at 101% of par in the event of a change of control of the Company or disposition of a significant portion of the Company's assets in combination with a downgrade in the Company's credit rating to non-investment grade. At June 30, 2012, the Company was in compliance with these covenants with a debt to capital ratio of 45.7%, a total net worth (as defined by the covenants) of \$1.1 billion and a ratio of consolidated EBITDA to consolidated interest charges of 10.6. The proportion of subsidiary consolidated indebtedness to consolidated tangible assets was less than 1% at June 30, 2012. Based on balances at June 30, 2012, the Company could increase borrowings by approximately \$0.8 billion and still be within its debt covenants. Alternatively, keeping all other factors constant, the Company's equity could decrease by approximately \$0.5 billion and the Company would still be within its debt covenants. The Company expects to continue to be in compliance with these debt covenants one year from now.

Cash and Value-Based Management

The Company has various cash management systems throughout the world that centralize cash in various bank accounts where it is economically justifiable and legally permissible to do so. These centralized cash balances are then redeployed to other operations to reduce short-term borrowings and to finance working capital needs or capital expenditures. Due to the transitory nature of cash balances, they are normally invested in bank deposits that can be withdrawn at will or in very liquid short-term bank time deposits and government obligations. The Company's policy is to use the largest banks in the various countries in which the Company operates. The Company monitors the creditworthiness of its banks, and when appropriate, adjusts its banking operations to reduce or eliminate exposure to less credit worthy banks.

The Company plans to continue its strategy of targeted, prudent investing for strategic purposes for the foreseeable future and to make more efficient use of existing investments. The long-term goal of this strategy is to create stockholder value by improving the Company's Economic Value Added ("EVA"). Under this program, the Company evaluates strategic investments based upon the investment's economic profit. EVA equals after-tax operating profits less a charge for the use of the capital employed to create those profits. Therefore, value is created when a project or initiative produces a return above the risk-adjusted local country cost of capital. In the first half of 2012, EVA was slightly lower than the first half of 2011, but for the full year 2012 it is expected to show improvement.

The Company currently expects to continue paying dividends to stockholders. In April 2012 and July 2012, the Company declared its 249th and 250th consecutive quarterly cash dividends, payable in August 2012 and November 2012, respectively.

The Company's financial position and debt capacity should enable it to meet current and future requirements.

Recently Adopted and Recently Issued Accounting Standards

Information on recently adopted and recently issued accounting standards is included in Note 2, "Recently Adopted and Recently Issued Accounting Standards," in Part I, Item 1, Financial Statements.

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

See Part II, Item 1A, "Risk Factors," for quantitative and qualitative disclosures about market risk.

ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

The Company's management, including the Interim Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of disclosure controls and procedures as of June 30, 2012. Based on that evaluation, the Interim Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that the disclosure controls and procedures are effective. There have been no changes in internal control over financial reporting that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, internal control over financial reporting during the second quarter of 2012.

Table of Contents

PART II — OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Information on legal proceedings is included in Note 10, “Commitments and Contingencies,” in Part I, Item 1, Financial Statements.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

In the normal course of business, the Company is routinely subjected to a variety of risks. In addition to the market risk associated with interest rate and currency movements on outstanding debt and non-U.S. dollar-denominated assets and liabilities, other examples of risk include adverse economic conditions and increased competition in the global non-residential construction markets; customer concentration in the Harsco Metals & Minerals Segment and Harsco Rail Segment; collectability of receivables; volatility of the financial markets and their effect on pension plans and the availability of funding of non-residential construction projects; and global economic and political conditions.

For a full disclosure of risk factors that affect the Company, see Part 1, Item 1A, “Risk Factors,” of the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

(a) There were no unregistered sales of equity securities during the period covered by the report.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities.

| Period | Total Number of Shares Purchased | Average Price Paid per Share | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs | Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| April 1, 2012 - April 30, 2012 | — | — | — | 1,713,423 |
| May 1, 2012 - May 31, 2012 | — | — | — | 1,713,423 |
| June 1, 2012 - June 30, 2012 | — | — | — | 1,713,423 |
| Total | — | — | — | |

The Company’s share repurchase program was extended by the Board of Directors in November 2011. The repurchase program expires January 31, 2013. At June 30, 2012, there are 1,713,423 authorized shares remaining in the program. When and if appropriate, repurchases are made in open market transactions, depending on market conditions. Share repurchases may not occur and may be discontinued at any time.

ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES

None.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION

DIVIDEND INFORMATION

On April 25, 2012, the Company’s Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.205 per share, payable August 15, 2012 to stockholders of record at the close of business on July 16, 2012.

On July 24, 2012, the Company’s Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.205 per share, payable November 15, 2012 to stockholders of record at the close of business on October 15, 2012.

Table of Contents

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

The following exhibits are filed as a part of this report:

| Exhibit Number | Description |
|-------------------|---|
| 10.1 | Amended and Restated Five-Year Credit Agreement, dated March 2, 2012, among Harsco Corporation, the lenders named therein, Citibank, N.A., as administrative agent, The Royal Bank of Scotland PLC, as syndication agent, and the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd., HSBC Bank USA, National Association, ING Bank N.V., Dublin Branch, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. and Lloyds TSB Bank PLC, as documentation agents. |
| 31.1 | Certification Pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or 15d-14(a), as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (Chief Executive Officer). |
| 31.2 | Certification Pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or 15d-14(a), as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (Chief Financial Officer). |
| 32 | Certifications Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer). |
| 101 | The following financial statements from Harsco Corporation's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2012, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 31, 2012, formatted in XBRL (Extensible Business Reporting Language): (i) the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets; (ii) the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income; (iii) the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income; (iv) the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows; (v) the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Equity; and (vi) the Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements. |

41

Table of Contents

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.

HARSCO CORPORATION
(Registrant)

DATE July 31, 2012

/s/ Stephen J. Schnoor
Stephen J. Schnoor
Senior Vice President,
Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

(Principal Financial Officer)

DATE July 31, 2012

/s/ Barry E. Malamud
Barry E. Malamud
Vice President and Corporate Controller

(Principal Accounting Officer)