

ExlService Holdings, Inc.  
Form DEF 14A  
April 30, 2009  
**Table of Contents**

**United States**  
**Securities and Exchange Commission**  
**Washington, D.C. 20548**

**SCHEDULE 14A**

**(Rule 14a-101)**

**SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION**

**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the**  
**Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

**(Amendment No.    )**

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

**Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

**ExlService Holdings, Inc.**

(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

N/A

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

---

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

---

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

---

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

---

(5) Total fee paid:

---

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

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

(1) Amount previously paid:

---

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

---

(3) Filing Party:

---

(4) Date Filed:

---

**Table of Contents**

**350 Park Avenue**

**New York, New York 10022**

**(212) 277-7100**

April 30, 2009

Dear Stockholder:

On behalf of the board of directors of ExlService Holdings, Inc., I am pleased to invite you to the 2009 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, which will be held on June 24, 2009, in Middletown, Connecticut.

The Annual Meeting will begin with a report on our operations, followed by discussion and voting on the matters set forth in the accompanying notice of Annual Meeting and proxy statement and discussion on other business matters properly brought before the Annual Meeting.

Whether or not you attend the Annual Meeting, it is important that your shares be represented and voted at the Annual Meeting. After reading the proxy statement, please promptly vote and submit your proxy by completing, dating, signing and returning the enclosed proxy card in the enclosed postage prepaid envelope. Your shares cannot be voted unless you submit your proxy or attend the Annual Meeting in person.

The board of directors and management look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,

/s/ Vikram Talwar

Vikram Talwar

Executive Chairman

**Table of Contents**

**350 Park Avenue  
New York, New York 10022  
(212) 277-7100**

**NOTICE OF 2009 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

Dear Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to the 2009 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of ExlService Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the Company). The Annual Meeting will be held at The Inn at Middletown, 70 Main Street, Middletown, Connecticut 06457, on June 24, 2009, at 2:00 PM, Eastern Time, for the purposes of voting on the following matters:

1. the election of three Class III members of the board of directors of the Company for a term of three years each;
2. the ratification of the selection of Ernst & Young LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of the Company for fiscal year 2009; and
3. the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

If you are a stockholder of record at the close of business on May 11, 2009, you are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. A list of stockholders as of the record date will be available for examination for any purpose germane to the Annual Meeting, during ordinary business hours, at the Company's executive offices at 350 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10022, for a period of 10 days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting and at the Annual Meeting itself.

Whether or not you expect to attend the Annual Meeting in person, we encourage you to promptly vote and submit your proxy by completing, signing, dating and returning the enclosed proxy card in the postage prepaid envelope provided. Voting by proxy will not deprive you of the right to attend the Annual Meeting or to vote your shares in person. You can revoke a proxy at any time before it is exercised by voting in person at the Annual Meeting, by delivering a subsequent proxy or by notifying the inspector of elections in writing of such revocation prior to the Annual Meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors

*/s/ Amit Shashank  
Amit Shashank  
Vice President, General Counsel and  
Corporate Secretary*

New York, New York

April 30, 2009

Edgar Filing: ExlService Holdings, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

*The Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal year 2008 accompanies this notice but is not incorporated as part of the enclosed proxy statement and should not be considered part of the proxy solicitation materials.*

**Table of Contents**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

|   | <b>Page</b> |
|---|-------------|
| <u>INFORMATION CONCERNING VOTING AND SOLICITATION</u>   | 1           |
| <u>OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS</u>   | 4           |
| <u>CORPORATE GOVERNANCE</u>   | 6           |
| <u>OUR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS</u>   | 10          |
| <u>EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION</u>   | 12          |
| <u>PRINCIPAL STOCKHOLDERS</u>   | 40          |
| <u>CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED PERSON TRANSACTIONS</u>  | 43          |
| <u>REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE</u>  | 44          |
| <u>PROPOSAL 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS</u>  | 45          |
| <u>PROPOSAL 2: RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM</u> | 46          |
| <u>STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR THE 2010 ANNUAL MEETING</u>  | 47          |
| <u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>  | 48          |
| <u>OTHER MATTERS</u>  | 48          |

**Table of Contents**

**350 Park Avenue**  
**New York, New York 10022**  
**(212) 277-7100**

**PROXY STATEMENT**

**INFORMATION CONCERNING VOTING AND SOLICITATION**

This Proxy Statement is being furnished to you in connection with the solicitation by the board of directors of ExlService Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation ( us, we, our or the Company ), of proxies to be used at our 2009 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held at The Inn at Middletown, 70 Main Street, Middletown, Connecticut 06457, at 2:00 PM, Eastern Time, on June 24, 2009, and any adjournments or postponements thereof. This Proxy Statement and the accompanying form of proxy card are being mailed to stockholders on or about May 21, 2009.

**Who Can Vote**

Only stockholders who owned shares of our common stock at the close of business on May 11, 2009, the record date for the Annual Meeting, can vote at the Annual Meeting. As of the close of business on April 29, 2009, we had 29,923,833 shares of common stock outstanding and entitled to vote. Each holder of common stock is entitled to one vote for each share held as of the record date for the Annual Meeting. There is no cumulative voting in the election of directors.

**How You Can Vote**

If your shares are registered directly in your name with Registrar and Transfer Company, our transfer agent (which means you are a stockholder of record ), you can vote your proxy by completing, signing, dating and returning the enclosed proxy card in the enclosed postage prepaid envelope. Please refer to the specific instructions set forth in the enclosed proxy card.

If you are the beneficial owner of shares held in the name of a brokerage, bank, trust or other nominee as a custodian (also referred to as shares held in street name ), your broker, bank, trustee or nominee will provide you with materials and instructions for voting your shares.

*Voting at the Annual Meeting.* Voting by mail will not limit your right to vote at the Annual Meeting if you decide to attend in person. Our board of directors recommends that you vote by mail as it is not practical for most stockholders to attend the Annual Meeting. If you are a stockholder of record, you may vote your shares in person at the Annual Meeting. If you hold your shares in street name, you must obtain a proxy from your broker, bank, trustee or nominee giving you the right to vote the shares at the Annual Meeting.

**Revocation of Proxies**

You can revoke your proxy at any time before it is exercised in any of the following ways:

by voting in person at the Annual Meeting;



by submitting written notice of revocation to the inspector of elections prior to the Annual Meeting; or

by submitting another properly executed proxy of a later date to the inspector of elections prior to the Annual Meeting.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Required Vote; Effect of Abstentions and Broker Non-Votes**

#### *Quorum*

A quorum, which is a majority of the issued and outstanding shares of our common stock as of May 11, 2009, must be present to hold the Annual Meeting. A quorum is calculated based on the number of shares represented by the stockholders attending the Annual Meeting in person and by their proxy holders. If you indicate an abstention as your voting preference for all matters to be acted upon at the Annual Meeting, your shares will be counted toward a quorum but they will not be voted on any matter.

#### *Proposal 1: Election of directors*

Directors are elected by the affirmative vote of a plurality of shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. You may cast your vote in favor of electing the nominees as directors, withhold your vote on one or more nominees or abstain from voting your shares. For purposes of the vote on Proposal 1, abstentions will have no effect on the results of the vote.

#### *Other Proposals*

The ratification of the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm and each other item to be acted upon at the Annual Meeting will require the affirmative vote of a majority of shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. You may cast your vote in favor of or against this proposal or you may abstain from voting your shares. For purposes of the vote on Proposal 2 or such other item to be acted upon at the Annual Meeting, abstentions will have the effect of a vote against this proposal.

If you submit your proxy, but do not mark your voting preference, the proxy holders will vote your shares **FOR** the election of the nominees for director and **FOR** the ratification of the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm.

### **Other Matters to be Acted upon at the Meeting**

Our board of directors presently is not aware of any matters, other than those specifically stated in the Notice of Annual Meeting, which are to be presented for action at the Annual Meeting. If any matter other than those described in this Proxy Statement is presented at the Annual Meeting on which a vote may properly be taken, the shares represented by proxies will be voted in accordance with the judgment of the person or persons voting those shares.

### **Adjournments and Postponements**

Any action on the items of business described above may be considered at the Annual Meeting at the time and on the date specified above or at any time and date to which the Annual Meeting may be properly adjourned or postponed.

### **Solicitation of Proxies**

We will pay the cost of printing and mailing proxy materials. Upon request, we will reimburse brokers, dealers, banks and trustees, or their nominees, for reasonable expenses incurred by them in forwarding proxy materials to beneficial owners of shares of our common stock.

### **Internet Availability of Proxy Materials**

Our notice of meeting, proxy statement and form of proxy card are available at our website at <http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=186954&p=proxy>.

**Table of Contents**

**Important**

**Please promptly vote and submit your proxy by completing, signing, dating and returning the enclosed proxy card in the postage prepaid envelope so that your shares can be voted at the Annual Meeting. This will not limit your right to attend or vote at the Annual Meeting.**

*All Annual Meeting attendees may be asked to present a valid, government issued photo identification (federal, state or local), such as a driver's license or passport, and proof of beneficial ownership if you hold your shares through a broker, bank, trust or other nominee, before entering the Annual Meeting. Attendees may be subject to security inspections. Video and audio recording devices and other electronic devices will not be permitted at the Annual Meeting.*

If you have any further questions about voting your shares or attending the Annual Meeting, please call our Investor Relations Department at (212) 277-7109.

**Table of Contents**

**OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Our board of directors currently consists of nine directors divided into three classes, with each director serving a three-year term and one class being elected at each year's annual meeting of stockholders. The current composition of our board of directors is as follows:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Class III Directors (term expiring in 2009): | Steven B. Gruber, our Lead Director                     |
|  | Dr. Mohanbir Sawhney                                    |
|  | Garen K. Staglin  |
| Class I Directors (term expiring in 2010):   | Edward V. Dardani                                       |
|  | Rohit Kapoor, our President and Chief Executive Officer |
|  | Kiran Karnik  |
| Class II Directors (term expiring in 2011):  | David B. Kelso  |
|  | Clyde W. Ostler   |
|  | Vikram Talwar, our Executive Chairman                   |

The election of our Class III directors will take place at the Annual Meeting. If elected, each of the Class III director nominees will serve on our board of directors until our annual meeting of stockholders in 2012 or until their successors are duly elected and qualified in accordance with our by-laws.

The following sets forth additional information regarding our directors.

*Vikram Talwar* Age: 59 co-founded ExlService.com, Inc., our predecessor ( EXL Inc. ), in April 1999 and has served as our Executive Chairman since May 2008. Mr. Talwar served as our Chief Executive Officer and Vice Chairman of our board of directors from November 2002 to April 2008 and as Chief Executive Officer of EXL Inc. since April 1999. Prior to founding EXL Inc., Mr. Talwar served in various capacities at Bank of America, including Country Manager in India and other Asian countries from 1970 to 1996, and served as Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Ernst & Young Consulting India from 1998 to 1999.

*Rohit Kapoor* Age: 44 co-founded EXL Inc. in April 1999 and has served as our President and Chief Executive Officer since May 2008 and as a director since November 2002. Mr. Kapoor served as our Chief Financial Officer from November 2002 until June 2005 and from August 2006 to March 2007, as our Chief Operating Officer from June 2007 until April 2008 and as President and Chief Financial Officer of EXL Inc. since August 2000. Prior to founding EXL Inc., Mr. Kapoor served as a business head of Deutsche Bank from July 1999 to July 2000. From 1991 to 2000, Mr. Kapoor served in various capacities at Bank of America in the United States and Asia, including India.

*Steven B. Gruber* Age: 51 has served as our Lead Director since May 2008 and served as our Chairman from November 2002 until April 2008. Since February 1999, Mr. Gruber has been a Managing Partner of Oak Hill Capital Management, Inc., the investment advisor to Oak Hill Capital Partners, L.P., one of our 5% stockholders. Since April 1990, Mr. Gruber has been a Managing Director of Oak Hill Partners, Inc. (including its predecessor entities) and the Manager of Acadia Partners, L.P. Additionally, since February 1994, he has been a Managing Partner of Insurance Partners Advisors L.P. Mr. Gruber serves on the board of directors of American Skiing Company.

*Edward V. Dardani* Age: 47 has served as a member of our board of directors since April 2005. Mr. Dardani is a Partner of Oak Hill Capital Partners, L.P., one of our 5% stockholders, which he joined in July 2002. Mr. Dardani is responsible for investments in business and financial services sectors. Mr. Dardani began his career at Merrill Lynch in their investment banking group. Mr. Dardani serves on the boards of directors of American Skiing Company, RSC Equipment Rental, Inc. The Jacobson Companies, and Southern Air, Inc.

*David B. Kelso* Age: 56 has served as a director since July 2006. Mr. Kelso most recently served as a senior advisor to Inductis, Inc. ( Inductis ) from June 2004 through June 2006. He served in the Office of the



**Table of Contents**

Chairman as Executive Vice President for Strategy and Finance for Aetna, Inc. from September 2001 through September 2003. Mr. Kelso served on the board of directors of Aetna Life Insurance Company from 2001 to 2003. In 2003, Mr. Kelso founded Kelso Advisory Services and serves as its Managing Director. Mr. Kelso serves on the boards of directors of Aspen Holdings, Ltd. and Assurant Inc.

*Clyde W. Ostler* Age: 62 has served as a member of our board of directors since December 2007. Mr. Ostler is currently Group Executive Vice President of the Wealth Management Group and Internet Services Group at Wells Fargo & Company, where he has been employed since 1971 in various management positions, including as General Auditor from 1983 to 1986 and Chief Financial Officer from 1986 to 1990.

*Dr. Mohanbir Sawhney* Age: 45 has served as a member of our board of directors since November 2005. Dr. Sawhney is a recognized author, scholar and consultant on marketing and e-business and has been the McCormick Tribune Professor of Technology and the Director of the Center for Research in Technology & Innovation at the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, since September 1993. Dr. Sawhney is also a Fellow of the World Economic Forum.

*Garen K. Staglin* Age: 64 has served as a member of our board of directors since June 2005. Mr. Staglin has over 35 years of experience in the financial services and technology industries. Mr. Staglin served on the board of directors of First Data Corporation, a credit card and financial services processing company, from 1992 to 2002 and was Chief Executive Officer of eONE Global LP, an emerging payments company, from 2001 to 2004. Mr. Staglin serves as a director on the boards of directors of Solera Holdings, Inc. and Bottomline Technologies, Inc. and several private companies. Mr. Staglin is a member of the Advisory Board of the Cambridge University Business School in the United Kingdom.

*Kiran Karnik* Age: 62 has served as a member of our board of directors since September 2008. From September 2001 through January 2008, Mr. Karnik served as President of NASSCOM, an Indian industry body representing companies in the information technology (IT) and IT-enabled services sectors. Prior to his tenure at NASSCOM, Mr. Karnik was the Managing Director at Discovery Networks in India. Earlier, Mr. Karnik was Founder-Director of the Consortium for Educational Communication. Mr. Karnik serves as a director on the board of directors of Satyam Computers Services Ltd.

There are no family relationships among any of our directors or executive officers.

## **Table of Contents**

### **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

#### **Director Independence**

Our board of directors has determined that all of the members on our board of directors other than Messrs. Talwar and Kapoor meet the independence requirements of the Nasdaq Stock Market and the federal securities laws.

#### **Meeting Attendance**

Our directors are expected to attend all board of directors meetings and meetings of committees on which they serve. Directors are also expected to spend sufficient time and meet as frequently as necessary to discharge their responsibilities properly. Our Chairman presides at all meetings of our board of directors. Overall, during 2008, our board of directors met eight times. Each member of our board of directors attended at least 75% of our board of directors meetings during the period in 2008 in which he served on our board of directors. It is our policy that all of our Directors should attend our Annual Meetings of Stockholders absent exceptional cause.

#### **Committees**

Our board of directors currently has three standing committees: the Audit Committee, the Nominating and Governance Committee and the Compensation Committee.

**Audit Committee.** Our Audit Committee oversees and assists our board of directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to:

our accounting and financial reporting processes, including the integrity of the financial statements and other financial information provided by us to our stockholders, the public, any stock exchange and others;

our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements;

our independent registered public accounting firm's qualifications and independence;

the audit of our financial statements; and

the performance of our internal audit function and independent registered public accounting firm.

Our Audit Committee has direct responsibility for the appointment, compensation, retention (including termination) and oversight of our independent registered public accounting firm, and our independent registered public accounting firm reports directly to our Audit Committee. Our Audit Committee also reviews and approves certain related-party transactions as required by the rules of the Nasdaq Stock Market. A copy of our Audit Committee charter can be found on our website at [www.exlservice.com](http://www.exlservice.com).

The members of our Audit Committee are appointed by our board of directors. All members of our Audit Committee must also be recommended by our Nominating and Governance Committee. Messrs. Kelso, Sawhney and Ostler are the current members of our Audit Committee. Mr. Kelso is the chairman of our Audit Committee. Messrs. Kelso and Ostler qualify as audit committee financial experts under the rules of the SEC implementing Section 407 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. Our board of directors has determined that Messrs. Kelso, Sawhney and Ostler meet the independence and the experience requirements for audit committee membership of the Nasdaq Stock Market and the federal securities laws. During 2008, our Audit Committee met nine times. Each member of our Audit Committee attended at least 75% of our Audit Committee's meetings in 2008.

**Nominating and Governance Committee.** Our Nominating and Governance Committee identifies individuals qualified to become members of our board of directors (consistent with criteria approved by our board of directors), selects, or recommends that our board of directors select, candidates for election to our board





**Table of Contents**

of directors, develops and recommends to our board of directors Corporate Governance Guidelines that are applicable to us and oversees board of director and management evaluations. A copy of our Nominating and Governance Committee charter can be found on our website at [www.exlservice.com](http://www.exlservice.com).

Our Nominating and Governance Committee has a policy, reflected in such committee's charter, of considering director candidates recommended by our stockholders. Candidate recommendations should be sent to our Nominating and Governance Committee, c/o ExlService Holdings, Inc., 350 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10022, Attention: Corporate Secretary. Our Nominating and Governance Committee evaluates all candidates in the same manner regardless of the source of the recommendation. Our Nominating and Governance Committee, in making its selection of director candidates, considers the appropriate skills and personal characteristics required in the light of the then-current makeup of our board of directors and in the context of our perceived needs at the time. The Nominating and Governance Committee considers a number of factors in selecting director candidates, including:

the ethical standards and integrity in personal and professional dealings of the candidate;

the independence of the candidate under legal, regulatory and other applicable standards;

the diversity of our existing board of directors, so that we maintain a body of directors from diverse professional and personal backgrounds;

whether the skills and experience of the candidate will complement that of our existing board of directors;

the number of other public company boards of directors on which the candidate serves or intends to serve, with the expectation that the candidate would not serve on the boards of directors of more than three other public companies;

the ability and willingness of the candidate to dedicate sufficient time, energy and attention to ensure the diligent performance of his or her board of directors' duties;

the ability of the candidate to read and understand fundamental financial statements and understand the use of financial ratios and information in evaluating our financial performance;

the willingness of the candidate to be accountable for his or her decisions as a director;

the ability of the candidate to provide wise and thoughtful counsel on a broad range of issues;

the ability and willingness of the candidate to interact with other directors in a manner that encourages responsible, open, challenging and inspired discussion;

whether the candidate has a history of achievements that reflects high standards;

## Edgar Filing: ExlService Holdings, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

the ability and willingness of the candidate to be committed to, and enthusiastic about, his or her performance for us as a director, both in absolute terms and relative to his or her peers;

whether the candidate possesses the courage to express views openly, even in the face of opposition;

the ability and willingness of the candidate to comply with the duties and responsibilities set forth in our Corporate Governance Guidelines and by-laws;

the ability and willingness of the candidate to comply with the duties of care, loyalty and confidentiality applicable to directors of publicly traded companies organized in our jurisdiction of incorporation;

the ability and willingness of the candidate to adhere to our Code of Conduct and Ethics, including, but not limited to, the policies on conflicts of interest expressed therein; and

such other attributes of the candidate and external factors as our board of directors deems appropriate.

## **Table of Contents**

Our Nominating and Governance Committee reviews written and oral information provided by and about candidates and considers any additional criteria it feels are appropriate to ensure that all director nominees possess appropriate skills and experience to serve as a member of our board of directors.

The members of our Nominating and Governance Committee are appointed by our board of directors. During 2008, our Nominating and Governance Committee met four times. Each member of our Nominating and Governance Committee attended at least 75% of our Audit Committee's meetings in 2008. Messrs. Dardani, Kelso, Sawhney and Staglin are the current members of our Nominating and Governance Committee. Mr. Staglin is the chairman of our Nominating and Governance Committee. Our board of directors has determined that Messrs. Dardani, Kelso, Sawhney and Staglin meet the independence requirements of the Nasdaq Stock Market and the federal securities laws.

**Compensation Committee.** Our Compensation Committee reviews and recommends policies relating to compensation and benefits of our directors, officers and employees and is responsible for approving the compensation of our Chief Executive Officer and other executive officers. Our Compensation Committee also reviews, evaluates and makes recommendations to our board of directors with respect to our incentive compensation plans and equity-based plans and administers the issuance of awards under our equity incentive plans. Our Compensation Committee charter permits the committee to form and delegate authority to subcommittees when appropriate; provided that the subcommittees are composed entirely of directors who satisfy the applicable independence requirements of the Nasdaq Stock Market. Any such subcommittee must have a published committee charter. Our Compensation Committee charter also permits the committee to retain advisors, consultants or other professionals to assist the Compensation Committee to evaluate director, Chief Executive Officer or other senior executive compensation and to carry out its duties. During 2008, our Compensation Committee did not retain any such advisors, consultants or other professionals. Our Compensation Committee's report included in this proxy statement is on page 24. Additional information regarding our Compensation Committee's processes and procedures for consideration for executive compensation are addressed in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis below. A copy of our Compensation Committee charter can be found on our website at [www.exlservice.com](http://www.exlservice.com).

The members of our Compensation Committee are appointed by our board of directors. All members of our Compensation Committee appointed after the formation of our Nominating and Governance Committee in September 2006 in connection with our initial public offering must also be recommended by our Nominating and Governance Committee. Messrs. Gruber, Ostler and Staglin are the current members of our Compensation Committee. Mr. Gruber is the chairman of our Compensation Committee. Our board of directors has determined that Messrs. Gruber, Ostler and Staglin meet the independence requirements of the Nasdaq Stock Market and the federal securities laws. During 2008, our Compensation Committee met seven times. Each member of our Compensation Committee attended at least 75% of our Compensation Committee meetings in 2008.

### **Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation**

Messrs. Gruber, Ostler and Staglin are the members of our Compensation Committee.

During 2008, none of our executive officers served as a member of the board of directors or compensation committee of any entity that has one or more executive officers who serve on our board of directors or Compensation Committee.

### **Code of Conduct and Ethics; Corporate Governance Guidelines**

In accordance with SEC rules, our board of directors has adopted a Code of Conduct and Ethics that is applicable to our directors, officers and employees and which outlines the high ethical standards that we support and details how our directors, officers and employees should conduct themselves when dealing with fellow employees, client, suppliers, competitors and the general public. A copy of our Code of Conduct and Ethics can be found on our website at [www.exlservice.com](http://www.exlservice.com).

## **Table of Contents**

Our board of directors has also adopted a set of Corporate Governance Guidelines to assist our board of directors in the exercise of its responsibilities. The Corporate Governance Guidelines reflect the commitment of our board of directors to monitor the effectiveness of policy and decision-making, both at the board and senior management levels, and to enhance stockholder value over the long term. A copy of our Corporate Governance Guidelines can be found on our website at [www.exlservice.com](http://www.exlservice.com).

### **Communications with the Board**

Stockholders interested in contacting our board of directors, our Chairman or any individual director are invited to do so by writing to:

Board of Directors of ExlService Holdings, Inc.

c/o Corporate Secretary

ExlService Holdings, Inc.

350 Park Avenue

New York, New York 10022

All other stockholder communications addressed to our board of directors will be referred to our Chairman and tracked by our Corporate Secretary. Stockholder communications specifically addressed to a particular director will be referred to that director.

Complaints and concerns relating to our accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters should be communicated to our Audit Committee, which consists solely of non-employee directors. Any such communication may be anonymous and may be reported to our Audit Committee through our General Counsel by writing to:

Audit Committee

ExlService Holdings, Inc.

350 Park Avenue

New York, New York 10022

Attn: General Counsel

All such concerns will be reviewed under Audit Committee direction and oversight by our General Counsel, our Head of Internal Audit or such other persons as our Audit Committee determines to be appropriate. Confidentiality will be maintained to the fullest extent possible, consistent with the need to conduct an adequate review. Prompt and appropriate corrective action will be taken when and as warranted in the judgment of our Audit Committee. We prepare a periodic summary report of all such communications for our Audit Committee.

### **Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance**

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires our executive officers and directors, and persons who own more than 10% of a registered class of our equity securities, to file reports of ownership on Forms 3, 4 and 5 with the SEC. Officers, directors and greater than 10% stockholders are required to furnish us with copies of all Forms 3, 4 and 5 they file.

Based solely on our review of the copies of such forms we have received, we believe that, except as set forth in the following sentence, all of our officers, directors and greater than 10% stockholders complied with all Section 16(a) filing requirements applicable to them with respect to transactions during fiscal year 2008. Messrs. Appel, Bagai, Nacha, Shashank and Talwar each filed one late report regarding one transaction each; and Mr. de Villa filed one late report regarding two transactions.



**Table of Contents****OUR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

The table below sets forth information regarding our executive officers.

| <b>Name</b>      | <b>Age</b> | <b>Position</b>  |
|------------------|------------|--|
| Vikram Talwar    | 59         | Executive Chairman of the Company                                      |
| Rohit Kapoor     | 44         | President, Chief Executive Officer and Director of the Company         |
| Matthew Appel    | 53         | Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Company              |
| Pavan Bagai      | 47         | Chief Operating Officer  |
| Amitabh Hajela   | 40         | Vice President and Global Head of Human Resources                      |
| Krishna Nacha    | 39         | Vice President and Chief Sales and Marketing Officer                   |
| Amit Shashank    | 39         | Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of the Company |
| Rembert de Villa | 52         | Vice President, Head of Transformation Services and Managing Principal |

Biographical information for Vikram Talwar and Rohit Kapoor can be found in Our Board of Directors above.

*Matthew Appel* Age: 53 has served as our Vice President since February 2007 and as our Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since March 30, 2007. Prior to joining us, Mr. Appel was Vice President, BPO Product Management from 2006 to 2007 and Vice President, Finance and Administration BPO from 2003 through 2005 at Electronic Data Systems Corporation. From 2001 to 2003, Mr. Appel was the Senior Vice President, Finance and Accounting BPO at Affiliated Computer Services, Inc.

*Pavan Bagai* Age: 47 has served as our Chief Operating Officer since May 2008 and served as Vice President, Head of Outsourcing Services of EXL India from June 2006 until April 2008. He previously served as Vice President, Research and Analytics of EXL India from December 2004 to May 2006, as Vice President, Operations of EXL India from November 2003 to November 2004 and as Vice President, Strategic Businesses of EXL India from July 2002 to November 2003. Prior to joining us, Mr. Bagai served in various capacities in several business areas at Bank of America beginning in 1985, including corporate banking, finance, capital markets and trading in various markets across Asia and Europe, including India.

*Amitabh Hajela* Age: 40 has served as our Vice President and Global Head of Human Resources since December 2007. Prior to joining us, Mr. Hajela served as Director for Global Talent Acquisition and Leadership Development at Celanese Corporation between February 2007 to October 2007, as Vice President and Business Leader for Strategic Initiatives and Projects at American Express from March 2005 to February 2007 and in several significant capacities with General Electric, both in the U.S. and India, from October 1998 to February 2005.

*Krishna Nacha* Age: 39 has served as our Vice President and Chief Sales and Marketing Officer since August 2007. Prior to joining us, Mr. Nacha served as Vice President/Regional Manager at iGate Global Solutions from January 2004 to August 2007 and as Global Sales Manager at Infosys Technologies Ltd. from September 1999 through December 2003.

*Amit Shashank* Age: 39 has served as our General Counsel and Vice President since June 2004. Mr. Shashank also serves as Corporate Secretary of the Company. Prior to joining us, Mr. Shashank was an attorney with the law firm of Shearman & Sterling LLP from January 1997 until June 2004.

**Table of Contents**

*Rembert de Villa* Age: 52 has served as our Vice President, Head of Transformation Services and Managing Principal since April 2008. Prior to joining us, Mr. de Villa served as the Managing Director and Global Practice Leader, Strategic Services at MasterCard Advisors from December 2005 through April 2008 and as Vice President and Financial Services Practice Leader for North America at Capgemini Ernst & Young from March 2003 to December 2005. Prior to this, he was a Partner at A.T. Kearney's Global Financial Institutions Group.

## Table of Contents

### EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

#### Compensation Discussion and Analysis

##### *Overview*

We believe that the long-term success of companies that provide outsourcing and transformation services globally and deliver high quality services to clients is linked closely with their ability to recruit, train, motivate and retain employees at every level. In addition, there is significant competitive pressure in our industry for qualified managers with a demonstrated track record of achievement and the potential for higher achievement. Accordingly, it is critical that we recruit, train, motivate and retain highly talented individuals at all levels of the organization that are committed to our core values of accountability, innovation, excellence, urgency, integrity and mutual respect. We believe that our executive compensation programs are integral to achieving this end.

Our Compensation Committee bases its executive compensation programs on the following objectives, which guide us in establishing all of our compensation programs:

*Compensation should be based upon performance.* Our programs should deliver top-tier compensation in return for top-tier individual and company performance; conversely, where individual performance and/or our performance falls short of expectations, the programs should deliver lower-tier compensation. In addition, the objectives of pay-for-performance and retention must be balanced. Even in periods of temporary downturns in our performance, the programs should continue to ensure that successful, high-achieving employees remain motivated and committed.

*Compensation should balance long-term focus that is linked with stockholder value and short-term financial objectives.* Consistent with this philosophy, equity-based compensation should be higher for persons with higher levels of responsibility and greater influence on longer-term results, thereby making a significant portion of their total compensation dependent on long-term stock appreciation. In addition, compensation should focus management on achieving short-term performance goals in a manner that supports and ensures long-term success and profitability.

*Compensation should be based on the level of job responsibility, individual performance and our performance.* As employees progress to higher levels in the organization, they are able to more directly affect our results and strategic initiatives, and therefore an increasing proportion of their pay should be linked to our performance and stockholder value.

*Compensation should reflect the value of the job in the marketplace.* We compete for talent globally. In order to attract and retain a highly skilled work force, we must remain competitive with the pay of other employers who compete with us for talent in the relevant markets.

*Compensation programs should be easy to understand.* We believe that all aspects of executive compensation should be clearly, comprehensibly and promptly disclosed to employees in order to effectively motivate them. Employees need to easily understand how their efforts can affect their pay, both directly through individual performance accomplishments and indirectly through contributing to our achievement of our strategic and operational goals. We also believe that compensation for our employees should be administered uniformly across the company and should be administered with clear-cut objectives and performance metrics to eliminate the potential for individual supervisor bias.

##### *Our Named Executive Officers*

Our named executive officers in 2008 were Vikram Talwar, our executive chairman, Rohit Kapoor, our president and chief executive officer, Matthew Appel, our chief financial officer, Amit Shashank, our general counsel, Rembert de Villa, vice president, head of transformation and managing principal, and Krishna Nacha, vice president and chief sales and marketing officer.





## **Table of Contents**

### *Key Compensation Actions for 2008*

In 2008, we set performance goals and granted bonus awards under our annual cash incentive bonus program. We granted stock options and restricted stock to named executive officers in 2008. In addition, in connection with the resignation of Matt Appel, our chief financial officer, we entered into a separation agreement.

### *Our Compensation Committee's Processes*

Our Compensation Committee has established a number of processes to assist it in ensuring that our executive compensation programs are achieving their objectives. Among those are the following:

*Assessment of Company Performance.* Our Compensation Committee uses financial performance measures to determine a significant portion of the size of payouts under our cash incentive bonus program. Our financial performance measures, chosen to focus employees on improving both top-line revenues and bottom-line earnings, are established by our Compensation Committee annually at the beginning of the year and are applied uniformly across the company. When we achieve the established financial measures that are set forth in our annual operating plan, our employees that are eligible for cash incentive bonuses receive amounts that are at target. The cash incentive bonus for senior executives that have responsibility for our business lines is also tied to the financial or other performance of the business lines headed by such executives. These measures reflect targets that are intended to be aggressive but attainable. The remainder of an individual's payout under our cash incentive bonus program is determined by individual performance.

*Assessment of Individual Performance.* Individual performance has a strong impact on the compensation of all employees, including Messrs. Talwar and Kapoor, our founder executive officers, and our other executive officers. The evaluation of an individual's performance determines a portion of the size of payouts under our cash incentive bonus program and also influences any changes in base salary. Early each year, our Nominating and Governance Committee meets separately by itself, with the Compensation Committee and with the founder executive officers to set their respective performance objectives for the year. The performance objectives are initially proposed by the founder executive officers and modified by the Nominating and Governance Committee based on the performance assessment conducted for the preceding year as well as for important priorities for the current year. Each agreed-upon objective is supplemented with key performance indicators. Our Nominating and Governance Committee's goal is to design key performance indicators that are objective and easily measurable. At the beginning of the following year, our Nominating and Governance Committee meets to conduct a performance review of our founder executive officers based primarily on their respective achievement of the agreed-upon objectives as well as the founder executive officers' contribution to our performance and other leadership accomplishments. This evaluation and a corresponding numerical performance rating is shared initially by our Nominating and Governance Committee with our Compensation Committee. After the discussion, our Compensation Committee translates the numerical performance rating into specific payouts under our cash incentive bonus program and shares the cash payout information with our founder executive officers and at the same time the Nominating and Governance Committee shares the performance assessment with our founder executive officers. Any changes in base salary are also affected by the Nominating and Governance Committee performance evaluation.

For our other named executive officers, our Compensation Committee receives a performance assessment and compensation recommendation from our founder executive officers. The performance assessments are based on self-evaluations by each of the direct reports of the founder executive officers, including the other named executive officers, and subsequent performance appraisals conducted by one or both founder executive officers in the presence of our Global Head of Human Resources. Our Compensation Committee reviews the performance assessments of these executives with and without our founder executive officers based on the achievement of established objectives by

**Table of Contents**

each executive officer and his or her organization, his or her contribution to our performance and other leadership accomplishments as well as on an evaluation of the executive officer's competence. In determining the numerical performance rating that translates into specific payouts under our cash incentive bonus program and also influences any changes in base salary, our Compensation Committee may also exercise its judgment based on the board's interactions with such executive officers.

*Benchmarking and Use of Compensation Consultant.* Our Compensation Committee reviews our executive compensation programs relative to publicly available compensation data compiled directly for our Compensation Committee by our Global Head of Human Resources for a group of companies that provide business and technology services. Our Global Head of Human Resources prepares the information for our Compensation Committee based on input from Equilar, Inc., a compensation data provider that we have engaged for the sole purpose of providing such data. At the time that compensation decisions were made for our U.S.-based executive officers in 2008, our Compensation Committee reviewed the publicly available information for companies that provided similar services and that had similar market capitalizations or annual revenues. In addition, they considered companies that were located in the most relevant geographic area for each executive officer. Different companies were considered for the compensation benchmark review of each executive officer. Where compensation information was not publicly disclosed for a specific management position for companies that provide business and technology services, our Compensation Committee reviewed data corresponding to the most comparable position and also considered the comparative experience of executives. The list of companies against which we benchmarked the compensation of our U.S.-based executive and other senior officers in 2008 included the following companies:

| <b>Comparable Market</b>                   |                                   |                             |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Similar Business</b>                    | <b>Capitalization or Revenues</b> | <b>Others</b>               |
| Cognizant Technology Solutions Corporation | eTelecare Global Solutions, Inc.  | Blackboard, Inc.            |
| Genpact Limited                            | iGate Corporation                 | Huron Consulting Group Inc. |
| Kanbay International, Inc.                 | LECG Corporation                  |                             |
| Sapient Corp.                              | PeopleSupport Inc.                |                             |
| Sykes Enterprises, Inc.                    | Syntel, Inc.                      |                             |
| Teletech Holdings, Inc.                    |                                   |                             |
| WNS (Holdings) Ltd.                        |                                   |                             |

Our Compensation Committee will review and revise as appropriate from time to time the list of companies with publicly available compensation information against whom we may benchmark our compensation programs, to ensure that such list includes those companies that are most comparable to us with regard to services provided and relevant geographic areas. For geographic areas where we are not able to obtain reliable publicly available compensation data for our executive officers because such information is not legally required to be disclosed, such as India, our Global Head of Human Resources uses data from a variety of private and informal sources, none of which are paid for providing such data.

Our Compensation Committee uses the data primarily to ensure that our executive compensation programs, including for executive officers are competitive. We incorporate flexibility into our compensation programs and in the assessment process to respond to and adjust for the evolving business environment. Accordingly, our Compensation Committee adjusts individual executive compensation elements based on changes in job responsibilities of the executive, the performance of the executive or the combination of qualifications and skills that an executive uses to enhance our

## Table of Contents

performance. Neither we nor our Compensation Committee has any contractual arrangement with any compensation consultant who has a role in determining or recommending the amount or form of director or executive officer compensation.

*Total Compensation Review.* Our Compensation Committee designs the categories and presentation of compensation information required to evaluate each executive's base pay, cash incentive bonus and equity incentives when changes in compensation are considered by our Compensation Committee and requests our Global Head of Human Resources to compile such information. Although many compensation decisions are made in the first quarter of the fiscal year, our compensation planning process neither begins nor ends with any particular Compensation Committee meeting. Compensation decisions are designed to promote our fundamental business objectives and strategy. Our Compensation Committee periodically reviews related matters such as succession planning, evaluation of management performance and consideration of the business environment and considers such matters in making compensation decisions.

Each named executive officer and our other executive officers is party to an employment agreement or letter that sets forth the terms of his or her employment, including compensation. The employment agreements for our founder executive officers, which were amended and restated in December 2008 to reflect the changes in the revised titles and responsibilities of Messrs. Talwar and Kapoor, have specified expiration terms. The employment letters for our other executive officers do not have specified expiration terms and are terminable by either the executive or us at will. If decisions are made by our Compensation Committee that materially change the terms of employment of an individual executive officer or modify existing compensation programs, we communicate the information to the concerned officer or company-wide, as the case may be.

### *Components of Executive Compensation for 2008*

For 2008, the compensation of executive officers consisted of the following five primary components:

base salaries or, in the case of our executive officers based in India, fixed compensation;

cash incentive bonuses;

equity incentives of stock options and/or restricted stock;

benefits and perquisites; and

severance benefits.

Our mix of compensation elements is designed to reward recent results, motivate long-term performance and encourage our executives to remain with us for longer terms through a combination of cash and equity incentive awards. Base salaries and cash incentive bonuses are designed to reward annual achievements and be commensurate with the executive's scope of responsibilities, demonstrated leadership abilities, and management experience and expertise. Our other elements of compensation focus on motivating and challenging the executive to achieve sustained and longer-term results. We generally do not adhere to rigid formulas or necessarily react to short-term changes in business performance in determining the amount and mix of compensation elements. However, we do rely on the formulaic achievement of established financial performance measures in connection with determining a significant portion of the cash incentive bonuses for our executive officers and other members of management. We believe the most important indicator of whether our compensation objectives are being met is our ability to motivate our executive officers to deliver superior performance and retain them to continue their careers with us on a cost-effective basis.

Our Compensation Committee believes that these programs balance both the mix of cash and equity compensation, the mix of currently-paid and longer-term compensation, and the security of comprehensive and severance benefits in a way that furthers the compensation objectives discussed above. The periodic review of each executive's base pay, cash incentive bonus and equity incentives by our Compensation Committee is



## Table of Contents

intended to maintain the appropriate balance for each executive officer based on their roles and responsibilities. With the exception of compensation elements that are linked to individual performance, our Compensation Committee believes that each of our founder executive officers should receive substantially equivalent compensation.

Following is a discussion of our Compensation Committee's considerations in establishing each of the compensation components for our executive officers.

### *Base Salary*

Base salary is a fixed element of employees' annual cash compensation, the payment of which is not tied to our performance. We provide the opportunity for each of our named executive officers and other executive officers to earn a competitive annual base salary. We provide this opportunity to attract and retain an appropriate caliber of talent for the position and to provide a base wage that is not subject to our performance risk. We review base salaries for our named executive officers annually in the first half of each year, and increases are based on our performance and the executives' individual performance. Base salary determinations reflect the individual's experience, knowledge, skill set and the market value of that skill set. In setting base salaries for 2008, our Compensation Committee considered the following factors:

*Individual performance.* As described above under "Our Compensation Committee's Processes," base salary increases take into account individual performance and competence assessments.

*Market data specific to the executive's position, where applicable.* As noted above, our Compensation Committee used certain geographical and market data to test for reasonableness and competitiveness of base salaries, but we also exercised subjective judgment based on the rapid growth of our industry and our view of our compensation objectives.

*Consideration of the mix of overall compensation.* Consistent with our compensation objectives, as employees progress to higher levels in the organization, a greater proportion of overall compensation is directly linked to our performance and stockholder value. Thus, for example, the founder executive officers' overall compensation is more heavily weighted toward equity compensation than that of the other executive officers.

Our founder executive officers entered into new employment agreements prior to our initial public offering in 2006 to more closely align the terms of such agreements with those of executives holding equivalent roles at other public companies, including periodic compensation adjustments and annual equity awards. At the time of the negotiation of the employment agreements with Messrs. Talwar and Kapoor in 2006, our Compensation Committee did not make any changes to their salary levels but increased the base pay for each of our founder executive officers to \$420,000 effective January 2007. In 2008, our founder executive officers did not receive an increase in base pay although their respective employment agreements were amended and restated in December 2008 in large part to update responsibilities, perquisite entitlements and to take into account tax code section 409A.

Mr. de Villa joined us in March 2008. Mr. de Villa's base salary was determined through an arm's-length negotiation during the hiring process and based upon his level of responsibility and our assessment of Mr. de Villa's experience, skills and knowledge and our general compensation guidelines.

In 2008, as a component of our focus on cost management and to promote retention of senior executives, we elected to provide an equity award of restricted stock to certain of our executive officers and other senior employees instead of any increases in base pay with a standard vesting schedule with 10% vesting on the first anniversary of the date of grant and an additional 20%, 30% and 40% vesting on each successive anniversary of that date. The amount of the equity award was determined based on the founder executive officer's evaluation of the executive officer's individual performance and was prorated based on the period of time in 2007 that the

**Table of Contents**

executive officer was employed by us. The founder executive officers made recommendations for the other named executives and our Compensation Committee reviewed similar considerations for such named executives.

With regard to Mr. Appel's performance, our Compensation Committee gave particular weight to Mr. Appel's role in strengthening the finance organization, leadership in achieving compliance with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and other individual contributions. In April 2008, our Compensation Committee awarded Mr. Appel 1,100 shares of restricted stock.

With regard to Mr. Shashank's performance, our Compensation Committee gave particular weight to Mr. Shashank's role in enhancing our compliance programs, improving productivity and controlling cost within the legal organization and enabling us to meet certain key business objectives for 2008. In April 2008, our Compensation Committee awarded Mr. Shashank 1,000 shares of restricted stock.

With regard to Mr. Nacha's performance, our Compensation Committee gave particular weight to Mr. Nacha's role in strengthening the sales and marketing department, enhancing the pipeline of prospective clients and other individual contributions. In April 2008, our Compensation Committee awarded Mr. Nacha 250 shares of restricted stock.

The following table sets forth the base salary earned during 2008 by each of our named executive officers.

| <b>Name</b>      | <b>Salary (\$)</b> |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Vikram Talwar    | 420,000            |
| Rohit Kapoor     | 420,000            |
| Matt Appel       | 375,000            |
| Amit Shashank    | 297,000            |
| Krishna Nacha    | 225,000            |
| Rembert de Villa | 249,263            |

*Cash Incentive Bonus*

We have established an annual cash incentive bonus program in order to align executive officers' and certain other employees' goals generally with our revenue and profitability objectives for the current year. A cash incentive bonus program was approved by our Compensation Committee in early 2008 with respect to the cash incentive bonuses to be paid in 2009 to all eligible employees worldwide. The aggregate amount of all cash bonuses paid for 2008 did not exceed the aggregate cash incentive bonus pool approved by our Compensation Committee in 2008. Under the plan, bonus target amounts, expressed as a percentage of base salary, are established for participants at the beginning of each year unless employment agreements contain different terms. Funding of possible bonus payouts for the year are determined by our financial results for the year relative to predetermined performance measures, and may be increased or decreased depending upon the executive's individual performance against his or her non-financial goals. When our performance falls short of target, our aggregate funding of the annual cash bonus incentive pool declines, with no funding of the bonus pool if we do not achieve at least 90% of each of our established financial performance objectives. At the end of the performance period, our Compensation Committee has discretion to adjust an award payout from the amount yielded by the formula. For 2008, our Compensation Committee did not adjust an award payout for any executive officer. Our Compensation Committee considered the following when establishing the awards for 2008:

*Bonus Targets.* Bonus targets were based on job responsibilities and comparable market data. Our objective was to set bonus targets such that total annual cash compensation was within the broad middle range of market data and a substantial portion of that compensation was linked to our performance. Consistent with our executive compensation policy, individuals with greater job

**Table of Contents**

responsibilities had a greater proportion of their total cash compensation tied to our performance through the bonus plan. Thus, our Compensation Committee established the following bonus targets for 2008 (expressed as a percentage of base salary as well as maximum bonus targets) for each named executive officer:

| <b>Name</b>      | <b>Bonus Target</b>  |
|------------------|--|
| Vikram Talwar    | 75% of base salary; maximum bonus of 150% of base salary   |
| Rohit Kapoor     | 75% of base salary; maximum bonus of 150% of base salary   |
| Matt Appel       | 50% of base salary; maximum bonus of 100% of base salary   |
| Amit Shashank    | 40% of base salary; maximum bonus of 80% of base salary  |
| Krishna Nacha    | 75% of base salary; maximum bonus of 150% of base salary   |
| Rembert de Villa | 70% of base salary; maximum bonus of 140% of base salary; in each case pro rated to April 15, 2008, Mr. de Villa's joining date. |

As employees progress to higher levels of management, they are able to more directly affect our results and strategic initiatives, and therefore an increasing proportion of their pay is linked to our financial performance. For 2008, the target bonus for each of our executive officers, except for Mr. Nacha, was 60% dependent on our financial performance and 40% dependent on individual performance. The cash incentive bonus for Mr. Nacha was 60% dependent on individual performance and 40% dependent on our financial performance.

*Our performance measures.* For all employees whose cash incentive bonus is linked to our financial performance, including our executive officers, our Compensation Committee established 2008 financial performance measures for us based on a weighting of 50% on revenues (target of \$205.0 million) and 50% on the profitability measure of earnings before interest and taxes adjusted to exclude the effect of expenses associated with stock compensation as well as the amortization of intangibles as well as foreign exchange gains or losses (Adjusted EBIT) (target of \$30.3 million). Our Compensation Committee also set forth the 2008 financial performance measures for our business lines in connection with determining the incentive bonus for employees, including senior executives, whose incentive bonuses are also tied partially to the financial performance of the relevant business lines.

*Changes to Bonus Pool.* For each performance criterion, the amount of bonus pool funding decreases by between 7% and 8%, for each 1% by which we miss our target (and if we do not attain at least 90% of the revenues target or the Adjusted EBIT target, then there will be no bonus pool funding in respect of that performance criteria). For each 1% by which we miss our revenues target (up to 90%), the bonus pool funding in respect of that criteria decreases by between 7% and 8%, and for each additional 1% by which we exceed our revenues target, the bonus pool funding in respect of that criteria increases by 13% (with a maximum of 200% funding for that criteria if we equal or exceed 107.5% of the revenues target). For each 1% by which we miss our Adjusted EBIT target (up to 90%), the bonus pool funding in respect of that criteria decreases by between 7% and 8%, and for each additional 1% by which we exceed our Adjusted EBIT target, the bonus pool funding in respect of that criteria increases on an increasing scale of 5% to 9% (with a maximum of 200% funding for that criteria if we equal or exceed 115% of the gross revenue target). With respect to Mr. de Villa, the 60% financial component is separated into two parts: 30% based on our financial performance against the targets as described above, and 30% based on the financial performance of our research and analytics and advisory services business lines and measured in equal parts based on the revenues target of \$22 million and \$16 million for the research and analytics and advisory services business lines, respectively, and gross margin percentage targets of 37% and 38% for the research and analytics and advisory services business lines, respectively.



---

## Table of Contents

Our Compensation Committee believes that this mix of performance measures encourages employees to focus appropriately on improving both top-line revenues and bottom-line earnings. The measures are also effective motivators because they are easy to track and clearly understood by employees. In 2008, payouts could have ranged from zero to 200% of target depending on our performance. Our Compensation Committee established the financial performance measures (that is, the thresholds at which the payouts would be percentage for our business lines) for both revenues and Adjusted EBIT (and revenues and gross margin percentage for the research and analytics and advisory services business lines) by applying the principles described above under Our Compensation Committee's Processes.

*Individual performance measures.* These goals are designed to balance the attention of our named executive officers between the achievement of near term objectives that improve specific processes or performance metrics and somewhat longer term objectives for us. While some of the goals are subjective, certain other goals are capable of objective measurement such as client and employee satisfaction measures. For example, for Mr. Nacha, a number of the individual performance measures, which accounted for the 60% of target bonus dependent on individual performance, are based on sales goals for each business line as well as the robustness of the pipeline of prospective clients. In 2008, payouts could have ranged from zero to 200% of target depending on individual performance as described above under Our Compensation Committee's Processes.

In establishing each of Mr. Talwar's and Kapoor's cash incentive bonus for 2008, our Compensation Committee applied the principles described above under Our Compensation Committee's Processes. Our Nominating and Governance Committee assessed each of our founder executive officer's performance for 2008. They considered each founder executive officer's accomplishment of objectives that had been established at the beginning of the year and the Nominating and Governance Committee's own assessment of their performance, including against the pre-established goals. They noted that under the leadership of our founder executive officers, in 2008, we achieved revenues of \$198.3 million and Adjusted EBIT of \$20.2 million. As a result of our not achieving the predetermined Adjusted EBIT target, that portion of the bonus pool funding in respect of Adjusted EBIT was reduced to \$0, while 78% of the bonus pool was funded for achievement of 97% of the predetermined revenues target. In awarding cash incentive bonuses of \$237,510 and \$244,125 to Mr. Talwar and Mr. Kapoor, respectively, each of which was less than the target bonus of \$315,000 for each of Mr. Talwar and Mr. Kapoor, our Compensation Committee also noted that our financial performance was commendable in light of the challenging macroeconomic environment, robust operations performance and strengthened client relationships, and reflected Mr. Talwar's and Kapoor's performance relating to their significant individual performance goals, which encompassed the CEO succession planning and transition process, development of operations and other organization capabilities and development and strengthening of the business development team, and in the case of Mr. Kapoor, our achievement of key operating objectives.

Our founder executive officers made recommendations for our other named executive officers employed by us at the end of 2008 and our Compensation Committee approved the recommendations after reviewing similar considerations for such named executive officers.

On October 14, 2008, we announced that Mr. Appel would resign effective March 16, 2009, which resignation date was subsequently extended to May 15, 2009. In connection with his resignation, Mr. Appel entered into a separation agreement with us which entitled him to a maximum bonus of \$175,000 if Mr. Appel satisfied certain personal performance goals during his tenure with us in addition to assisting in a timely filing of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2008. As a result of Mr. Appel's achievement of his personal performance goals, Mr. Appel was paid a bonus of \$175,000.

Our Compensation Committee awarded Mr. Shashank a cash incentive bonus of \$89,575, which was less than the target bonus of \$118,800. Our Compensation Committee recognized and gave additional weight to Mr. Shashank's individual performance goal achievements, including Mr. Shashank's role in enhancing our compliance programs, improving productivity and controlling cost within the legal organization, contributing to

**Table of Contents**

the executive leadership team's strategic planning process, effectively engaging with and supporting the Board and enabling us to meet certain key business objectives for 2008.

Our Compensation Committee awarded Mr. Nacha a cash incentive bonus of \$157,950, which was less than his target bonus of \$168,750. They noted that the new client revenues generated by the sales and marketing department under Mr. Nacha's leadership grew significantly over the preceding year. Our Compensation Committee recognized and gave additional weight to Mr. Nacha's individual performance goal achievements, including Mr. Nacha's role in strengthening the sales and marketing department, enhancing the pipeline of prospective clients and other individual contributions.

Our Compensation Committee awarded Mr. de Villa a cash incentive bonus of \$194,606, which reflected the number of days that Mr. de Villa was employed with us during 2008, and which was in excess of his target bonus of \$174,484 for such period. They noted that, for purposes of calculating Mr. de Villa's bonus, the research and analytics business line achieved a gross margin percentage in excess of the target and the advisory service business line achieved revenues in excess of the target. Our Compensation Committee recognized and gave additional weight to Mr. de Villa's individual performance goal achievements, including leadership of the transformation business and the superior business and financial performance of the transformation business as well as the integration of the various businesses comprising the transformation business (including the research and analytics and advisory services business lines).

Bonuses were paid to our named executive officers in March 2009.

The following table sets forth the bonus paid to each of our named executive officers.

| <b>Name</b>      | <b>Bonus (\$)</b> |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Vikram Talwar    | 237,510           |
| Rohit Kapoor     | 244,125           |
| Matt Appel       | 175,000           |
| Amit Shashank    | 89,575            |
| Krishna Nacha    | 157,950           |
| Rembert de Villa | 194,606           |

*Equity Incentives*

We provide the opportunity for our named executive officers and other executives to earn a long-term equity incentive award. Long-term incentive awards provide employees with the incentive to stay with us for longer periods of time, which in turn, provides us with greater stability as we grow. These incentives foster the long-term perspective necessary for continued success in our business because the value of the awards is directly linked to long-term stock price performance and also ensure that our executive officers are properly focused on stockholder value. We review long-term equity incentives for our named executive officers and other executives periodically and generally make grants to executives, including our executive officers, for whom grants are recommended by our former executive officers, at one or more pre-scheduled meetings of our Compensation Committee in March or April.

Prior to our initial public offering, our stock option program was based on grants that were individually negotiated in connection with employment agreements and other grants to our executives. In 2008, we employed two forms of equity incentives to executive officers granted under our 2006 Omnibus Award Plan, which we refer to as the 2006 Plan: stock options and restricted stock. On January 29, 2009, our shareholders approved an amendment to our 2006 Plan increasing the overall share pool to 7,729,238 shares by adding 4,000,000 shares. We increased the share pool to make sure we would have enough shares for awards under the 2006 Plan in coming years.

---

**Table of Contents**
***Equity Incentives Stock Options***

Stock options align employee incentives with stockholders because options have value only if the stock price increases over time. In this sense, stock options are a motivational tool. Our ten-year options under our 2006 Plan are granted at the average of the high and low price on the trading day immediately prior to the date of grant. Stock options granted under our 2006 Plan generally vest over a four year period with 10% vesting on the first anniversary of the date of grant, an additional 20% vesting on the second anniversary of the grant date, an additional 30% vesting on the third anniversary of the grant date and the remaining 40% vesting on the fourth anniversary of the grant date. Our Compensation Committee has, on occasion, altered the vesting cycle based on unique circumstances associated with a particular grant. For example, such occasions have arisen where there has been a delay in the finalization of an employee's employment agreement or where we determined that it was appropriate to credit an employee for service performed by such executive prior to our Compensation Committee's approval of such grant. The four year vesting period helps focus employees on long-term growth and helps to retain key employees. Our 2006 Plan prohibits the repricing of stock options under our 2006 Plan without the approval of our stockholders.

Our Compensation Committee considered the following when making 2008 option grants to all employee recipients, including our executive officers:

*Grant size.* In determining the number of options to be granted to senior executive officers, our Compensation Committee took into account the individual's position, scope of responsibility, ability to affect profits and stockholder value, the individual's historic and recent performance, the value of stock options in relation to other elements of total compensation and total compensation amounts paid by peer group companies.

*Grant Timing and Price.* Our Compensation Committee's procedure for the timing of equity grants (stock options, restricted stock or any other form of equity award permitted under our 2006 Plan) ensures that grant timing is not being manipulated to result in a price that is favorable to employees. The annual equity grant date for all eligible employees, including executive officers, is generally in March or April (depending on when our Compensation Committee holds its pre-scheduled meeting or meetings discussed above). The grant date timing coincides with our calendar-year-based performance management cycle, allowing supervisors to deliver the equity awards close in time to certain aspects of individual performance appraisals, which increases the impact of the awards by strengthening the link between pay and performance. However, some exceptions to the annual grant date are expected. Equity incentive grants for Messrs. Talwar and Kapoor are generally considered in January of each year. Other exceptions to the annual equity grant date occur periodically for matters such as new hires of executive officers (including Mr. de Villa in 2008). The primary annual grant date is established by our Compensation Committee well in advance typically in the calendar year prior to our Compensation Committee meeting and on the same date as the meetings of our board of directors and other committees. Scheduling decisions of our Compensation Committee meetings are made without regard to our anticipated earnings or other major announcements.

Our Compensation Committee granted each founder executive officer a stock option grant of 150,000 shares of our common stock with a per-share exercise price of \$16.96, 25% of which vested on January 23, 2009 and the remainder of which will vest in additional 25% increments on each of January 23, 2010, January 23, 2011, and January 23, 2012.

Grants for new hires are generally made at the next scheduled Compensation Committee meeting after the joining date of such hire. In connection with the entry into our employment agreement with Mr. de Villa in March 2008, we granted Mr. de Villa a stock option grant of 40,000 shares of our common stock, with a per-share exercise price of \$23.82. Mr. de Villa's stock option grant in 2008 vests over a four-year period with 10% vesting on the first anniversary of the date of grant, which was Mr. de Villa's joining date, an additional 20% vesting on the second anniversary of the date of grant, an additional 30% vesting on the third anniversary of

**Table of Contents**

the date of grant and the remaining 40% vesting on the fourth anniversary of the date of grant, subject generally to continued employment through each such vesting date.

**Equity Incentives Restricted Stock**

Restricted stock awards offer executives the opportunity to receive shares of our common stock on the date that the restriction lapses and serve both to reward and retain executives since the value of the restricted stock awards is linked to the price of our stock on the date that the restriction lapses. In addition, restricted stock awards are potentially less dilutive to stockholders equity since restricted stock awards are full value awards and our Compensation Committee can award fewer restricted stock awards than an equivalent value of stock options. As with stock options, restricted stock awards provide a significant degree of alignment of interests between our executive officers and stockholders. Restricted stock awards have only been issued under our 2006 Plan.

Grant values for individuals were determined based on individual performance and comparable market data. Consistent with our compensation philosophy, individuals at higher levels received a greater proportion of their total pay in the form of equity.

At its regularly scheduled meeting in April 2008 at which equity awards are traditionally considered, our Compensation Committee approved equity awards to the executives for whom grants are recommended by our founder executive officers. In April 2008, our Compensation Committee approved a grant of 6,000 shares of restricted stock to Mr. Appel, 7,500 shares of restricted stock to Mr. Shashank and 2,000 shares of restricted stock to Mr. Nacha. Each of the restricted stock awards to Messrs. Appel, Shashank and Nacha vest over a four-year period with 10% vesting on the first anniversary of the date of grant and an additional 20%, 30% and 40% vesting on each successive anniversary of that date. These awards were in addition to the awards made to Messrs. Appel, Shashank and Nacha instead of any increases in base pay as described above under Components of Executive Compensation for 2008 Base Salary.

In connection with the entry into our employment agreement with Mr. de Villa in March 2008, we granted Mr. de Villa 4,000 restricted shares of our common stock, that vest over a four-year period with 10% vesting on the first anniversary of the date of grant, which was Mr. de Villa's joining date, an additional 20% vesting on the second anniversary of the date of grant, an additional 30% vesting on the third anniversary of the date of grant and the remaining 40% vesting on the fourth anniversary of the date of grant, subject generally to continued employment through each such vesting date.

The following table sets forth the number of shares of restricted stock and stock options granted to each of our named executive officers in 2008.

| Name             | Restricted Stock (#) | Stock Options (#) |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Vikram Talwar    |                      | 150,000           |
| Rohit Kapoor     |                      | 150,000           |
| Matt Appel       | 7,100                |                   |
| Amit Shashank    | 8,500                |                   |
| Krishna Nacha    | 2,250                |                   |
| Rembert de Villa | 4,000                | 40,000            |

**Benefits and Perquisites**

We offer employee benefits coverage in order to:

provide our global work force with a reasonable level of financial support in the event of illness or injury, and

enhance productivity and job satisfaction through programs that focus on work/life balance.

## **Table of Contents**

The benefits available for all U.S. employees and executive officers include customary medical and dental coverage, disability insurance and life insurance. In addition, our 401(k) Plan provides a reasonable level of retirement income reflecting employees' careers with us. A number of our U.S. employees, including executive officers, participate in these plans.

The cost of employee benefits is partially borne by our employees, including our executive officers.

We do not provide significant perquisites or personal benefits to executive officers other than our founder executive officers. Each founder executive officer is provided a limited number of perquisites whose primary purpose is to minimize distractions from his attention to our important initiatives and to be competitive. A discussion of the benefits provided to the founder executive officers is provided under *Employment Agreements* below.

### *Severance Benefits*

We are obligated to pay severance or other enhanced benefits to our named executive officers upon termination of their employment under the terms of their respective employment agreements that were negotiated through arms-length contract negotiations. A discussion of the severance and other enhanced benefits provided to our named executive officers currently employed by us is provided under *Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control* below.

We have provided change in control severance protection for certain of our executive officers, including our named executive officers. Our Compensation Committee believes that such protection is intended to preserve employee morale and productivity and encourage retention in the face of the disruptive impact of an actual or rumored change in control. In addition, for executive officers, the program is intended to align executive officers' and stockholder interests by enabling executive officers to consider corporate transactions that are in the best interests of our stockholders and other constituents without undue concern over whether the transactions may jeopardize the executive officers' own employment.

Senior executive officers, including our named executive officers, have enhanced levels of benefits based on their job level, seniority and probable loss of employment after a change in control. We also consider it likely that it will take more time for senior executive officers to find new employment. Therefore senior executive officers generally are paid severance for a longer period:

*Accelerated vesting of equity awards.* All executive officers receive an advancement of vesting by one year of all unvested equity awards at the time of termination of employment.

*Covered terminations.* Eligible executive officers are eligible for payments if, within one year of the change in control, their employment is terminated (i) without cause by us or (ii) for good reason by the executive officer.

*Severance payment.* Eligible terminated executive officers receive severance payments reflecting the expected duration for such executive officers to find new employment.

*Benefit continuation.* Eligible terminated executive officers receive basic employee benefits such as health and life insurance for up to eighteen months following termination of employment.

### *Deductibility Cap on Executive Compensation*

U.S. federal income tax law prohibits us from taking a tax deduction for certain compensation paid in excess of \$1,000,000 to our named executive officers. However, performance-based compensation, as defined in the tax law, is fully deductible if the programs are approved by stockholders and meet other requirements. Our policy is to qualify our incentive compensation programs for full corporate deductibility to the extent feasible and consistent with our overall compensation goals as reflected in the summary compensation table below.

**Table of Contents**

We have taken steps to qualify stock options and performance awards under the 2006 Plan for full deductibility as performance-based compensation. Our Compensation Committee may make payments that are not fully deductible if, in its judgment, such payments are necessary to achieve our compensation objectives and to protect stockholder interests.

**Compensation Committee Report**

The Compensation Committee of the board of directors of ExlService Holdings, Inc. has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis with our management and, based on such review and discussion, has recommended to the board of directors of ExlService Holdings, Inc. that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K and our proxy statement relating to our 2009 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

## COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Steven B. Gruber (Chairman)  
Mr. Garen K. Staglin  
Mr. Clyde W. Ostler

**Summary Compensation Table for Fiscal Year 2008**

The following table sets forth information for compensation earned in fiscal years 2006, 2007 and 2008 by our named executive officers.

| Name             | Principal Position  | Year | Salary  | Bonus      | Stock Awards | Option Awards | Non-equity incentive plan compensation | Change in Pension value and non-qualified deferred compensation earning | All other compensation | Total     |
|------------------|---|------|---------|------------|--------------|---------------|--|---|------------------------|-----------|
|                  |   |      | (\$)    | (\$)       | (\$)(1)      | (\$)(2)       | (\$)(3)                                | (\$)  | (\$)                   | (\$)      |
| (a)              | (b)   | (c)  | (d)     | (e)        | (f)          | (g)           | (h)                                    | (i)   | (j)                    |           |
| Vikram Talwar(4) |   | 2008 | 420,000 |            | 630,017      | 256,552       | 237,510                                |   | 132,075(5)             | 1,676,154 |
|                  | <i>Executive Chairman</i>   | 2007 | 416,667 |            | 598,207      |               | 306,369                                |   | 235,762                | 1,557,005 |
|                  |   | 2006 | 400,000 |            | 208,566      |               | 490,000                                |   | 153,596                | 1,252,162 |
| Rohit Kapoor(6)  |   | 2008 | 420,000 |            | 445,171      | 441,947       | 244,125                                |   | 157,317(7)             | 1,708,560 |
|                  | <i>President and Chief Executive Officer</i>                                  | 2007 | 416,667 |            | 413,547      | 185,200       | 306,369                                |   | 76,232                 | 1,398,015 |
|                  |   | 2006 | 400,000 |            |              | 209,195       | 490,000                                |   | 87,793                 | 1,186,988 |
| Matthew Appel(8) |   | 2008 | 375,000 | 175,000(9) | 131,710      | 326,534       |  |   | 12,983                 | 1,021,227 |
|                  | <i>Chief Financial Officer</i>  | 2007 | 312,500 |            | 86,031       | 273,896       | 216,375                                |   | 78,044                 | 966,846   |
| Amit Shashank    |   | 2008 | 297,000 |            | 118,912      | 122,259       | 89,575                                 |   | 16,614                 | 644,360   |
|                  | <i>General Counsel</i>  | 2007 | 290,625 |            | 108,990      | 154,108       | 130,449                                |   | 13,334                 | 697,506   |
|                  |   | 2006 | 256,000 |            | 34,338       | 181,221       | 99,523                                 |   | 184,003                | 755,085   |
| Rembert de Villa |   | 2008 | 249,263 |            | 16,442       | 48,267        | 194,606                                |   | 2,184                  | 510,762   |
|                  | <i>Vice President, Head of Transformation Services and Managing Principal</i> |      |         |            |              |               |  |   |                        |           |

Edgar Filing: ExlService Holdings, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

|  |      |         |       |         |         |       |         |
|--|------|---------|-------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| Krishna Nacha<br><i>Vice President and Chief Sales and Marketing Officer</i> | 2008 | 225,000 | 9,249 | 151,072 | 157,950 | 7,894 | 551,165 |
|--|------|---------|-------|---------|---------|-------|---------|

---

**Table of Contents**

- (1) The amounts in column (e) reflect the dollar amount of awards recognized for financial statement reporting purposes for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, in accordance with FAS 123(R) (disregarding any forfeiture assumptions). Assumptions used in the calculation of these amounts are included (i) for 2008, in footnotes 2 and 11 to our audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008 included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 16, 2009; (ii) for 2007, in footnotes 2 and 13 to our audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007 included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 17, 2008; and (iii) for 2006, in footnotes 2 and 13 to our audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006 included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 30, 2007.
- (2) The amounts in column (f) reflect the dollar amount of awards recognized for financial statement reporting purposes for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, in accordance with FAS 123(R) (disregarding any forfeiture assumptions). Assumptions used in the calculation of this amount are included (i) for 2008, in footnotes 2 and 11 to our audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008 included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 16, 2009; (ii) for 2007, in footnotes 2 and 13 to our audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007 included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 17, 2008; and (iii) for 2006, in footnotes 2 and 13 to our audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006 included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 30, 2007.
- (3) The amounts in column (g) reflect cash bonuses earned. For details of our cash bonus program, see Compensation Discussion and Analysis Cash Incentive Bonus on page 17.
- (4) Mr. Talwar served as our Chief Executive Officer until May 1, 2008.
- (5) The amount shown in column (i) for Vikram Talwar includes \$37,766 for business class airfare between India and the United States for Mr. Talwar and his family and \$28,596 in travel allowance for Mr. Talwar's spouse. Other items include car payments and related insurance and fuel and toll expenses in the United States, associated automobile insurance, driver's wages and fuel charges for an automobile in India, employer contributions to our 401(k) plan and payments toward personal security protection in India, life insurance premiums, medical insurance premiums, payments towards expenses while traveling outside of India for work, and payment of a club membership.
- (6) Rohit Kapoor served as our President and Chief Operating Officer through April 30, 2008 and became our Chief Executive Officer and President on May 1, 2008.
- (7) The amount shown in column (i) for Rohit Kapoor includes \$26,670 for business class airfare between India and the United States for Mr. Kapoor and his family and \$82,638 for an automobile in India. Other items include car payments and related insurance, fuel, toll and repair expenses in the United States, employer contributions to our 401(k) plan, life insurance premiums, medical insurance premiums, automobile parking expenses, expenses while traveling out of the United States for work, personal security protection in India and home internet costs.
- (8) Matthew Appel became our Chief Financial Officer on March 31, 2007.
- (9) Reflects a cash incentive bonus in respect of Mr. Appel's achievement of his personal performance goals, as discussed on page 19.



**Table of Contents****Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table for Fiscal Year 2008**

The following table sets forth information concerning grants of stock and option awards and non-equity incentive plan awards granted to our named executive officers during fiscal year 2008:

| Name             | Grant Date | Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards(1) |            |            | All other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock or Units | All other Option Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Option | Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards | Closing Market Price on Date of Grant | Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards |
|------------------|------------|--|------------|------------|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|
|                  |            | Thres-hold   | Target     | Maxi-mum   |  |   |   |                                       |  |
| (a)              | (b)        | (\$)(c)  | (\$)(d)    | (\$)(e)    | (#)(2)(i)  | (#)(2)(j)   | (\$/Sh)(3)(k)                           | (\$)(l)                               | (\$)(l)  |
| Vikram Talwar    | 1/23/08    |  | 315,000    | 630,000    |  | 150,000   | 16.96                                   | 19.11                                 | 1,090,345  |
| Rohit Kapoor     | 1/23/08    |  | 315,000    | 630,000    |  | 150,000   | 16.96                                   | 19.11                                 | 1,090,345  |
| Matthew Appel    | 4/24/08    |  | 187,500(4) | 375,000(4) | 7,100  |   |   |                                       | 169,087  |
| Amit Shashank    | 4/24/08    |  | 118,800    | 237,600    | 8,500  |   |   |                                       | 202,428  |
| Rembert de Villa | 4/24/08    |  | 174,484    | 348,968    | 4,000  | 40,000  | 23.82                                   | 24.60                                 | 279,641  |
| Krishna Nacha    | 4/24/08    |  | 168,750    | 337,500    | 2,250  |   |   |                                       | 95,260   |
|                  |            |  |            |            |  |   |   |                                       | 53,584   |

(1) These amounts reflect the target and maximum cash bonuses set for 2008. For details of our cash bonus program, see Compensation Discussion and Analysis Cash Incentive Bonus on page 17.

(2) The vesting schedules of the grants mentioned in the table are as follows (and assume continued employment through each applicable vesting date):

| Name             | Grant Date | Vesting start date | Vesting schedule                             |
|------------------|------------|--------------------|--|
| Vikram Talwar    | 1/23/08    | 1/23/09            | Vesting over 4 years - 25% each year         |
| Rohit Kapoor     | 1/23/08    | 1/23/09            | Vesting over 4 years - 25% each year         |
| Matthew Appel    | 4/24/08    | 4/24/09            | Vesting over 4 years - 10%, 20%, 30% and 40% |
| Amit Shashank    | 4/24/08    | 4/24/09            | Vesting over 4 years - 10%, 20%, 30% and 40% |
| Rembert de Villa | 4/24/08    | 4/24/09            | Vesting over 4 years - 10%, 20%, 30% and 40% |
| Krishna Nacha    | 4/24/08    | 4/24/09            | Vesting over 4 years - 10%, 20%, 30% and 40% |

(3) The exercise price of Messrs. Talwar's, Kapoor's and de Villa's options were set equal to the average of the high and low sales prices of our common stock on the day before the date of grant.

(4) In connection with Mr. Appel's resignation, no bonus will be paid to Mr. Appel under our cash bonus program. Instead, Mr. Appel earned a separate bonus discussed in footnote 9 to the Summary Compensation Table.



## **Table of Contents**

### **Employment Agreements**

#### *Vikram Talwar and Rohit Kapoor*

We entered into employment agreements with Messrs. Talwar and Kapoor, effective September 30, 2006, as amended and restated on December 16, 2008. Mr. Talwar serves as our Executive Chairman, served as our Chief Executive Officer and Vice Chairman between November 2002 and May 2008 and is based at our executive offices in India. Mr. Kapoor serves as our President and Chief Executive Officer, served as our Chief Financial Officer between August 2006 and March 30, 2007 and for certain periods prior to such dates and is based at our executive offices in New York, New York. Each agreement lasts until December 31, 2009 and will automatically extend for successive 12 month periods unless either party provides the other with 120 days notice of its desire not to extend the agreement.

*Salary and Bonus.* Messrs. Talwar and Kapoor each receive an annual base salary of \$420,000. This base salary can be increased at our sole discretion and cannot be decreased unless a company-wide decrease in pay is implemented. Messrs. Talwar and Kapoor can each earn an annual cash bonus, with a target of 75% of base salary and a maximum of 150% of base salary, based upon the attainment of criteria determined by the Compensation Committee.

Messrs. Talwar and Kapoor are eligible to receive stock options and/or restricted stock awards annually during the term, in amounts and forms we determine. Any stock options will be granted with an exercise price equal to the fair market value of our common stock at the time of grant. Any future stock option or restricted stock awards will vest 25% per year over four years.

*Benefits.* Messrs. Talwar and Kapoor can participate in all the benefit plans we provide to senior executives and employees generally.

If we require either Mr. Talwar or Mr. Kapoor to relocate, we will pay the relocation costs. We will reimburse the executive for the after-tax cost of maintaining his existing home. He will need to use his best efforts to mitigate our cost by either renting or selling his home.

*Personal Benefits.* We provide Messrs. Talwar and Kapoor with certain personal benefits, including:

expenses associated with maintaining an automobile in the United States (including up to \$1,200 per month for lease or loan payments);

four weeks paid vacation each year;

up to \$12,000 for personal tax and estate planning expenses during the term of the agreement;

certain club memberships up to \$3,500 per year;

reimbursement of additional taxes the executive must pay because he either works or lives in India or travels to India for work;

furniture and equipment for a home office;

once-a-year business class airfare between the United States and India (or India and the United States, as applicable) for the executive and his family;

## Edgar Filing: ExlService Holdings, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

education allowance for private school tuition for executive's children through secondary school during the period when the executive and his immediate family live outside the United States in connection with company business; and

term life insurance policy with a face value of \$500,000.

**Table of Contents**

*Personal Benefits for Mr. Talwar.* The benefits Mr. Talwar will receive which Mr. Kapoor will not receive include the following:

certain expenses associated with maintaining an automobile in India (including the cost of a driver);

personal security for the executive and his family; and

\$150 per diem billeting allowance for each night that the executive does not stay in a hotel during travel to the United States on company business, thereby saving us from incurring boarding and lodging expenses, while living outside the United States.

*Personal Benefits for Mr. Kapoor.* The benefits Mr. Kapoor will receive which Mr. Talwar will not receive include the following:

up to \$12,000 for expenses associated with maintaining an automobile in India (including the cost of a driver);

personal security for the executive and his family while in India; and

\$150 per diem billeting allowance for each night that the executive does not stay in a hotel during travel to India on company business, thereby saving us from incurring boarding and lodging expenses, while domiciled in the United States.

*Matthew Appel*

Our current employment agreement with Mr. Appel became effective on February 28, 2007, and he began serving as our Chief Financial Officer on March 31, 2007. Mr. Appel receives an annual base salary of \$375,000 and is eligible to receive an annual bonus with a target of 50% of his base salary in effect, subject to any Company policies in effect from time to time which pertain to or limit compensation generally. The bonus amount may exceed 50% of Mr. Appel's base salary if and to the extent the targets are exceeded. Mr. Appel was also entitled to receive a one-time signing bonus of \$30,000. Mr. Appel is eligible to participate in our health, dental, vision, life insurance and disability plans and to participate in our 401(k) plan in accordance with its terms.

On October 10, 2008, Mr. Appel entered into a Separation Agreement with the Company. The Agreement provided that Mr. Appel would assist the Company in filing its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2008 on or before March 16, 2009. On March 11, 2009, we announced that we and Mr. Appel had entered into an amendment to the Separation Agreement, which amendment provides that Mr. Appel will resign on May 15, 2009. The amendment provides that Mr. Appel will assist the Company in filing its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ending March 31, 2009 on or before May 11, 2009. If Mr. Appel satisfies certain personal performance goals during his remaining tenure with the Company in addition to assisting in a timely filing of the 2009 First Quarter Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, Mr. Appel will be entitled to receive a bonus. The Company is engaged in a comprehensive search for Mr. Appel's successor. Mr. Appel's scheduled departure is expected to enable the Company to conduct an orderly transition of Mr. Appel's duties to his successor.

*Amit Shashank*

Our current employment agreement with Mr. Shashank became effective on October 1, 2006 and was amended on December 31, 2008 to take into account Section 409A of the Code. Mr. Shashank joined us in June 2004. The agreement provides for Mr. Shashank to receive an annual base salary of \$280,000, which can be increased based on annual performance reviews (it is currently \$297,000). Mr. Shashank is eligible to earn an annual cash bonus, with a target of 40% of Mr. Shashank's annual base salary for the year, which can be increased based on annual performance reviews. Mr. Shashank is eligible to participate in our health, dental, vision, life insurance and disability plans and to participate in our 401(k) plan in accordance with its terms.

**Table of Contents***Krishna Nacha*

We entered into our current employment agreement with Mr. Nacha on July 26, 2007. Mr. Nacha receives an annual base salary of \$225,000. For 2008, Mr. Nacha was eligible to earn an annual cash bonus, with a target of 75% of his annual base salary. Mr. Nacha is eligible to participate in our health, dental, vision, life insurance and disability plans and to participate in our 401(k) plan in accordance with its terms.

*Rembert de Villa*

We entered into our current employment agreement with Mr. de Villa on March 20, 2008. Mr. de Villa receives an annual base salary of \$350,000, which was prorated in 2008, and will be eligible to receive an annual cash bonus with a target equal to 70% of his annual base salary. Mr. de Villa did not receive a cash bonus during 2008. Mr. de Villa is eligible to participate in our health, dental, vision, life insurance and disability plans and to participate in our 401(k) plan in accordance with its terms.

In connection with his employment, Mr. de Villa received on April 24, 2008 a stock option grant to purchase 40,000 shares of our common stock, and a grant of 4,000 shares of restricted stock.

**Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal 2008 Year-End**

The following table sets forth the equity awards we have made to our named executive officers that were outstanding as of December 31, 2008:

| Name          | Option Awards   |   |   |                                | Stock Awards               |  |   |   | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested |
|---------------|---|---|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|---|---|
|               | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable (b) | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable (c) | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable (d) | Option Exercise Price (\$) (e) | Option Expiration Date (f) | Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#)(2) (g) | Market Value of Shares or Units That Have Not Vested (\$) (h) | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (#) (i) |   |
| Vikram Talwar |   | 150,000   |   | 16.96                          | 1/23/2018                  | 75,000   | 642,750   |   |   |
| Rohit Kapoor  | 112,500   | 37,500  |   | 11.88                          | 7/26/2016                  | 56,250   | 482,063   |   |   |
| Matthew Appel | 10,000  | 90,000  |   | 24.10                          | 2/28/2017                  | 22,400   | 191,968   |   |   |
| Amit Shashank | 51,000  |   |   | 10.62                          | 6/6/2014                   |  |   |   |   |
|               | 10,000  | 10,000  |   | 11.88                          | 5/31/2015                  |  |   |   |   |
|               | 3,000   | 7,000   |   | 11.88                          | 4/19/2016                  |  |   |   |   |

Edgar Filing: ExlService Holdings, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

|                  |       |        |       |            |        |         |
|------------------|-------|--------|-------|------------|--------|---------|
|                  | 6,000 | 14,000 | 13.50 | 10/18/2016 |        |         |
|                  |       |        |       |            | 17,500 | 149,975 |
| Rembert de Villa |       | 40,000 | 23.82 | 4/24/2018  |        |         |
|                  |       |        |       |            | 4,000  | 34,280  |
| Krishna Nacha    | 6,000 | 54,000 | 18.72 | 8/30/2017  |        |         |
|                  |       |        |       |            | 2,250  | 19,283  |

- (1) Mr. Talwar's 150,000 unvested options will vest in equal, 25% installments on each of the first four anniversaries of January 23, 2008. Mr. Kapoor's unvested options will vest as follows: 37,500 vest on November 15, 2009 and 150,000 vest in equal, 25% installments on each of the first four anniversaries of January 23, 2008. Mr. Appel's unvested options vest as to 20%, 30% and

**Table of Contents**

40% of the options on February 28, 2009, 2010 and 2011, respectively. Unvested options that were granted prior to 2006 to Mr. Shashank vest 25% per year on each of the first four anniversaries of the date of grant. Unvested options that were granted during 2006 to Mr. Shashank and unvested options granted subsequent to 2006 to executives other than Messrs. Talwar and Kapoor vest as to 10%, 20%, 30% and 40% of the options on each of the first, second, third and fourth anniversaries of the date of grant, respectively. Vesting of options is subject to continued employment on each vesting date, except as provided in Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control.

- (2) Mr. Talwar's restricted shares vest as follows: 18,750 shares on November 15, 2009; and 18,750 shares on each of January 26, 2009, 2010 and 2011. Mr. Kapoor's restricted shares vest as to 18,750 shares on each of January 26, 2009, 2010 and 2011. Mr. Appel's restricted shares vest as follows: 3,400, 5,100 and 6,800 of the shares vest on each of February 28, 2009, 2010, and 2011, respectively and 7,100 restricted shares vest as to 10%, 20%, 30% and 40% of the shares on each of April 24, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. Mr. Shashank's restricted shares vest as follows: 2,000, 3,000 and 4,000 of the shares vest on each of April 25, 2009, 2010, and 2011, respectively and 8,500 restricted shares vest as to 10%, 20%, 30% and 40% of the shares on each of April 24, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. Mr. de Villa's 4,000 restricted shares vest as to 10%, 20%, 30% and 40% of the shares on each of April 24, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. Mr. Nacha's 2,250 restricted shares vest as to 10%, 20%, 30% and 40% of the shares on each of April 24, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. Vesting of restricted stock is subject to continued employment on each vesting date, except as provided in Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control.

**Option Exercises and Stock Vested During Fiscal 2008**

The following table provides additional information about the value realized by our named executive officers on option award exercises and stock award vesting during fiscal year 2008.

| Name          | Stock Awards                         |                              |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
|               | No. of Shares<br>Acquired on Vesting | Value Realized<br>on Vesting |
| (a)           | (#)<br>(d)                           | (\$)<br>(e)                  |
| Vikram Talwar | 18,750                               | 126,469                      |
|               | 18,750                               | 354,094                      |
| Rohit Kapoor  | 18,750                               | 354,094                      |
| Matthew Appel | 1,700                                | 36,499                       |
| Amit Shashank | 1,000                                | 24,445                       |
|               | 7,105                                | 125,155                      |

**Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control***Vikram Talwar and Rohit Kapoor*

*Severance.* If either Mr. Talwar's or Mr. Kapoor's employment is terminated by us without cause or by the executive for good reason (in each case, as described below), the executive will be entitled to severance consisting of:

continuation of his base salary for 24 months;

his actual bonus, if any, earned for the year of termination, determined as if he had been employed for the full year of termination, paid ratably over the remaining period and number of base salary payments; and

continuation of life insurance coverage for 18 months. The life insurance coverage will terminate at the time the executive commences employment with another employer.

Cause will occur when:



there is a final non-appealable conviction of or pleading of no contest to a felony, or a crime of moral turpitude which causes serious economic harm or serious injury to our reputation;

the executive engages in fraud, embezzlement, self-dealing, gross negligence, dishonesty or other gross and willful misconduct which causes serious and demonstrable injury to us;

**Table of Contents**

the executive materially violates any of our material policies or materially, knowingly and intentionally fails to comply with certain applicable laws;

the executive willfully fails to substantially perform his duties for 15 days (other than for reason of physical or mental incapacity) after we notify him;

the executive fails to reasonably cooperate in a governmental investigation involving us;

the executive fails to follow our board of directors' lawful instructions and does not remedy the failure for 15 days after we give him written notice;

the executive's use of alcohol or drugs materially interferes with the performance of his duties; or

the executive fails to take reasonable steps to end certain affiliations specified in his employment agreement within six months after a request by our board of directors.

Good reason means:

the executive's duties or responsibilities are substantially diminished, or he is required to report to anyone other than our board of directors;

the executive's title as our officer is adversely changed, except if the change occurs after a change in control and his new title and duties are similar to his old title and duties;

the executive's base salary is reduced, or his target annual bonus opportunity is reduced below 75% of his base salary, unless a Company-wide decrease in pay is implemented;

the location where the executive is based is moved more than 30 miles, and the new location is more than 30 miles from his primary residence in the metropolitan New York City area (other than a relocation to Delhi, India in the case of Mr. Kapoor);

for Mr. Kapoor only, if we have relocated Mr. Kapoor to the metropolitan Delhi, India area, the location where Mr. Kapoor is based in Delhi, India is moved more than 30 miles, and the new location is more than 30 miles from Mr. Kapoor's primary residence in the Delhi, India area; or

we breach any material term of the executive's employment agreement.

For Mr. Kapoor, good reason does not include a request by the board of directors that he relocate to India. Also, successive relocations of Mr. Kapoor between the metropolitan New York City area and the metropolitan Delhi, India area will also not constitute good reason, as long as each location where we base Mr. Kapoor is within 30 miles of the last business location at which Mr. Kapoor was based in that metropolitan area and within 30 miles of Mr. Kapoor's principal residence in that metropolitan area.

If the executive plans to terminate his employment for good reason, he must notify us within 30 days following the date the problem began and must allow us 15 days to remedy the problem.

## Edgar Filing: ExlService Holdings, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

*Change in Control Severance.* If a termination described above occurs within 12 months following a change in control that satisfies the requirements of Section 409A of the Code, the executive will receive, in lieu of the severance described above, a lump sum payment of \$999,000. If the change in control referenced in the preceding sentence does not satisfy the requirements of Section 409A of the Code, \$999,000 will not be paid in a lump sum but will instead be paid ratably for 24 months.

A change in control means any of the following events:

any person or group becomes a beneficial owner (within the meaning of Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act) of more than 50% of either (1) the combined voting power of our then-outstanding voting securities entitled to vote in the election of directors or (2) our outstanding shares of common stock, assuming all rights to acquire common stock through options, warrants, conversion of

**Table of Contents**

convertible stock or debt, and the like are exercised. Certain acquisitions by our stockholders, Oak Hill Partners, L.P., FTVentures and their affiliates, will not trigger a change in control;

a majority of the members of our board of directors changes, except that the election of any new director whose election or nomination was approved by at least a majority of our incumbent directors will not be regarded as a change in the majority for these purposes;

our dissolution or liquidation;

the sale or disposition of all or substantially all of our business or our assets; or

consummation of a reorganization, recapitalization, merger, consolidation or similar transaction with another entity. A transaction will not be a change in control if after the transaction:

more than 50% of the total voting power of the resulting entity or its ultimate parent is represented by what were our outstanding voting securities before the transaction in substantially the same proportion among holders;

no person or group is or becomes the beneficial owner of more than 50% of the total voting power of the outstanding voting securities eligible to elect members of the board of directors of the parent or surviving company; and

at least a majority of the members of the board of directors of the parent or surviving company following the transaction were our board members when our board first approved the transaction.

*Death or Disability.* If either Mr. Talwar's or Mr. Kapoor's employment terminates on account of death or is terminated by either the executive or us for Disability (as defined in the relevant employment agreement), the executive will be entitled to a pro-rated portion of the projected bonus amount for the year of termination.

*Post-Termination Health Benefits.* When Mr. Talwar's or Mr. Kapoor's employment ends for any reason other than termination by us for cause or a voluntary termination by the executive, we will pay on behalf of the executive and his eligible dependents the cost of continued coverage under our group health plan for 18 months in accordance with applicable federal law governing continuation group health plan coverage (COBRA). These payments will end when the executive becomes eligible for comparable health benefits from another employer. If the executive elects coverage under COBRA, we have agreed to help him obtain an individual health policy at his cost when his COBRA coverage expires.

*Noncompete and Nonsolicit Provisions.* Each of Messrs. Talwar and Kapoor is subject to confidentiality restrictions and noncompete, non-disparagement and nonsolicit/no-hire restrictions during his employment and for one year thereafter, unless his agreement ends because we do not renew the term. If we do not renew the term and we pay the executive an amount equal to his base salary for one year, the restrictions remain in place for one year following termination of employment.

*Equity Award Treatment.* If Mr. Talwar's employment ends at the expiration of the term of his employment agreement because we give a notice of nonrenewal of the term of that agreement, or if a change in control occurs (as defined in our 2006 Plan, which definition is the same definition set forth above in Change in Control Severance on page 31), any portion of his stock options and restricted stock which would have vested in the one year period following the termination of employment or change in control (as applicable) will become vested on the termination date or the consummation of the change in control (as applicable).

If Mr. Talwar's employment is terminated by us without cause (as defined on page 30, above) in specific contemplation of or following a change in control or if Mr. Talwar resigns for good reason (as defined on page 31, above) following a change in control, his stock options and restricted stock award will become fully vested. Mr. Talwar will need to execute a standard release of employment-related claims in order for his restricted stock award to vest in such a case.

If Mr. Kapoor's employment ends at the expiration of the term of his employment agreement because we give a notice of nonrenewal of the term of that agreement or if a change in control occurs (as defined above), any

**Table of Contents**

portion of his stock options and restricted stock which would have vested in the one year period following the termination of employment or change in control (as applicable) will become vested on the termination date or the consummation of the change in control (as applicable).

If Mr. Kapoor's employment is terminated by us without cause (as defined on page 30, above) in specific contemplation of or following a change in control, or if Mr. Kapoor resigns for good reason (as defined on page 31 above, as it applies to Mr. Kapoor) following a change in control, his stock options and restricted stock will become fully vested and exercisable. Mr. Kapoor will need to execute a standard release of employment-related claims in order for his stock option and restricted stock to vest in such a case.

*Indicative payouts for Vikram Talwar*

The following table summarizes the amounts payable to Mr. Talwar upon termination of his employment with us:

| Payments upon termination                   | Death      | Disability | Expiration of the employment terms | Termination for Good Reason or without cause | Change in Control | Termination without Cause following Change in Control | Termination for Good Reason following Change in Control | Termination in specific contemplation of Change in Control |
|---|------------|------------|------------------------------------|--|-------------------|---|---|--|
| Base salary payout                          |            |            |                                    | \$ 840,000                                   |                   | \$ 999,000  | \$ 999,000  |  |
| Bonus payout                                | \$ 237,510 | \$ 237,510 |                                    | \$ 237,510                                   |                   |   |   |  |
| Life insurance coverage                     |            |            | \$ 630                             | \$ 630                                       | \$ 630            | \$ 630  | \$ 630  | \$ 630   |
| Health insurance                            | \$ 19,746  | \$ 19,746  | \$ 19,746                          | \$ 19,746                                    | \$ 19,746         | \$ 19,746   | \$ 19,746   | \$ 19,746  |
| Stock options (unvested and accelerated)    |            |            |                                    |  |                   |   |   |  |
| Restricted stock (unvested and accelerated) |            |            |                                    |  | \$ 321,375        | \$ 642,750  | \$ 642,750  | \$ 642,750   |

*Indicative payouts for Rohit Kapoor*

The following table summarizes the amounts payable to Mr. Kapoor upon termination of his employment with us:

| Payments upon termination                   | Death      | Disability | Expiration of the employment terms | Termination for Good Reason or without cause | Change in Control | Termination without Cause following Change in Control | Termination for Good Reason following Change in Control | Termination in specific contemplation of Change in Control |
|---|------------|------------|------------------------------------|--|-------------------|---|---|--|
| Base salary payout                          |            |            |                                    | \$ 840,000                                   |                   | \$ 999,000  | \$ 999,000  |  |
| Bonus payout                                | \$ 244,125 | \$ 244,125 |                                    | \$ 244,125                                   |                   |   |   |  |
| Life insurance coverage                     |            |            | \$ 630                             | \$ 630                                       | \$ 630            | \$ 630  | \$ 630  | \$ 630   |
| Health insurance                            | \$ 19,746  | \$ 19,746  | \$ 19,746                          | \$ 19,746                                    | \$ 19,746         | \$ 19,746   | \$ 19,746   | \$ 19,746  |
| Stock options (unvested and accelerated)    |            |            |                                    |  |                   |   |   |  |
| Restricted stock (unvested and accelerated) |            |            |                                    |  | \$ 160,688        | \$ 482,063  | \$ 482,063  | \$ 482,063   |

**Table of Contents**

*Matthew Appel*

If Mr. Appel's employment with us is terminated without cause or he resigns for good reason (as described below), Mr. Appel will be entitled to severance equal to one times to his annual base salary then in effect. On a change in control (as defined using the same definition set forth above for Mr. Talwar and Mr. Kapoor), the vesting of all of Mr. Appel's outstanding equity awards will be advanced by one year. For example, since Mr. Appel's awards vest as to 10%, 20%, 30% and 40% of the award on each of the first four anniversaries of the date of grant, then if he were 10% vested in the award immediately prior to the change in control, Mr. Appel will be 30% vested in the award immediately after the change in control. In addition, if (i) Mr. Appel's employment is terminated without cause at any time after a change of control or in specific contemplation of a change of control or (ii) Mr. Appel resigns with good reason (as defined below) at any time following a change in control, Mr. Appel will also be entitled to immediate vesting of any unvested options to purchase common stock and any unvested shares of restricted stock.

Cause will occur when:

there is a final non-appealable conviction of or pleading of no contest to a felony, or a crime of moral turpitude which causes serious economic harm or serious injury to our reputation;

Mr. Appel engages in fraud, embezzlement, self-dealing, gross negligence, dishonesty or other gross and willful misconduct which causes serious and demonstrable injury to us;

Mr. Appel materially violates any of our material policies or materially, knowingly and intentionally fails to comply with certain applicable laws;

Mr. Appel willfully fails to substantially perform his duties for 15 days (other than for reason of physical or mental incapacity) after we notify him in writing of his need to substantially improve his performance;

Mr. Appel fails to reasonably cooperate in a governmental investigation involving us;

Mr. Appel fails to follow his supervisor's lawful instructions and does not remedy the failure for 15 days after we give him written notice; or

Mr. Appel's use of alcohol or drugs materially interferes with the performance of his duties.

Good reason means:

Mr. Appel's duties or responsibilities are substantially reduced, or he is required to report to anyone other than our board of directors, chief executive officer or president;

his title as our officer is adversely changed, except if the change occurs after a change in control and his new title and duties are similar to his old title and duties;

his base salary or annual cash bonus opportunity is reduced, other than a proportionate reduction affecting all members of the Company's Executive Committee;

the location where he is based is moved more than 30 miles following a change in control, and the new location is more than 30 miles from his primary residence; or

we breach any material term of the employment agreement.

If Mr. Appel plans to terminate his employment for good reason (other than after relocation more than 30 miles following a change in control), he must notify us within 30 days of the date the problem began and must allow us 15 days to remedy the problem.



**Table of Contents***Indicative payouts for Matthew Appel*

The following table summarizes the amounts payable to Mr. Appel upon termination of his employment with us:

| Payments upon<br>termination                | Death | Disability | Expiration<br>of the<br>employment<br>terms | Termination<br>for Good<br>Reason or<br>without<br>cause | Change in<br>Control | Termination   | Termination   | Termination   |
|---|-------|------------|---|--|----------------------|---|---|---|
|   |       |            |   |  |                      | without<br>Cause<br>following<br>Change in<br>Control | for Good<br>Reason<br>following<br>Change in<br>Control | in specific<br>contemplation<br>of Change in<br>Control |
| Base salary payout                          |       |            |   | \$ 375,000   |                      | \$ 375,000  | \$ 375,000  | \$ 375,000  |
| Bonus payout                                |       |            |   |  |                      |   |   |   |
| Life insurance coverage                     |       |            |   |  |                      |   |   |   |
| Health insurance                            |       |            |   | \$ 9,631   |                      | \$ 9,631  | \$ 9,631  | \$ 9,631  |
| Stock options (unvested and accelerated)    |       |            |   |  |                      |   |   |   |
| Restricted stock (unvested and accelerated) |       |            |   |  | \$ 35,223            | \$ 191,968  | \$ 191,968  | \$ 191,968  |

*Amit Shashank*

Either Mr. Shashank or we may terminate Mr. Shashank's employment at any time. If we terminate Mr. Shashank's employment without cause (as described below), we will be required to pay Mr. Shashank (i) a one-time lump sum severance payment, payable within three business days of termination, equal to three months of his then-current base salary, and (ii) beginning on the third month anniversary of his termination, payment of his then-current base salary for nine months through our regular payroll practices. Beginning three months after his termination, Mr. Shashank is required to actively seek comparable employment and upon subsequent employment, we will reduce the additional salary payments during the nine-month period by any base salary Mr. Shashank receives during such period from another employer.

Cause will occur when:

there is a final non-appealable conviction of or pleading of no contest to a felony, or a crime of moral turpitude which causes serious economic harm or serious injury to our reputation;

Mr. Shashank engages in fraud, embezzlement, self-dealing, gross negligence, dishonesty or other gross and willful misconduct which causes serious and demonstrable injury to us;

Mr. Shashank materially violates any of our material policies or materially, knowingly and intentionally fails to comply with certain applicable laws;

Mr. Shashank willfully fails to substantially perform his duties for 15 days (other than for reason of physical or mental incapacity) after we notify him in writing of his need to substantially improve his performance;

Mr. Shashank fails to reasonably cooperate in a governmental investigation involving us;

Mr. Shashank fails to follow our board of director's lawful instructions and does not remedy the failure for 15 days after we give him written notice; or

## Edgar Filing: ExlService Holdings, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

Mr. Shashank's use of alcohol or drugs materially interferes with the performance of his duties. We will also maintain Mr. Shashank's health and dental coverage until the earlier of the end of the severance period or, and in respect of each of health and dental coverage considered separately, on the date on which Mr. Shashank and his eligible dependents become covered under another employer's health or dental coverage.

**Table of Contents**

On a change in control (as defined in the 2006 Plan, which is summarized under the heading "Change in Control Severance" on page 31), the vesting of all of Mr. Shashank's outstanding equity awards will be advanced by one year. For example, if one of Mr. Shashank's awards were vesting ratably over a four-year period and he had been 25% vested in the award immediately prior to the change in control, Mr. Shashank will be 50% vested in the award immediately after the change in control. In addition, all of Mr. Shashank's outstanding option awards will become fully vested if, following or in specific contemplation of a change in control, he is terminated without cause or if, following a change in control, he voluntarily terminates his employment for good reason (as described below).

Good reason means:

Mr. Shashank's duties or responsibilities are substantially diminished, or he is required to report to anyone other than our board of directors, chief executive officer or president;

his title as our officer is adversely changed, except if the change occurs after a change in control and his new title and duties are similar to his old title and duties;

the location where he is based is moved more than 30 miles following a change in control, and the new location is more than 30 miles from his primary residence; or

we breach any material term of the employment agreement following a change of control.

If Mr. Shashank plans to terminate his employment for good reason, he must notify us within 30 days of the date the problem began and must allow us 15 days to remedy the problem.

*Indicative payouts for Amit Shashank*

The following table summarizes the amounts payable to Mr. Shashank upon termination of his employment with us:

| Payments upon termination                   | Death | Disability | Expiration of the employment terms | Termination for Good Reason or without cause | Change in Control | Termination without Cause following Change in Control | Termination for Good Reason following Change in Control | Termination in specific contemplation of Change in Control |
|---|-------|------------|------------------------------------|--|-------------------|---|---|--|
| Base salary payout                          |       |            |                                    | \$ 297,000                                   |                   | \$ 297,000  | \$ 297,000  | \$ 297,000   |
| Bonus payout                                |       |            |                                    |  |                   |   |   |  |
| Life insurance coverage                     |       |            |                                    |  |                   |   |   |  |
| Health insurance                            |       |            |                                    | \$ 13,165                                    |                   | \$ 13,165   | \$ 13,165   | \$ 13,165  |
| Stock options (unvested and accelerated)    |       |            |                                    |  |                   |   |   |  |
| Restricted stock (unvested and accelerated) |       |            |                                    |  | \$ 24,425         | \$ 149,975  | \$ 149,975  | \$ 149,975   |

*Krishna Nacha*

Either Mr. Nacha or we may terminate Mr. Nacha's employment at any time, subject to a four week notice period (or payment in lieu thereof). On a change in control (as defined in the 2006 Plan, which is summarized under the heading "Change in Control Severance" on page 31), the vesting of all of Mr. Nacha's outstanding equity awards will be advanced by one year.

**Table of Contents**

*Indicative payouts for Krishna Nacha*

The following table summarizes the amounts payable to Mr. Nacha upon termination of his employment with us:

| Payments upon<br>termination                   | Death | Disability | Expiration<br>of the<br>employment<br>terms | Termination<br>without<br>cause | Change in<br>Control | Termination<br>without<br>Cause<br>following<br>Change in<br>Control | Termination<br>for Good<br>Reason<br>following<br>Change in<br>Control | Termination<br>in specific<br>contemplation<br>of Change<br>in<br>Control |
|--|-------|------------|---|---------------------------------|----------------------|--|--|---|
|  |       |            |   |                                 |                      |  |  |   |
| Base salary payout                             |       |            |   |                                 |                      |  |  |   |
| Bonus payout                                   |       |            |   |                                 |                      |  |  |   |
| Life insurance coverage                        |       |            |   |                                 |                      |  |  |   |
| Health insurance                               |       |            |   |                                 |                      |  |  |   |
| Stock options (unvested and<br>accelerated)    |       |            |   |                                 |                      |  |  |   |
| Restricted stock (unvested and<br>accelerated) |       |            |   |                                 | \$ 1,928             | \$ 19,283  | \$ 19,283  | \$ 19,283   |
| <i>Rembert de Villa</i>                        |       |            |   |                                 |                      |  |  |   |

Either Mr. de Villa or we may terminate Mr. de Villa's employment at any time. If we terminate Mr. de Villa's employment without cause (as described below), we will be required to pay Mr. de Villa his then-current base salary for three months following his termination through our regular payroll practices. On a change in control (as defined in the 2006 Plan, which is summarized under the heading "Change in Control Severance" on page 31), the vesting of all of Mr. de Villa's outstanding equity awards will be advanced by one year.

Cause will occur when:

there is a final non-appealable conviction of or pleading of no contest to a felony, or a crime of moral turpitude which causes serious economic harm or serious injury to our reputation;

Mr. de Villa engages in fraud, embezzlement, self-dealing, gross negligence, dishonesty or other gross and willful misconduct which causes serious and demonstrable injury to us;

Mr. de Villa materially violates any of our material policies or materially, knowingly and intentionally fails to comply with certain applicable laws;

Mr. de Villa willfully fails to perform his duties for 15 days (other than for reason of physical or mental incapacity) after we notify him in writing of his need to substantially improve his performance;

Mr. de Villa fails to reasonably cooperate in a governmental investigation involving us;

Mr. de Villa fails to follow our board of director's lawful instructions and does not remedy the failure for 15 days after we give him written notice; or

Mr. de Villa's use of alcohol or drugs materially interferes with the performance of his duties.

**Table of Contents***Indicative payouts for Rembert de Villa*

The following table summarizes the amounts payable to Mr. de Villa upon termination of his employment with us:

| Payments upon termination                   | Death | Disability | Expiration of the employment terms | Termination without cause | Change in Control | Termination without Cause following Change in Control | Termination for Good Reason following Change in Control | Termination in specific contemplation of Change in Control |
|---|-------|------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---|---|--|
|   |       |            |                                    |                           |                   |   |   |  |
| Base salary payout                          |       |            |                                    | \$ 87,500                 |                   |   |   |  |
| Bonus payout                                |       |            |                                    |                           |                   |   |   |  |
| Life insurance coverage                     |       |            |                                    |                           |                   |   |   |  |
| Health insurance                            |       |            |                                    |                           |                   |   |   |  |
| Stock options (unvested and accelerated)    |       |            |                                    |                           |                   |   |   |  |
| Restricted stock (unvested and accelerated) |       |            |                                    |                           | \$ 3,428          | \$ 34,280   | \$ 34,280   | \$ 34,280  |

**Director Compensation for Fiscal Year 2008**

The following table sets forth information for compensation earned in fiscal year 2008 by our non-executive directors:

| Name             | Fees Earned or Paid in |               | Option Awards | Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation | Change in Pension Value and Deferred Compensation | All Other Compensation | Total   |
|------------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|--|---|------------------------|---------|
|                  | Cash                   | Stock Awards  |               |  |   |                        |         |
| (a)              | (\$)(b)                | (\$)(1)(3)(c) | (\$)(2)(3)(d) | (\$)(e)                                | Earnings (f)                                      | (\$)(g)                | (\$)(h) |
| Garen K. Staglin | 38,500                 | 78,504        | 20,306        |  |   |                        | 137,310 |
| Mohanbir Sawhney | 32,500                 | 94,180        | 22,243        |  |   |                        | 148,924 |
| David B. Kelso   | 41,500                 | 65,479        | 37,117        |  |   |                        | 144,095 |
| Steven B. Gruber |                        | 90,985        |               |  |   |                        | 90,985  |
| Edward Dardani   |                        | 90,985        |               |  |   |                        | 90,985  |
| Kiran Karnik(4)  | 7,333                  |               | 6,675         |  |   |                        | 14,009  |
| Clyde W. Ostler  | 39,667                 | 2,063         | 101,019       |  |   |                        | 142,749 |

- (1) The amounts in column (c) reflect the dollar amount of awards recognized for financial statement reporting purposes for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, in accordance with FAS 123(R). Assumptions used in the calculation of these amounts are included in footnote 11 to our audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008 included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 16, 2009. As of December 31, 2008, Messrs. Staglin, Sawhney, Kelso, Gruber and Dardani each held 12,000 restricted stock units, of which 4,000 of those held by each such director were unvested and Mr. Ostler held 4,000 restricted stock units, all of which are unvested.
- (2) The amounts in column (d) reflect the dollar amount of awards recognized for financial statement reporting purposes for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, in accordance with FAS 123(R). Assumptions used in the calculation of this amount are included in footnote 11 to our audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008 included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 16, 2009. As of December 31, 2008, each of Messrs. Staglin, Sawhney, Kelso, Ostler and Karnik held 30,000 stock options, of which the following number were vested: 15,000, 22,500, 22,500, 7,500 and 0, respectively.



**Table of Contents**

(3) The grant date fair value of the equity awards granted in 2008, determined in accordance with FAS 123(R), is set forth in the table below:

| Name             | Grant Date Fair Value<br>of Stock Awards (\$) | Grant Date Fair Value of<br>Option Awards (\$) |
|------------------|---|--|
| Garen K. Staglin | 80,920  |  |
| Mohanbir Sawhney | 26,800  |  |
| David B. Kelso   | 57,740  |  |
| Steven B. Gruber | 25,920  |  |
| Edward Dardani   | 25,920  |  |
| Kiran Karnik(4)  |   | 99,450   |
| Clyde W. Ostler  | 28,960  |  |

(4) Mr. Karnik joined our board of directors on September 25, 2008.

From calendar year 2008 onward, each member of our board of directors other than Messrs. Talwar, Kapoor and Karnik received a grant on the anniversary of his board service date of restricted stock units representing 4,000 shares of our common stock. The grants provide that the restricted stock units will vest on the earlier of:

the first anniversary of the date of grant;

the end of the reporting person's term on our board of directors; and

the occurrence of a change in control, as defined in the 2006 Plan.

Holders of restricted stock units do not receive the underlying share of common stock until the units have vested and are settled. The restricted stock units issued to each of our directors other than Messrs. Talwar and Kapoor will settle on the earlier of:

such director's death;

the occurrence of a change in control, as defined in the 2006 Plan that satisfies the requirements of Section 409A of the Code; and

180 days following the end of such director's term on our board of directors.

On September 25, 2008, Mr. Karnik was granted an option to purchase 30,000 shares of our common stock, which vests 25% on each of the first four anniversaries of the date of grant.

*Key Compensation Actions for 2008*

In 2008, each member of the board of directors may elect to receive all or a portion of his or her annual fees earned for service on the board of directors during a subsequent calendar year, whether as part of the annual retainer or committee chairperson fee or otherwise, that would otherwise be payable in cash, in the form of a grant of stock options under the 2006 Plan.

Directors who elect to receive any portion of their cash director fees in the form of stock options will receive a stock option grant effective as of the first business day of the following year. Each stock option grant (i) will have a per share exercise price equal to the fair market value of a share of company common stock on the date of grant (under the 2006 Plan, this is currently determined as the average of the high and low prices on the trading day prior to the date of grant), (ii) will vest and become exercisable on December 31 of the year in which the option is granted, subject to the individual remaining as a member of the board on such date, and (iii) otherwise will be subject to the terms and conditions of the



## Edgar Filing: ExlService Holdings, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

2006 Plan. The number of shares of our common stock subject to the stock option will be determined such that the Black-Scholes value (as determined by us) of the stock option is equal to the dollar amount of director fees the director is electing to defer.

**Table of Contents****PRINCIPAL STOCKHOLDERS**

Unless otherwise indicated, the table below sets forth, as of February 27, 2009, information with respect to the beneficial ownership of our common stock by:

each of our directors and each of our named executive officers;

each person who is known to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of our common stock; and

all of our current directors and executive officers as a group.

The amounts and percentages of common stock beneficially owned as of February 27, 2009 are reported on the basis of the regulations of the SEC governing the determination of beneficial ownership of securities. Under these rules, a person is deemed to be a beneficial owner of a security if that person has or shares voting power, which includes the power to vote or to direct the voting of such security, or investment power, which includes the power to dispose of or to direct the disposition of such security. A person is also deemed to be a beneficial owner of any securities of which that person has a right to acquire beneficial ownership within 60 days of February 27, 2009. Under these rules, more than one person may be deemed to be a beneficial owner of the same securities.

| Name and Address of Beneficial Owner(1)                                  | Beneficial Ownership |                |
|--|----------------------|----------------|
|  | Shares               | Percentage (%) |
| Oak Hill Partnerships(3)   | 10,542,504           | 36.5           |
| Blackrock, Inc.(4)   | 3,061,440            | 10.6           |
| FMR, LLC(5)  | 1,955,234            | 6.8            |
| Vikram Talwar(6)   | 1,873,963            | 6.5            |
| Rohit Kapoor(7)  | 2,126,238            | 7.3            |
| Amit Shashank(8)   | 90,134               | *              |
| Matthew Appel(9)   | 33,892               | *              |
| Pavan Bagai(10)  | 86,710               | *              |
| Krishna Nacha(11)  | 6,225                | *              |
| Amitabh Hajela(12)   | 5,000                | *              |
| Rembert De Villa(13)   | 4,400                | *              |
| Steven B. Gruber   |                      |                |
| Edward V. Dardani  |                      |                |
| Kiran Karnik   |                      |                |
| David B. Kelso(14)   | 20,000               | *              |
| Clyde W. Ostler(15)  | 7,500                | *              |
| Dr. Mohanbir Sawhney(16)   | 22,500               | *              |
| Garen K. Staglin(17)   | 42,500               | *              |
| All current directors and executive officers as a group (15 persons)(18) | 4,319,062            | 14.8           |

\* Less than 1%.

(1) Unless otherwise noted, the business address of each beneficial owner is c/o ExlService Holdings, Inc., 350 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10022.

(2) Based on 28,854,565 shares outstanding as of February 27, 2009.

Edgar Filing: ExlService Holdings, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

- (3) The business address of the Oak Hill Partnerships is 201 Main Street, Suite 2415, Fort Worth, TX 76102. Includes an aggregate of 10,278,942 shares of our common stock held by Oak Hill Capital Partners, L.P.

**Table of Contents**

and 263,562 shares of our common stock held by Oak Hill Capital Management Partners, L.P. OHCP MGP, LLC is the sole general partner of OHCP GenPar, L.P., which is the sole general partner of Oak Hill Capital Management Partners, L.P. and Oak Hill Capital Partners, L.P. OHCP MGP, LLC exercises voting and dispositive control over the shares held by Oak Hill Capital Management Partners, L.P. and Oak Hill Capital Partners, L.P. Investment and voting decisions with regard to the shares of the Company's common stock owned by the Oak Hill Partnerships is made by an investment committee of OHCP MGP, LLC. The members of such committee are J. Taylor Crandall, Steven B. Gruber, Dennis J. Nayden and Mark A. Wolfson. Each of these individuals disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares owned by the Oak Hill Partnerships.

- (4) Based on the Schedule 13G/A filed on February 10, 2009. The business address of Blackrock, Inc. is 40 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10022.
- (5) Based on the Schedule 13G/A filed on February 17, 2009. The business address of FMR, LLC is 82 Devonshire Street, Boston, MA 02109.
- (6) This amount includes 84,000 shares of our common stock owned indirectly by Mr. Talwar through a spousal lifetime access trust. Mr. Talwar's spouse and Mr. Kapoor are the trustees of this trust and share dispositive and voting control over the shares in the trust. Mr. Kapoor disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares. This amount also includes an aggregate of 668,306 shares of our common stock indirectly owned by Mr. Talwar through four separate three year grantor retained annuity trusts. Mr. Talwar is the sole trustee of each of these trusts. This amount also includes 956,657 shares of our common stock owned indirectly by Mr. Talwar through a trust. Mr. Talwar and his spouse are the trustees of this trust and share dispositive and voting control over the shares in the trust. This amount also includes 84,000 shares of our common stock owned indirectly by Mr. Talwar through a spousal lifetime access trust for Mr. Talwar's spouse. Mr. Talwar and Mr. Kapoor are the trustees of this trust and share dispositive and voting control over the shares in the trust. Mr. Kapoor disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares. This amount includes 37,500 shares of our common stock of which Mr. Talwar has the right to acquire beneficial ownership within 60 days.
- (7) This amount includes 84,000 shares of our common stock owned indirectly by Mr. Kapoor through a spousal lifetime access trust. Mr. Kapoor's spouse and Mr. Kapoor's sister-in-law are the trustees of this trust and share dispositive and voting control over the shares in the trust. This amount also includes 379,988 shares of our common stock owned indirectly by Mr. Kapoor through a three year grantor retained annuity trust. Mr. Kapoor is the sole trustee of this trust. This amount also includes 84,000 shares of our common stock owned indirectly by Mr. Kapoor through a spousal lifetime access trust for Mr. Kapoor's spouse. Mr. Kapoor and Mr. Kapoor's sister-in-law are the trustees of this trust and share dispositive and voting control over the shares in the trust. This amount includes 150,000 shares of our common stock of which Mr. Kapoor has the right to acquire beneficial ownership within 60 days.
- (8) This amount includes 74,850 shares of our common stock of which Mr. Shashank has the right to acquire beneficial ownership within 60 days.
- (9) This amount includes 30,710 shares of our common stock of which Mr. Appel has the right to acquire beneficial ownership within 60 days.
- (10) This amount includes 23,000 shares of our common stock of which Mr. Bagai has the right to acquire beneficial ownership within 60 days.
- (11) This amount includes 6,225 shares of our common stock of which Mr. Nacha has the right to acquire beneficial ownership within 60 days.

## Edgar Filing: ExlService Holdings, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

- (12) This amount includes 5,000 shares of our common stock of which Mr. Hajela has the right to acquire beneficial ownership within 60 days.
- (13) This amount includes 4,400 shares of our common stock of which Mr. de Villa has the right to acquire beneficial ownership within 60 days.
- (14) This amount includes 15,000 shares of our common stock of which Mr. Kelso has the right to acquire beneficial ownership within 60 days.

**Table of Contents**

- (15) This amount includes 7,500 shares of our common stock of which Mr. Ostler has the right to acquire beneficial ownership within 60 days.
  
- (16) This amount includes 22,500 shares of our common stock of which Mr. Sawhney has the right to acquire beneficial ownership within 60 days.
  
- (17) This amount includes 22,500 shares of our common stock of which Mr. Staglin has the right to acquire beneficial ownership within 60 days.
  
- (18) This amount includes an aggregate of 374,000 shares of our common stock of which our directors and executive officers have the right to acquire beneficial ownership within 60 days.

**Table of Contents**

**CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED PERSON TRANSACTIONS**

**Review and Approval of Related Party Transactions**

We review all transactions in which we, our directors and executive officers or their immediate family members and our 5% stockholders are participants to determine whether such persons have a direct or indirect material interest in such transactions. Our Code of Conduct and Ethics instructs our directors, officers and employees to report the facts and circumstances of any transaction or potential transaction to our General Counsel or our Audit Committee. Our board of directors has adopted a policy regarding the review of potential related person transactions. Under this policy, our General Counsel will review the facts and circumstances of any covered transaction. If our General Counsel determines that the transaction involves a related person transaction and that the amount involved does not equal or exceed \$120,000, our General Counsel will approve or disapprove the transaction. If our General Counsel determines that the transaction involves a related person transaction and that the amount involved equals or exceeds \$120,000, he will refer the transaction to our Audit Committee for approval. For each transaction, our General Counsel and Audit Committee, as applicable, will review all factors it considers appropriate, including, but not limited to, the nature of the related party transaction, the related party's interest in the transaction and the material terms of the transaction, the importance of the transaction to us and to the related party and whether the transaction would impair the judgment of a director or executive officer to act in our best interest. As required under SEC rules, transactions that are determined to be directly or indirectly material to us or a related person and which involve amounts exceeding \$120,000 in the previous fiscal year are disclosed in our proxy statement.

**Related Party Transactions**

On January 15, 2008, the Company acquired net assets for a consideration of \$1,508,049 plus contingent consideration earned during the year ended December 31, 2008 of \$460,467, for a total of \$1,968,516, from a company controlled by entities related to the Oak Hill Partnerships. The Company recorded expenses of \$0 for year ended December 31, 2008 for transition services performed by the seller prior to acquisition. As of December 31, 2008 the Company had a balance payable of \$0 related to these services.

We provide transformation services to Duane Reade Holdings, Inc., a New York City drugstore chain. Duane Reade Holdings, Inc. was indirectly owned by entities related to the Oak Hill Partnerships. We recognized revenue of approximately \$628,090 in the year ended December 31, 2008 for fees and expense reimbursements from Duane Reade Holdings, Inc. At December 31, 2008 we had an account receivable of \$88,790 related to these services.

**Table of Contents**

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Audit Committee of the board of directors of ExlService Holdings, Inc. oversees and assists our board of directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to:

our accounting and financial reporting processes, including the integrity of the financial statements and other financial information provided by us to our stockholders, the public, any stock exchange and others,

our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements,

our registered public accounting firm's qualifications, independence and performance,

the audit of our financial statements and

the performance of our internal audit function.

In this context, the Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed the Company's audited financial statements with the Company's management and has discussed with Ernst & Young LLP, the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, the matters required to be discussed by the Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, as amended. The Audit Committee has also received from Ernst & Young LLP the written disclosures and the letter required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1 (Independence Discussions with Audit Committees) and has discussed with Ernst & Young LLP its independence.

Based on the review and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee approved the inclusion of the audited financial statements in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for 2008.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Mr. David B. Kelso (Chairman)  
Mr. Clyde W. Ostler  
Dr. Mohanbir Sawhney



**Table of Contents****PROPOSAL 1****ELECTION OF DIRECTORS****The Nominees**

Our Nominating and Governance Committee has nominated, and our board of directors has designated, Messrs. Gruber, Sawhney and Staglin for election as Class III directors at the Annual Meeting. The proxies given to the proxy holders will be voted or not voted as directed and, if no direction is given, will be voted FOR these three nominees. Our board of directors knows of no reason why any of these nominees should be unable or unwilling to serve. However, if for any reason any nominee should be unable or unwilling to serve, the proxies will be voted for any nominee designated by our board of directors to fill the vacancy.

**General Information About Nominees**

The age, tenure on our board of directors and committee membership, if any, of each nominee appears below. Information regarding the business experience during at least the last five years and directorships of other publicly owned corporations of each nominee can be found above under Our Board of Directors.

| <b>Name</b>          | <b>Age</b> | <b>Director Since</b> | <b>Committee/Position</b>  |
|----------------------|------------|-----------------------|--|
| Steven B. Gruber     | 51         | November 2002         | Lead Director, Compensation Committee (Chairman)                       |
| Dr. Mohanbir Sawhney | 45         | November 2005         | Audit Committee Member, Nominating and Corporate Governance Member     |
| Garen K. Staglin     | 64         | June 2005             | Compensation Committee, Nominating and Corporate Governance (Chairman) |

**Required Vote**

The affirmative vote of the plurality of shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting will elect the three nominees as Class III directors for the specified three-year term. Unless marked to the contrary, proxies received will be voted FOR the nominees.

**Our board of directors recommends a vote FOR the election of Messrs. Gruber, Sawhney and Staglin as Class III directors of the Company.**

**Table of Contents****PROPOSAL 2****RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED****PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

Our Audit Committee has selected Ernst & Young LLP as independent registered public accounting firm to audit our and our subsidiaries' books, records and accounts for the fiscal year 2009. Our board of directors has endorsed this appointment. Ratification of the selection of Ernst & Young LLP by our stockholders is not required by law. However, as a matter of good corporate practice, such selection is being submitted to our stockholders for ratification at the Annual Meeting. If our stockholders do not ratify the selection, our board of directors and our Audit Committee will reconsider whether or not to retain Ernst & Young LLP, but may nonetheless retain Ernst & Young LLP. Even if the selection is ratified, the Audit Committee in its discretion may change such appointment at any time during the year if it determines that such change would be in the best interests of the Company and our stockholders. Ernst & Young LLP audited our consolidated financial statements for fiscal years 2007 and 2008. Representatives of Ernst & Young LLP are expected to be present at the Annual Meeting. They will have an opportunity to make a statement, if they desire to do so, and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

**Audit and Non-Audit Fees**

The following is a summary of the fees billed to us by Ernst & Young LLP for professional services rendered for fiscal years 2008 and 2007:

| <b>Fee Category</b> | <b>Fiscal<br/>2008</b> | <b>Fiscal<br/>2007</b> |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|                     | <b>(in thousands)</b>  |                        |
| Audit Fees          | \$ 736                 | \$ 766                 |
| Audit-Related Fees  | 30                     |                        |
| Tax Fees            | 57                     | 26                     |
| All Other Fees      |                        |                        |
| <b>Total Fees</b>   | <b>\$ 823</b>          | <b>\$ 792</b>          |

*Audit Fees.* Consist of fees billed for professional services rendered for the audit of our consolidated financial statements, including the audit of effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting and review of our consolidated financial statements included in our quarterly reports or services that are normally provided by our registered independent public accountants in connection with statutory or regulatory filings or engagements for those fiscal years.

*Audit-Related Fees.* Consist of fees billed for assurance and related services that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of our consolidated financial statements and are not reported under Audit Fees. These services include SAS 70 service organization audits.

*Tax Fees.* Consist of fees for international tax consulting and transfer pricing studies completed for our subsidiaries.

Our Audit Committee pre-approves and is responsible for the engagement of all auditing services provided by our independent registered public accountants and all-non auditing services to be provided by such accountants to the extent permitted under Section 10A of the Exchange Act, including all fees and other terms of engagement. Our Audit Committee may delegate the authority to pre-approve audit and permitted non-audit services between meetings of our Audit Committee to a designated member of our Audit Committee, provided that the decisions made by such member are presented to our full Audit Committee for ratification at its next scheduled meeting.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Required Vote**

The ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm requires the affirmative vote of a majority of shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. Unless marked to the contrary, proxies received will be voted FOR ratification of the appointment.

**Our board of directors recommends a vote FOR the ratification of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accountants.**

### **STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR THE 2010 ANNUAL MEETING**

If a stockholder wishes to present a proposal to be included in our Proxy Statement for our 2010 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, the proponent and the proposal must comply with the proxy proposal submission rules of the SEC. One of the requirements is that the proposal must be received by the Corporate Secretary of the Company no later than December 31, 2009. Proposals we receive after that date will not be included in the Proxy Statement. We urge stockholders to submit proposals by certified mail, return receipt requested.

A stockholder proposal not included in our Proxy Statement for the 2010 Annual Meeting will be ineligible for presentation at the 2010 Annual Meeting unless the stockholder gives timely notice of the proposal in writing to the Corporate Secretary of the Company at the principal executive offices of the Company. Under our by-laws, in order for a matter to be deemed properly presented by a stockholder, timely notice must be delivered to, or mailed and received by, us not less than 90 nor more than 120 days prior to the first anniversary date of the 2009 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. The stockholder's notice must set forth, as to each proposed matter, the following: (i) the name and record address of the stockholder and/or beneficial owner proposing such business, as they appear on our books, (ii) the class and number of shares of stock held of record and beneficially by such stockholder and/or such beneficial owner, (iii) a representation that the stockholder is a holder of record of our stock entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting and intends to appear in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting to propose such business, (iv) a brief description of the stockholder business desired to be brought before the Annual Meeting, the text of the proposal (including the text of any resolutions proposed for consideration) and, in the event that such business includes a proposal to amend our by-laws, the language of the proposed amendment, and the reasons for conducting such stockholder business at the Annual Meeting, (v) any material interest of the stockholder and/or beneficial owner in such stockholder business and (vi) all other information that would be required to be filed with the SEC if the person proposing such stockholder business were a participant in a solicitation subject to Section 14 of the Exchange Act. The presiding officer of the Annual Meeting may refuse to acknowledge any matter not made in compliance with the foregoing procedure.

You may obtain a copy of the current rules for submitting stockholder proposals from the SEC at:

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission

Division of Corporation Finance

100 F. Street, N.E.

Washington, DC 20549

or through the SEC's Internet web site: [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

**Table of Contents**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Certain U.S. dollar figures in this proxy statement have been converted from Indian rupees at a rate of 48.71 rupees to \$1.00, the rupee to U.S. dollar exchange rate in effect as on December 31, 2008.

**Delivery of Documents to Stockholders Sharing an Address**

If you are the beneficial owner, but not the record holder, of shares of our common stock, your broker, bank, trust or other nominee may only deliver one copy of this proxy statement and our 2008 Annual Report to multiple stockholders who share an address unless that nominee has received contrary instructions from one or more of the stockholders. We will deliver promptly, upon written or oral request, a separate copy of this proxy statement and our 2008 Annual Report to a stockholder at a shared address to which a single copy of the documents was delivered. A stockholder who wishes to receive a separate copy of the proxy statement and annual report, now or in the future, should submit this request to our investor relations department through our website at [www.exlservice.com](http://www.exlservice.com). Beneficial owners sharing an address who are receiving multiple copies of proxy materials and annual reports and who wish to receive a single copy of such materials in the future will need to contact their broker, bank, trust or other nominee to request that only a single copy of each document be mailed to all stockholders at the shared address in the future.

**Electronic Access to Proxy Statement and Annual Report**

This proxy statement and our 2008 Annual Report of Form 10-K may be viewed at our website at [www.exlservice.com](http://www.exlservice.com). If you are a stockholder of record, you can elect to access future annual reports and proxy statements electronically by marking the appropriate box on your proxy form. If you choose this option, you will receive a proxy form in mid-May listing the website locations and your choice will remain in effect until you notify us by mail that you wish to resume mail delivery of these documents. If you hold your common stock through a bank, broker or another holder of record, refer to the information provided by that entity for instructions on how to elect this option.

**OTHER MATTERS**

Our board of directors does not know of any other business that will be presented at the Annual Meeting. If any other business is properly brought before the Annual Meeting, your proxy holders will vote on it as they think best unless you direct them otherwise in your proxy instructions.

Whether or not you intend to be present at the Annual Meeting, we urge you to submit your signed proxy promptly.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

/s/ Amit Shashank  
Amit Shashank  
Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

New York, New York

April 30, 2009

**Our 2008 Annual Report on Form 10-K has been mailed with this proxy statement. We will provide copies of exhibits to the Annual Report on Form 10-K, but will charge a reasonable fee per page to any requesting stockholder. Stockholders may make such request in writing to ExlService Holdings, Inc., 350 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022, Attention: Investor Relations. The request must include a representation by the stockholder that as of May 11, 2009, the stockholder was entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.**

**Table of Contents**

x PLEASE MARK VOTES

**REVOCABLE PROXY**

AS IN THIS EXAMPLE

EXLSERVICE HOLDINGS, INC.

PROXY SOLICITED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FOR WITH- FOR ALL

FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

HOLD EXCEPT

June 24, 2009

Rohit Kapoor, Vikram Talwar and Amit Shashank, or any one of them, each with the power of substitution and revocation, are hereby authorized to represent the undersigned, with all powers which the undersigned would possess if personally present, to vote the Common Stock of the undersigned at the annual meeting of stockholders of ExlService Holdings, Inc. (the Company) to be held at The Inn at Middletown, 70 Main Street, Middletown, Connecticut 06457, on June 24, 2009 at 2:00 PM, Eastern Time, and at any postponements or adjournments of that meeting, as set forth below, and in their discretion upon any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

1. To elect three directors (except as marked to the contrary below):

**Nominees**

(1) Steven B. Gruber (2) Dr. Mohanbir Sawhney (3) Garen K. Staglin

All capitalized terms used in this proxy shall have the same meanings assigned to them in the proxy statement.

**INSTRUCTION: To withhold authority to vote for any individual nominee, mark For All Except and write that nominee's name in the space provided below.**

FOR AGAINST ABSTAIN

2. To ratify the selection of Ernst & Young LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of the Company.

3. In their discretion, the proxies are authorized to vote upon such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting.

Please be sure to sign and date \_\_\_\_\_ Date

this Proxy in the box below.

Stockholder sign above \_\_\_\_\_ Co-holder (if any) sign above \_\_\_\_\_

**The Board of Directors recommends that you vote FOR proposals 1 and 2. The shares represented by this proxy will be voted as specified herein. If not otherwise specified, such shares will be voted by the proxies FOR Proposals 1 and 2.**

Please sign exactly as your name appears on this card.

**PLEASE CHECK BOX IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING.**

ñ Detach above card, sign, date and mail in postage paid envelope provided. ñ

EXLSERVICE HOLDINGS, INC.

**Your Vote is Important.**

**Please complete, sign, date and promptly return this proxy using the enclosed postmarked envelope.**

Edgar Filing: ExlService Holdings, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

IF YOUR ADDRESS HAS CHANGED, PLEASE CORRECT THE ADDRESS IN THE SPACE PROVIDED BELOW AND RETURN THIS PORTION WITH THE PROXY IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED.