

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

Discovery Holding CO
Form 10-Q
November 09, 2005

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

FORM 10-Q

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

FOR THE QUARTERLY PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

OR

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

FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM TO

COMMISSION FILE NUMBER 000-51205

DISCOVERY HOLDING COMPANY
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

STATE OF DELAWARE
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

20-2471174
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

12300 LIBERTY BOULEVARD
ENGLEWOOD, COLORADO
(Address of principal executive offices)

80112
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (720) 875-4000

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

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is an accelerated filer as
defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. Yes / / No /X/

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

The number of outstanding shares of Discovery Holding Company's common stock
as of October 31, 2005 was:

Series A common stock 268,093,392 shares; and
Series B common stock 12,106,093 shares.

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

DISCOVERY HOLDING COMPANY
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
 (UNAUDITED)

	SEPTEMBER 30, 2005	DECEMBER 31, 2004*
	----- AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS -----	
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents.....	\$ 227,503	21,641
Trade receivables, net.....	148,510	151,120
Prepaid expenses and other current assets.....	18,621	26,208
	-----	-----
Total current assets.....	394,634	198,969
Investment in Discovery Communications, Inc. ("Discovery") (note 7).....	3,011,716	2,945,782
Property, plant, and equipment, net.....	273,718	258,741
Goodwill and other intangible assets, net (note 6).....	2,138,071	2,140,355
Other assets, net.....	6,545	20,981
	-----	-----
Total assets.....	\$5,824,684	5,564,828
	=====	=====
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable.....	\$ 37,223	33,327
Accrued payroll and related liabilities.....	26,886	23,632
Other accrued liabilities.....	24,848	29,606
Deferred revenue.....	15,501	20,858
Due to Liberty.....	--	1,104
	-----	-----
Total current liabilities.....	104,458	108,527
Deferred income tax liabilities.....	1,128,136	1,083,964
Other liabilities.....	25,028	25,058
	-----	-----
Total liabilities.....	1,257,622	1,217,549
	-----	-----
Commitments and contingencies (note 9)		
Stockholders' equity:		
Preferred stock, \$.01 par value. Authorized 50,000,000 shares; no shares issued.....	--	--
Series A common stock, \$.01 par value. Authorized 600,000,000 shares; issued and outstanding 268,093,392 shares at September 30, 2005.....	2,681	--
Series B common stock, \$.01 par value. Authorized 50,000,000 shares; issued and outstanding 12,106,093 shares at September 30, 2005.....	121	--
Series C common stock, \$.01 par value. Authorized 600,000,000 shares; no shares issued.....	--	--
Additional paid-in capital.....	5,711,530	--
Parent's investment.....	--	5,506,066
Accumulated deficit.....	(1,149,056)	(1,171,097)
Accumulated other comprehensive earnings.....	1,786	12,310

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

Total stockholders' equity.....	4,567,062	4,347,279
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity.....	\$5,824,684	5,564,828

* See notes 1 and 2.

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

I-1

DISCOVERY HOLDING COMPANY

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS AND COMPREHENSIVE EARNINGS
(LOSS)

(UNAUDITED)

	THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,		NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,	
	2005	2004*	2005	2004*
	AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS			
Net revenue.....	\$167,934	151,924	520,243	458,344
Cost of services (excluding depreciation shown below).....	109,323	91,268	335,767	275,081
Gross profit.....	58,611	60,656	184,476	183,263
Operating expenses:				
Selling, general, and administrative.....	42,004	38,343	129,353	113,079
Stock-based compensation (note 3).....	126	545	3,743	1,613
Depreciation and amortization.....	17,884	18,304	54,888	53,530
	60,014	57,192	187,984	168,222
Operating income (loss).....	(1,403)	3,464	(3,508)	15,041
Other income (expense):				
Share of earnings of Discovery (note 7).....	33,233	20,360	71,443	58,370
Other, net.....	1,680	(285)	1,697	(37)
	34,913	20,075	73,140	58,333
Earnings before income taxes.....	33,510	23,539	69,632	73,374
Income tax expense.....	(32,321)	(7,353)	(47,591)	(23,011)
Net earnings.....	\$ 1,189	16,186	22,041	50,363
Other comprehensive loss, net of taxes:				
Unrealized holding gains (losses) arising during the period.....	(399)	(242)	212	(471)
Foreign currency translation adjustments.....	(2,714)	(69)	(10,736)	(1,502)
Other comprehensive loss.....	(3,113)	(311)	(10,524)	(1,973)

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

Comprehensive earnings (loss).....	\$ (1,924)	15,875	11,517	48,390
Pro forma basic and diluted earnings per common share (note 4).....	\$ --	.06	.08	.18

* See notes 1 and 2.

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

I-2

DISCOVERY HOLDING COMPANY

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(UNAUDITED)

	NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,	
	2005	2004*
	AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS	
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net earnings.....	\$ 22,041	50,363
Adjustments to reconcile net earnings to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization.....	54,888	53,530
Stock-based compensation.....	3,743	1,613
Payments for stock-based compensation.....	(2,139)	--
Share of earnings of Discovery.....	(71,443)	(58,370)
Deferred income tax expense.....	46,669	22,862
Other non-cash charges, net.....	323	753
Changes in assets and liabilities (net of acquisitions):		
Trade receivables.....	2,600	(18,388)
Prepaid expenses and other current assets.....	7,566	(10,290)
Payables and other liabilities.....	(2,412)	21,509
Net cash provided by operating activities.....	61,836	63,582
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Capital expenditures.....	(74,509)	(33,438)
Cash paid for acquisitions, net of cash acquired.....	--	(34,057)
Other investing activities, net.....	12,498	3,262
Net cash used in investing activities.....	(62,011)	(64,233)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Net cash transfers from Liberty.....	206,044	30,999
Other financing activities, net.....	(7)	--
Net cash provided by financing activities.....	206,037	30,999
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents.....	205,862	30,348

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

Balance at September 30,		
2005.....	1,786	4,567,062
	=====	=====

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

I-4

DISCOVERY HOLDING COMPANY

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

(UNAUDITED)

(1) BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements of Discovery Holding Company ("DHC" or the "Company") represent a combination of the historical financial information of (1) Ascent Media Group, LLC (formerly known as Ascent Media Group, Inc., "Ascent Media"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Liberty Media Corporation ("Liberty"), and Liberty's 50% ownership interest in Discovery for periods prior to the July 21, 2005 consummation of the spin off transaction (the "Spin Off") described in note 2 and (2) DHC and its consolidated subsidiaries for the period following such date. The Spin Off has been accounted for at historical cost due to the pro rata nature of the distribution. Accordingly, DHC's historical financial statements are presented in a manner similar to a pooling of interest.

Ascent Media is comprised of three operating divisions or groups. Ascent Media's Creative Services group provides services necessary to complete the creation of original content, including feature films, mini-series, television shows, television commercials, music videos, promotional and identity campaigns, and corporate communications programming. The group manipulates or enhances original visual images or audio captured in principal photography or creates new three dimensional images, animation sequences, or sound effects. The Media Management Services group provides owners of content libraries with an entire complement of facilities and services necessary to optimize, archive, manage, and repurpose media assets for global distribution via freight, satellite, fiber, and the Internet. The Networks Services group provides the facilities and services necessary to assemble and distribute programming content for cable and broadcast networks via fiber, satellite, and the Internet to viewers in North America, Europe, and Asia. Additionally, the Networks Services group provides systems integration, design, consulting, engineering and project management services.

Discovery is a global media and entertainment company that provides original and purchased cable and satellite television programming in the United States and over 160 other countries. Discovery also develops and sells branded commerce and educational product lines in the United States.

The accompanying interim condensed consolidated financial statements are unaudited but, in the opinion of management, reflect all adjustments (consisting of normal recurring accruals) necessary for a fair presentation of the results for such periods. The results of operations for any interim period are not necessarily indicative of results for the full year. These condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the LMC Discovery Group December 31, 2004 combined financial statements and notes thereto included in the Company's Information Statement, which was filed as Exhibit 99.1 to Amendment No. 3 to the Company's Registration Statement on

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

Form 10, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 7, 2005 (the "Information Statement").

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP") requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of revenue and expenses for each reporting period. The significant estimates made in preparation of the Company's consolidated financial statements primarily relate to valuation of goodwill, other intangible assets, long-lived assets, deferred tax assets, and the amount of the allowance for doubtful accounts. Actual results could differ from the estimates upon which the carrying values were based.

I-5

DISCOVERY HOLDING COMPANY

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

(UNAUDITED)

(2) SPIN OFF TRANSACTION

During the first quarter of 2005, the Board of Directors of Liberty approved a resolution to spin off the capital stock of DHC to the holders of Liberty Series A and Series B common stock. The Spin Off was completed on July 21, 2005 (the "Spin Off Date") and was effected as a dividend by Liberty to holders of its Series A and Series B common stock of shares of DHC Series A and Series B common stock, respectively. Holders of Liberty common stock on July 15, 2005 (the "Record Date") received 0.10 of a share of DHC Series A common stock for each share of Liberty Series A common stock owned and 0.10 of a share of DHC Series B common stock for each share of Liberty Series B common stock owned. Approximately 268.1 million shares of DHC Series A common stock and 12.1 million shares of DHC Series B common stock were issued in the Spin Off. The Spin Off did not involve the payment of any consideration by the holders of Liberty common stock and is intended to qualify as a tax-free transaction.

In addition to Ascent Media and its investment in Discovery, Liberty transferred \$200 million in cash to a subsidiary of DHC prior to the Spin Off.

Following the Spin Off, the Company and Liberty operate independently, and neither has any stock ownership, beneficial or otherwise, in the other. In connection with the Spin Off, the Company and Liberty entered into certain agreements in order to govern certain of the ongoing relationships between the Company and Liberty after the Spin Off and to provide for an orderly transition. These agreements include a Reorganization Agreement, a Services Agreement and a Tax Sharing Agreement.

The Reorganization Agreement provides for, among other things, the principal corporate transactions required to effect the Spin Off and cross indemnities. Pursuant to the Services Agreement, Liberty will provide the Company with office space and certain general and administrative services including legal, tax, accounting, treasury and investor relations support. The Company will reimburse Liberty for direct, out-of-pocket expenses incurred by Liberty in providing these services and for the Company's allocable portion of facilities costs and costs associated with any shared services or personnel. Liberty and DHC have agreed that they will review cost allocations every six months and adjust such charges, if appropriate.

Under the Tax Sharing Agreement, Liberty will generally be responsible for

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

U.S. federal, state, local and foreign income taxes reported on a consolidated, combined or unitary return that includes the Company or one of its subsidiaries and Liberty or one of its subsidiaries. The Company will be responsible for all other taxes that are attributable to the Company or one of its subsidiaries, whether accruing before, on or after the Spin Off. The Tax Sharing Agreement requires that the Company will not take, or fail to take, any action where such action, or failure to act, would be inconsistent with or prohibit the Spin Off from qualifying as a tax-free transaction. Moreover, the Company has indemnified Liberty for any loss resulting from (i) such action or failure to act or (ii) any agreement, understanding, arrangement or substantial negotiations entered into by DHC prior to the day after the first anniversary of the Spin Off Date, with respect to any transaction pursuant to which any of the other shareholders in Discovery would acquire shares of, or other interests in DHC's capital stock, in each case relating to the qualification of the Spin Off as a tax-free transaction.

I-6

DISCOVERY HOLDING COMPANY

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

(UNAUDITED)

(3) STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION

As a result of the Spin Off and related adjustments to Liberty's stock incentive awards, options to acquire an aggregate of approximately 2.0 million shares of DHC Series A common stock and 3.0 million shares of DHC Series B common stock were issued to employees of Liberty. In addition, employees of Ascent Media who held stock options to acquire shares of Liberty common stock prior to the Spin Off continue to hold such options. Pursuant to the Reorganization Agreement, DHC is responsible for all stock options related to DHC common stock, and Liberty is responsible for all incentive awards related to Liberty common stock. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Company records stock-based compensation for all stock incentive awards held by DHC's and its subsidiaries' employees regardless of whether such awards relate to DHC common stock or Liberty common stock. Any stock-based compensation recorded by DHC with respect to Liberty stock incentive awards is treated as a capital transaction with the offset to stock-based compensation expense reflected as an adjustment of additional paid-in capital.

The Company applies the intrinsic-value-based method of accounting prescribed by Accounting Principles Board (APB) Opinion No. 25, ACCOUNTING FOR STOCK ISSUED TO EMPLOYEES, and related interpretations including FASB Interpretation No. 44, ACCOUNTING FOR CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING STOCK COMPENSATION, AN INTERPRETATION OF APB OPINION NO. 25, to account for its fixed-plan stock options. Under this method, compensation expense is recorded on the date of grant only if the current market price of the underlying stock exceeds the exercise price and is recognized on a straight-line basis over the vesting period. Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123, ACCOUNTING FOR STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION ("SFAS No. 123"), established accounting and disclosure requirements using a fair-value-based method of accounting for stock-based employee compensation plans. As allowed by SFAS No. 123, the Company has elected to continue to apply the intrinsic-value-based method of accounting described above and has adopted only the disclosure requirements of SFAS No. 123.

I-7

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

DISCOVERY HOLDING COMPANY

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

(UNAUDITED)

The following table illustrates the effect on net earnings as if the fair-value-based method had been applied to all outstanding and unvested awards in each period.

	THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,		NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
	AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS			
Net earnings, as reported.....	\$ 1,189	16,186	22,041	50,363
Add:				
Stock-based employee compensation expense included in reported net earnings.....	119	562	2,222	1,724
Deduct:				
Stock-based employee compensation expense determined under fair value based method for all awards.....	(1,574)	(1,466)	(8,890)	(4,325)
Pro forma net earnings (loss).....	\$ (266)	15,282	15,373	47,762
Pro forma basic and diluted earnings per share:				
As reported.....	\$ --	.06	.08	.18
Pro forma for fair value stock compensation.....	\$ --	.05	.05	.17

On May 24, 2005, Liberty commenced an offer to purchase certain stock options and stock appreciation rights ("SARs") held by eligible employees of Ascent Media. The offer to purchase related to 1,173,028 options and SARs, and the aggregate offering price for such options and SARs was approximately \$2.15 million. The offer to purchase expired at 9:00 p.m., Pacific time, on June 21, 2005. Eligible employees tendered options with respect to 1,121,673 shares of Liberty Series A common stock, and Liberty purchased such options for aggregate cash payments of approximately \$2.14 million. In connection with these purchases, Ascent Media recorded compensation expense of \$3,205,000, which included (1) the amount of the cash payments less any previously accrued compensation for the SARs and (2) the previously unamortized in-the-money value related to certain of the Ascent options. Such amount is included in net earnings for the nine months ended September 30, 2005.

In December 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123 (revised 2004), "SHARE-BASED PAYMENTS" ("Statement 123R"). Statement 123R, which is a revision of SFAS No. 123 and supersedes APB Opinion No. 25, establishes standards for the accounting for transactions in which an entity exchanges its equity instruments for goods or services, primarily focusing on transactions in which an entity obtains employee

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

services. Statement 123R generally requires companies to measure the cost of employee services received in exchange for an award of equity instruments (such as stock options and restricted stock) based on the grant-date fair value of the award, and to recognize that cost over the period during which the employee is required to provide service (usually the vesting period of the award). Statement 123R also requires companies to measure the cost of employee services received in exchange for an award of liability instruments (such as stock appreciation rights) based on the current fair value of the award, and to remeasure the fair value of the award at each reporting date.

I-8

DISCOVERY HOLDING COMPANY

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

(UNAUDITED)

Public companies are required to adopt Statement 123R as of the beginning of a registrant's next fiscal year, or January 1, 2006 for calendar-year companies, such as DHC. The provisions of Statement 123R will affect the accounting for all awards granted, modified, repurchased or cancelled after December 31, 2005. The accounting for awards granted, but not vested, prior to January 1, 2006 will also be impacted. The provisions of Statement 123R allow companies to adopt the standard on a prospective basis or to restate all periods for which Statement 123 was effective. The Company expects to adopt Statement 123R on a prospective basis, and will include in its financial statements for periods that begin after December 31, 2005 pro forma information as though the standard had been adopted for all periods presented.

While the Company has not yet quantified the impact of adopting Statement 123R, it believes that such adoption could have a significant impact on its operating income and net earnings in the future.

(4) PRO FORMA EARNINGS PER COMMON SHARE

Pro forma basic earnings per common share ("EPS") is computed by dividing net earnings by the pro forma number of common shares outstanding for the period. The pro forma number of shares outstanding for periods prior to the Spin Off Date is 280,199,000 shares, which is the number of shares that were issued on the Spin Off Date. Dilutive EPS presents the dilutive effect on a per shares basis of potential common shares as if they had been converted at the beginning of the periods presented. Due to the relative insignificance of the dilutive securities in 2005 and 2004, their inclusion does not impact the EPS amount as reported in the accompanying condensed consolidated statements of operations.

(5) SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION

	NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,	
	2005	2004
	AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS	
Cash paid for acquisitions:		
Fair value of assets acquired.....	\$ --	50,262

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

Net liabilities assumed.....	--	(16,205)
	-----	-----
Cash paid for acquisitions, net of cash acquired.....	\$ --	34,057
	=====	=====

I-9

DISCOVERY HOLDING COMPANY

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

(UNAUDITED)

(6) GOODWILL AND OTHER INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Goodwill and other intangible assets are comprised of the following:

	SEPTEMBER 30, 2005	DECEMBER 31, 2004
	-----	-----
	AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS	
Goodwill		
Creative Services Group.....	\$ 106,599	107,377
Media Management Services Group.....	93,369	93,350
Network Services Group.....	163,086	163,719
Discovery.....	1,771,000	1,771,000
	-----	-----
Total goodwill.....	2,134,054	2,135,446
Trademarks.....	2,440	2,440
Other intangible assets.....	1,577	2,469
	-----	-----
Total goodwill and other intangibles.....	\$2,138,071	2,140,355
	=====	=====

GAAP requires companies to allocate enterprise-level goodwill to all reporting units, including equity method investments. Accordingly, the Company has allocated \$1,771,000,000 of enterprise-level goodwill to its investment in Discovery. This allocation is performed for goodwill impairment testing purposes only and does not change the reported carrying value of the investment. However, to the extent the investment is disposed of in the future, the allocated goodwill will be relieved and included in the calculation of the gain or loss on disposal.

(7) INVESTMENT IN DISCOVERY

The Company has a 50% ownership interest in Discovery and accounts for its investment using the equity method of accounting. Discovery is a global media and entertainment company, that provides original and purchased video programming in the United States and over 160 other countries. Discovery also develops and sells branded commerce and educational product lines in the United States.

DHC's carrying value for Discovery was \$3,011,716,000 at September 30, 2005. In addition, as described in note 6, enterprise-level goodwill of \$1,771,000,000 has been allocated to the investment in Discovery.

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

I-10

DISCOVERY HOLDING COMPANY

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

(UNAUDITED)

Summarized financial information for Discovery is as follows:

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

	SEPTEMBER 30, 2005	DECEMBER 31, 2004
	-----	-----
	AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS	
Current assets.....	\$ 854,466	835,450
Property and equipment, net.....	396,804	380,290
Goodwill and intangible assets.....	410,179	445,221
Programming rights, long term.....	1,129,819	1,027,379
Other assets.....	345,587	547,346
	-----	-----
Total assets.....	\$3,136,855	3,235,686
	=====	=====
Current liabilities.....	\$ 867,473	885,353
Long term debt.....	2,413,431	2,498,287
Other liabilities.....	100,025	160,405
Mandatorily redeemable equity in subsidiaries.....	252,169	319,567
Stockholders' deficit.....	(496,243)	(627,926)
	-----	-----
Total liabilities and stockholders' deficit.....	\$3,136,855	3,235,686
	=====	=====

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

	NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,	
	2005	2004
	-----	-----
	AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS	
Revenue.....	\$1,900,549	1,672,483
Cost of revenue.....	(659,861)	(575,405)
Selling, general and administrative.....	(737,843)	(615,770)
Equity-based compensation.....	(18,786)	(80,857)
Depreciation and amortization.....	(90,579)	(97,706)
Gain on sale of patents.....	--	22,007
	-----	-----
Operating income.....	393,480	324,752
Interest expense.....	(130,212)	(124,008)
Other income (expense).....	9,388	6,795
Income tax expense.....	(129,770)	(90,798)

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

	-----	-----
Net earnings.....	\$ 142,886	116,741
	=====	=====

(8) ACQUISITIONS

LONDON PLAYOUT CENTRE.

On March 12, 2004, pursuant to an Agreement for the Sale and Purchase (the "Purchase Agreement"), Ascent Media acquired all of the issued share capital of London Playout Centre Limited

I-11

DISCOVERY HOLDING COMPANY

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

(UNAUDITED)

("LPC") from an independent third party (the "Seller") for a purchase price of \$36,573,000 paid at closing. In addition, in the event certain existing LPC contracts, which were to expire in 2005 through 2007, were renewed on terms similar to existing terms, Ascent Media would have been required to pay up to an additional L5,000,000. As of September 30, 2005, all contracts subject to this contingency had expired or been terminated, and no contingent purchase price was owed by Ascent Media. LPC is a UK-based television channel origination facility. The purchase was funded, in part, by proceeds from Liberty.

The following unaudited pro forma information for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 was prepared assuming the acquisition of LPC occurred on January 1, 2004. However, these pro forma amounts are not necessarily indicative of operating results that would have occurred if the LPC acquisition had occurred on January 1, 2004 (amounts in thousands):

Revenue.....	\$466,847	
Net earnings.....	\$ 49,413	
Pro forma earnings per common share.....	\$.18	

(9) COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

The Company is involved in litigation and similar claims incidental to the conduct of its business. In management's opinion, none of the pending actions is likely to have a material adverse impact on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

The Company and its subsidiaries lease offices, satellite transponders and certain equipment under lease arrangements.

(10) RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Certain third-party general and administrative and spin off related costs were paid by Liberty on behalf of the Company prior to the Spin Off and reflected as expenses in the accompanying condensed consolidated statements of operations. In addition, certain general and administrative expenses are charged by Liberty to DHC pursuant to the Services Agreement. Such expenses aggregated

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

\$4,655,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2005.

Since October 1, 2002, Ascent Media has provided uplink and satellite transport services to On Command Corporation ("On Command"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Liberty, pursuant to the terms of a short-term services agreement and a content preparation and distribution services agreement, which continues through March 31, 2008. The content preparation and distribution services agreement also provides that Ascent Media may supply content preparation services. During the period from April 2003 to October 2004, Ascent Media also installed satellite equipment at On Command's downlink sites at hotels pursuant to a separate services agreement. All agreements were entered into in the ordinary course of business on arm's-length terms. Ascent Media has provided \$312,000 and \$337,000 in services to On Command for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and 2004, respectively.

I-12

DISCOVERY HOLDING COMPANY

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

(UNAUDITED)

Ascent Media provides services such as satellite uplink, systems integration, origination, and post-production to Discovery. Revenue recorded by Ascent Media for these services for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and 2004 aggregated \$25,223,000 and \$21,544,000, respectively.

(11) INFORMATION ABOUT OPERATING SEGMENTS

The Company's business units have been aggregated into four reportable segments: the Creative Services Group, the Media Management Services Group, and the Network Services Group, which are all operating segments of Ascent Media, and Discovery, which is an equity affiliate. Corporate related items and unallocated income and expenses are reflected in the Corporate and Other column listed below.

The Creative Services Group provides post-production services, which are comprised of services necessary to complete the creation of original content including feature films, television shows, movies of the week/mini series, television commercials, music videos, promotional and identity campaigns and corporate communications programming. The Media Management Services Group provides (i) content storage services, which are comprised of facilities and services necessary to optimize, archive, manage and repurpose media assets for global distribution via freight, satellite, fiber and the Internet; (ii) access to all forms of content, duplication and formatting services; (iii) language conversions and laybacks; (iv) restoration and preservation of old or damaged content; (v) mastering from motion picture film to high resolution or data formats; (vi) digital audio and video encoding services; and (vii) digital media management services for global home video, broadcast, pay-per-view and emerging new media distribution channels. The Network Services Group provides broadcast services, which are comprised of services necessary to assemble and distribute programming for cable and broadcast networks via fiber and satellite to viewers in North America, Europe and Asia. Additionally, the Networks Services Group provides systems integration, design, consulting, engineering and project management services.

The Company's chief operating decision maker, or his designee (the "CODM"), has identified the Company's reportable segments based on (i) financial information reviewed by the CODM and (ii) those operating segments that

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

represent more than 10% of the Company's consolidated revenue or earnings before taxes. In addition, those equity investments whose share of earnings represent more than 10% of the Company's earnings before taxes are considered reportable segments.

The accounting policies of the segments that are consolidated subsidiaries are the same as those described in the summary of significant accounting policies and are consistent with GAAP.

The Company evaluates the performance of these operating segments based on financial measures such as revenue and operating cash flow. The Company defines operating cash flow as revenue less operating expenses and selling, general and administrative expense (excluding stock and other equity-based compensation). The Company believes this is an important indicator of the operational strength and performance of its businesses, including the ability to service debt and capital expenditures. In addition, this measure allows management to view operating results and perform analytical comparisons and identify strategies to improve performance. This measure of performance excludes depreciation and amortization and stock and other equity-based compensation that are included in the measurement of operating income pursuant to GAAP. Accordingly, operating cash flow should be considered in addition

I-13

DISCOVERY HOLDING COMPANY

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

(UNAUDITED)

to, but not as a substitute for, operating income, cash flow provided by operating activities and other measures of financial performance prepared in accordance with GAAP.

The Company's reportable segments are strategic business units that offer different products and services. They are managed separately because each segment requires different technologies, distribution channels and marketing strategies.

Summarized financial information concerning the Company's reportable segments is presented in the following tables:

	CREATIVE SERVICES GROUP -----	MEDIA MANAGEMENT SERVICES GROUP -----	NETWORK SERVICES GROUP (1) -----	DISCOVERY -----	CORPORATE AND OTHER AND ELIMINATIONS -----	TO -----
	AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS					
Nine months ended						
September 30, 2005						
Revenue from external						
customers.....	\$225,008	87,778	207,457	1,900,549	(1,900,549)	52
Operating cash flow.....	\$ 39,946	9,739	41,101	502,845	(538,508)	5
Capital expenditures.....	\$ 19,678	19,605	31,440	77,609	(73,823)	7
Total assets.....	\$297,132	170,737	292,868	--	5,063,947	5,82
Nine months ended						

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

September 30, 2004

Revenue from external customers.....	\$219,746	79,058	159,540	1,672,483	(1,672,483)	45
Operating cash flow.....	\$ 40,690	13,175	44,750	481,308	(509,739)	7
Capital expenditures.....	\$ 14,095	3,456	14,219	44,665	(42,997)	3

(1) Included in Network Services Group revenue is broadcast services revenue of \$110,436,000 and \$97,462,000 and systems integration revenue of \$97,021,000 and \$62,078,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and 2004, respectively.

I-14

DISCOVERY HOLDING COMPANY

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

(UNAUDITED)

	CREATIVE SERVICES GROUP	MEDIA MANAGEMENT SERVICES GROUP	NETWORK SERVICES GROUP (1)	DISCOVERY	CORPORATE AND OTHER AND ELIMINATIONS
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS				
Three months ended September 30, 2005					
Revenue from external customers.....	\$73,215	27,730	66,989	639,182	(639,182)
Operating cash flow.....	\$12,187	1,291	14,327	170,580	(181,778)
Capital expenditures.....	\$ 9,481	7,728	4,990	16,980	(15,823)
Three months ended September 30, 2004					
Revenue from external customers.....	\$68,940	26,896	56,088	557,830	(557,830)
Operating cash flow.....	\$12,364	4,094	15,437	161,028	(170,610)
Capital expenditures.....	\$ 5,103	1,472	11,080	20,148	(18,670)

(1) Included in Network Services Group revenue is broadcast services revenue of \$38,781,000 and \$36,802,000 and systems integration revenue of \$28,208,000 and \$19,286,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2005 and 2004, respectively.

The following table provides a reconciliation of segment operating cash flow to earnings before income taxes.

NINE MONTHS ENDED
SEPTEMBER 30,

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

	2005	2004
AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS		
Segment operating cash flow.....	\$ 55,123	70,184
Stock-based compensation.....	(3,743)	(1,613)
Depreciation and amortization.....	(54,888)	(53,530)
Share of earnings of Discovery.....	71,443	58,370
Other, net.....	1,697	(37)

Earnings before income taxes.....	\$ 69,632	73,374
=====		

Information as to the Company's operations in different geographic areas is as follows:

	NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,	
	2005	2004
AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS		
Revenue		
United States.....	\$392,562	334,231
United Kingdom.....	113,537	106,259
Other countries.....	14,144	17,854

	\$520,243	458,344
=====		

I-15

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

Certain statements in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. To the extent that such statements are not recitations of historical fact, such statements constitute forward-looking statements which, by definition, involve risks and uncertainties. Where, in any forward-looking statement, we express an expectation or belief as to future results or events, such expectation or belief is expressed in good faith and believed to have a reasonable basis, but there can be no assurance that the statement of expectation or belief will result or be achieved or accomplished. The following include some but not all of the factors that could cause actual results or events to differ materially from those anticipated:

- general economic and business conditions and industry trends including the timing of, and spending on, feature film and television production;
- spending on domestic and foreign television advertising and spending on domestic and foreign first-run and existing content libraries;
- the regulatory and competitive environment of the industries in which we, and the entities in which we have interests, operate;

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

- continued consolidation of the broadband distribution and movie studio industries;
- fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates and political unrest in international markets;
- uncertainties inherent in the development and integration of new business lines, acquired businesses and business strategies;
- uncertainties associated with product and service development and market acceptance, including the development and provision of programming for new television and telecommunications technologies;
- changes in distribution and viewing of television programming, including the expanded deployment of personal video recorders, video on demand and IP television and their impact on television advertising revenue;
- rapid technological changes;
- future financial performance, including availability, terms and deployment of capital;
- the ability of suppliers and vendors to deliver products, equipment, software and services;
- the outcome of any pending or threatened litigation;
- availability of qualified personnel;
- the possibility of an industry-wide strike or other job action by or affecting a major entertainment industry union;
- changes in, or failure or inability to comply with, government regulations, including, without limitation, regulations of the Federal Communications Commission, and adverse outcomes from regulatory proceedings;
- changes in the nature of key strategic relationships with partners and joint venturers;
- competitor responses to our products and services, and the products and services of the entities in which we have interests; and
- threatened terrorists attacks and ongoing military action in the Middle East and other parts of the world.

I-16

These forward-looking statements and such risks, uncertainties and other factors speak only as of the date of this Quarterly Report, and we expressly disclaim any obligation or undertaking to disseminate any updates or revisions to any forward-looking statement contained herein, to reflect any change in its expectations with regard thereto, or any other change in events, conditions or circumstances on which any such statement is based.

The following discussion and analysis provides information concerning our results of operations and financial condition. This discussion should be read in conjunction with our accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto; and our "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and the combined financial statements of LMC Discovery Group for the year ended December 31, 2004 included in our Information Statement.

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

OVERVIEW

We are a holding company and our businesses and assets include Ascent Media, which we consolidate, and a 50% ownership interest in Discovery, which we account for using the equity method of accounting. Accordingly, as described below, Discovery's revenue is not reflected in the revenue we report in our financial statements. In addition to the foregoing assets, immediately prior to the Spin Off, Liberty transferred to a subsidiary of our company \$200 million in cash. The Spin Off was effected on July 21, 2005 as a distribution by Liberty to holders of its Series A and Series B common stock of shares of our Series A and Series B common stock, respectively. The Spin Off did not involve the payment of any consideration by the holders of Liberty common stock and is intended to qualify as a tax-free spinoff. The Spin Off has been accounted for at historical cost due to the pro rata nature of the distribution.

Following the Spin Off, we and Liberty operate independently, and neither has any stock ownership, beneficial or otherwise, in the other.

Ascent Media provides creative, media management and network services to the media and entertainment industries. Ascent Media's clients include major motion picture studios, independent producers, broadcast networks, cable programming networks, advertising agencies and other companies that produce, own and/or distribute entertainment, news, sports, corporate, educational, industrial and advertising content. Ascent Media's operations are organized into the following four groups: creative services, media management services, network services and corporate and other. Ascent Media has few long-term or exclusive agreements with its creative services and media management services customers.

In 2005, Ascent Media's focus is on leveraging its broad array of media services and to market itself as a full service provider to new and existing customers within the feature film and television production industry. With facilities in the U.S., the United Kingdom and Asia, Ascent Media also hopes to increase its services to multinational companies. The challenges that Ascent Media faces include (i) differentiating its products and services to help maintain or increase operating margins and (ii) financing capital expenditures for equipment and other items to satisfy customers' desire for services using the latest technology.

Our most significant asset is Discovery, in which we do not have a controlling financial interest. Discovery is a global media and entertainment company that provides original and purchased video programming in the U.S. and over 160 other countries. Discovery also develops and sells branded commerce and educational product lines in the United States. We account for our interest in Discovery using the equity method of accounting. Accordingly, our share of the results of operations of Discovery is reflected in our consolidated results as earnings or losses of Discovery. To assist the reader in better understanding and analyzing our business, we have included a separate discussion and analysis of Discovery's results of operations and liquidity below.

I-17

ACQUISITIONS

LONDON PLAYOUT CENTRE. On March 12, 2004, Ascent Media acquired the entire issued share capital of London Playout Centre Limited which we refer to as LPC, a UK-based television channel origination facility. LPC is included in Ascent Media's network services group.

CINETECH. On October 20, 2004, Ascent Media acquired substantially all of the assets of Cinetech, Inc., a film laboratory and still image preservation and restoration company, for \$10,000,000 in cash plus contingent compensation of up

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

to \$1,500,000 to be paid based on the satisfaction of certain contingencies as set forth in the purchase agreement. Cinetech is included in Ascent Media's media management services group.

OPERATING CASH FLOW

We evaluate the performance of our operating segments based on financial measures such as revenue and operating cash flow. We define operating cash flow as revenue less cost of services and selling, general and administrative expense (excluding stock and other equity-based compensation). We believe this is an important indicator of the operational strength and performance of our businesses, including the ability to invest in ongoing capital expenditures and service of any debt. In addition, this measure allows management to view operating results and perform analytical comparisons and identify strategies to improve performance. This measure of performance excludes depreciation and amortization and stock and other equity-based compensation, that are included in the measurement of operating income pursuant to U.S. generally accepted accounting principles or GAAP. Accordingly, operating cash flow should be considered in addition to, but not as a substitute for, operating income, cash flow provided by operating activities and other measures of financial performance prepared in accordance with GAAP. See note 11 to the accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements for a reconciliation of operating cash flow to earnings before income taxes.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Our consolidated results of operations include general and administrative expenses incurred at the DHC corporate level, 100% of Ascent Media's results and our 50% share of earnings of Discovery.

Ascent Media's creative services group revenue is primarily generated from fees for video and audio post production, special effects and editorial services for the television, feature film and advertising industries. Generally, these services pertain to the completion of feature films, television programs and advertisements. These projects normally span from a few days to three months or more in length, and fees for these projects typically range from \$10,000 to \$1,000,000 per project. The media management services group provides owners of film libraries a broad range of restoration, preservation, archiving, professional mastering and duplication services. The scope of media management services vary in duration from one day to several months depending on the nature of the service, and fees typically range from less than \$1,000 to \$100,000 per project. Additionally, the media management services group includes Ascent Media's digital media center which is developing new products and businesses in areas such as digital imaging, digital media and interactive media. The network services group's revenue consists of fees relating to facilities and services necessary to assemble and transport programming for cable and broadcast networks across the world via freight, fiber, satellite and the Internet. Additionally, the group earns revenue by providing systems integration and field support services, technology consulting services, design and implementation of advanced video systems, engineering project management, technical help desk and field service. Approximately 60% of the network services group's revenue relates to systems integration and engineering services that are provided on a project basis over terms generally ranging from three to twelve months. Approximately 40% of the network services group's revenue relates to broadcast services, satellite operations and fiber services that are earned monthly under long-term contracts ranging generally from one to seven years.

I-18

Cost of services and operating expenses consists primarily of production wages, facility costs and other direct costs and selling, general and administrative expenses. Corporate related items and expenses are reflected in Corporate and

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

Other, below.

	THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,		NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
	AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS			
SEGMENT REVENUE				
Creative services group.....	\$ 73,215	68,940	225,008	219,746
Media management services group.....	27,730	26,896	87,778	79,058
Network services group.....	66,989	56,088	207,457	159,540
Corporate and other.....	--	--	--	--
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	\$167,934	151,924	520,243	458,344
	=====	=====	=====	=====
SEGMENT OPERATING CASH FLOW				
Creative services group.....	\$ 12,187	12,364	39,946	40,690
Media management services group.....	1,291	4,094	9,739	13,175
Network services group.....	14,327	15,437	41,101	44,750
Corporate and other.....	(11,198)	(9,582)	(35,663)	(28,431)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	\$ 16,607	22,313	55,123	70,184
	=====	=====	=====	=====

REVENUE. Total revenue increased 10.5% and 13.5% for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005, respectively, as compared to the corresponding prior year periods. The creative services group revenue increased \$4,275,000 and \$5,262,000 for the three and nine month periods, respectively. The increase for the three month period is due to more commercial advertising production and feature film projects for both post production and sound services in the U.S. partially offset by continued weakness in commercial and feature film services provided in the U.K. The increase for the nine month period is due to higher commercial revenue and strong feature film business in the U.S., partially offset by reduced sound services and continued weakness in commercial and feature film activity in the U.K. The media management services group revenue increased \$834,000 and \$8,720,000 for the three and nine month periods, respectively. The increase in revenue for the three month period was a result of higher lab revenue of \$2,735,000 primarily driven by the acquisition of Cinetech partially offset by lower revenue for traditional media services both in the U.S. and U.K. The increase in revenue for the nine month period was a result of higher lab revenue of \$9,175,000 primarily driven by the acquisition of Cinetech, higher revenues in DVD services driven by the studios in the U.S. and an increase in new digital services offset by declines in the U.K. in traditional services and subtitling. The network services group revenue increased \$10,901,000 and \$47,917,000 for the three and nine month periods, respectively. These increases reflect higher number of large engineering and systems integration projects partially offset by lower renewal rates on certain ongoing broadcast services contracts. The nine-month increase also includes \$9,423,000 of revenue related to the LPC acquisition.

COST OF SERVICES. Cost of services increased 19.8% and 22.1% for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005, respectively, as compared to the corresponding prior year periods. These increases are partially attributable to the 2004 acquisitions discussed above, which contributed \$1,241,000 and \$11,656,000 in cost of services for the three and nine month periods, respectively. As a percent of revenue, cost of services increased from 60.1% to 65.1% for the three month periods and from 60.0% to 64.5% for the nine month

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

periods. These increases are due primarily to the network services and media management groups. In the network services group, the mix of revenue has shifted to a higher percentage of systems engineering and integration projects, which have higher production and engineering labor and production material and equipment costs, than broadcast services and satellite operations. In addition, competitive pressures have contributed to lower rates as contracts are

I-19

renewed and new business is acquired. Media management services group cost of services have increased at a faster rate than revenue as the group has increased spending on development of digital technologies and new services. Additionally, media management's projects have become increasingly more integrated, with complex work flows requiring higher levels of production labor and project management. This increase in labor costs, combined with investment in new technologies, has resulted in higher cost of services and decreasing operating cash flow margin.

SELLING, GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE. Ascent Media's selling, general and administrative expenses increased 6.0% and 10.3% for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005, respectively, as compared to the corresponding prior year periods. These increases are primarily attributable to the impact of the 2004 acquisitions and the growth in the revenue driving higher labor, support, facility and selling costs.

Corporate and Other operating cash flow (which includes DHC corporate general and administrative expenses of \$1,422,000 and \$4,655,000 for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005, respectively) decreased \$1,616,000 and \$7,232,000 in 2005 primarily due to higher DHC corporate expenses and higher Ascent Media corporate expenses in the U.K. as a result of higher labor, facility and professional services costs. The DHC corporate expenses primarily relate to expenses incurred in connection with the Spin Off.

DEPRECIATION AND AMORTIZATION. The changes in depreciation and amortization expense for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005 are due to a combination of capital expenditures, acquisitions and assets becoming fully depreciated.

STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION. In 2001, Ascent Media granted to certain of its officers and employees stock options (the "Ascent Media Options") with exercise prices that were less than the market price of Ascent Media common stock on the date of grant. The Ascent Media Options became exercisable for Liberty shares in connection with Liberty's 2003 acquisition of the Ascent Media outstanding common stock that it did not already own. Ascent Media is amortizing the "in-the-money" value of these options over the 5-year vesting period. Certain Ascent Media employees also hold options and stock appreciation rights granted by companies acquired by Ascent Media in the past several years and exchanged for Liberty options and SARs. Ascent Media records compensation expense for the SARs based on the underlying stock price and vesting of such awards.

On May 24, 2005, Liberty commenced an offer to purchase certain stock options and SARs held by eligible employees of Ascent Media. The offer to purchase related to 1,173,028 options and SARs, and the aggregate offering price for such options and SARs was approximately \$2.15 million. The offer to purchase expired at 9:00 p.m., Pacific time, on June 21, 2005. Eligible employees tendered options with respect to 1,121,673 shares of Liberty Series A common stock, and Liberty purchased such options for aggregate cash payments of approximately \$2.14 million. In connection with these purchases, Ascent Media recorded compensation expense of \$3,205,000, which included (1) the amount of the cash payments less any previously accrued compensation for the SARs and (2) the previously unamortized in-the-money value related to the Ascent Media Options.

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

SHARE OF EARNINGS OF DISCOVERY. Our share of earnings of Discovery increased 63.2% and 22.4% for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005, respectively. These increases are due to increases in Discovery's revenue and operating income, partially offset by an increase in minority interest for the three month period and a decrease in gains from derivatives for the nine month period.

We have provided a more detailed discussion of Discovery's results of operations below.

INCOME TAXES. Our effective tax rate was 68.3% and 31.4% for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and 2004, respectively. Subsequent to the Spin Off, we assessed our historical weighted average state tax rate and determined to increase such rate. This increase resulted in

I-20

additional tax expense in the third quarter of 2005 in the amount of \$13,507,000. In addition, our income tax expense was higher than the federal income tax rate of 35% in 2005 due to state and foreign tax expense. Our effective tax rate was lower than the federal income tax rate in 2004 due to a reduction in our valuation allowance and foreign taxes which are incurred at a lower rate than the federal rate partially offset by state income tax expense.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Prior to the Spin Off, our primary sources of funds were cash flows from operating activities and capital contributions from Liberty. During the nine months ended September 30, 2005, our primary use of cash was for capital expenditures (\$74,509,000), which we primarily funded with our available cash and cash generated by operating activities (\$61,836,000). Of the foregoing 2005 capital expenditures, \$30,905,000 relates to the buildout of Ascent Media's existing facilities for specific customer contracts and the construction of Ascent Media's Digital Media Center in Burbank, California. The remainder of Ascent Media's capital expenditures relates to purchases of new equipment and the upgrade of existing facilities and equipment. Ascent Media currently expects to spend an additional \$14,000,000 for capital expenditures in 2005. Prior to the Spin Off, Liberty transferred to one of our subsidiaries \$200 million in cash. Subsequent to the Spin Off, Liberty will no longer be a long-term source of liquidity for us. For the foreseeable future, we expect to have sufficient available cash balances and net cash from operating activities to meet our working capital needs and capital expenditure requirements. We intend to seek external equity or debt financing in the event new investment opportunities, additional capital expenditures or increased operations require additional funds, but there can be no assurance that we will be able to obtain equity or debt financing on terms that are acceptable to us.

We do not have access to the cash Discovery generates from its operations, unless Discovery pays a dividend on its capital stock or otherwise distributes cash to its stockholders. Historically, Discovery has not paid any dividends on its capital stock, and we do not have sufficient voting control to cause Discovery to pay dividends or make other payments or advances to us.

DISCOVERY

We hold a 50% ownership interest in Discovery and account for this investment using the equity method of accounting. Accordingly, in our financial statements we record our share of Discovery's net income or loss available to common shareholders and reflect this activity in one line item in our statement of operations as "Share of earnings of Discovery." The following financial information of Discovery for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

September 30, 2004 and related discussion is presented to provide the reader with additional analysis of the operating results and financial position of Discovery. Because we do not control the decision-making process or business management practices of Discovery, we rely on Discovery to provide us with financial information prepared in accordance with GAAP that we use in the application of the equity method. The following discussion and analysis of Discovery's operations and financial position has been prepared based on information that we receive from Discovery and represents our views and understanding of their operating performance and financial position based on such information. Discovery is not a separately traded public company, and we do not have the ability to cause Discovery's management to prepare their own management's discussion and analysis for our purposes. Accordingly, we note that the material presented in this section might be different if Discovery's management had prepared it.

The following discussion of Discovery's results of operations is presented on a consolidated basis. In order to provide a better understanding of Discovery's operations, we have also included a summarized presentation of revenue and operating cash flow of Discovery's three operating groups: Discovery networks U.S., or U.S. networks, Discovery networks international, or international networks, and Discovery commerce, education and other.

I-21

The U.S. networks is Discovery's largest division which owns and operates 12 cable and satellite channels and provides distribution and advertising sales services for BBC America. International networks manages a portfolio of channels, led by the Discovery Channel and Animal Planet brands, that are distributed in virtually every pay-television market in the world via an infrastructure that includes major operational centers in London, Singapore, New Delhi and Miami. Discovery commerce, education and other includes Discovery's retail chain store operations and other direct consumer marketing activities, as well as Discovery education, which was recently formed to manage Discovery's distribution of education content.

CONSOLIDATED RESULTS

	NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,	
	2005	2004
	AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS	
REVENUE		
Advertising.....	\$ 875,565	825,281
Subscriber fees.....	879,428	721,906
Other.....	145,556	125,296
	1,900,549	1,672,483
EXPENSES		
Cost of revenue.....	(659,861)	(575,405)
Selling, general and administrative ("SG&A") expense.....	(737,843)	(615,770)
	502,845	481,308
Operating cash flow.....	502,845	481,308
Expenses arising from long-term incentive plans.....	(18,786)	(80,857)
Depreciation and amortization.....	(90,579)	(97,706)
Gain on sale of patents.....	--	22,007

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

Operating income.....	393,480	324,752
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE)		
Interest expense, net.....	(130,212)	(124,008)
Unrealized gains from derivative instruments, net.....	16,018	33,188
Minority interests in consolidated subsidiaries.....	(23,754)	(25,393)
Other.....	17,124	(1,000)
Income before income taxes.....	272,656	207,539
Income tax expense.....	(129,770)	(90,798)
Net income.....	\$ 142,886	116,741

I-22

BUSINESS SEGMENT RESULTS

	NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,	
	2005	2004
	AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS	
REVENUE		
U.S. networks.....	\$1,299,389	1,186,778
International networks.....	517,129	417,340
Discovery commerce, education and other.....	84,031	68,365
Total revenue.....	\$1,900,549	1,672,483
OPERATING CASH FLOW		
U.S. networks.....	\$ 494,583	458,699
International networks.....	76,239	72,590
Discovery commerce, education and other.....	(67,977)	(49,981)
Total operating cash flow.....	\$ 502,845	481,308

NOTE: Discovery commerce, education and other includes intercompany eliminations.

REVENUE. Discovery's consolidated revenue increased 14% for the nine months ended September 30, 2005, as compared to the corresponding prior year period. Increased revenue was primarily due to 22% increase in subscriber fee revenue. Advertising revenue increased 6% during the same period. Other revenue increased 16% due to increased store and licensing revenue within Discovery's commerce business, combined with growth in Discovery's education business.

Subscriber fee revenue grew 21% at the U.S. networks and 23% at the international networks. The increase in subscriber fees at the U.S. networks is due to a 12% increase in paying subscription units combined with contractual rate increases at most networks. Free viewing periods related to a number of U.S. networks, principally networks that are carried on the digital tier, began

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

expiring in 2004 and Discovery is now recognizing subscriber fees for those networks. U.S. networks subscriber fee increases were also helped by reduced launch fee amortization, a contra-revenue item, as a result of extensions of certain affiliation agreements. Launch amortization at the U.S. networks declined from \$69,238,000 during the nine months ended September 30, 2004 to \$51,595,000 in 2005 primarily due to these extensions. Increases in subscriber fees at the international networks were driven principally by increases in paying subscription units in Europe and Asia, as well as the international joint venture channels combined with contractual rate increases in certain markets.

The increase in advertising revenue, which includes revenue from paid programming, was primarily due to a 29% increase at the international networks. More than half of the international networks' advertising revenue is generated by its operations in the United Kingdom and Europe. The increase in international networks advertising revenue was due primarily to higher viewership in the U.K. and an increased subscriber base in the U.K. and Europe. Advertising revenue at the U.S. networks increased 2% as higher advertising sell-out rates were partially offset by lower audience delivery at certain networks. Paid programming, where Discovery sells blocks of time primarily for infomercials that are aired during the overnight hours on certain networks, represented 6% and 7% of total advertising revenue for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and 2004, respectively.

The increase in other revenue was primarily due to an increase in education revenue due to growth in the business and acquisitions combined with a 5% increase in store revenue. The increase in store revenue was due to a 11% increase in same store sales offset by a 7% decrease in the average

I-23

number of stores. Discovery began an initiative in 2003 to close stores that were not profitable which has resulted in a reduction of the total number of store locations.

COST OF REVENUE. Cost of revenue increased 15% for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 as compared to the corresponding prior year period. As a percent of revenue, cost of revenue was 35% and 34% for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and 2004, respectively. This increase primarily resulted from higher programming expense due to continued investment across all U.S. networks in original productions and high profile specials. At the international networks, continued investment in the lifestyles category, particularly in Europe, has resulted in increased programming costs. These increases were offset partially by an aggregate benefit of approximately \$9 million related to certain nonrecurring items, including a change in estimate for the international music rights accrual.

SG&A EXPENSES. SG&A expenses increased 20% for the nine months ended September 30, 2005, as compared to the corresponding prior year period. Within the different groups, SG&A expenses increased 3%, 43% and 51% at the U.S. networks, international networks and Discovery commerce, education and other, respectively. The increase at the international networks was caused by increases in personnel expense resulting from adding headcount as the business expands particularly in the U.K. and Europe combined with higher marketing expense associated with branding and awareness efforts, particularly in Europe, in association with the lifestyles category initiative. The increase in SG&A expenses of 51% or \$41,944,000 at Discovery commerce, education and other is primarily due to acquisitions and organic growth in Discovery's education business.

EXPENSES ARISING FROM LONG-TERM INCENTIVE PLANS. Expenses arising from long-term incentive plans are related to Discovery's unit-based, long-term incentive plan, or LTIP, for its employees who meet certain eligibility

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

criteria. Units are awarded to eligible employees and generally vest at a rate of 25% per year. Upon exercise, participants receive a cash payment for the increase in value of the units from the unit value on the date of issuance. Unit value is determined by the year over year change in Discovery's aggregate equity value as estimated by an external investment firm, using a consistent methodology. The appreciation in unit value of LTIP awards outstanding is recorded as compensation expense over the vesting periods. The 77% or \$62,071,000 decrease in LTIP expense in 2005 is the result of an increase in units exercised during the year, partially offset by additional expenses related to the termination of one of Discovery's long-term incentive plans and current year vesting under the remaining plan. Discovery made aggregate cash payments of \$265,072,000 to participants who exercised units during the nine months ended September 30, 2005. The cash-out value of the units exercised was based on the plan valuation at the end of 2004, resulting in lower expense for the current period, as compared to the same period in 2004. Discovery established a new long-term incentive plan in October 2005 (the "2005 LTIP Plan") where participants in Discovery's existing plan may elect to (1) stay in such plan or (2) exercise vested units and convert unvested units to the 2005 LTIP Plan. If the remaining vested LTIP awards at September 30, 2005 were exercised, the aggregate cash payments by Discovery would be approximately \$58 million. The aggregate number of units that are currently authorized to be granted under the 2005 LTIP plan approximates a 5% sharing in the change in Discovery's equity value.

DEPRECIATION AND AMORTIZATION. The decrease in depreciation and amortization for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 is due to intangibles becoming fully amortized and a decrease in the depreciable asset base resulting from a reduction in the number of retail stores, offset by new assets placed in service during 2005.

OTHER INCOME AND EXPENSE

INTEREST EXPENSE. The increase in interest expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 is primarily due to an increase in interest rates during 2005.

I-24

UNREALIZED GAINS FROM DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENTS, NET. Unrealized gains from derivative transactions relate primarily to Discovery's use of derivative instruments to modify its exposure to interest rate fluctuations on its debt. These instrument contracts include a combination of swaps, caps, collars and other structured instruments. As a result of unrealized mark to market adjustments, Discovery recognized \$16,018,000 and \$33,188,000 in unrealized gains on these instruments during the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and 2004, respectively. The foreign exchange hedging instruments used by Discovery are spot, forward and option contracts. Additionally, Discovery enters into non-designated forward contracts to hedge non-dollar denominated cash flows and foreign currency balances.

MINORITY INTERESTS IN CONSOLIDATED SUBSIDIARIES. Minority interest represents increases and decreases in the estimated redemption value of mandatory redeemable interests in subsidiaries which are initially recorded at fair value.

INCOME TAXES. Discovery's effective tax rate was 48% and 44% for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and 2004, respectively. Discovery's effective tax rate differed from the federal income tax rate of 35% primarily due to foreign and state taxes.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

Discovery used \$24,680,000 and \$41,982,000 of cash from operations during the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and 2004, respectively. The company's use of cash from operations during the nine months ended September 30, 2005 was its operating cash flow offset by payments associated with the company's long-term incentive plan in the amount of \$265,072,000, interest expense of \$130,212,000 and working capital fluctuations. During the nine months ended September 30, 2004, the company's use of cash from operations resulted from operating cash flow less interest expense of \$124,008,000, payments associated with the company's long-term incentive plan in the amount of \$238,337,000 and working capital changes.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2005, Discovery paid \$92,874,000 to acquire mandatorily redeemable securities related to minority interests in certain consolidated subsidiaries. Discovery also spent \$77,609,000 on capital expenditures during the period. During the nine months ended September 30, 2004, Discovery paid \$148,880,000 to acquire mandatorily redeemable securities related to minority interests in certain subsidiaries and spent \$44,665,000 on capital expenditures.

In addition to cash provided by operations, Discovery funds its activities with proceeds borrowed under various debt facilities, including a term loan, a revolving loan facility and various senior notes payable. During the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and 2004, net borrowings under debt facilities were \$217,000,000 and \$269,000,000, respectively. Total commitments of these facilities were \$3,490,000,000 at September 30, 2005. Debt outstanding on these facilities aggregated \$2,695,000,000 at September 30, 2005, providing excess debt availability of \$795,000,000. Subsequent to September 30, 2005, Discovery refinanced certain of its debt facilities and increased its total commitments by \$55 million. Discovery's ability to borrow the unused capacity is dependent on its continuing compliance with its covenants at the time of, and after giving effect to, a requested borrowing.

All term and revolving loans and senior notes are unsecured. They contain covenants that require Discovery to meet certain financial ratios and place restrictions on the payment of dividends, sale of assets, additional borrowings, mergers, and purchases of capital stock, assets and investments. Discovery was in compliance with all debt covenants at September 30, 2005.

During 2005, including amounts discussed above, Discovery expects to spend approximately \$120,000,000 for capital expenditures, \$184,000,000 for interest expense, and a minimum of \$300,000,000 for LTIP obligations. Discovery believes that its cash flow from operations and borrowings

I-25

available under its credit facilities will be sufficient to fund its working capital requirements, including LTIP obligations.

Discovery has agreements covering leases of satellite transponders, facilities and equipment. These agreements expire at various dates through 2019. Discovery is obligated to license programming under agreements with content suppliers that expire over various dates. Discovery also has other contractual commitments arising in the ordinary course of business.

In connection with the execution of long-term distribution agreements for certain of its European cable networks, Discovery is committed to pay a distributor a percentage increase in the value of these networks, if any, at the termination of the contract on December 31, 2006. Discovery adjusts its recorded liability for changes in the value of these networks each period. However, Discovery is currently unable to predict the likelihood or the terms and conditions of any renewal or extension of the distribution agreements. Discovery will record the effect of a renewed or extended distribution agreement when such

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

terms are in place. The effect of a renewed or extended agreement could result in a payment for an amount significantly greater than the amount currently accrued.

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

FOREIGN CURRENCY RISK

We continually monitor our economic exposure to changes in foreign exchange rates and may enter into foreign exchange agreements where and when appropriate. Substantially all of our foreign transactions are denominated in foreign currencies, including the liabilities of our foreign subsidiaries. Although our foreign transactions are not generally subject to significant foreign exchange transaction gains or losses, the financial statements of our foreign subsidiaries are translated into United States dollars as part of our consolidated financial reporting. As a result, fluctuations in exchange rates affect our financial position and results of operations.

ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

In accordance with Exchange Act Rules 13a-15 and 15d-15, the Company carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of management, including its chief executive officer, principal accounting officer and principal financial officer (the "Executives"), of the effectiveness of its disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based on that evaluation, the Executives concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of September 30, 2005 to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed in its reports filed or submitted under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms.

There has been no change in the Company's internal controls over financial reporting that occurred during the three months ended September 30, 2005 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, its internal controls over financial reporting.

I-26

DISCOVERY HOLDING COMPANY

PART II--OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

(a) Exhibits

31.1 Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification.

31.2 Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification.

31.3 Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification.

32 Section 1350 Certification

II-1

SIGNATURES

Edgar Filing: Discovery Holding CO - Form 10-Q

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

DISCOVERY HOLDING COMPANY

Date: November 9, 2005

By: /s/ CHARLES Y. TANABE

Charles Y. Tanabe
Senior Vice President and General Cou

Date: November 9, 2005

By: /s/ DAVID J.A. FLOWERS

David J.A. Flowers
Senior Vice President and Treasurer
(Principal Financial Officer)

Date: November 9, 2005

By: /s/ CHRISTOPHER W. SHEAN

Christopher W. Shean
Senior Vice President and Controller
(Principal Accounting Officer)

II-2

EXHIBIT INDEX

Listed below are the exhibits which are filed as a part of this Report (according to the number assigned to them in Item 601 of Regulation S-K):

- 31.1 Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification.
- 31.2 Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification.
- 31.3 Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification.
- 32 Section 1350 Certification