

Nuance Communications, Inc.

Form 10-K

November 29, 2010

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

**Form 10-K**

(Mark One)

- ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)  
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2010**
- 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 0-27038  
NUANCE COMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
(Exact name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)**

**Delaware**  
*(State or Other Jurisdiction of  
Incorporation or Organization)*

**94-3156479**  
*(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)*

**1 Wayside Road  
Burlington, Massachusetts**  
*(Address of Principal Executive Offices)*

**01803**  
*(Zip Code)*

**Registrant's telephone number, including area code:  
(781) 565-5000**

**SECURITIES REGISTERED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OF THE ACT:**

<b>Title of Each Class</b>	<b>Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered</b>
Common stock, \$0.001 par value	NASDAQ Stock Market LLC

**SECURITIES REGISTERED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(g) OF THE ACT:**

**None**

Indicate by check mark if the Registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the Registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes  No

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

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

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of Registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer  Smaller reporting company   
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

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

The aggregate market value of the outstanding common equity held by non-affiliates of the Registrant as of the last business day of the Registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter was approximately \$3.8 billion based upon the last reported sales price on the Nasdaq National Market for such date. For purposes of this disclosure, shares of Common Stock held by officers and directors of the Registrant and by persons who hold more than 5% of the outstanding Common Stock have been excluded because such persons may be deemed to be affiliates. This determination of affiliate status is not necessarily conclusive.

The number of shares of the Registrant's Common Stock, outstanding as of October 31, 2010, was 298,191,105.

#### **DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

Portions of the Registrant's definitive Proxy Statement to be delivered to stockholders in connection with the Registrant's 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Form 10-K.

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NUANCE COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

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**PART I**

This Annual Report on Form 10-K contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 that involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions that, if they never materialize or if they prove incorrect, could cause our consolidated results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. All statements other than statements of historical fact are statements that could be deemed forward-looking, including statements pertaining to: our future revenue, cost of revenue, research and development expense, selling, general and administrative expenses, amortization of intangible assets and gross margin, earnings, cash flows and liquidity; our strategy relating to our core markets; the potential of future product releases; our product development plans and investments in research and development; future acquisitions and anticipated benefits from acquisitions; international operations and localized versions of our products; our contractual commitments; our fiscal 2011 revenue and expense expectations and legal proceedings and litigation matters. You can identify these and other forward-looking statements by the use of words such as may, will, should, expects, plans, anticipates, believes, estimates, predicts, intends, potential, continue or the negative of such terms, or other comparable terminology. Forward-looking statements also include the assumptions underlying or relating to any of the foregoing statements. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements as a result of various factors, including those set forth in Item 1A of this Annual Report under the heading Risk Factors. All forward-looking statements included in this document are based on information available to us on the date hereof. We will not undertake and specifically decline any obligation to update any forward-looking statements.

**Item 1. *Business***

**Overview**

Nuance Communications, Inc. is a leading provider of voice and language solutions for businesses and consumers around the world. Our technologies, applications and services make the user experience more compelling by transforming the way people interact with devices and systems. Our solutions are used every day by millions of people and thousands of businesses for tasks and services such as requesting information from a phone-based self-service solution, dictating medical records, searching the mobile Web by voice, entering a destination into a navigation system, or working with PDF documents. Our solutions help make these interactions, tasks and experiences more productive, compelling and efficient.

We leverage our global professional services organization and our extensive network of partners to design and deploy innovative solutions for businesses and organizations around the globe. We market and sell our products directly through a dedicated sales force and through our e-commerce website and also through a global network of resellers, including system integrators, independent software vendors, value-added resellers, hardware vendors, telecommunications carriers and distributors.

We have built a world-class portfolio of intellectual property, technologies, applications and solutions through both internal development and acquisitions. We expect to continue to pursue opportunities to expand our assets, geographic presence, distribution network and customer base through acquisitions of other businesses and technologies.

Solutions offered in four core markets; Healthcare, Mobile and Consumer, Enterprise, and Imaging, include:

**Healthcare**

The healthcare industry is under significant pressure to streamline operations, reduce costs and improve patient care. In recent years, healthcare organizations such as hospitals, clinics, medical groups, physicians' offices and insurance providers have increasingly turned to speech recognition solutions to automate manual processes such as the dictation and transcription of patient records.

We provide comprehensive dictation and transcription solutions and services that automate the input and management of medical information. Our hosted and on-premise solutions provide platforms to generate and distribute clinical documentation through the use of advanced dictation and transcription features, and allow us to deliver scalable, highly productive medical transcription solutions. Our solutions also enable us to accelerate future

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innovation to transform the way healthcare providers document patient care, through improved interface with electronic medical records and extraction of clinical information to support the billing and insurance reimbursement processes. We also offer speech recognition solutions for radiology, cardiology, pathology and related specialties, that help healthcare providers dictate, edit and sign reports without manual transcription.

We utilize a focused, enterprise sales team and professional services organization to address the market and implementation requirements of the healthcare industry. Direct distribution is supplemented by distributors and partnerships with electronic medical records application providers such as Allscripts, Cerner and Epic. In some cases, our healthcare solutions are priced under a traditional software perpetual licensing model. However, certain of our healthcare solutions, in particular our transcription solution, are also offered on an on-demand model, charged as a subscription and priced by volume of usage (such as number of lines transcribed). During fiscal 2009 and 2010, we experienced a significant shift in customer preference toward our subscription pricing model. Representative customers include Banner Health, Cleveland Clinic, Department of Veterans Affairs, HCA, Mayo Clinic, Sutter Health, Tenet, and U.S. Army.

## **Mobile and Consumer**

Today, an increasing number of people worldwide rely on mobile devices to stay connected, informed and productive. We help consumers use the powerful capabilities of their phones, cars, desktop and portable computer, personal navigation devices and other consumer electronics by enabling the use of voice commands and enhanced text input solutions to control and interact with these devices more easily and naturally, and to access the array of content and services available on the Internet.

Our portfolio of mobile and consumer solutions and services includes an integrated suite of voice control and text-to-speech solutions, dictation applications, predictive text technologies, mobile messaging services and emerging services such as dictation, Web search and voicemail-to-text. Our suite of Dragon general purpose desktop and portable computer dictation applications increases productivity by using speech to create documents, streamline repetitive and complex tasks, input data, complete forms and automate manual transcription processes. In particular, we have focused in recent quarters on integrating our Dragon technology and brand initiatives across mobile and consumer markets. We utilize a focused, enterprise sales team and professional services organization to address market and implementation requirements. Direct distribution is supplemented by partnerships with electronics suppliers and integrators such as Harman Kardon and Clarion. Our solutions are used by mobile phone, automotive, personal navigation device, computer and other consumer electronic manufacturers and their suppliers, including Amazon, Apple, Audi, BMW, Ford, Garmin, HTC, LG Electronics, Mercedes Benz, Nokia, Samsung, T-Mobile and TomTom. In addition, telecommunications carriers, web search companies and content providers are increasingly using our mobile search and communication solutions to offer value-added services to their subscribers and customers. Our embedded mobile solutions are sold to automobile and device manufacturers, generally on a royalty model priced per device sold, and sometimes on a license model. In addition, our connected mobile services are sold through telecommunications carriers or directly to consumers, and generally priced on a volume of usage model (such as per subscriber or per use). Representative connected services customers include AT&T, Motorola, Rogers, Telstra, TISA, Vodafone and Vonage.

Our desktop and portable computer dictation software is currently available in eleven languages. During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2010, we shipped new versions of Dragon NaturallySpeaking for Windows and also Dragon Dictate for Mac. Our desktop and portable computer dictation solutions are generally sold under a traditional perpetual software license model. We utilize a combination of our global reseller network and direct sales to distribute our desktop and portable computer dictation products. Resellers include retailers such as Amazon, Best Buy and WalMart. Enterprise customers include organizations such as law firms, insurance agencies and government agencies. Representative customers include ATF, Exxon, FBI, IBM, Texas Dept. of Family Protective Services and Zurich.

**Enterprise**

To remain competitive, organizations must improve the quality of customer care while reducing costs and ensuring a positive customer experience. Technological innovation, competitive pressures and rapid commoditization have made it increasingly important for organizations to achieve enduring market differentiation and secure



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customer loyalty. In this environment, organizations need to satisfy the expectations of increasingly savvy and mobile consumers who demand high levels of customer service.

We deliver a portfolio of customer service business intelligence and authentication solutions that are designed to help companies better support, understand and communicate with their customers. Our solutions include the use of technologies such as speech recognition, natural language understanding, text-to-speech, biometric voice recognition and analytics to automate caller identification and authorization, call steering, completion of tasks such as updates, purchases and information retrieval, and automated outbound notifications. Our solutions improve the customer experience, increase the use of self-service and enable new revenue opportunities. We complement our solutions and products with a global professional services organization that supports customers and partners with business and systems consulting project management, user-interface design, voice science, application development and business performance optimization, allowing us to deliver end-to-end speech solutions and system integration for voice-enabled customer care. In addition, we offer solutions that can meet customer care needs through direct interaction with thin-client applications on cell phones, enabling customers to very quickly retrieve relevant information. Use of our speech-enabled and thin-client customer care solutions can dramatically decrease customer care costs, in comparison to calls handled by operators.

Our solutions are used by a wide variety of enterprises in customer-service intensive sectors, including telecommunications, financial services, travel and entertainment, and government. Our speech solutions are designed to serve our global partners and customers and are available in approximately 60 languages and dialects worldwide. In addition to our own sales and professional services teams, we often work closely with industry partners, including Avaya, Cisco and Genesys, that integrate our solutions into their hardware and software platforms. Our enterprise solutions offerings include both a traditional software perpetual licensing model and an on-demand model, charged as a subscription and priced by volume of usage (such as number of minutes callers use the system or number of calls completed in the system). Representative customers include Bank of America, Cigna, Citibank, Disney, FedEx, United Airlines and Wells Fargo.

## **Imaging**

The proliferation of the Internet, email and other networks have greatly simplified the ability to share electronic documents, resulting in an ever-growing volume of documents to be used and stored. Our PDF and document imaging solutions reduce the costs associated with paper documents through easy to use scanning, document management and electronic document routing solutions. We offer versions of our products to hardware vendors, home offices, small businesses and enterprise customers.

Our imaging solutions offer comprehensive PDF applications designed specifically for business users, optical character recognition technology to deliver highly accurate document and PDF conversion, and applications that combine PDF creation with network scanning to quickly enable distribution of documents to users' desktops or to enterprise applications, as well as software development toolkits for independent software vendors. Our imaging solutions are generally sold under a traditional perpetual software license model. We utilize a combination of our global reseller network and direct sales to distribute our imaging products. We license our software to original equipment manufacturers such as Brother, Canon, Dell, HP and Xerox, which bundle our solutions with multi-function devices, digital copiers, printers and scanners, on a royalty model, priced per unit sold.

## **Research and Development/Intellectual Property**

In recent years, we have developed and acquired extensive technology assets, intellectual property and industry expertise in voice, language and imaging that provide us with a competitive advantage in our markets. Our technologies are based on complex algorithms which require extensive amounts of linguistic and image data, acoustic

models and recognition techniques. A significant investment in capital and time would be necessary to replicate our current capabilities.

We continue to invest in technologies to maintain our market-leading position and to develop new applications. Our technologies are covered by approximately 2,100 issued patents and 1,900 patent applications. Our intellectual property, whether purchased or developed internally, is critical to our success and competitive position and, ultimately, to our market value. We rely on a portfolio of patents, copyrights, trademarks, services marks, trade

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secrets, confidentiality provisions and licensing arrangements to establish and protect our intellectual property and proprietary rights. We incurred research and development expenses of \$152.1 million, \$116.8 million, and \$112.8 million in fiscal 2010, 2009 and 2008, respectively.

## **International Operations**

We have principal offices in a number of international locations including: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Hungary, India, Japan, and the United Kingdom. The responsibilities of our international operations include research and development, healthcare transcription and editing, customer support, sales and marketing and administration. Additionally, we maintain smaller sales, services and support offices throughout the world to support our international customers and to expand international revenue opportunities.

Geographic revenue classification is based on the geographic areas in which our customers are located. For fiscal 2010, 2009 and 2008, 72%, 74% and 77% of revenue was generated in the United States and 28%, 26% and 23% of revenue was generated by our international operations, respectively.

## **Competition**

The individual markets in which we compete are highly competitive and are subject to rapid technology changes. There are a number of companies that develop or may develop products that compete in our target markets; however, currently there is no one company that competes with us in all of our product areas. While we expect competition to continue to increase both from existing competitors and new market entrants, we believe that we will compete effectively based on many factors, including:

*Technological Superiority.* Our voice, language and imaging technologies, applications and solutions are often recognized as the most innovative and proficient products in their respective categories. Our voice and language technology has industry-leading recognition accuracy and provides a natural, voice-enabled interaction with systems, devices and applications. Our imaging technology is viewed as the most accurate in the industry. Technology publications, analyst research and independent benchmarks have consistently indicated that our products rank at or above performance levels of alternative solutions.

*Broad Distribution Channels.* Our ability to address the needs of specific markets, such as financial, legal, healthcare and government, and to introduce new products and solutions quickly and effectively is enhanced through our dedicated direct sales force; our extensive global network of resellers, comprising system integrators, independent software vendors, value-added resellers, hardware vendors, telecommunications carriers and distributors; and our e-commerce website ([www.nuance.com](http://www.nuance.com)).

*International Appeal.* The international reach of our products is due to the broad language coverage of our offerings, including our voice and language technology, which provides recognition for approximately 60 languages and dialects and natural-sounding synthesized speech in 39 languages, and supports a broad range of hardware platforms and operating systems. Our imaging technology supports more than 100 languages.

*Specialized Professional Services.* Our superior technology, when coupled with the high quality and domain knowledge of our professional services organization, allows our customers and partners to place a high degree of confidence and trust in our ability to deliver results. We support our customers in designing and building powerful, innovative applications that specifically address their needs and requirements.

In our core markets, we compete with companies such as Adobe, Medquist, Microsoft, Google and Transcend Services. In addition, a number of smaller companies in both speech and imaging produce technologies or products

that are competitive with our solutions in some markets. In certain markets, some of our partners such as Avaya, Cisco, Genesys and Nortel develop and market products and services that might be considered substitutes for our solutions. Current and potential competitors have established, or may establish, cooperative relationships among themselves or with third parties to increase the ability of their technologies to address the needs of our prospective customers.

Some of our competitors or potential competitors, such as Adobe, Microsoft and Google, have significantly greater financial, technical and marketing resources than we do. These competitors may be able to respond more

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rapidly than we can to new or emerging technologies or changes in customer requirements. They may also devote greater resources to the development, promotion and sale of their products than we do.

## **Employees**

As of September 30, 2010, we had approximately 6,100 full-time employees in total, including approximately 750 in sales and marketing, approximately 1,450 in professional services, approximately 950 in research and development, approximately 550 in general and administrative and approximately 2,400 that provide transcription and editing services. Approximately 44 percent of our employees are based outside of the United States, the majority of whom provide transcription and editing services and are based in India. Our employees are not represented by any labor union and are not organized under a collective bargaining agreement, and we have never experienced a work stoppage. We believe that our relationships with our employees are generally good.

## **Company Information**

We were incorporated in 1992 as Visioneer, Inc. under the laws of the state of Delaware. In 1999, we changed our name to ScanSoft, Inc. and also changed our ticker symbol to SSFT. In October 2005, we changed our name to Nuance Communications, Inc. and in November 2005 we changed our ticker symbol to NUAN.

Our website is located at [www.nuance.com](http://www.nuance.com). This Annual Report on Form 10-K, our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, our Current Reports on Form 8-K, and all amendments to these reports, as well as proxy statements and other information we file with or furnish to the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, are accessible free of charge on our website. We make these documents available as soon as reasonably practicable after we file them with, or furnish them to, the SEC. Our SEC filings are also available on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. Alternatively, you may access any document we have filed by visiting the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20549. Information on the operation of the Public Reference Room can be obtained by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. Except as otherwise stated in these documents, the information contained on our website or available by hyperlink from our website is not incorporated by reference into this report or any other documents we file with or furnish to the SEC.

## **Item 1A. Risk Factors**

You should carefully consider the risks described below when evaluating our company and when deciding whether to invest in our company. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only ones we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we do not currently believe are important to an investor may also harm our business operations. If any of the events, contingencies, circumstances or conditions described in the following risks actually occurs, our business, financial condition or our results of operations could be seriously harmed. If that happens, the trading price of our common stock could decline and you may lose part or all of the value of any of our shares held by you.

### **Risks Related to Our Business**

*Our operating results may fluctuate significantly from period to period, and this may cause our stock price to decline.*

Our revenue and operating results have fluctuated in the past and are expected to continue to fluctuate in the future. Given this fluctuation, we believe that quarter to quarter comparisons of revenue and operating results are not necessarily meaningful or an accurate indicator of our future performance. As a result, our results of operations may not meet the expectations of securities analysts or investors in the future. If this occurs, the price of our stock would

likely decline. Factors that contribute to fluctuations in operating results include the following:

slowing sales by our distribution and fulfillment partners to their customers, which may place pressure on these partners to reduce purchases of our products;

volume, timing and fulfillment of customer orders;

our efforts to generate additional revenue from our intellectual property portfolio;

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concentration of operations with one manufacturing partner and our inability to control expenses related to the manufacturing, packaging and shipping of our boxed software products;

customers delaying their purchasing decisions in anticipation of new versions of our products;

customers delaying, canceling or limiting their purchases as a result of the threat or results of terrorism;

introduction of new products by us or our competitors;

seasonality in purchasing patterns of our customers;

reduction in the prices of our products in response to competition, market conditions or contractual obligations;

returns and allowance charges in excess of accrued amounts;

timing of significant marketing and sales promotions;

impairment charges against goodwill and intangible assets;

delayed realization of synergies resulting from our acquisitions;

write-offs of excess or obsolete inventory and accounts receivable that are not collectible;

increased expenditures incurred pursuing new product or market opportunities;

general economic trends as they affect retail and corporate sales; and

higher than anticipated costs related to fixed-price contracts with our customers.

Due to the foregoing factors, among others, our revenue and operating results are difficult to forecast. Our expense levels are based in significant part on our expectations of future revenue and we may not be able to reduce our expenses quickly to respond to a shortfall in projected revenue. Therefore, our failure to meet revenue expectations would seriously harm our operating results, financial condition and cash flows.

***We have grown, and may continue to grow, through acquisitions, which could dilute our existing stockholders.***

As part of our business strategy, we have in the past acquired, and expect to continue to acquire, other businesses and technologies. In connection with past acquisitions, we issued a substantial number of shares of our common stock as transaction consideration and also incurred significant debt to finance the cash consideration used for our acquisitions. We may continue to issue equity securities for future acquisitions, which would dilute existing stockholders, perhaps significantly depending on the terms of such acquisitions. We may also incur additional debt in connection with future acquisitions, which, if available at all, may place additional restrictions on our ability to operate our business.

***Our ability to realize the anticipated benefits of our acquisitions will depend on successfully integrating the acquired businesses.***

Our prior acquisitions required, and our recently completed acquisitions continue to require, substantial integration and management efforts and we expect future acquisitions to require similar efforts. Acquisitions of this nature

involve a number of risks, including:

difficulty in transitioning and integrating the operations and personnel of the acquired businesses;

potential disruption of our ongoing business and distraction of management;

potential difficulty in successfully implementing, upgrading and deploying in a timely and effective manner new operational information systems and upgrades of our finance, accounting and product distribution systems;

difficulty in incorporating acquired technology and rights into our products and technology;

potential difficulties in completing projects associated with in-process research and development;



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unanticipated expenses and delays in completing acquired development projects and technology integration;

management of geographically remote business units both in the United States and internationally;

impairment of relationships with partners and customers;

assumption of unknown material liabilities of acquired companies;

accurate projection of revenue plans of the acquired entity in the due diligence process;

customers delaying purchases of our products pending resolution of product integration between our existing and our newly acquired products;

entering markets or types of businesses in which we have limited experience; and

potential loss of key employees of the acquired business.

As a result of these and other risks, if we are unable to successfully integrate acquired businesses, we may not realize the anticipated benefits from our acquisitions. Any failure to achieve these benefits or failure to successfully integrate acquired businesses and technologies could seriously harm our business.

***Accounting treatment of our acquisitions could decrease our net income or expected revenue in the foreseeable future, which could have a material and adverse effect on the market value of our common stock.***

Under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, we record the market value of our common stock or other form of consideration issued in connection with the acquisition and, for transactions which closed prior to October 1, 2009, the amount of direct transaction costs as the cost of acquiring the company or business. We have allocated that cost to the individual assets acquired and liabilities assumed, including various identifiable intangible assets such as acquired technology, acquired tradenames and acquired customer relationships based on their respective fair values. Intangible assets are generally amortized over a five to ten year period. Goodwill and certain intangible assets with indefinite lives, are not subject to amortization but are subject to an impairment analysis, at least annually, which may result in an impairment charge if the carrying value exceeds its implied fair value. As of September 30, 2010, we had identified intangible assets of approximately \$685.9 million, net of accumulated amortization, and goodwill of approximately \$2.1 billion. In addition, purchase accounting limits our ability to recognize certain revenue that otherwise would have been recognized by the acquired company as an independent business. As a result, the combined company may delay revenue recognition or recognize less revenue than we and the acquired company would have recognized as independent companies.

***Changes in the accounting method for business combinations may have an adverse impact on our reported or future financial results.***

For the years ended September 30, 2009 and prior, in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standard ( SFAS ) 141 *Business Combinations*, ( SFAS 141 ), all direct acquisition-related costs, such as investment banker s, attorney s and accountant s fees, as well as contingent consideration to the seller, which was recorded when it was beyond a reasonable doubt that the amount was payable, were capitalized as part of the purchase price.

In December 2007, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ( FASB ) issued SFAS No. 141 (revised 2007), *Business Combinations*, now referred to as FASB Accounting Standards Codification 805 ( ASC 805 ), which requires an

acquirer to do the following: expense acquisition-related costs as incurred; reflect such payments as a reduction of cash flow from operations; record contingent consideration at fair value at the acquisition date with subsequent changes in fair value to be recognized in the income statement and cash flow from operations. ASC 805

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applies to business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after October 1, 2009 and could have a material impact on our results of operations and our financial position due to our acquisition strategy.

***Our significant debt could adversely affect our financial health and prevent us from fulfilling our obligations under our credit facility and our convertible debentures.***

We have a significant amount of debt. As of September 30, 2010, we had a total of \$895.1 million of gross debt outstanding, including \$643.6 million in term loans due in March 2013 and \$250.0 million in convertible debentures which investors may require us to redeem in August 2014. We also have a \$75.0 million revolving credit line available to us through March 2012. As of September 30, 2010, there were \$21.2 million of letters of credit issued under the revolving credit line but there were no other outstanding borrowings under the revolving credit line. Our debt level could have important consequences, for example it could:

require us to use a large portion of our cash flow to pay principal and interest on debt, including the convertible debentures and the credit facility, which will reduce the availability of our cash flow to fund working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions, research and development expenditures and other business activities;

restrict us from making strategic acquisitions or exploiting business opportunities;

place us at a competitive disadvantage compared to our competitors that have less debt; and

limit, along with the financial and other restrictive covenants related to our debt, our ability to borrow additional funds, dispose of assets or pay cash dividends.

Our ability to meet our payment and other obligations under our debt instruments depends on our ability to generate significant cash flow in the future. This, to some extent, is subject to general economic, financial, competitive, legislative and regulatory factors as well as other factors that are beyond our control. We cannot assure you that our business will generate cash flow from operations, or that additional capital will be available to us, in an amount sufficient to enable us to meet our payment obligations under the convertible debentures and our other debt and to fund other liquidity needs. If we are not able to generate sufficient cash flow to service our debt obligations, we may need to refinance or restructure our debt, including the convertible debentures, sell assets, reduce or delay capital investments, or seek to raise additional capital. If we are unable to implement one or more of these alternatives, we may not be able to meet our payment obligations under the convertible debentures and our other debt.

In addition, a substantial portion of our debt bears interest at variable rates. If market interest rates increase, our debt service requirements will increase, which would adversely affect our cash flows. While we have entered into interest rate swap agreements limiting our exposure for a portion of our debt, the agreements do not offer complete protection from this risk.

***Our debt agreements contain covenant restrictions that may limit our ability to operate our business.***

The agreement governing our senior credit facility contains, and any of our other future debt agreements may contain, covenant restrictions that limit our ability to operate our business, including restrictions on our ability to:

incur additional debt or issue guarantees;

create liens;

make certain investments;

enter into transactions with our affiliates;

sell certain assets;

redeem capital stock or make other restricted payments;

declare or pay dividends or make other distributions to stockholders; and

merge or consolidate with any entity.

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Our ability to comply with these covenants is dependent on our future performance, which will be subject to many factors, some of which are beyond our control, including prevailing economic conditions. As a result of these covenants, our ability to respond to changes in business and economic conditions and to obtain additional financing, if needed, may be significantly restricted, and we may be prevented from engaging in transactions that might otherwise be beneficial to us. In addition, our failure to comply with these covenants could result in a default under our debt agreements, which could permit the holders to accelerate our obligation to repay the debt. If any of our debt is accelerated, we may not have sufficient funds available to repay the accelerated debt.

***We have a history of operating losses, and may incur losses in the future, which may require us to raise additional capital on unfavorable terms.***

We reported net losses of \$19.1 million, \$19.4 million and \$37.0 million for the fiscal years 2010, 2009 and 2008, respectively. If we are unable to achieve and maintain profitability, the market price for our stock may decline, perhaps substantially. We cannot assure you that our revenue will grow or that we will achieve or maintain profitability in the future. If we do not achieve and maintain profitability, we may be required to raise additional capital to maintain or grow our operations. Additional capital, if available at all, may be highly dilutive to existing investors or contain other unfavorable terms, such as a high interest rate and restrictive covenants.

***Voice and language technologies may not achieve widespread acceptance, which could limit our ability to grow our voice and language business.***

We have invested and expect to continue to invest heavily in the acquisition, development and marketing of voice and language technologies. The market for voice and language technologies is relatively new and rapidly evolving. Our ability to increase revenue in the future depends in large measure on the acceptance of these technologies in general and our products in particular. The continued development of the market for our current and future voice and language solutions will also depend on:

- consumer and business demand for speech-enabled applications;
- development by third-party vendors of applications using voice and language technologies; and
- continuous improvement in voice and language technology.

Sales of our voice and language products would be harmed if the market for these technologies does not continue to develop or develops slower than we expect, and, consequently, our business could be harmed and we may not recover the costs associated with our investment in these technologies.

***The markets in which we operate are highly competitive and rapidly changing and we may be unable to compete successfully.***

There are a number of companies that develop or may develop products that compete in our targeted markets. The individual markets in which we compete are highly competitive, and are rapidly changing. Within voice and language, we compete with AT&T, Microsoft, Google, and other smaller providers. Within healthcare, we compete with Medquist and other smaller providers. Within imaging, we compete with ABBYY, Adobe, I.R.I.S. and NewSoft. In voice and language, some of our partners such as Avaya, Cisco, Edify, Genesys and Nortel develop and market products that can be considered substitutes for our solutions. In addition, a number of smaller companies in voice, language and imaging produce technologies or products that are in some markets competitive with our solutions. Current and potential competitors have established, or may establish, cooperative relationships among themselves or

with third parties to increase the ability of their technologies to address the needs of our prospective customers.

The competition in these markets could adversely affect our operating results by reducing the volume of the products we license or the prices we can charge. Some of our current or potential competitors, such as Adobe, Microsoft and Google, have significantly greater financial, technical and marketing resources than we do. These competitors may be able to respond more rapidly than we can to new or emerging technologies or changes in customer requirements. They may also devote greater resources to the development, promotion and sale of their products than we do.

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Some of our customers, such as Microsoft and Google, have developed or acquired products or technologies that compete with our products and technologies. These customers may give higher priority to the sale of these competitive products or technologies. To the extent they do so, market acceptance and penetration of our products, and therefore our revenue, may be adversely affected. Our success will depend substantially upon our ability to enhance our products and technologies and to develop and introduce, on a timely and cost-effective basis, new products and features that meet changing customer requirements and incorporate technological enhancements. If we are unable to develop new products and enhance functionalities or technologies to adapt to these changes, or if we are unable to realize synergies among our acquired products and technologies, our business will suffer.

***The failure to successfully maintain the adequacy of our system of internal control over financial reporting could have a material adverse impact on our ability to report our financial results in an accurate and timely manner.***

The SEC, as directed by Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, adopted rules requiring public companies to include a report of management on internal control over financial reporting in their annual reports on Form 10-K that contains an assessment by management of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting. In addition, our independent registered public accounting firm must attest to and report on the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting. Any failure in the effectiveness of our system of internal control over financial reporting could have a material adverse impact on our ability to report our financial statements in an accurate and timely manner, could subject us to regulatory actions, civil or criminal penalties, shareholder litigation, or loss of customer confidence, which could result in an adverse reaction in the financial marketplace due to a loss of investor confidence in the reliability of our financial statements, which ultimately could negatively impact our stock price.

***A significant portion of our revenue is derived, and a significant portion of our research and development activities are based, outside the United States. Our results could be harmed by economic, political, regulatory and other risks associated with these international regions.***

Because we operate worldwide, our business is subject to risks associated with doing business internationally. We anticipate that revenue from international operations could increase in the future. Most of our international revenue is generated by sales in Europe and Asia. In addition, some of our products are developed and manufactured outside the United States and we have a large number of employees in India that provide transcription services. A significant portion of the development and manufacturing of our voice and language products is conducted in Belgium and Canada, and a significant portion of our imaging research and development is conducted in Hungary. We also have significant research and development resources in Aachen, Germany, and Vienna, Austria. Accordingly, our future results could be harmed by a variety of factors associated with international sales and operations, including:

changes in a specific country's or region's economic conditions;

geopolitical turmoil, including terrorism and war;

trade protection measures and import or export licensing requirements imposed by the United States or by other countries;

compliance with foreign and domestic laws and regulations;

negative consequences from changes in applicable tax laws;

difficulties in staffing and managing operations in multiple locations in many countries;

difficulties in collecting trade accounts receivable in other countries; and

less effective protection of intellectual property than in the United States.

*We are exposed to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates.*

Because we have international subsidiaries and distributors that operate and sell our products outside the United States, we are exposed to the risk of changes in foreign currency exchange rates. In certain circumstances,



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we have entered into forward exchange contracts to hedge against foreign currency fluctuations. We use these contracts to reduce our risk associated with exchange rate movements, as the gains or losses on these contracts are intended to offset any exchange rate losses or gains on the hedged transaction. We do not engage in foreign currency speculation. Forward exchange contracts hedging firm commitments qualify for hedge accounting when they are designated as a hedge of the foreign currency exposure and they are effective in minimizing such exposure. With our increased international presence in a number of geographic locations and with international revenue and costs projected to increase, we are exposed to changes in foreign currencies including the Euro, British Pound, Canadian Dollar, Japanese Yen, Indian Rupee and the Hungarian Forint. Changes in the value of the Euro or other foreign currencies relative to the value of the U.S. dollar could adversely affect future revenue and operating results.

### ***Impairment of our intangible assets could result in significant charges that would adversely impact our future operating results.***

We have significant intangible assets, including goodwill and intangibles with indefinite lives, which are susceptible to valuation adjustments as a result of changes in various factors or conditions. The most significant intangible assets are patents and core technology, completed technology, customer relationships and trademarks. Customer relationships are amortized on an accelerated basis based upon the pattern in which the economic benefits of customer relationships are being utilized. Other identifiable intangible assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives. We assess the potential impairment of identifiable intangible assets on an annual basis, as well as whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable. Factors that could trigger an impairment of such assets, include the following:

- significant underperformance relative to historical or projected future operating results;

- significant changes in the manner of or use of the acquired assets or the strategy for our overall business;

- significant negative industry or economic trends;

- significant decline in our stock price for a sustained period;

- changes in our organization or management reporting structure that could result in additional reporting units, which may require alternative methods of estimating fair values or greater disaggregation or aggregation in our analysis by reporting unit; and

- a decline in our market capitalization below net book value.

Future adverse changes in these or other unforeseeable factors could result in an impairment charge that would impact our results of operations and financial position in the reporting period identified.

### ***Our sales to government clients subject us to risks, including early termination, audits, investigations, sanctions and penalties.***

We derive a portion of our revenues from contracts with the United States government, as well as various state and local governments, and their respective agencies. Government contracts are generally subject to audits and investigations which could identify violations of these agreements. Government contract violations could result in a range of consequences including, but not limited to, contract price adjustments, civil and criminal penalties, contract termination, forfeiture of profit and/or suspension of payment, and suspension or debarment from future government contracts. We could also suffer serious harm to our reputation if we were found to have violated the terms of our government contracts.

We conducted an analysis of our compliance with the terms and conditions of certain contracts with the U.S. General Services Administration ( GSA ). Based upon our analysis, we voluntarily notified GSA of non-compliance with the terms of two contracts. The final resolution of this matter may adversely impact our financial position.

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