# 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 year ended December 31, 2004

OR

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

to

For the transition period from

Commission file numbers: 333-99587 333-99589

# **H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES L.L.C.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Louisiana

(State of incorporation)

11100 Mead Road, Suite 200, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816 (225) 298-5200

Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

NONE

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Sections 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 o No  $\boxtimes$ 

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 the 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 an accelerated filer (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 12b-2). Yes o 🛛 No 🗵

The aggregate market value of the Registrant's voting stock held by non-affiliates of the Registrant: Not applicable

H&E Holdings L.L.C. owns 100% of the registrant's limited liability company interests.

# DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Certain exhibits filed with the Registrant's Registration Statements on Form S-4 (File Nos. 333-99587 and 333-99589, as amended) are incorporated by reference into Part III of the Report on Form 10-K.

72-1287046

(I.R.S. employer identification no.)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I			3
	Item 1.	Business	3
	Item 2.	Properties	11
	Item 3.	Legal Proceedings	12
	Item 4.	Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders	13
PART II			14
	Item 5.	Market for Common Equity and Related Stockholder Matters	14
	Item 6.	Selected Financial Data	14
	Item 7.	Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	15
	Item 7A.	Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk	33
	Item 8.	Consolidated Financial Statements and Supplementary Data	34
	Item 9.	Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure	34
	Item 9A.	Controls and Procedures	34
PART III			35
	Item 10.	Directors and Executive Officers	35
	Item 11.	Executive Compensation	37
	Item 12.	Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters	41
	Item 13.	Certain Relationships and Related Transactions	43
	Item 14.	Principal Accountant Fees and Services	46
PART IV			47
	Item 15.	Financial Statement Schedules, Reports on Form 8-K and Exhibits	47
		2	

#### **Forward-Looking Statements**

Certain statements contained in this report are forward-looking in nature. These statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "believes," "expects," "projects," "forecasts," "may," "will," "should," "seeks," "on-track," "plans," "intends," or "anticipates" or the negative thereof or comparable terminology, or by discussions of strategy or outlook. The Company's business and operations are subject to a variety of risks and uncertainties and, consequently, actual results may materially differ from those projected by any forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause actual results to differ from those projected include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) unfavorable economic and industry conditions can reduce demand and prices for the Company's products and services, (2) governmental funding for highway and other construction projects may not reach expected levels, (3) the Company may not have access to the capital that it may require, (4) intense competition and (5) costs may increase more than anticipated. Certain of these risks and uncertainties as well as others, are discussed in greater detail in the Company's filings with the SEC. We make no commitment to revise or update any forward-looking statements in order to reflect events or circumstances after the date any such statement is made.

We make available on our internet website free of charge our annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and the amendments to such reports as soon as practicable after we electronically file such reports with the SEC. Our website address is www.he-equipment.com. The information contained in our website is not incorporated by reference in this Annual Report.

#### **Restatement of Financial Statements**

On August 26, 2005, we announced that we would restate previously filed audited financial results to correct accounting primarily relating to the treatment of deferred taxes in connection with our combination with ICM Equipment Company on June 17, 2002. We have restated our consolidated financial statements for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2002 and 2003. All applicable financial information contained in this Annual Report on Form 10-K gives effect to these restatements. Consequently, you should not rely upon the financial statements currently on file with the SEC in our Forms 10-K for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002 and the related auditor's report therein, our unaudited financial statements for all interim periods through September 30, 2004 and any financial statements for above mentioned fiscal periods that have been included in previous announcements.

For information concerning the background of the restatements and the specific adjustments made on an annual and quarterly basis, see "Item 6. Selected Financial Data—Restatement" and the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in "Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules."

# PART I

#### Item 1. Business

# The Company

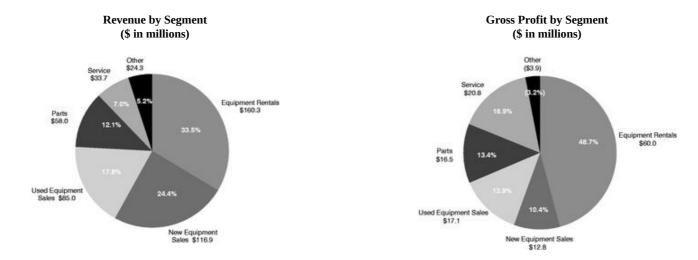
We are one of the largest integrated equipment services companies in the United States focused on heavy construction and industrial equipment. We rent, sell and provide parts and service support for four core categories of specialized equipment: (1) hi-lift or aerial platform equipment; (2) cranes; (3) earthmoving equipment; and (4) industrial lift trucks. We engage in five principal business activities in these equipment categories:

equipment rental;

new equipment sales;

- used equipment sales;
- parts sales; and
- repair and maintenance services

By providing rental, sales and parts, repair and maintenance functions under one roof, we offer our customers a one-stop solution for their equipment needs. This full service approach provides us with (1) multiple points of customer contact; (2) cross-selling opportunities among our rental, used and new equipment sales, parts sales and services operations; (3) an effective method to manage our rental fleet through efficient maintenance and profitable distribution of used equipment; and (4) a mix of business activities that enables us to operate effectively throughout economic cycles. We believe that the operating experience and extensive infrastructure we have developed throughout our history as an integrated services company provide us with a competitive advantage over rental-focused companies and equipment distributors. In addition, our focus on four core categories of heavy construction and industrial equipment enables us to offer specialized knowledge and support to our customers. For the year ended December 31, 2004, we generated total revenues of approximately \$478.2 million. The pie charts below illustrate a breakdown of our revenues and gross profit for the year ended December 31, 2004, respectively, by business segment (as reported, see Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements included in "Item 15. Exhibit and Financial Statement Schedules."):



Our rental equipment operation has an extremely well-maintained, optimally aged rental fleet and its own dedicated sales force focused by equipment type. In new equipment sales, we are a leading distributor for nationally-recognized suppliers of equipment and sell through a specialized retail sales force that is distinct from our rental sales force. Our used equipment sales are generated primarily from sales of used equipment from our rental fleet and are an effective and profitable way for us to manage and dispose of equipment in our rental fleet. We also sell used equipment that we acquire through trade-ins from our new equipment customers and through selective purchases of high quality used equipment. Our parts business primarily sells new and used parts for the equipment we sell, maintains an extensive in-house inventory in order to provide timely parts and service support to our customers and is an on-site source of parts for our own rental fleet. Our services operation provides on-site maintenance and repair services for our customers' equipment and for our own fleet, and has approximately 490 service technicians. These complementary rental, sales and service offerings collectively leverage our specialized knowledge and infrastructure to provide an integrated platform of heavy construction and industrial equipment products and services.



We have operated, through our predecessor companies, as an integrated equipment services company for approximately 44 years and have built an extensive infrastructure that includes 41 full service facilities located throughout the high growth Intermountain, Southwest, Gulf Coast and Southeast regions of the United States. Our management, from the corporate level down to the branch store level, has extensive industry experience. We focus our rental and equipment sales activities on, and organize our personnel principally, by our four equipment categories. We believe this allows us to provide specialized equipment knowledge, improve the effectiveness of our rental and sales forces and strengthen our customer relationships. In addition, we operate our day-to-day business on a branch basis which we believe allows us to more closely service our customers, fosters management accountability at local levels, and strengthens our local and regional relationships.

#### **Products and Services**

*Equipment Rentals.* We rent our heavy construction and industrial equipment to our customers on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. We have an extremely well-maintained rental fleet that, at December 31, 2004, consisted of approximately 13,100 pieces of equipment having an original acquisition cost of approximately \$470 million and an average age of approximately 44 months. Approximately 64% of the fleet consisted of hi-lift or aerial equipment, 17% consisted of cranes, 11% consisted of earthmoving equipment, 5% consisted of industrial lift trucks, and the remainder consisted of miscellaneous equipment. We actively manage the size, quality, age and composition of our rental fleet, employing a "cradle through grave" approach. During the life of our rental equipment, we:

- aggressively negotiate on purchase price;
- use our customized information technology systems to closely monitor and analyze, among other things, time utilization (equipment usage based on customer demand), rental rate trends and targets and equipment demand;
- maintain fleet quality through regional quality control managers and our on-site parts and services support; and
- dispose of rental equipment through our retail sales force.

During 2004, we reduced our overall gross rental fleet, through normal course business activities by approximately \$23.7 million as measured by original acquisition cost. Approximately 70% of our fleet was "on-rent," reflecting the percentage of our rental fleet that was actually rented on average during our 2004 fiscal year. We rent our equipment through a dedicated rental sales force focused by product type that is separate from our retail sales force. We continuously monitor and adjust rental rates, and we have a rental rate initiative driven by management to increase rental rates. Our regional focus and active management also allows us to share equipment, where appropriate, among branches within our regions to optimize utilization and rental rates. Our rental business creates cross-selling opportunities for us in sales and services.

*New Equipment Sales.* We sell new heavy construction and industrial equipment in all four equipment categories, and are a leading distributor for nationally-recognized suppliers including JLG Industries, Gehl, Genie Industries (Terex), Komatsu, Bobcat and Yale Material Handling. In addition, we are the world's largest distributor of Grove and Manitowoc crane equipment. We believe that this strong distribution network provides us with a higher level of partnering with key suppliers and improves our purchasing power. We sell new equipment through our professional in-house retail sales force focused by product type. By organizing our sales and purchase activities based on specialized equipment knowledge, we believe we are able to improve the effectiveness of our sales force, better serve our customers, and more efficiently manage purchase terms. Our new equipment sales operation is a source of new customers for our parts sales and service support activities, as well as for used equipment sales.

*Used Equipment Sales.* We sell used equipment primarily from our rental fleet, as well as inventoried equipment that we acquire through trade-ins from our equipment customers and selective purchases of high-quality used equipment. For the year ended December 31, 2004, approximately 77% of our used equipment sales revenues were derived from sales of rental fleet equipment. Selling used equipment is an effective way for us to manage the size and composition of our rental fleet and provides a profitable distribution channel for disposal of rental equipment. We sell used equipment through our retail sales force and we do not rely on auction houses or other wholesale channels for disposition like many of our competitors. We believe this allows us to generally realize higher prices on average for our used rental equipment, which enhances the lifetime profitability of our rental fleet and, consequently, our return on capital. For the year ended December 31, 2004, we sold approximately \$65.4 million of used equipment from our rental fleet at an average selling price of 130.3% of book value. Used equipment sales, like new equipment sales, generates parts and service business for us.

*Parts Sales.* We sell new and used parts to customers and also provide parts to our own rental fleet. We sell a range of maintenance and replacement parts from original equipment manufacturers on equipment we sell, as well as for makes of equipment that we do not sell or rent. We maintain an extensive in-house parts inventory in order to provide timely parts and service support to our customers as well as to our own rental fleet. We generally are able to acquire non-stock or out-of-stock parts directly from manufacturers within one to two business days. Our product support sales representatives are specialists by equipment type. Our parts sales provide us with a relatively stable revenue stream that is less sensitive to economic cycles than our rental and equipment sales operations. In addition, our parts operation enable us to maintain a high quality rental fleet and provide additional support to our end users.

*Service Support.* We provide maintenance and repair services for our customers' owned equipment and to our own rental fleet. In addition to repair and maintenance on an as-needed or scheduled basis, we provide ongoing preventative maintenance services and warranty repairs for our customers. We have approximately 490 technicians and over 600 field service and delivery trucks. As part of our commitment to a well-maintained rental fleet and to provide customers with high-quality service and repair options, we devote significant resources to training these technical service employees and over time have built a full-scale services infrastructure that would be difficult for companies without the requisite resources and lead time to replicate. Our after-market service provides a high-margin, relatively stable source of revenue through changing economic cycles.

In addition to our principal business activities mentioned above, we provide ancillary equipment support activities including transportation, hauling, parts shipping and loss damage waivers.

### **Our Competitive Strengths**

Integrated Platform of Products and Services. We believe that the operating experience and extensive infrastructure we have developed through years of operating as an integrated equipment services company provides us with a competitive advantage over rental-focused companies and equipment distributors. Our integrated platform of products and services provides us with multiple points of customer contact and cross-selling opportunities among our rental, used and new equipment sales, parts sales and services operations. As a result of our integrated approach, our five reporting segments generally derive their revenue from the same customer base. Key strengths of our integrated equipment services platform include:

- Ability to strengthen customer relationships by providing a full-range of products and services;
- Purchasing power gained through purchases of new equipment sales and rental operations;
- High quality rental fleet supported by our strong product support capabilities;
- Established retail sales network resulting in profitable disposal of our used equipment; and

Mix of business activities that enable us to effectively operate through economic cycles.

*Complementary, High Margin Parts and Service Operations.* Our parts and service businesses allow us to maintain our rental fleet in excellent condition and to offer our customers top quality rental equipment. Through our operating history, we have invested a significant amount of capital and management resources in our parts and services operations. Our large staff of trained technicians, wide range of stocked parts, and the significant investment and infrastructure at the branch level required to establish our service operations provide us with an advantage over potential competitors who do not have the requisite resources and lead time to build a full-scale parts and service business. Our after-market parts and service businesses together provide us with a high-margin revenue source that has proven to be stable throughout a range of economic cycles. While large capital expenditures may be reduced by economic downturns, customers generally continue to repair and maintain their existing equipment. Parts sales and service revenues on a combined basis represented approximately 19.2% of our total revenues and 30.2% of our gross profit for the year ended December 31, 2004.

*Specialized, High Quality Equipment Fleet.* Our focus on four core types of heavy construction and industrial equipment allows us to better provide the specialized knowledge and support that our customers demand when renting and purchasing equipment. These four types of equipment are attractive because they have a long useful life, high residual value and strong industry demand. We offer customers a comprehensive selection of equipment within these categories from leading manufacturers around the world. In addition, our parts and service operations allow us to optimally maintain our rental equipment fleet. We actively manage our rental fleet quality through regional quality control managers and our parts and service support.

*Well-Developed Infrastructure.* We have built an infrastructure that includes a network of 41 full-service facilities, and a workforce that includes a highlyskilled group of approximately 490 service technicians and an aggregate of approximately 150 sales people in our specialized rental and equipment sales forces. Our integrated platform is the result of many years of strategic development, while many rental-focused equipment companies have only recently begun to devote resources to providing full-service capabilities. In addition, we have strategically expanded our network to solidify our presence in the attractive, contiguous regions where we operate. We believe that our well-developed infrastructure helps us to better serve large multi-regional customers than our historically rentalfocused competitors and provides an advantage when competing for lucrative fleet and project management business.

*Leading Distributor for Suppliers.* We are a leading distributor for nationally-recognized equipment suppliers, including JLG Industries, Gehl, Genie Industries (Terex), Komatsu, Bobcat and Yale Material Handling. In addition, we are the world's largest distributor of Grove and Manitowoc crane equipment. These relationships improve our ability to negotiate equipment acquisition pricing and allow us to purchase parts at wholesale costs. As an authorized distributor for a wide range of suppliers, we are also able to provide our customers parts and service that in many cases are covered under the manufacturer's warranty.

*Customized Information Technology Systems.* Our customized information systems provide management and employees with the data and reports that facilitate our ability to make rapid and informed decisions. These systems allow us to actively manage our business and our rental fleet. Our customer relationship management system, which is currently being implemented, will provide our sales force with real-time access to customer and sales information. We have an inhouse team of information technology specialists that support our systems.

*Experienced Management Team.* Our senior management, led by John M. Engquist, our President and Chief Executive Officer, has 31 years of industry experience. Our senior and regional managers

have an average of approximately 21 years of industry experience. Our branch managers have extensive knowledge and industry experience as well.

#### **Our Business Strategy**

*Leverage our Integrated Business Model.* We intend to continue to actively leverage our integrated business model to offer a one-stop solution to our customers' varied needs with respect to the four categories of heavy construction and industrial equipment on which we focus. Our platform of full-service, complementary rental, sales, and on-site parts, repair and maintenance functions provides us with multiple points of customer contact, enables us to offer specialized equipment knowledge and support to our customers, and allows us to foster strong customer relationships. We will continue to cross-sell our services to expand and deepen our customer relationships. We believe that our integrated equipment services model provides us with a strong platform for additional growth.

*Managing the Life Cycle of our Rental Equipment.* We actively manage the size, quality, age and composition of our rental fleet, employing a "cradle through grave" approach. During the life of our rental equipment, we (1) aggressively negotiate on purchase price; (2) use our customized information technology systems to closely monitor and analyze, among other things, time utilization (equipment usage based on customer demand), rental rate trends and targets and equipment demand; (3) continuously adjust our fleet mix and pricing; (4) maintain fleet quality through regional quality control managers and our on-site parts and services support; and (5) dispose of rental equipment through our retail sales force. This allows us to purchase our rental equipment at competitive prices, optimally utilize our fleet, cost-effectively maintain our equipment quality and maximize the value of our equipment at the end of its useful life.

*Grow our Parts and Service Operations.* Our strong parts and services operations are keystones of our integrated equipment services platform and together provide us with a relatively stable high-margin revenue source. We have built an extensive infrastructure that enables us to provide parts and service support to our end-users as well as our own rental fleet. We intend to grow this product support side of our business and further penetrate our customer base. Our parts and services operation helps us develop strong, on-going customer relationships, attract new customers and maintain a high-quality rental fleet.

*Enter Carefully Selected New Markets.* We intend to continue to strategically expand our network to solidify our presence in the attractive, contiguous regions where we operate. The regions in which we operate are attractive because they are among the highest growth areas in the United States and are minimally impacted by seasonality. We have a proven track record of successfully entering new markets and currently have 41 full-service facilities located in 15 states. We look to add locations that offer attractive growth opportunities, high demand for construction and heavy equipment, and contiguity to our existing markets.

*Make Selective Acquisitions.* The equipment industry is fragmented and consists of a large number of relatively small, independent businesses servicing discrete local markets. Some of these businesses may represent attractive acquisition candidates. We intend to evaluate and pursue acquisitions on an opportunistic basis, with an objective of increasing our revenues, improving our profitability, entering additional attractive markets and strengthening our competitive position.

#### History

Through our predecessor companies, we have been in the equipment services business for approximately 44 years. We were formed in June 2002 through the combination of Head & Engquist Equipment L.L.C. (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Gulf Wide Industries, L.L.C.) ("H&E") and ICM Equipment Company L.L.C. ("ICM"). H&E, founded in 1961, and ICM, founded in 1971, were two



leading regional, integrated equipment service companies operating in contiguous geographic markets. In the combination, H&E and ICM were merged with and into H&E's parent company, Gulf Wide Industries LLC, which was renamed H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. Prior to the combination, H&E operated 25 facilities in the Gulf Coast region, and ICM operated 16 facilities in the Intermountain region of the United States.

#### Customers

We serve more than 26,000 customers in the United States, primarily in the Intermountain, Southwest, Gulf Coast and Southeast regions. Our customers include a wide range of industrial and commercial companies, construction contractors, manufacturers, public utilities, municipalities, maintenance contractors and a variety of other large industrial accounts. They vary from small, single machine owners to large contractors and industrial and commercial companies who typically operate under equipment and maintenance budgets. Our branches enable us to closely service local and regional customers, while our well developed full service infrastructure enables us to effectively service multi-regional and national accounts. Our integrated strategy enables us to satisfy customer requirements and increase revenues from customers through cross-selling opportunities presented by the various products and services that we offer. As a result, our five reporting segments generally derive their revenue from the same customer base. In 2004, no single customer accounted for more than 1.0% of our revenues, and our top ten customers combined accounted for less than 6.0% of our total revenues.

# Sales and Marketing

We have two distinct, focused sales forces; one specializing in equipment rentals and one focused specifically on new and used equipment sales. We believe maintaining separate sales forces for equipment rental and sales is important to our customer service, allowing us to effectively meet the demands of different types of customers.

Both our rental sales force and equipment sales force, together comprising over 150 sales people, are divided into smaller, product focused teams which enhances the development of in-depth product application and technical expertise. To further develop knowledge and experience, we provide our sales force with extensive training, including frequent factory and in-house training by manufacturer representatives regarding the operational features, operator safety training and maintenance of new equipment. This training is essential, as our sales personnel regularly call on contractors' job sites often assisting customers in assessing their immediate and ongoing equipment needs. In addition, we have a commission-based compensation program for our sales force.

We recently began to implement a company wide customer relationship management system. We believe that this comprehensive customer and sales management tool will enhance our territory management program by increasing the productivity and efficiency of our sales representatives and branch managers as they are provided real-time access to sales and customer information.

We have developed strategies to identify target customers for our equipment services in all markets. These strategies allow our sales force to identify frequent rental users, function as advisors and problem solvers for our customers and accelerate the sale process in new operations.

While our specialized, well-trained sales force strengthens our customer relationships and fosters customer loyalty, we also promote our business through marketing and advertising, including industry publications, direct mail campaigns, the Internet and Yellow Pages.

We have implemented a national accounts program in order to develop national relationships and increase awareness of our extensive offering of industrial and construction equipment, ancillary products, parts and services. Under this program, a portion of our sales force is assigned to call on

corporate headquarters of our large customers, particularly those with a national or multi-regional presence.

#### Suppliers

We purchase a significant amount of equipment from the same manufacturers with whom we have distribution agreements. These relationships improve our ability to negotiate equipment acquisition pricing. As an authorized distributor for a wide range of suppliers, we are also able to provide our customers parts and service that in many cases are covered under the manufacturer's warranty. We are a leading distributor for nationally-recognized equipment suppliers including JLG Industries, Gehl, Genie Industries (Terex), Komatsu, Bobcat, Yale Material Handling, Grove and Manitowoc. While we believe that we have alternative sources of supply for the equipment we purchase in each of our principal product categories, termination of one or more of our relationships with any of our major suppliers of equipment could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operation if we were unable to obtain adequate or timely rental and sales equipment.

#### Information Technology Systems

We have specialized information systems that track (i) rental inventory utilization statistics; (ii) maintenance and repair costs; (iii) returns on investment for specific equipment types; and (iv) detailed operational and financial information for each piece of equipment. These systems enable us to closely monitor our performance and actively manage our business, and include features that were custom designed to support our integrated services platform. The point-of-sale aspect of our systems enables us to link all of our facilities, permitting universal access to real-time data concerning equipment located at the individual facility locations and the rental status and maintenance history for each piece of equipment. In addition, our systems include, among other features, on-line contract generation, automated billing, local sales tax computation and automated rental purchase option calculation. We customized our customer relationship management system to enable us to more effectively manage our business. This customer relationship management system, which is currently being implemented, provides real-time sales and customer information, a quote system, a territory mapping feature and other organizational tools to assist our sales forces. In addition, we maintain an extensive customer database which allows us to monitor the status and maintenance history of our customers' owned-equipment and enables us to more effectively provide parts and service to meet their needs. All of our critical systems run on servers and other equipment that is less than three years old.

#### Competition

The equipment industry is generally comprised of either pure rental equipment companies or manufacturer dealer/distributorship companies. We are an integrated equipment services company and rent, sell and provide parts and service support. Despite consolidation, the equipment industry is still fragmented and consists mainly of a small number of multi-location regional or national operators and a large number of relatively small, independent businesses serving discrete local markets. Many of the markets in which we operate are served by numerous competitors, ranging from national and multi-regional equipment rental companies to small, independent businesses with a limited number of locations.

We believe that participants in the equipment rental industry compete on the basis of availability, quality, reliability, delivery and price. In general, large operators enjoy substantial competitive advantages over small, independent rental businesses due to a distinct price advantage. Although many rental equipment companies have now announced plans to provide parts and service support to customers, their service offerings are typically limited and may prove difficult to expand due to the training, infrastructure and management resources necessary to develop the breadth of service offerings and depth of knowledge our service technicians are able to provide.

The retail sales and distribution industry continues to be redefined through consolidation and competition. Traditionally, equipment manufacturers distributed their equipment and parts through a network of independent dealers with exclusive distribution agreements. As a result of the consolidation and competition, both manufacturers and distributors sought to streamline their operations, improve their costs and gain market share. Our established, integrated infrastructure enables us to compete directly with our competitors on either a local, regional or national basis. We believe customers place a greater emphasis on value-added services, teaming with equipment rental and sales companies who can meet all of their equipment, parts and service needs.

#### **Environmental and Safety Regulations**

Our facilities and operations are subject to comprehensive and frequently changing federal, state and local environmental and occupational health and safety laws. These laws regulate (i) the handling, storage, use and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes and, if any, the associated cleanup of properties affected by pollutants; (ii) air quality; and (iii) wastewater. We do not currently anticipate any material adverse effect on our business or financial condition or competitive position as a result of our efforts to comply with such requirements. Although we have made and will continue to make capital and other expenditures to comply with environmental requirements, we do not expect to incur material capital expenditures for environmental controls or compliance.

In the future, federal, state or local governments could enact new or more stringent laws or issue new or more stringent regulations concerning environmental and worker health and safety matters, or effect a change in their enforcement of existing laws or regulations, that could affect our operations. Also, in the future, contamination may be found to exist at our facilities or off-site locations where we have sent wastes. There can be no assurance that we will not discover previously unknown environmental non-compliance or contamination. We could be held liable for such newly-discovered non-compliance or contamination could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

#### Employees

As of December 31, 2004, we had approximately 1,318 employees. The total number of employees does not significantly fluctuate throughout the year. Of these employees, 445 are salaried personnel and 873 are hourly personnel. Our employees perform the following functions: sales operations, parts operations, rental operations, technical service and office and administrative support. Collective bargaining agreements relating to three separate locations cover approximately 83 of our employees. We believe our relations with our employees are good, and we have never experienced a work stoppage.

#### Seasonality

Our business is seasonal with demand for our rental equipment tending to be lower in the winter months. The level of equipment rental activities are directly related to commercial and industrial construction and maintenance activities. Therefore, equipment rental performance will be correlated to the levels of current construction activities. The severity of weather conditions can have a temporary impact on the level of construction activities.

Equipment sales cycles are also subject to seasonality with the peak selling period during the spring season and extending through the summer. Parts and service activities are less affected by changes in demand caused by seasonality.

#### Item 2. Properties

#### Properties

We currently have a network of 41 full-service facilities, serving more than 26,000 customers across 15 states in the Intermountain, Southwest, Gulf Coast and Southeast regions of the United States.

In our facilities, we rent, display and sell equipment, including tools and supplies, and provide maintenance and basic repair work. We own four of our locations and lease 37 locations. Our leases provide for varying terms and renewal options. The number of branch locations in each city is indicated by parentheses. The following table provides data on our locations:

City/State	Leased/Owned
Alabama	
Birmingham	Leased
Arizona	
Phoenix	Leased
Tucson	Leased
Arkansas	
Little Rock	Owned
Springdale	Owned
Colorado	o mice
Denver	Leased
Colorado Springs	Leased
Florida	
Fort Myers	Leased
Orlando	Leased
Tampa	Leased
Georgia	Luocu
Atlanta	Leased
Idaho	Leased
Boise	Leased
Coeur D'Alene	Leased
Louisiana	Γεαρεά
Alexandria	Leased
	Leased
Baton Rouge	
Belle Chasse(2) Gonzales	Leased(1)/Owned(1) Leased
Kenner	Leased
Lake Charles	Leased
Shreveport(2)	Leased(2)
Mississippi	T I
Jackson	Leased
Montana	T
Billings	Leased
Belgrade	Leased
Missoula	Leased
New Mexico	r 1
Albuquerque	Leased
Nevada	<b>T</b> 1
Las Vegas	Leased
Reno	Leased
North Carolina	
Charlotte	Leased
Oklahoma	
Oklahoma City	Leased
Tulsa	Leased
Texas	
Dallas(2)	Leased(2)
Houston(3)	Leased(3)
San Antonio	Owned
Utah	
Ogden	Leased
Salt Lake City	Leased
St. George	Leased

Each facility location has a branch manager who is responsible for day-to-day operations. In addition, facilities are typically staffed with approximately 10 to 100 people, who may include technicians, salesmen, rental operations staff and parts specialists. While facility offices are typically open five days a week, we provide 24 hour, seven day per week service.

Our corporate headquarters are located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where we occupy approximately 18,400 square feet under a lease that extends until February 28, 2007. We believe that our existing facilities will be sufficient for the conduct of our business during the next fiscal year.

#### Item 3. Legal Proceedings

Other than the legal proceeding referred to below, we are not currently a party to any material pending legal proceeding that could have a materially adverse effect on our business or financial condition. In July 2000, one of our competitors, Sunbelt Rentals, Inc., brought claims against us in the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division, State of North Carolina, County of Mecklenburg, alleging, among other things, that in connection with our hiring of former employees of the plaintiff there occurred a breach of fiduciary duty, misappropriation of trade secrets, unfair trade practices and interference with prospective advantages. In May 2003, the court ruled in favor of the plaintiff in the amount of \$17.4 million. We subsequently appealed the judgment. In conjunction with the appeal and in accordance with the court's ruling, we have an irrevocable standby letter of credit for \$19.8 million,

representing the amount of the judgment plus \$2.4 million in anticipated statutory interest for the twenty-four months while the judgment is being appealed. For additional information on our standby letter of credit, you should refer to "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations." Oral arguments took place on March 3, 2005 and the appeal was then submitted for the appellate court's decision. While we are appealing this judgment, we believe that even if there is a reduction in the amount of damages awarded to the plaintiff on appeal, the judgment could have a material adverse effect on our business or financial condition.

# Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders

No matter was submitted to a vote of our security holders.

# PART II

# Item 5. Market for Common Equity and Related Stockholder Matters

Not Applicable.

# Item 6. Selected Financial Data

You should read the consolidated historical financial data together with our consolidated financial statements and related notes included elsewhere in this Report and Item 7. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and the financial statements and the related notes thereto and other financial data included elsewhere in this Report.

Certain amounts in the prior-year consolidated historical financial data have been reclassified for comparative purposes to conform to the presentation in the current-year consolidated financial data (see Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements included in "Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules.").

	For the Year Ended December 31,									
	2003   2002 <sup>(1)</sup> 2004   (Restated)   (Restated)   2001		2001	2000						
			(Dollars in thousands)							
Statement of operations data:										
Revenues:										
Equipment rentals	\$ 160,342	\$ 153,851	\$ 136,624	\$ 98,696	\$ 70,625					
New equipment sales	116,907	81,692	72,143	84,138	53,345					
Used equipment sales	84,999	70,926	52,487	59,441	51,402					
Parts sales	58,014	53,658	47,218	36,524	34,435					
Service revenue	33,696	33,349	27,755	19,793	16,553					
Other	24,214	20,510	14,778	10,925	8,236					
Total revenues	478,172	413,986	351,005	309,517	234,596					
Cost of revenues:										
Rental depreciation	49,590	55,244	46,627	30,004	28,629					
Rental expense	50.666	49,696	37,706	23,154	10,916					
New equipment sales	104,111	73,228	65,305	77,442	47,910					
Used equipment sales	67,906	58,145	43,776	51,378	44,401					
Parts sales	41,500	39,086	34,011	27,076	25,846					
Service revenue	12,865	13,043	11,438	8,106	7,139					
Other	28,246	26,433	19,774	14,439	11,488					
Total cost of revenues	354,884	314,875	258,637	231,599	176,329					
Gross profit:										
Equipment rentals	60,086	48,911	52,291	45,538	31,080					
New equipment sales	12,796	8,464	6,838	6,696	5,435					
Used equipment sales	17,093	12,781	8,711	8,063	7,001					
Parts sales	16,514	14,572	13,207	9,448	8,589					
Service revenue	20,831	20,306	16,317	11,687	9,414					
Other	(4,032)	(5,923)	(4,996)	(3,514)	(3,252)					
Total gross profit	123,228	99,111	92,368	77,918	58,267					
Selling, general and administrative expenses	97,525	93,054	78,352	55,382	46,001					
Loss from litigation	97,325	95,054 17,434	/0,332	00,002	40,001					
Related party expense		1,275								
Gain on sale of property and equipment	207	80	59	46						
Income (loss) from operations	25,970	(12,572)	14,075	22,582	12,266					
Other income (expense):										
Interest expense	(39,856)	(39,394)	(28,955)	(17,995)	(22,909)					
Other, net	149	221	372	156	187					
Total other expense, net	(39,707)	(39,173)	(28,583)	(17,839)	(22,722)					
Income (loss) before taxes	(13,737)	(51,745)	(14,508)	4,743	(10,456)					
Income tax provision (benefit)		(5,694)	(6,287)	1,443	(3,123)					
Net income (loss)	\$ (13,737)	\$ (46,051)	\$ (8,221)	\$ 3,300	\$ (7,333)					



	2004	2003 (Restated)		2002 <sup>(1)</sup> (Restated)		2001		2000		
		(Dollars in thousands)			)		_			
Other financial data:										
Depreciation and amortization <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 53,52	26	\$ 59,1	59	\$ 49,65	9 3	\$ 32,16	3	\$ 30,5	41
Statement of cash flows:										
Net cash (used in) provided by										
operating activities	5,6	39	19,3	44	25,31	9	30,11	5	(14,5	88)
Net cash (used in) provided by										
investing activities	(11,7)	53)	20,908		(18,694)		(37,846		16,2	.52
Net cash provided by (used in)										
financing activities	5,58	81	(39,7		(7,549) s of December 31,		10,426		(2,712)	
									-	
	2004		2003 (Restated)		2002 <sup>(1)</sup> (Restated)		2001		2000	
	 (D		ollars in thousands)							
Balance sheet data:										
Cash	\$ 3,358	\$	3,891	\$	3,398	\$	4,322	\$	1,627	7
Rental equipment, net	243,630		261,154		322,271		195,701		147,228	3
Goodwill, net	8,572		8,572		8,572		3,204		3,454	ŧ.
Deferred financing costs	10,251		11,235		12,612					-
Total assets	408,669		409,393		476,119		287,129		245,961	L
Total debt	299,392		292,042		330,139		196,332		206,597	7
Members' equity (deficit)	(33,300)		(19,563)		26,487		29,899		(15,902	2)

For the Year Ended December 31,

(1) Includes the results of operations of ICM from June 18, 2002 through December 31, 2002. We adopted SFAS No. 142, "*Goodwill and other Intangible Assets*", in 2002 and accordingly, do not have any goodwill amortization subsequent to December 31, 2001.

(2) Excludes amortization of debt issuance costs which is included in interest expense.

# **Restatement and Reclassifications**

We announced on August 26, 2005, that we would restate our audited financial results for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002 to correct errors primarily related to the treatment of deferred taxes in connection with our combination with ICM Equipment Company on June 17, 2002. As a result of the restatements, we also made corrections to the recorded amount of rental fleet, property and equipment and goodwill associated with purchase accounting for the acquisition of ICM Equipment Company. For further discussion of the restatements, see the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements included in "Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules."

# Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the "Selected Financial Data" and our consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes thereto included elsewhere herein. The following discussion contains, in addition to historical information, forward-looking statements that include risks and uncertainties. Our actual results may differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements as a result of certain factors.

#### Overview

As more fully described in the notes to our consolidated financial statements, we have restated our previously issued consolidated financial statements to primarily correct our accounting treatment of deferred taxes in connection with our combination with ICM Equipment Company on June 17, 2002.

All financial information contained herein has been revised to reflect the restatements and reclassifications.

#### Background

As one of the largest integrated equipment services companies in the United States focused on heavy construction and industrial equipment, we rent, sell and provide parts and service support for four core categories of specialized equipment: (1) hi-lift or aerial platform equipment, (2) cranes, (3) earthmoving equipment, and (4) industrial lift trucks. By providing equipment rental, sales, on-site parts, repair and maintenance functions under one roof, we are a one-stop provider for our customers' varied equipment needs. This full service approach provides us with multiple points of customer contact, enables us to maintain an extremely high quality rental fleet, as well as an effective distribution channel for fleet disposal and provides cross-selling opportunities among our new and used equipment sales, rental, parts sales and service operations.

We operate 41 full-service facilities throughout the Intermountain, Southwest, Gulf Coast and Southeast regions of the United States. Our work force includes distinct, focused sales forces for our new and used equipment sales and rental operations, highly-skilled service technicians, product specialists and regional managers. We focus our sales and rental activities on, and organize our personnel principally by, our four equipment categories. We believe this allows us to provide specialized equipment knowledge, improve the effectiveness of our rental and sales force and strengthen our customer relationships. In addition, we have branch managers at each location who are responsible for managing their assets and financial results. We believe this fosters accountability in our business, and strengthens our local and regional relationships.

Through our predecessor companies, we have been in the equipment services business for approximately 44 years. We were formed in June 2002 through the combination of Head & Engquist Equipment, L.L.C. (H&E) (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Gulf Wide Industries, L.L.C.) and ICM Equipment Company L.L.C. (ICM). H&E, founded in 1961, and ICM, founded in 1971, were two leading regional, integrated rental, sales and equipment service companies operating in contiguous geographic markets. H&E and ICM were merged into H&E's parent company, Gulf Wide Industries, L.L.C., which was renamed H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. Prior to the combination, H&E operated 25 facilities in the Gulf Coast region, and ICM operated 16 facilities in the Intermountain region of the United States.

#### **Business Segments**

We have five reportable segments because we derive our revenues from five principal business activities: (1) equipment rentals; (2) new equipment sales; (3) used equipment sales; (4) parts sales and (5) services. These segments are based upon how we allocate resources and assess performance. In addition, we also have non-segmented revenues and costs that relate to equipment support activities.

- *Equipment Rentals.* Our rental operation primarily rents our four core types of construction and industrial equipment. We have an extremely wellmaintained rental fleet and our own dedicated sales force, focused by equipment type. We actively manage the size, quality, age and composition of our rental fleet based on our analysis of key measures such as time utilization, rental rate trends and targets, and equipment demand which we closely monitor. We maintain fleet quality through regional quality control managers and our parts and services operations.
- *New Equipment Sales.* Our new equipment sales operation sells new equipment in all four product categories. We have a retail sales force focused by equipment type that is separate from our rental sales force. Manufacturer purchase terms and pricing are managed by our product specialists.



- *Used Equipment Sales.* Our used equipment sales are generated primarily from sales of used equipment from our rental fleet, as well as from sales of inventoried equipment that we acquire through trade-ins from our equipment customers and through selective purchases of high quality used equipment. Used equipment is sold by our dedicated retail sales force. Our used equipment sales are an effective way for us to manage the size and composition of our rental fleet and provides a profitable distribution channel for disposal of rental equipment.
- *Parts Sales.* Our parts business sells new and used parts for the equipment we sell, and also provides parts to our own rental fleet. To a lesser degree, we also sell parts for equipment produced by manufacturers whose products we neither rent nor sell. In order to provide timely parts and service support to our customers as well as our own rental fleet, we maintain an extensive parts inventory.
- Services. Our services operation provides maintenance and repair services for our customers' equipment and to our own rental fleet at our facilities as well as at our customers' locations. As the authorized distributor for numerous equipment manufacturers, we are able to provide service to that equipment that will be covered under the manufacturer's warranty. We have approximately 490 highly skilled service technicians.

Our non-segmented revenues and costs relate to equipment support activities that we provide, such as transportation, hauling, parts freight, and damage waivers, and are not generally allocated to reportable segments.

You can read more about our business segments under "Item 1. Business" in this Form 10-K and in footnote 18 of the financial statements.

#### **Revenue Sources**

*Total Revenues.* We generate all of our total revenues from our five business segments and our non-segmented equipment support activities. Equipment rentals and new equipment sales account for more than half of our total revenues. For the year end December 31, 2004, approximately 33.5% of our total revenues were attributable to equipment rentals, 24.4% of our total revenues were attributable to new equipment sales, 17.8% were attributable to used equipment sales, 12.1% were attributable to parts sales, 7.0% were attributable to our service revenues and 5.2% were attributable to non-segmented other revenues.



The equipment that we sell, rent and service is principally used in the construction industry, as well as by companies for commercial and industrial uses such as plant maintenance and turnarounds. As a result, our total revenues are affected by several factors including, but not limited to, the demand for

and availability of rental equipment, rental rates, the demand for new and used equipment, the level of construction and industrial activities, spending levels by our customers, adverse weather conditions and general economic conditions. For a discussion of the impact of seasonality on our revenues, see "Seasonality" below.

*Equipment Rentals.* Revenues from equipment rental depend on rental rates. Because rental rates are impacted by competition in specific regions and markets, we continuously monitor and adjust rental rates. We have a rental rate initiative driven by management to increase rental rates. Equipment rental revenue is also impacted by the availability of equipment and by time utilization (equipment usage based on customer demand). We generate reports on, among other things, time utilization, demand pricing (rental rate pricing based on physical utilization), and rental rate trends on a piece-by-piece basis for our rental fleet. We recognize revenues from equipment rentals in the period earned, over the contract term, regardless of the timing of billing to customers.

*New Equipment Sales.* We optimize revenues from new equipment sales by selling equipment through a professional in-house retail sales force focused by product type. While sales of new equipment are impacted by the availability of equipment from the manufacturer, we believe our status as a leading distributor for some of our key suppliers improves our ability to obtain equipment. New equipment sales are an important component of our integrated model due to customer interaction and service contact; new equipment sales also lead to future parts and service revenues. We recognize revenue from the sale of new equipment at the time of delivery to, or pick-up by, the customer and when all obligations under the sales contract have been fulfilled and collectibility is reasonably assured.

*Used Equipment Sales.* We generate the majority of our used equipment sales revenues by selling equipment from our rental fleet. The remainder of used equipment sales revenues comes from the sale of inventoried equipment that we acquire through trade-ins from our equipment customers and selective purchases of high-quality used equipment. Sales of our rental fleet equipment allow us to manage the size, quality, composition and age of our rental fleet, and provide a profitable distribution channel for disposal of rental equipment. We recognize revenue for the sale of used equipment in the same manner that we recognize revenue from new equipment sales.

*Parts Sales*. We generate revenues from the sale of new and used parts for equipment that we rent or sell, as well as for other makes of equipment. Our product support sales representatives are instrumental in generating our parts revenues. They are product specialists and receive performance incentives for achieving certain sales levels. Most of our parts sales come from our extensive in-house parts inventory. Our parts sales provide us with a relatively stable revenue stream that is less sensitive to the economic cycles that affect our rental and equipment sales operations. We recognize revenues from parts sales at the time of delivery, or pick-up by, the customer and when all obligations under the sales contract have been fulfilled and collectibility is reasonably assured.

*Services*. We derive our services revenues from maintenance and repair services to customers for their owned equipment. In addition to repair and maintenance on an as-needed or scheduled basis, we also provide ongoing preventative maintenance services to industrial customers. These preventative maintenance services accounted for approximately 12% of our services revenues for the year ended December 31, 2004. Our after-market service provides a high-margin, relatively stable source of revenue through changing economic cycles. We recognize services revenues at the time services are rendered.

*Non-Segmented Revenues.* Our non-segmented other revenue consists of billings to customers for equipment support and activities including: transportation, hauling, parts freight and loss damage waiver charges. We recognize revenue for support services at the time we generate an invoice for such services.

#### **Principal Costs and Expenses**

Our largest expenses are the cost to purchase the new equipment we sell, the costs associated with the used equipment we sell, rental expense, rental depreciation and costs associated with parts sales and services, which are all included in costs of revenues. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004, our total cost of revenues was approximately \$354.9 million. Our operating expenses consist principally of selling, general and administrative expense, and, in the case of fiscal year 2003, loss from litigation. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004, our operating expenses were approximately \$97.5 million. In addition, we have interest expense related to our debt instruments. Operating expenses and all other income and expense items below gross profit are not generally allocated to our reportable segments.

#### Cost of Revenues:

*Rental Depreciation*. Depreciation of rental equipment represents the depreciation costs attributable to rental equipment. Estimated useful lives vary based upon type of equipment. Generally, the Company depreciates cranes and aerial work platforms over a ten year useful life, earthmoving over a five year useful life with a 25% salvage value, and industrial lift-trucks over a seven year useful life. Attachments and other smaller type equipment are fully depreciated over a three year useful life.

*Rental Expense.* Rental expense represents the costs associated with rental equipment, including, among other things, the cost of servicing and maintaining our rental equipment, property taxes on our fleet, equipment operating lease expense and other miscellaneous costs of rental equipment.

New Equipment Sales. Cost of new equipment sold consists of the equipment cost of the new equipment that is sold.

*Used Equipment Sales.* Cost of used equipment sold consists of the net book value of rental equipment for used equipment sold from our rental fleet, amount of credit given to the customer towards the new equipment for trade-ins and the equipment cost for used equipment purchased for sale.

Parts Sales. Cost of parts sales represent costs attributable to the sale of parts directly to customers.

*Services*. Cost of service revenue represents costs attributable to service provided for the maintenance and repair of customer-owned equipment and equipment then on-rent by customers.

*Non-segmented Other.* Costs associated with providing transportation, hauling, parts freight, and damage waiver including, among other items, drivers wages fuel costs, shipping costs, and our costs related to damage waiver policies.

*Selling, General and Administrative Expenses.* Our selling, general and administrative expenses include sales and marketing expenses, payroll and related costs, insurance expense, professional fees, property and other taxes, administrative overhead, and depreciation associated with property and equipment (other than rental equipment). These expenses are not generally allocated to our reportable segments.

*Loss from Litigation.* In July 2000, one of our competitors, Sunbelt Rentals, Inc., brought claims against us in a state court in North Carolina. In May, 2003, the Court ruled in favor of the plaintiff in the amount of \$17.4 million which we recorded as a loss in 2003. For a more detailed description of this loss, see "Results of Operations."

*Interest Expense.* Interest expense represents the interest on our outstanding debt instruments, including indebtedness outstanding under our credit facility, senior secured notes due 2012 and senior subordinated notes due 2013 and statutory interest on the judgment from the Court in the Sunbelt Rentals, Inc. litigation.

# **Principal Cash Flows**

We generate cash primarily from our operating activities and historically we have used cash flows from operating activities, and our revolving credit facility as the primary sources of funds to purchase our inventory, and fund working capital and capital expenditures.

# **Rental Fleet**

A significant portion of our overall value is in our rental fleet equipment. Our rental fleet (including rental equipment financed with operating leases) as of December 31, 2004, consists of 13,092 units having an original acquisition cost (which is the cost originally paid to manufacturers or the original amount financed under operating leases) of approximately \$470 million. As of December 31, 2004, our rental fleet composition was as follows (dollars in millions):

	Units	% of Total Units	Original Acquisition Cost	% of Original Acquisition Cost	Average Age in Months
Aerial Work Platforms	9,903	76% \$	\$ 298.9	64%	45.4
Cranes	395	3%	81.8	17%	54.6
Earthmoving	696	5%	53.3	11%	24.9
Lift Trucks	987	8%	23.6	5%	44.5
Other	1,111	8%	12.2	3%	39.3
Total	13,092	100% \$	\$ 469.8	100%	44.0

Determining the optimal age and mix for our rental fleet equipment is subjective and requires considerable estimates by management. We constantly evaluate the mix, age and quality of the equipment in our rental fleet in response to current economic conditions, competition and customer demand. On average, we aged our rental fleet approximately 2.9 months during 2004. We reduced our overall gross rental fleet, through the normal course of business activities, by approximately \$23.7 million during 2004. While we reduced the size of our rental fleet, we have been able to increase our utilization, average rental rate and rental revenue. The mix among our four core product lines remained consistent with that of prior years. As a result of our in-house service capabilities and extensive maintenance program, our fleet is extremely well-maintained.

The mix and age of our rental fleet, as well as our cash flows, are impacted by the normal sales of equipment from the rental fleet and the capital expenditures to acquire new rental fleet equipment. In making acquisition decisions, we evaluate current market conditions, competition, manufacturers' availability, pricing and return on investment over the estimated life of the specific equipment, among other things.

# Principal External Factors that Affect our Businesses

We are subject to a number of external factors that may adversely affect our businesses. These factors, which are discussed below and under the headings "Forward-Looking Statements," and elsewhere in this Form 10-K, include:

- Spending levels by customers. Rental and sales of equipment to the construction industry and to industrial companies constitute a significant portion of our revenues. As a result, we depend upon customers in these businesses and their ability and willingness to make capital expenditures to rent or buy specialized equipment. Accordingly, our business is impacted by fluctuations in customers' spending levels on capital expenditures.
- *Economic downturns*. The demand for our products is dependent on the general economy, the industries in which our customers operate or serve, and other factors. Downturns in the general economy or in the construction and manufacturing industries can cause demand for our products

to materially decrease. Until recently, our business and profit margins were adversely affected by unfavorable economic conditions which resulted, among other things, in a decline in construction activity and overcapacity of available equipment.

*Adverse weather*. Adverse weather in a geographic region in which we operate may depress demand for equipment in that region. Our equipment is primarily used outdoors and, as a result, prolonged adverse weather conditions may prohibit our customers from continuing their work projects. The adverse weather also has a seasonal impact in parts of our Intermountain region.

We believe that our integrated business tempers the effects to us of downturns in a particular segment. For a discussion of seasonality, see "Seasonality."

#### **Critical Accounting Policies; Use of Estimates**

We prepare our financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. In applying many accounting principles, we need to make assumptions, estimates and/or judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses in our consolidated financial statements. We base our estimates and judgments on historical experience and other assumptions that we believe are reasonable under the circumstances. These assumptions, estimates and/or judgments, however, are often subjective and they and our actual results may change based on changing circumstances or changes in our analyses. If actual amounts are ultimately different from our estimates, the revisions are included in our results of operations for the period in which the actual amounts become known. We believe the following critical accounting policies could potentially produce materially different results if we were to change underlying assumptions, estimates and/or judgments. (See our notes to our consolidated financial statements for a summary of our significant accounting policies.)

*Revenue Recognition.* Our revenue recognition varies by segment. Our policy is to recognize revenue from equipment rentals in the period earned, over the contract term, regardless of the timing of the billing to customers. A rental contract term can be daily, weekly or monthly. Because the term of the contracts can extend across financial reporting periods, we record unbilled rental revenue and deferred rental revenue at the end of reporting periods so rental revenue is appropriately reported in the periods presented. We recognize revenue from new equipment sales, used equipment sales and parts sales at the time of delivery to, or pick-up by, the customer and when all obligations under the sales contract have been fulfilled and collectibility is reasonably assured. We recognize other revenues for support services at the time we generate an invoice including the charge for such services.

Allowance for Doubtful Accounts. We maintain an allowance for doubtful accounts that reflects our estimate of the amount of our receivables that we will be unable to collect. Our largest exposure to doubtful accounts is in our rental operations. We perform credit evaluations of customers and establish credit limits based on reviews of current credit information and payment histories. Our credit risk is mitigated by our geographically diverse customer base and our credit evaluation procedures. The rate of future credit losses, however, may not be similar to past experience. Our estimate of doubtful accounts could change based on changing circumstances, including changes in the economy or in the particular circumstances of individual customers. Accordingly, we may be required to increase or decrease our allowance.

*Useful Lives of Rental Equipment and Property and Equipment.* We depreciate rental equipment and property and equipment over their estimated useful lives (generally three to ten years), after giving effect to an estimated salvage value of 0% to 25% of cost. The useful life of rental equipment is determined based on our estimate of the period the asset will generate revenues, and the salvage value is determined based on our estimate of the minimum value we could realize from the asset after such period. We routinely review the assumptions utilized in computing rates of depreciation. We may be

required to change these estimates based on changes in our industry or other changing circumstances. If these estimates change in the future, we may be required to recognize increased or decreased depreciation expense for these assets.

*Impairment of Long-Lived Assets.* Long-lived assets are recorded at the lower of amortized cost or fair value. We review long-lived assets and certain identifiable intangibles for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. Recoverability of assets to be held and used is measured by a comparison of the carrying amount of an asset to future undiscounted cash flows expected to be generated by the asset over the remaining useful life. If such assets are considered to be impaired, the impairment to be recognized is measured by the amount by which the carrying amount of the assets exceeds the fair value of the assets.

*Inventories.* We state our new and used equipment inventories at the lower of cost or market by specific identification. Parts and supplies are stated on the lower of the weighted average cost or market. We maintain allowances for damaged, slow-moving and unmarketable inventory to reflect the difference between the cost of the inventory and the estimated market value. Changes in product demand may affect the value of inventory on hand and may require higher inventory allowances. Uncertainties with respect to inventory valuation are inherent in the preparation of financial statements.

#### **Results of Operations**

The tables included in the period comparisons below provide summaries of revenues and gross profits for our business segments. The period-to-period comparisons of financial results are not necessarily indicative of future results.

Because the combination of H&E and ICM occurred in June 2002, period comparisons that include the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002 do not reflect the effect of the ICM acquisition on results of operations for the full fiscal year and are not indicative of future results. The results of operations for the fiscal year 2002 only include results from the ICM acquisition from June 17, 2002 through December 31, 2002.

# Year Ended December 31, 2004 Compared to the Year Ended December 31, 2003

#### Revenues

		For the Year Ended December 31,					Total
	2004			2003		Total Dollar Change	Percentage Change
				(Restated)			
Segment Revenues:							
Equipment rentals	\$	160.3	\$	153.9	\$	6.4	4.2%
New equipment sales	\$	116.9	\$	81.7	\$	35.2	43.1%
Used equipment sales		85.0		70.9		14.1	19.9%
Parts sales		58.0		53.7		4.3	8.0%
Services		33.7		33.3		0.4	1.2%
Non-segmented revenues		24.3		20.5		3.8	18.5%
Total revenues	\$	478.2	\$	414.0	\$	64.2	15.5%

*Total Revenues.* Our total revenues were \$478.2 million in 2004 compared to \$414.0 million in 2003, an increase of \$64.2 million or 15.5%. Revenues increased for all reportable segments as a result of increased customer demand for our products and services combined with rental and support activity rate increases.

*Equipment Rental Revenues.* Our revenues from equipment rentals increased \$6.4 million, or 4.2%, to \$160.3 million in 2004 from \$153.9 million in 2003. The increase is primarily due to increased rental rates and higher time utilization, despite a reduction in the overall total gross rental fleet by \$23.7 million through the normal course of business activities over the last year. The most significant component of the increase in rental revenues occurred in hi-lift or aerial platform equipment. This increase was offset primarily by a decrease in cranes which is a result of lower time utilization. Rental equipment dollar utilization (annual rental revenues divided by the average quarterly original rental fleet equipment costs of \$472.3 million and \$518.2 million for 2004 and 2003, respectively) was approximately 33.9% in 2004 compared to 29.7% in 2003.

*New Equipment Sales Revenues.* Our new equipment sales increased \$35.2 million, or 43.1%, to \$116.9 million in 2004 from \$81.7 million in 2003. In 2004, sales of new cranes, aerial work platforms, earthmoving and other new equipment improved, offset by a decline in new lift truck sales. The decline in lift truck sales was primarily due to the timing and availability of equipment.

*Used Equipment Sales Revenues.* Our used equipment sales increased \$14.1 million, or 19.9%, to \$85.0 million in 2004 from \$70.9 million in 2003. Used equipment sales increased in all product lines except for other used equipment sales. In 2004, we sold our used equipment at approximately 125.2% on net book value compared to 122.0% of net book value in 2003. With extended manufacturer lead times for new equipment, the demand for well-maintained, used equipment has increased.

*Parts Sales Revenues.* Our parts sales revenues increased \$4.3 million, or 8.0%, to \$58.0 million in 2004 from \$53.7 million in 2003. The increase was primarily attributable to increased customer demand for parts.

*Service Revenues.* Our service revenues increased \$0.4 million, or 1.2%, to \$33.7 million in 2004 from \$33.3 million in 2003 primarily attributable to increased customer demand for service support.

*Non-segmented Revenues.* Our non-segmented other revenues consisted primarily of billings to customers for equipment support activities including transportation, hauling, parts freight and damage waiver charges. Our other revenue increased \$3.8 million, or 18.5%, during 2004. The increase in other revenues is partly attributable to an increase in certain charge-out rates for support activities. In addition, most of these support activities increased due to the increases in our other business activities.

# **Gross Profit**

			or the d December 31		Total
		2004	2003	Total Dollar Change	Percentage Change
Segment Gross Profit:					
Equipment rentals	\$	60.0	\$ 48.9	\$ 11.1	22.7%
New equipment sales		12.8	8.5	4.3	50.6%
Used equipment sales		17.1	12.8	4.3	33.6%
Parts sales		16.5	14.5	2.0	13.8%
Services		20.8	20.3	0.5	2.5%
Non-segmented gross profit		(3.9)	(5.9)	2.0	(33.9)%
Total gross profit	\$	123.3	\$ 99.1	\$ 24.2	24.3%

*Total Gross Profit.* Our total gross profit was \$123.3 million in 2004 compared to \$99.1 million in 2003, an increase of \$24.2 million or 24.3%. Gross profit increased primarily as a result of the reduction of the overall rental fleet combined with an increase in rental revenues. In addition, due to the increase in customer demand for new and well-maintained used equipment, we were able to sell our equipment at a higher gross margin. Total gross profit margin for 2004 was 25.8% compared to 23.9% in 2003. Gross profit margins also increased primarily due to the decreased costs associated with the reduced fleet and the improved margins in equipment sales. Our gross profit was attributable to:

*Equipment Rentals Gross Profit.* Our equipment rentals gross profit increased \$11.1 million, or 22.7%, to \$60.0 million in 2004 from \$48.9 million in 2003. The increase was primarily a result of a \$6.4 million increase in rental revenue combined with a \$4.7 million decrease in rental expense and rental depreciation.

Depreciation expense on our rental fleet equipment is recorded in equipment rentals cost of revenues. Total rental fleet depreciation expense decreased approximately \$5.6 as a result of having reduced the overall total rental fleet. During 2004, our operating lease expense decreased approximately \$1.0 million, offset by a \$1.9 million increase in maintenance costs, property tax and other miscellaneous rental costs.

*New Equipment Sales Gross Profit.* Our new equipments sales gross profit increased \$4.3 million, or 50.6%, to \$12.8 million in 2004 from \$8.5 million in 2003. In 2004, gross profit on sales of new cranes, aerial work platforms, earthmoving and other new equipment improved with gross profit on sales of new lift trucks being comparable to last year.

*Used Equipment Sales Gross Profit.* Our gross profit on used equipment sales increased \$4.3 million, or 33.6%, to \$17.1 million in 2004 from \$12.8 million in 2003. Used equipment sales gross profit increased across all product lines except for other used equipment. The increase in used equipment sales gross profit was attributable to increased revenues and the mix of used equipment sold.

*Parts Sales Gross Profit.* Our parts sales revenue gross profit increased \$2.0 million, or 13.8%, to \$16.5 million in 2004 from \$14.5 million in 2003. The increase was primarily attributable to increased customer demand for parts.

*Service Revenues Gross Profit.* Our service revenues gross profit increased \$0.5 million, or 2.5%, to \$20.8 million in 2004 from \$20.3 million in 2003. The increase was primarily attributable to increased customer demand for service support.

*Selling, General and Administrative Expenses.* Selling, general and administrative (SG&A) expenses increased \$4.4 million, or 4.7%, to \$97.5 million in 2004 from \$93.1 million in 2003. Approximately \$3.5 million of the increase related to higher sales commissions, performance incentives, benefits and other costs associated with increased revenues. Rising insurance, facility, depreciation and transportation and hauling costs accounted for the remaining \$1.0 million of the total increase. As a percent of total revenues, SG&A expenses were 20.4% in 2004 compared to 22.5% in the prior year.

*Loss from Litigation.* In July 2000, one of our competitors, Sunbelt Rentals, Inc., brought claims against us in the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division, State of North Carolina, County of Mecklenburg alleging, among other things, that in connection with our hiring of former employees of the plaintiff there occurred a breach of fiduciary duty, misappropriation of trade secrets, unfair trade practices and interference with prospective advantages. In May 2003, the Court ruled in favor of the plaintiff in the amount of \$17.4 million. Consequently, we recorded a \$17.4 million loss in 2003. We subsequently appealed the judgment. In conjunction with the appeal and in accordance with the Court's ruling, we issued an irrevocable standby letter of credit for \$19.8 million, representing the amount of the judgment plus \$2.4 million in anticipated statutory interest (8%) for the twenty-four months while the judgment is being appealed. Going forward, we intend to expense any statutory interest as interest expense in the statement of operations. As of December 31, 2004, we paid a 300 basis point fee on the



amount available for issuance. Currently, we pay a 225 basis point fee on the amount available for issuance. Oral arguments took place on March 3, 2005 and the appeal was then submitted for the appellate court's decision. While we are appealing this judgment, we believe that even if there is a reduction in the amount of damages awarded to the plaintiff on appeal, the judgment could have a material adverse effect on our business or financial condition.

**Related Party Expense.** On June 29, 1999, we entered into a \$3.0 million consulting and non-competition agreement with Mr. Thomas Engquist, a related party. The agreement provided for total payments over a ten-year term, payable in increments of \$25,000 per month. Mr. Engquist was obligated to provide us consulting services and was to comply with the non-competition provision set forth in a Recapitalization Agreement between us and others dated June 19, 1999. The parties specifically acknowledged and agreed that in the event of the death of Mr. Engquist during the term of the agreement, the payments that otherwise would have been payable to Mr. Engquist under the agreement shall be paid to his heirs.

Due to Mr. Engquist's passing away during 2003, we will not be provided with any further consulting services. Therefore, we have recorded a \$1.3 million expense for the present value of the remaining future payments.

*Other Income (Expense).* Our 2004 other expense increased by \$0.5 million to \$39.7 million in 2004 from \$39.2 million in 2003. Our interest expense for 2004 increased \$0.4 million this year compared to last year. The annual interest rates on our senior secured credit facility averaged 7.1% in 2004 compared to 5.4% in 2003.

*Income Taxes.* We are a limited liability company that has elected to be treated as a C Corporation for income tax purposes. For 2004, income taxes increased by \$5.7 million to a provision of approximately \$0 million from a benefit of \$5.7 million. The increase is a result of our loss in 2003 and the establishment of a valuation allowance against our net deferred tax assets. At the end of 2004 and 2003, we have recorded a tax valuation allowance for the entire amount of our net deferred income tax assets. The valuation allowance was recorded given the cumulative losses we have incurred and our belief that it is more likely than not that we will be unable to recover the net deferred income tax assets.

#### Year Ended December 31, 2003 Compared to the Year Ended December 31, 2002

#### Revenues

The following table indicates the impact on operations attributable to the ICM locations acquired in 2002:

		For t Year E Decemb	nded						
		2003 (Restated)		2003 2002 Dolla		Total Total Dollar Percent Change Change		Dollar Change Attributable to ICM Acquisition	Dollar Change Excluding the ICM Acquisition
					(in millions,	except percentages)			
Segment Revenues:									
Equipment rentals	\$	153.9	\$	136.6 \$	17.3	12.7% \$	26.1	\$ (8.8)	
New equipment sales		81.7		72.1	9.6	13.3%	6.9	2.7	
Used equipment sales		70.9		52.5	18.4	35.0%	11.2	7.2	
Parts sales		53.7		47.2	6.5	13.8%	7.8	(1.3)	
Services		33.3		27.8	5.5	19.8%	6.4	(0.9)	
Non-segmented revenues		20.5		14.8	5.7	38.5%	4.9	0.8	
Total versamues	<u>ــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ</u>	414.0		 ጋር1 ቢ	62.0	 17.00/	(2.2.)	¢ (0.2)	
Total revenues	\$	414.0	<b>Э</b>	351.0 \$	63.0	17.9% \$	63.3	\$ (0.3)	

*Total Revenues.* Our 2003 total revenues were \$414.0 million compared to \$351.0 million in 2002, an increase of \$63.0 million or 17.9%. Total revenues attributable to the locations associated with the ICM acquisition were \$63.3 million. Our ability to increase revenues was hampered by lower customer demand due to a weak economy.

*Equipment Rental Revenues.* Our revenues from equipment rentals increased \$17.3 million to \$153.9 million for 2003 from \$136.6 million for 2002. Included in the increase is \$26.1 million of equipment rentals revenue generated by locations associated with the acquisition of ICM. Same-store rental revenue declined \$8.8 million for the year, primarily due to lower time utilization in the crane segment and both lower time utilization and rental rates for the aerial work platform segment. Other rental revenue declined due to our de-emphasizing smaller rental equipment. Earthmoving equipment rental revenue improved due to improved time utilization.

*New Equipment Sales Revenues.* Our new equipment sales increased \$9.6 million to \$81.7 million for 2003 from \$72.1 million for 2002. Included in the increase is \$6.9 million of new equipment sales related to the locations associated with the acquisition of ICM. During 2003, our sales of new cranes, earthmoving, and lift truck equipment improved but were offset by lower sales of aerial work platform and other new equipment. Sales of new equipment fluctuate based upon customer demand for their projects.

*Used Equipment Sales Revenues.* Our used equipment sales increased \$18.4 million to \$70.9 million for 2003 from \$52.5 million for 2002. Included in the increase is \$11.2 million of used equipment sales generated by locations associated with the acquisition of ICM. During 2003, lower sales of both used cranes and used aerial work platform equipment were offset by improvements in sales of used earthmoving, used lift truck and other used equipment. For 2003, we sold our used equipment at approximately 122.0% of net book value.

*Parts Sales Revenues.* In 2003, our parts sales revenues increased \$6.5 million to \$53.7 million from \$47.2 million for 2002. Parts sales revenue associated with the acquisition of ICM were \$7.8 million. The remaining \$1.3 million decrease was attributable to lower customer demand.

*Service Revenues.* In 2003, our service revenues increased \$5.5 million to \$33.3 million from \$27.8 million for 2002. Service revenues associated with the acquisition of ICM were \$6.4 million. The remaining \$0.9 million decrease was attributable to lower customer demand.

*Non-segmented Other Revenues.* Our other revenues consisted primarily of billings to our customers for equipment support activities including transportation, hauling, parts freight and damage waiver charges. Our other revenues increased \$5.7 million during 2003; \$4.9 million of the increase was related to the ICM equipment acquisition.

# **Gross Profit**

Included in the following table is the impact on operations attributable to the ICM locations acquired in 2002:

	For the Year End December	led				
	2003 estated)			Total Percent Change	Dollar Change Attributable to ICM Acquisition	Dollar Change Excluding the ICM Acquisition
			(in millions,			
Segment Gross Profit:						
Equipment rentals	\$ 48.9 \$	52.3	\$ (3.4)	(6.5)%\$	6.3 \$	(9.7)
New equipment sales	8.5	6.8	1.7	25.0%	1.3	0.4
Used equipment sales	12.8	8.7	4.1	47.1%	2.6	1.5
Parts sales	14.5	13.2	1.3	9.8%	2.2	(0.9)
Services	20.3	16.4	3.9	23.8%	4.0	(0.1)
Non-segmented gross profit	(5.9)	(5.0)	(0.9)	18.0%	0.5	(1.4)
Total gross profit	\$ 99.1 \$	92.4	\$ 6.7	7.3% \$	16.9 \$	(10.2)



*Total Gross Profit.* Our 2003 total gross profit was \$99.1 million compared to \$92.4 million in 2002, an increase of \$6.7 million or 7.3%. Total gross profit attributable to the locations associated with the ICM acquisition was \$16.9 million.

*Equipment Rentals Gross Profit.* Our equipment rentals gross profit decreased \$3.4 million or 6.5% for this year compared to last year. Total equipment rentals gross profit generated by locations associated with the acquisition of ICM was \$6.3 million. Same-store equipment gross profit declined \$9.7 million for the year, primarily due to lower equipment rental revenues as previously discussed.

Depreciation expense on our rental equipment is recorded in equipment rentals cost of revenues. Excluding the \$11.6 million related to the ICM acquisition, same-store depreciation expense decreased approximately \$3.1 million as a result of a decrease in our rental fleet. For 2003, our maintenance and repair expense increased approximately \$3.9 million (excluding the \$6.0 million maintenance and repair expense associated with the ICM acquisition), primarily due to our aging the rental fleet.

*New Equipment Sales Gross Profit.* Our new equipment sales gross profit increased \$1.7 million to \$8.5 million for 2003 compared to \$6.8 million for 2002. Included in the increase is \$1.3 million of new equipment sales gross profit related to the locations associated with the acquisition of ICM. The fluctuation in new equipment sales gross profit is attributable primarily to the mix of new equipment sold.

*Used Equipment Sales Gross Profit.* Our used equipment sales gross profit increased \$4.1 million to \$12.8 million for 2003 from \$8.7 million for 2002. Included in the increase is \$2.6 million of used equipment sales gross profit related to the locations associated with the acquisition of ICM. The fluctuation in used equipment sales gross profit is attributable primarily to the mix of used equipment sold.

*Parts Sales Gross Profit.* In 2003, our parts sales gross profit increased \$1.3 million to \$14.5 million from \$13.2 million for 2002. Parts sales gross profit associated with the acquisition of ICM was \$2.2 million. The remaining \$0.9 million decrease was attributable to lower customer demand. Despite lower parts sales, the gross profit margin remained consistent as a result of our increased pricing and cost controlling initiatives.

*Service Revenue Gross Profit.* In 2003, our service revenue gross profit increased \$3.9 million to \$20.3 million from \$16.4 million for 2002. Service revenue associated with the acquisition of ICM was \$4.0 million. Service revenue gross profit was flat due to level customer demand.

*Selling, General and Administrative Expenses.* Our 2003 selling, general and administrative (SG&A) expenses were \$93.1 million compared to \$78.4 million for 2002. Included in the total \$14.7 million increase in SG&A expense was \$26.1 million related to the ICM locations. The remaining \$11.4 million decrease was primarily the result of our work force reductions, additional cost controlling initiatives implemented by management and continued integration of the merged companies. Depreciation and amortization expense on property and equipment is recorded in SG&A expense and was \$3.9 million for 2003 compared to \$3.0 million for 2002 (the ICM acquisition accounted for \$0.5 million of the increase.)

*Loss from Litigation.* In July 2000, one of our competitors, Sunbelt Rentals, Inc., brought claims against us in the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division, State of North Carolina, County of Mecklenburg alleging, among other things, that in connection with our hiring of former employees of the plaintiff there occurred a breach of fiduciary duty, misappropriation of trade secrets, unfair trade practices and interference with prospective advantages. In May 2003, the Court ruled in favor of the plaintiff in the amount of \$17.4 million. Consequently, we recorded a \$17.4 million loss in 2003. We subsequently appealed the judgment. In conjunction with the appeal and in accordance with the Court's ruling, we issued an irrevocable standby letter of credit for \$19.8 million, representing the amount of

the judgment plus \$2.4 million in anticipated statutory interest (8%) for the twenty-four months while the judgment is being appealed. Going forward, we intend to expense any statutory interest as interest expense in the statement of operations. As of December 31, 2003, we paid a 300 basis point fee on the amount available for issuance. Currently, we pay a 225 basis point fee on the amount available for issuance. Oral arguments took place on March 3, 2005 and the appeal was then submitted for the appellate court's decision. While we are appealing this judgment, we believe that even if there is a reduction in the amount of damages awarded to the plaintiff on appeal, the judgment could have a material adverse effect on our business or financial condition.

**Related Party Expense.** On June 29, 1999, we entered into a \$3.0 million consulting and non-competition agreement with Mr. Thomas Engquist, a related party. The agreement provided for total payments over a ten-year term, payable in increments of \$25,000 per month. Mr. Engquist was obligated to provide us consulting services and was to comply with the non-competition provision set forth in a Recapitalization Agreement between us and others dated June 19, 1999. The parties specifically acknowledged and agreed that in the event of the death of Mr. Engquist during the term of the agreement, the payments that otherwise would have been payable to Mr. Engquist under the agreement shall be paid to his heirs.

Due to Mr. Engquist's passing away during 2003, we will not be provided any further consulting services. Therefore, we have recorded a \$1.3 million expense for the present value of the remaining future payments.

*Other Income (Expense).* Our 2003 other expense increased by \$10.6 million to \$39.2 million from \$28.6 million for 2002. Our interest expense for 2003 increased \$10.4 million this year compared to last year as a result of refinancing our total debt and acquiring ICM during 2002. The annual interest rates on our senior secured credit facility averaged 5.4% in 2003 compared to 5.8% in 2002.

**Provision (Benefit) from Income Taxes.** We are a limited liability company that has elected to be treated as a C Corporation for income tax purposes. For 2003, income taxes decreased by \$0.6 million to a benefit of approximately \$5.7 million from a benefit \$6.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2002. The increase is a result of our losses in 2003 and 2002 and the establishment of a valuation allowance against our net deferred tax assets. At the end of 2003, we have recorded a tax valuation allowance for the entire amount of our net deferred income tax assets. The valuation allowance was recorded given the cumulative losses we have incurred and our belief that it is more likely than not that we will be unable to recover the net deferred income tax assets.

# Liquidity and Capital Resources

*Cash flow from operating activities.* For 2004, our cash provided by operating activities was \$5.6 million. Our cash flows from operations were primarily attributable to our reported net loss of \$13.7 million which, when adjusted for non-cash expense items, such as depreciation, taxes and amortization, and gains on the sale of long-lived assets, provided positive cash flows of \$28.4 million. This amount was principally offset by increases in our receivables of \$7.7 million and an increase in our inventories of \$22.3 million. Our receivables increased during 2004 due to higher sales volume. The increase in our inventories reflects our strategy of taking advantage of available inventory during a time when original equipment manufacturers were experiencing significantly increased lead times. Our cash flows from operations were positively impacted by an increase in insurance reserves, accrued commissions, accrued property taxes and accrued sales tax payables.

For 2003, our cash provided by operating activities was \$19.3 million. Our cash flows from operations were primarily attributable to our reported net loss of \$46.1 million which, when adjusted for non-cash expense items, such as depreciation, taxes and amortization, and gains on the sale of long-lived assets used cash flows of \$0.2 million. Other uses of operating cash flow were an increase in inventories of \$4.4 million. This amount was offset by a \$1.3 million decrease in accounts receivable, an

increase in accounts payable and accrued expenses payable of \$5.1 million, and the \$17.4 million estimated loss from litigation.

*Cash flow from investing activities.* For 2004, cash used in our investing activities was \$11.8 million. This is a result of proceeds from the sale of rental and non-rental equipment of \$65.7 million offset by purchasing \$77.5 million in rental and non-rental equipment. For 2003, cash provided by our investing activities was \$20.9 million. This is a result of proceeds from the sale of rental and non-rental equipment of \$54.0 million offset by purchasing \$33.1 million in rental and non-rental equipment.

*Cash flow from financing activities.* For 2004, cash provided by our financing activities was \$5.6 million. For the year, our total borrowings under the amended senior secured credit facility were \$479.8 million and total payments under the amended senior secured credit facility were \$468.4 million. Financing costs paid in cash for the refinancing totaled \$0.9 million and payment of related party obligation was \$0.3 million. Payments on capital leases and other notes were \$4.5 million.

For 2003, cash used in our financing activities was \$39.8 million. For the year, our total borrowings under the amended senior secured credit facility were \$385.5 million and total payments under the amended senior secured credit facility were \$418.3 million. Financing costs paid in cash for the refinancing totaled \$1.1 million. Payments on capital leases and other notes were \$5.8 million.

# Senior Secured Credit Facility Amendments

During the first quarter of 2004, we amended the senior secured credit agreement dated June 17, 2002, governing our senior secured credit facility. Principally, this amendment:

- extended the maturity date of the amended senior secured credit facility to February 2009;
- eliminated the maximum leverage ratio covenant;
- increased the adjusted maximum leverage ratio covenant from 5.2x to 5.8x for each quarter in the first year; 5.7x for each quarter in the second year; 5.4x for each quarter in the third year; 5.3x for each quarter in the fourth year; and 5.2x for each quarter in the fifth year. The minimum adjusted interest coverage ratio is set at 1.25x for each quarter through 2005; 1.35x for each quarter in 2006 and 2007; and 1.40x for each quarter in 2008 and through the remaining term of the agreement;
- increased the block on availability of assets from \$20.0 million to \$30.0 million based on the total borrowing base assets; and
- reduced the advance rate on rental fleet assets to 75 percent from 80 percent of the orderly liquidation value as defined in the senior secured credit agreement.

We paid a loan amendment fee of \$0.8 million that is being amortized over the remaining term of the loan.

On October 26, 2004, we amended the senior secured credit agreement to eliminate the requirement to provide separate collateral reports for our whollyowned subsidiary, Great Northern Equipment, Inc. We also further amended the senior secured credit agreement on January 13, 2005 to increase capital expenditures from \$5.0 million to \$8.5 during any fiscal year. No amendment fees were paid relating to these amendments.

On March 11, 2005, we amended the senior secured credit agreement dated June 17, 2002, governing our senior secured credit facility. Principally, the amendment:

lowers interest rates according to a pricing grid based upon daily average excess availability for the immediately preceding fiscal month. We elect interest at either the Index Rate (the higher of the prime rate, as determined pursuant to the amended credit agreement, and the federal funds rate plus 50 basis points) plus the applicable revolver Index margin per annum or the applicable London Interbank Offered Rate, or LIBOR rate, plus the applicable revolver LIBOR margin per each calendar month. With daily average excess availability equal to or more than \$40 million, the LIBOR margin will be 2.25% and the Index margin will be .75%. If availability falls below \$40 million and equal to or more than \$25 million, the senior secured credit facility bears interest at a LIBOR margin of 2.50% and the Index margin will be 1.00%. If availability is less than \$25 million, the LIBOR margin will be 2.75% and the Index margin will be 1.00%. If availability is less than \$25 million, the LIBOR margin will be 2.75% and the Index margin will be 1.00%. If availability is less than \$25 million, the LIBOR margin will be 2.75% and the Index margin will be 1.00%. If availability is less than \$25 million, the LIBOR margin will be 2.75% and the Index margin will be 1.00%. If availability is less than \$25 million, the LIBOR margin will be 2.75% and the Index margin will be 1.25%. The commitment fee equal to .5% per annum in respect to un-drawn commitments remains unchanged;

- decreases the block on availability of assets from \$30 million to \$15 million based on the total borrowing base assets; and
- increases the advance rate on rental fleet assets to 80% of orderly liquidation value.

The Company paid no amendment fee relating to this amendment.

On March 29, 2005, we further amended the senior secured credit agreement dated June 17, 2002, governing our senior secured credit facility to extend the delivery of audited financial statements until September 30, 2005. The Company did not pay a fee associated with this amendment.

As of August 26, 2005, we were granted a waiver under our senior secured credit agreement, pursuant to which our lenders have waived our non-compliance with, and the effects of our non-compliance under, various representations and non-financial covenants contained in the senior secured credit agreement affected by the accounting adjustments in connection with the restatement described in "Item 6. Selected Financial Data—Restatement" and the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in "Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules." As a result of the restatement, among other things, we would no longer be able to make the representations under the senior secured credit agreement concerning the conformity with GAAP of our previously delivered financial statements, or confirm our prior compliance with certain obligations concerning the maintenance of our books and records in accordance with GAAP. Because the restatement is not expected to result in our having breached any of the financial covenants in the senior secured credit agreement, the waiver does not waive or modify any such financial covenants. As a result of the waiver, we continue to have full access to our revolving credit facility under the senior secured credit agreement.

Our availability under the amended senior secured credit facility as of December 31, 2004 was approximately \$67.6 million. As of December 31, 2004, we were in compliance with the financial covenants in place at that time.

# **Cash Requirements Related to Operations**

Our principal sources of liquidity have been from cash provided by operations and the sales of new, used and rental fleet equipment, proceeds from the issuance of debt, and borrowings available under our amended senior secured credit facility. As of December 31, 2004, the total balance outstanding on the amended senior secured credit facility was \$55.3 million with \$67.6 million available in additional borrowings net of \$27.1 million in standby letters of credit. Also on December 31, 2004, our total balance payable on capital lease obligations and notes payable were \$1.1 million and \$0.7 million, respectively.

Our principal uses of cash have been to fund operating activities and working capital, finance the purchase of rental fleet equipment, fund payments due under operating leases and manufacturer flooring plans payable, and to meet debt service requirements. In the future, we may also pursue strategic acquisitions. We anticipate that these uses will be the principal demands on our cash in the future.

The amount of our future capital expenditures will depend on a number of factors including general economic conditions and growth prospects. We anticipate our 2005 gross rental fleet capital expenditures to be approximately \$160 million, primarily to replace the rental fleet equipment we

anticipate selling during 2005. We anticipate that we will fund these rental fleet capital expenditures with the proceeds from the sales of new, used and rental fleet equipment, cash from operations and, if required, from borrowings under our amended senior secured credit facility. In response to changing economic conditions, we believe we have the flexibility to modify our capital expenditures by adjusting them (either up or down) to match our actual performance. We anticipate our 2005 gross property and equipment capital expenditures to be approximately \$8.5 million. If we pursue any strategic acquisitions, we may need to incur additional debt.

To service our debt, we will require a significant amount of cash. Our ability to pay interest and principal on our indebtedness (including the senior subordinated and senior secured notes and obligations under the amended senior secured credit facility) and to satisfy our other debt obligations will depend upon our future operating performance and the availability of refinancing indebtedness, which will be affected by prevailing economic conditions and financial, business and other factors, some of which are beyond our control. Based on our current level of operations, we believe our cash flow from operations, available cash and available borrowings under the amended senior secured credit facility will be adequate to meet our future liquidity needs for at least the next twelve months.

We cannot assure that our future cash flow will be sufficient to meet our long-term obligations and commitments. If we are unable to generate sufficient cash flow from operations in the future to service our indebtedness and to meet our other commitments, we will be required to adopt one or more alternatives, such as refinancing or restructuring our indebtedness, selling material assets or operations or seeking to raise additional debt or equity capital. We cannot assure that any of these actions could be affected on a timely basis or on satisfactory terms or at all, or that these actions would enable us to continue to satisfy our capital requirements. In addition, our existing or future debt agreements, including the indentures and the amended senior secured credit facility, may contain restrictive covenants prohibiting us from adopting any of these alternatives. Our failure to comply with these covenants could result in an event of default which, if not cured or waived, could result in the accelerations of all of our debt.

#### **Certain Information Concerning Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements**

At December 31, 2004, we did not have any relationships with unconsolidated entities or financial partnerships, such as entities often referred to as structured finance or special purpose entities, which would have been established for the purpose of facilitating off-balance sheet arrangements or other contractually narrow or limited purposes. We are, therefore, not materially exposed to any financing, liquidity, market or credit risk that could arise if we had engaged in such relationships.

In the normal course of our business activities, we lease real estate, rental equipment and non-rental fleet equipment under operating leases. See "Contractual and Commercial Commitments Summary" below.

#### **Contractual and Commercial Commitments Summary**

Our contractual obligations and commercial commitments principally include obligations associated with our outstanding indebtedness and interest payments as of December 31, 2004.

Payments Due by Year									
	Total	2005		2006-2007		2008-2009		_	Thereafter
					(Dollars in thousands	)			
\$	253,896	\$	309	\$	455	\$	132	\$	253,000
	166,875		22,250		44,500		44,500		55,625
	56,313		6,625		13,250		13,250		23,188
	55,293		_		_		55,293		
	16,338		3,926		7,852		4,560		
	1,401		1,401				—		
	1,350		300		600		450		
	59,011		21,492		24,579		4,729		8,211
	64,702		14,679		23,821		19,501		6,701
				_		_		_	
\$	675,179	\$	70,982	\$	115,057	\$	142,415	\$	346,725
		\$ 253,896 166,875 56,313 55,293 16,338 1,401 1,350 59,011 64,702	\$ 253,896 \$ 166,875 56,313 55,293 16,338 1,401 1,350 59,011 64,702	\$ 253,896 \$ 309   166,875 22,250   56,313 6,625   55,293 —   16,338 3,926   1,401 1,401   1,350 300   59,011 21,492   64,702 14,679	Total   2005     \$   253,896   \$   309   \$     \$   253,896   \$   309   \$     \$   166,875   22,250   \$     \$   56,313   6,625   \$     \$   55,293   —   \$     \$   16,338   3,926   \$     \$   1,401   1,401   \$     \$   300   \$   \$     \$   59,011   21,492   \$     \$   64,702   14,679   \$	Total   2005   2006-2007     (Dollars in thousands)   (Dollars in thousands)     \$   253,896   \$   309   \$   455     166,875   22,250   44,500   56,313   6,625   13,250     56,313   6,625   13,250       166,338   3,926   7,852      1,401   1,401       1,350   300   6000      59,011   21,492   24,579      64,702   14,679   23,821	Total   2005   2006-2007     (Dollars in thousands)   (Dollars in thousands)     \$   253,896   \$   309   \$   455   \$     166,875   22,250   44,500   56,313   6,625   13,250     56,313   6,625   13,250       166,338   3,926   7,852      1,401   1,401       1,350   300   600      64,702   14,679   23,821	Total   2005   2006-2007   2008-2009     (Dollars in thousands)   (Dollars in thousands)   (Dollars in thousands)     \$   253,896   \$   309   \$   455   \$   132     \$   253,896   \$   309   \$   455   \$   132     \$   253,896   \$   309   \$   455   \$   132     \$   166,875   22,250   44,500   44,500   44,500     \$   56,313   6,625   13,250   13,250   13,250     \$   55,293     55,293   13,250     \$   16,338   3,926   7,852   4,560     \$   1,401   1,401       \$   1,350   300   600   450     \$   59,011   21,492   24,579   4,729     \$   64,702   14,679   23,821   19,501	Total   2005   2006-2007   2008-2009     (Dollars in thousands)   (Dollars in thousands)   -     \$   253,896   \$   309   \$   455   \$   132   \$     \$   253,896   \$   309   \$   455   \$   132   \$     \$   253,896   \$   309   \$   455   \$   132   \$     \$   166,875   22,250   44,500   44,500   44,500   \$     \$   56,313   6,625   13,250   13,250   \$     \$   55,293    -   55,293   \$     \$   16,338   3,926   7,852   4,560     \$   1,401   1,401   -   -     \$   300   6000   450   \$     \$   301   24,579   4,729   \$     \$   59,011   21,492   23,821   19,501   \$     \$   64,702   14,679

(1) Future interest payments are calculated based on the assumption that all debt is outstanding until maturity. For debt instruments with variable interest rates, interest has been calculated for all future periods using rates in effect on December 31, 2004.

- (2) Payments under the consulting and non-competition agreement with Mr. Thomas Engquist.
- (3) This includes total operating lease rental payments (including interest) having initial or remaining non-cancelable lease terms longer than one year.
- (4) This includes: (i) Bruckmann, Rosser, Sherrill & Co., Inc.'s annual management fees through 2012 (based upon the lesser of 1.75% of estimated Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization excluding operating lease expense or \$2.0 million per year) for \$12.8 million, and (ii) payments for secured floor plan financing for \$51.2 million.

Additionally, as of December 31, 2004, we have standby letters of credit totaling \$27.1 million that expire in September 2005 and January 2006.

#### Seasonality

Our business is seasonal with demand for our rental equipment tending to be lower in the winter months. The level of equipment rental activities are directly related to commercial and industrial construction and maintenance activities. Therefore, equipment rental performance will be correlated to the levels of current construction activities. The severity of weather conditions can have a temporary impact on the level of construction activities.

Equipment sales cycles are also subject to seasonality with the peak selling period during the spring season and extending through the summer. Parts and service activities are less affected by changes in demand caused by seasonality.

#### Inflation

Although we cannot accurately anticipate the effect of inflation on our operations, we believe that inflation has not had for the three most recent fiscal years, and is not likely in the foreseeable future to have, a material impact on our results of operations.

#### Acquisitions

We periodically engage in evaluations of potential acquisitions and start-up facilities. Currently, there are no definitive agreements with respect to any material acquisition. We are party to a non-binding letter of intent that contemplates a potential material acquisition by the Company. The success of our growth strategy depends, in part, on selecting strategic acquisition candidates at attractive prices and identifying strategic start-up locations. We expect to face competition for acquisition candidates, which may limit the number of acquisition opportunities and lead to higher acquisition costs. We may not have the financial resources necessary to consummate any acquisitions or to successfully open any new facilities in the future or the ability to obtain the necessary funds on satisfactory terms.

#### **Impact of Recent Natural Disaster**

The Company has three facilities located in the area most significantly affected by Hurricane Katrina. None of these facilities were forced to close for any extended period of time, and all of them are currently open and fully operational. While the financial impact of Hurricane Katrina relating to these three facilities is not expected to be material to the Company, the Company remains in the process of assessing the potential overall impact of the hurricane on the Company's business.

# **Recent Accounting Pronouncements**

In December 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued SFAS No. 123(R), "Share-Based Payment", which is a revision of SFAS No. 123 and supersedes APB Opinion No. 25. SFAS No. 123(R) requires all share-based payments to employees, including grants of employee stock options, to be valued at fair value on the date of grant, and to be expensed over the applicable vesting period. SFAS No. 123(R) is effective for all stock-based awards granted on or after July 1, 2005. In addition, companies must also recognize compensation expense related to any awards that are not fully vested as of the effective date. Compensation expense for the unvested awards will be measured based on the fair value of the awards previously calculated in developing the pro forma disclosures in accordance with the provisions of SFAS No. 123. Historically, we have not used share-based compensation schemes for compensating our employees. Therefore, the adoption of SFAS No. 123(R) is not expected to have any impact on our reported results of operations upon adoption. However, should we determine to employ share-based compensation schemes in the future, SFAS No. 123(R) would have a currently indeterminate impact on us.

In May 2005, the FASB issued Statement No. 154, "Accounting Changes and Error Corrections" (SFAS 154). SFAS 154 replaces APB Opinion No. 20. "Accounting Changes" and FASB Statement No. 3. "Reporting Accounting Charges in Interim Financial Statements," SFAS 154 requires that a voluntary change in accounting principle be applied retrospectively with all prior period financial statements presented on the new accounting principle, unless it is impracticable to do so. SFAS 154 also provides that a correction of errors in previously issued financial statements should be termed a "restatement." The new standard is effective for accounting changes and correction of errors beginning July 1, 2005. The Company has incorporated the provisions of SFAS 154 in the presentation of our December 31, 2004 financial statements.

#### Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

Our earnings are affected by changes in interest rates due to the fact that interest on the amended senior secured credit facility is calculated based upon LIBOR plus 300 basis points as of December 31, 2004. Currently, interest on the amended senior secured credit facility is calculated based upon LIBOR plus 225 basis points. We are also required to pay the lenders a commitment fee equal to 0.5% per annum in respect of undrawn commitments under the amended senior secured credit facility. At December 31, 2004, we had variable rate debt representing 18.5% of total debt. A portion of our indebtedness bears interest at variable rates that are linked to changing market interest rates. Based upon the balances outstanding at December 31, 2004, a one percent increase in market rates would

increase our annual interest expense approximately \$1.1 million. We do not have significant exposure to the changing interest rates on our fixed-rate senior secured notes, senior subordinated notes or the capital lease obligations, which represented 81.5% of our total debt. The annual interest rates on our senior secured credit facility average 7.1% in 2004 compared to 5.4% in 2003.

#### Item 8. Consolidated Financial Statements and Supplementary Data

Our consolidated financial statements and supplementary data are listed in the index appearing under Item 15(a).

#### Item 9. Change In Accountants

On October 27, 2004, upon recommendation of the Company's Audit Committee and approval of the Board of Directors, the Company dismissed KPMG LLP ("KPMG") as its independent auditors. Effective as of the date, the Company has appointed BDO Seidman L.L.P. ("BDO") to serve as the Company's independent auditors for the current fiscal year, which ends on December 31, 2004. During each of the Company's two most recent fiscal years, there were: (i) no disagreements with KPMG on any matter of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure, or auditing scope and procedure which, if not resolved to the satisfaction of KPMG, would have caused KPMG to make reference to the matter in their report; and (ii) no reportable events as defined in Item 304(a) (1) (v) of Regulation S-K. For more details regarding our change in accountants, see our Form 8-K filed on November 2, 2004 as amended by Amendment No. 1 thereto filed on November 17, 2004.

#### Item 9A. Controls and Procedures

Our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer (our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, respectively) have evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended) as of the end of the period covered by this annual report on Form 10K. As part of their evaluation, they reviewed the circumstances surrounding the delay in filing this annual report on Form 10K and the restatement of our previously issued financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2003. As we previously reported, we delayed filing this Form 10K and our Form 10Q's for the quarters ended March 31, 2005 and June 30, 2005 pending completion by our accountants, BDO Seidman LLP, of the re-audits of our 2002 and 2003 financial statements that were audited by our prior accountants.

During these re-audits, we discovered that we incorrectly recognized the deferred tax components related to the tax basis of carryover goodwill acquired in our combination with ICM Equipment Company in 2002. After internal review and consultation with our Audit Committee, we determined to restate our 2002 and 2003 financial statements to reflect the proper accounting treatment of deferred income taxes. Our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were not effective as of December 31, 2004 to properly record and report the correct accounting treatment of deferred taxes from our 2002 transaction. However, after discovery of this issue, we revisited and reassessed, in consultation with our accountants and our tax manager (who joined us in 2003), the tax treatment, including deferred tax components, for the 2002 transaction to ensure that there were no additional corrections necessary in this regard. To the extent we engage in acquisition transactions in the future, our disclosure controls and procedures now include the involvement of our tax manager in the appropriate tax analysis and related financial disclosure. Our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer have concluded that our current disclosure controls and procedures are effective as of the filing date of this annual report to provide reasonable assurance that material information required to be included in our periodic SEC reports is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC rules and forms.

There have been no significant changes in our internal controls over financial reporting that occurred during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

### Item 10. Directors and Executive Officers

The following table sets forth the names, ages and titles, as well as a brief account of the business experience, of each person who is a director or executive officer of H&E Equipment Services.

Name	Age	Title
Gary W. Bagley	58	Chairman and Director
John M. Engquist	51	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director
Leslie S. Magee	37	Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary
William W. Fox	61	Vice President, Cranes and Earthmoving
Kenneth R. Sharp, Jr.	60	Vice President, Lift Trucks
John D. Jones	47	Vice President, Product Support
Dale W. Roesener	48	Vice President, Fleet Management
Bradley W. Barber	32	Vice President, Rental Operations
Keith E. Alessi	50	Director, Audit Committee Chairman
J. Rice Edmonds(a)	34	Director, Audit Committee Member
Bruce C. Bruckmann	51	Director, Compensation Committee Chairman
Lawrence C. Karlson	62	Director, Compensation Committee Member
John T. Sawyer	61	Director, Audit Committee Member

#### (a) J. Rice Edmonds resigned as Director effective March 4, 2005.

*Gary W. Bagley, Chairman and Director*, retired from the company during 2002 and currently serves as Chairman. Mr. Bagley served as President of ICM since 1996 and Chief Executive Officer since 1998 until H&E Equipment Services was formed in June 2002, when he became Executive Chairman and Director of the Company. Prior to 1996, he held various positions at ICM, including Salesman, Sales Manager, and General Manager. Prior to that, Mr. Bagley serviced as Vice President and ICM General Manager of Wheeler Machinery Co. Mr. Bagley serves on a number of dealer advisory boards and industry association boards.

John M. Engquist, President, Chief Executive Officer and Director, served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Head & Engquist Equipment, LLC since 1990 and as a director of Gulf Wide since 1995. He has held the position of President, Chief Executive Officer and Director of H&E Equipment Services since its formation in June 2002. From 1975 to 1990, he held various operational positions at H&E. Mr. Engquist serves on the Board of Directors of St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, and Cajun Constructors, Inc.

Leslie S. Magee, Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary, has served as Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary since August 2005. Ms. Magee served as Acting Chief Financial Officer from December 2004 through August 2005. Prior to that, Ms. Magee served as Corporate Controller for H&E Equipment Services and H&E. Prior to joining H&E in 1995, Ms. Magee spent 5 years working for Hawthorn, Waymouth & Carroll, L.L.P., an accounting firm based in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Ms. Magee is a Certified Public Accountant and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Louisiana Society of Certified Public Accountants.

*William W. Fox, Vice President, Cranes and Earthmoving,* served as Executive Vice President and General Manager of H&E since 1995 and has served as Vice President, Cranes and Earthmoving of H&E Equipment Services since its formation in June 2002. Mr. Fox served as President of South Texas Equipment Co., a subsidiary of H&E, from 1995 to 1997. Prior to that, Mr. Fox held various executive and managerial positions with the Manitowoc Engineering Company and its subsidiary North Central Crane. He was Executive Vice President/General Manager from 1989 to 1995, Vice President Sales from 1988 to 1989, and General Manager from 1986 to 1988 of Manitowoc Engineering Company. Mr. Fox was Executive Vice President/General Manager at North Central Crane from 1980 to 1986.

Kenneth R. Sharp, Jr., Vice President, Lift Trucks, began his career at ICM in 1973 and served as Executive Vice President of ICM since 1996 and has served as Vice President, Lift Trucks of H&E Equipment Services since its formation in June 2002. From 1989 to 1996, Mr. Sharp served as General Manager of the ICM Power Systems Division. From 1983 to 1989, he held various positions at ICM including Salesman, Sales Manager and Product Support Manager.

*John D. Jones, Vice President, Product Support,* served as Vice President of Product Support Services at H&E since 1994 and has served as Vice President, Product Support of H&E Equipment Services since its formation in June 2002. From 1991 to 1994, he was General Manager of Product Support at Louisiana Machinery. From 1987 to 1991 he served as General Manager of the Parts Operation at Holt Company of Louisiana. From 1976 to 1987, Mr. Jones worked in Product Support and Marketing for Boyce Machinery.

*Dale W. Roesener, Vice President, Fleet Management,* founded Southern Nevada Equipment Company in 1983 and served as its President and Chief Executive Officer until 1998 when he joined ICM as Senior Vice President, Secretary and Fleet Manager. He has served as Vice President, Fleet Management of H&E Equipment Services since its formation in June 2002.

Bradley W. Barber, Vice President, Rental Operations, was appointed Vice President of Rental Operations in February 2003. Prior to that, Mr. Barber served as Director of Rental Operations for H&E Equipment Services and H&E. Mr. Barber has previous experience in both outside sales and branch management for a regional equipment company.

*Bruce C. Bruckmann, Director*, joined as a Director in 1999 with both predecessor companies, Head & Engquist Equipment, LLC and ICM Equipment Company L.L.C. and was appointed as a Director of H&E Equipment Services at the inception in June of 2002. Mr. Bruckmann is a founder and has been a Managing Director of BRS since its formation in 1995. He served as an officer of Citigroup Venture Capital, Ltd from 1983 through 1994. Prior to joining Citicorp Venture Capital, Mr. Bruckmann was an associate at the New York law firm of Patterson, Belknap, Webb & Tyler. He is also Director of Anvil Knitwear, Inc., Town Sports International, Inc., MWI Veterinary Supply, Inc., Mohawk Industries, Inc. and a number of private companies.

*J. Rice Edmonds, Director*, was appointed as Director in 1999 for both predecessor companies, Head & Engquist Equipment, LLC and ICM Equipment Company L.L.C. and was appointed as a Director of H&E Equipment Services at its inception in June 2002. Mr. Edmonds is also a Principal of BRS. Prior to joining BRS in 1996 he worked in the high yield finance group of Bankers Trust. Mr. Edmonds is a director of McCormick & Schmick Restaurant Corporation, Penhall International, Inc., Real Mex Restaurants, Inc., The Sheridan Group, Inc., Town Sports International, Inc., and several other private companies. Mr. Edmonds resigned as Director effective March 4, 2005.

*John T. Sawyer, Director*, joined as a Director in September 2002. Mr. Sawyer is President of Penhall Company. He joined Penhall in 1978 as the Estimating Manager of the Anaheim Division. In 1980, Mr. Sawyer was appointed Manager of Penhall's National Contracting Division, and in 1984, he assumed the position of Vice President and became responsible for managing all construction services divisions. Mr. Sawyer has been President of Penhall since 1989.

*Keith E. Alessi, Director*, joined as a Director and Chairman of the Audit Committee in November 2002. Mr. Alessi has been Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (and owner) of Lifestyles Improvement Centers LLC, since February 2003. Mr. Alessi has also been an Adjunct Professor of Law at The Washington and Lee University School of Law since 1999 and Adjunct Professor at The University of Michigan Graduate School of Business Administration since 2001. He is a director and the chairman of the audit committees for Town Sports International, Inc., MWI Veterinary Supply, Inc., and O'Sullivan Industries LLC. He is the former Chairman and CEO of Telespectrum Worldwide from April 1998 to February 2000 and Jackson Hewitt from May 1996 to April 1998. Mr. Alessi is a Certified Public Accountant.

*Lawrence C. Karlson, Director*, joined as a Director in September 2002. In 1983, Mr. Karlson formed Nobel Electronics, Inc. In 1986, Nobel Electronics was reverse-merged into Pharos AB and

Mr. Karlson became President and Chief Executive Officer. In 1990 he was named Chairman. He retired in 1993. Mr. Karlson provides consulting services to a wide variety of business. He currently sits on the Board of Directors of CDI Corporation and Mikron Infrared, Inc.

## **Committees of Our Board of Directors**

Audit Committee. The Audit Committee consists of Messrs. Alessi and Sawyer. The board of directors has determined that Mr. Alessi qualifies as an "audit committee financial expert" within the meaning of SEC rules and regulations. All committee members are independent as defined in applicable SEC rules and under the director independence standards specified in our Corporate Governance Guidelines.

The Audit Committee is responsible for, among other things:

- directly appointing, retaining, evaluating, compensating and terminating our independent auditors;
- discussing with our independent auditors their independence from management;
- reviewing with our independent auditors the scope and results of their audit;
- pre-approving all audit and permissible non-audit services to be performed by the independent auditors;
- overseeing the financial reporting process and discussing with management and our independent auditors the interim and annual financial statements that we file with the SEC; and
- reviewing and monitoring our accounting principles, policies and financial and accounting controls.

## **Code of Ethics**

We have adopted a Standard of Conduct and Ethics for executive officers and directors. A copy of the Standard of Conduct and Ethics is available upon written request, free of charge, by writing to:

H&E Equipment Services, L.L.C. Attention: Mr. Raymond Jones Corporate Compliance Officer 4899 West 2100 South Salt Lake City, Utah 84120

## Item 11. Executive Compensation

The following tables summarize, for the periods indicated, the principal components of compensation for the Chief Executive Officer and the four highest compensated executive officers of H&E LLC (collectively, the "named executive officers") for the years ended December 31, 2004, 2003 and 2002:

#### **Summary Compensation Table**

	Annual Compensation											
Name and Principal Position	Year		Salary	_	Bonus	Other Annual Compensation <sup>(a)</sup>		All Other Compensation <sup>(b)</sup>				
John M. Engquist												
Chief Executive Officer, President and Director	2004	\$	519,000	\$	200,000	_	\$	2,041				
	2003		500,000		250,000	—		3,041				
	2002		500,000		63,000	—		4,041				

William W. Fox					
Vice President	2004	\$ 237,000	\$ 100,000	\$	4,041
	2003	208,000	62,000		4,041
	2002	193,000	50,000		3,041
Dale W. Roesener					
Vice President	2004	\$ 182,000	\$ 71,000	\$	4,041
	2003	175,000			4,041
	2002	175,000			1,041
Bradley W. Barber					
Vice President	2004	\$ 188,000	\$ 75,000	\$	4,041
	2003	148,000	35,000		2,041
	2002	125,000	10,000		2,041
Kenneth R. Sharp, Jr.					
Vice President	2004	\$ 192,000	\$ 60,000	\$	280,041
	2003	185,000	—		176,041
	2002	185,000			142,041
Former Officers					
Lindsay C. Jones					
Chief Financial Officer and Secretary	2004	\$ 208,000	\$ 50,000	\$	3,041
	2003	200,000	40,000		4,041
	2002	156,000			1,041
Gary W. Bagley					
Chairman and Director	2004	\$ 244,000	—	\$ 67,000(c) \$	375,041
	2003	290,000			323,041
	2002	200,000			283,041

(a) Under the terms of Mr. Engquist's employment agreement, we purchase a vehicle for Mr. Engquist's use and also provide fuel for his vehicle. The other executive officers receive allowances for vehicles. In each case, the benefits are less than \$50,000 and 10% of such officer's salary.

(b) "All Other Compensation" consists of:

- Matching contributions to our 401(k) plan for each named executive officer;
- Insurance premiums paid by us on behalf of each named executive officer;
- In the case of Messrs. Bagley and Sharp, above market interest accrued under our deferred compensation plan; and
- For 2002, in the case of Mr. Bagley, contributions under our non-qualified deferred compensation plan.

The following table shows the amount of each category of "All Other Compensation" received by each named executive officer in 2004:

	Insurance Premiums	Deferred Compensation Plan Above Market Interest
\$ 2,000	41	_
4,000	41	
4,000	41	
4,000	41	
3,000	41	\$ 277,000
3,000	41	
—	41	\$ 375,000
Con	4,000 4,000 4,000 3,000	Contribution   Premiums     \$   2,000   41     4,000   41     4,000   41     4,000   41     3,000   41     3,000   41

(c) Payment of above market interest accrued under our deferred compensation during the year paid.

### **Executive Employment Agreements**

On July 31, 2004, H&E Equipment Services entered into a consulting and noncompetition agreement with Gary W. Bagley. Such agreement provides for, among other things:

- an initial term of five years; thereafter this agreement may be renewed on a year to year basis, subject to mutual agreement of the parties;
- a consulting fee of \$150,000 per year plus reimbursement of all reasonable and actual out-of-pocket expenses;
- payment of his subordinated deferred compensation;
- welfare benefits, including medical, dental, life and disability insurance; and
- confidentiality of information obtained during employment, non-competition and non-solicitation.

H&E assumed an employment agreement with each of Gary W. Bagley and Kenneth R. Sharp, Jr. dated as of February 4, 1998. Such agreements, as amended on May 26, 1999, and further amended on December 6, 1999 and June 14, 2002, provide for, among other things:

- an initial term of employment expiring on the fifth anniversary of the date of the agreement, thereafter employment may be terminated by either party upon 30 days written notice;
- early termination by reason of Mr. Bagley's or Mr. Sharp's (as applicable) death or disability, by H&E for good cause, or upon Mr. Bagley's or Mr. Sharp's (as applicable) voluntary resignation with or without a good reason event;
- a severance payment in the case of early termination by H&E for other than cause or a voluntary resignation, payable in regular installments of the base salary through the period ending on the later of (1) the fifth anniversary of the date of this agreement or (2) the last day of the noncompete period, plus a bonus payment pro rated based on the number of days worked during the year of termination;
- a base salary of \$200,000 per year for Mr. Bagley and \$185,000 per year for Mr. Sharp with increases of 5% annually plus a bonus in such amount as may be proposed by the officers of H&E and approved annually by board of directors of H&E;
- benefits, including medical, dental, life and disability insurance; and
- confidentiality of information obtained during employment, non-competition and non-solicitation.

The employment agreement with Mr. Bagley was terminated on July 31, 2004 when the consulting and non-compete agreement became effective.

In connection with the acquisition of ICM, H&E Holdings assumed a liability for subordinated deferred compensation for Mr. Bagley and Mr. Sharp. The deferred compensation agreements provided for, among other things, deferred signing bonuses in the amount of \$3,638,000 and \$1,882,000, which are included in deferred compensation accounts for Mr. Bagley and Mr. Sharp, respectively. As of December 31, 2004, the aggregate deferred compensation (including accrued interest of \$2,521,000) was \$7,521,000.

H&E Holdings is obligated to pay Mr. Bagley and Mr. Sharp a cash payment in the amount equal to the then balance in their deferred compensation accounts 11 and one-half years after June 17, 2002. Payments may also be made upon the occurrence of certain events including, cash distributions on the Series D Preferred Units of H&E Holdings and an Approved Company Sale (as defined in the security holders agreement).

In connection with the acquisition of ICM, H&E Equipment Services assumed a nonqualified employee deferred compensation plan under which Mr. Bagley and Mr. Sharp had previously elected to defer a portion of their annual compensation. Participants in the plan can no longer defer compensation. Compensation deferred under the plan is payable upon the termination, disability, or death of the participants. The plan accrues interest at 8.5% per annum. As of December 31, 2004, the aggregate deferred compensation (included accrued interest of \$265,000) was \$451,000.

In connection with the acquisition of ICM, H&E Equipment Services assumed a nonqualified employee deferred compensation plan under which certain employees had previously elected to defer a portion of their annual compensation. Participants in the plan can no longer defer compensation. Compensation deferred under the plan is payable upon the termination, disability, or death of the participants. The plan accumulates interest each year at a bank's prime rate in effect as of the beginning of January. This rate remains constant throughout the year. The effective rate for the 2004 plan year was 4.0 percent. As of December 31, 2004, the aggregate deferred compensation (including accrued interest of \$1,559,000) was \$2,598,000.

On June 29, 1999, H&E, formerly Gulf Wide, entered into an employment agreement with John M. Engquist. Such agreement, as amended on August 10, 2001, provides for, among other things:

- an initial term of employment expiring on December 31, 2006; thereafter employment may be terminated by either party upon 30 days written notice,
- early termination by reason of Mr. Engquist's death or disability, by H&E for good cause, or upon Mr. Engquist's voluntary resignation with or without a constructive termination,
- a severance payment in the case of early termination by H&E for (x) other than cause or (y) a voluntary resignation other than due to a constructive termination, in an aggregate amount equal to (i) one year of Mr. Engquist's base salary plus an amount equal to his most recent annual bonus, payable in monthly installments through the one-year period commencing on the date of his termination, and (ii) that portion of Mr. Engquist's bonus that would have accrued at the end of the calendar year in which such termination occurred through the period beginning on the first day of such calendar year and ending on the date of his termination,
- a base salary of \$300,000 per year with increases of 5% annually and with an increase on August 1, 2001 to \$500,000 per year, plus a cash bonus of an amount up to \$500,000 per year as determined by Gulf Wide's board of directors, based upon the attainment by H&E Equipment Services of applicable performance targets for such year,
- welfare benefits, including medical, dental, life and disability insurance,
- fringe benefits, including use of two automobiles and professional memberships, and
- confidentiality of information obtained during employment, non-competition and nonsolicitation.

#### **Compensation of Directors**

We reimburse directors for any out-of-pocket expenses incurred by them in connection with services provided in such capacity. Directors who are also our employees do not receive compensation for service on our board of directors. Each of our directors received in 2004 and will receive in 2005 an annual board fee of \$20,000, chairperson fees if applicable, meeting fees and other normal and customary compensation for their service on our board of directors.

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

The Compensation Committee currently consists of Messrs. Bruckmann and Karlson. None of the members of the Compensation Committee are currently or have been, one of our officers or



employees. None of our executive officers currently serve, or in the past has served, as a member of the board of directors or compensation committee of any entity that has one or more executive officers serving on our board of directors or compensation committee.

# Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management

H&E Holdings owns 100% of our limited liability company interests. The following tables set forth certain information with respect to the beneficial ownership of H&E Holdings' Common Units and Voting Preferred Units by (1) each person or entity that is the beneficial owner of more than 5% of any class of the voting securities of H&E Holdings; (2) each named executive officer; (3) each of our directors; and (4) all of our directors and executive officers as a group. These limited liability company interests constituted 5% of each class of the total outstanding limited liability company interests in H&E Holdings.

### **Common Units Beneficial Ownership Table**

Name	Class A Common Units Beneficially Owned	Percentage of Class A Common Units Outstanding	Class B Common Units Beneficially Owned	Percentage of Class B Common Units Outstanding	Series A Preferred Units Beneficially Owned	Percentage of Series A Preferred Units Outstanding
Bruckmann, Rosser,						
Sherrill & Co., LP <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	731,845	34.2%	—		9,789	88.6%
Bruckmann, Rosser,						
Sherrill & Co., Inc. <sup>(1)</sup>	4,126	*	_	_	16	*
Bruckmann, Rosser,						
Sherrill & Co. II, L.P. <sup>(1)(3)</sup>	1,241,815	58.1%	—	—	—	
Bruce C. Bruckmann <sup>(4)</sup>	2,002,127	93.7%	4,783	*	10,071	91.1%
J. Rice Edmonds <sup>(5)(11)</sup>	1,256	*	—	—	17	*
John M. Engquist <sup>(6)</sup>	—	—	1,170,300	56.4%	—	
Gary W. Bagley <sup>(6)</sup>	—	—	85,814	4.1%	—	
Dale W. Roesener <sup>(6)</sup>	—	—	164,326	7.9%	_	_
Kristan Engquist Dunne <sup>(7)</sup>	_		74,700	3.6%	_	
Don M. Wheeler <sup>(8)</sup>	_	_	263,736	12.7%	_	
Lindsay C. Jones <sup>(9)</sup>	_	_	_	_	_	
John D. Jones <sup>(6)</sup>	_	_	_	_		_
Bradley Barber <sup>(6)</sup>	—	—	_	_	_	
William W. Fox <sup>(6)</sup>	—		_			
All executive officers and directors as a group	2 002 202	93.8%	1 405 000	68.7%	10,088	91.3%
(10 persons)	2,003,383	95.0%	1,425,223	00./%	10,000	91.5%

\* Less than 1%

# **Voting Preferred Units Beneficial Ownership Table**

The holders of the Common Units listed in the Common Units Beneficial Ownership Table are also the holders of H&E Holdings' Voting Preferred Units. For ease of presentation we have not duplicated the names in the Voting Preferred Units Beneficial Ownership Table below and have presented the beneficial ownership information of such holders in the same order as it appears in the

Common Units Beneficial Ownership Table. The numbers presented in the table below reflect the beneficial ownership of H&E Holdings' Voting Preferred Units and have been rounded to the nearest whole number. These limited liability company interests constituted 5% of each class of the total outstanding limited liability company interests in H&E Holdings.

	Series B Preferred Units Beneficially Owned	Percentage of Series B Preferred Units Outstanding	Series C Preferred Units Beneficially Owned	Percentage of Series C Preferred Units Outstanding	Series D Preferred Units Beneficially Owned	Percentage of Series D Preferred Combined Units Outstanding	Percentage of Voting Power <sup>(11)</sup>
Bruckmann, Rosser, Sherrill							
& Co., LP <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	8,577	29.1%	19,405	22.9%	—	—	23.0%
Bruckmann, Rosser, Sherrill							
& Co., Inc. <sup>(1)</sup>	40	*	132	*	40	*	*
Bruckmann, Rosser, Sherrill							
& Co. II, L.P. <sup>(1)(3)</sup>	10,854	36.8%	42,376	50%	17,156	36.7%	39.2%
Bruce C. Bruckmann <sup>(4)</sup>	19,764	67.0%	62,617	73.9%	17,317	37.1%	63.2%
J. Rice Edmonds <sup>(5)</sup>	15	*	33	*	—	—	*
John M. Engquist <sup>(6)</sup>	—	—	3,500	4.1%	15,714	33.6%	18.2%
Gary W. Bagley <sup>(6)</sup>		—	1,250	1.5%	—	—	1.3%
Dale W. Roesener <sup>(6)</sup>	800	2.7%	1,607	1.9%	—	_	2.6%
Kristan Engquist Dunne <sup>(7)</sup>	1,756	5.9%		—	822	1.8%	1.2%
Don M. Wheeler <sup>(8)</sup>	5,400	18.3%	8,135	9.6%	10,390	22.2%	4.4%
Lindsay C. Jones <sup>(9)</sup>	_	_	1,500	1.8%	_	_	*
John D. Jones <sup>(6)</sup>	_	_		_	_	_	*
Bradley Barber <sup>(6)</sup>		_		_	_	_	*
William W. Fox <sup>(6)</sup>	_	_		_	_		*
All executive officers and							
directors as a group							
(10 persons)	20,579	69.7%	70,507	83.2%	33,031	70.7%	90.9%

\* Less than 1%

(1) The address of Bruckmann, Rosser, Sherrill & Co. L.P., Bruckmann, Rosser, Sherrill & Co., Inc. and Bruckmann, Rosser, Sherrill & Co. II, L.P. is c/o Bruckmann, Rosser, Sherrill & Co., Inc., 126 East 56<sup>th</sup> Street, 29<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10022.

- (2) Bruckmann, Rosser, Sherrill & Co., Inc., or BRS Inc., is the general partner of Bruckmann, Rosser, Sherrill & Co., L.P., or BRS L.P., and by virtue of such status may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of the shares held by BRS L.P. Mr. Bruckmann is a member and manager of BRS Inc., and does not have the power to direct or veto the voting or disposition of shares held by BRS L.P. BRS Inc. expressly disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares held by BRS L.P. BRS Inc. expressly disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares held by BRS L.P.
- (3) Bruckmann, Rosser, Sherrill & Co. LLC, or BRS LLC, is the general partner of Bruckmann, Rosser, Sherrill & Co. II, L.P., or BRS II, and by virtue of such status may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of the shares held by BRS II. Mr. Bruckmann is a member and manager of BRS LLC, and does not have the power to direct or veto the voting or disposition of shares held by BRS II. BRS LLC expressly disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares held by BRS II.
- (4) Represents units held by Bruckmann, Rosser, Sherrill & Co., L.P., Bruckmann, Rosser, Sherrill & Co., Inc., and Bruckmann, Rosser, Sherrill & Co. II, L.P. Mr. Bruckmann expressly disclaims



beneficial ownership of any shares held by such entities that exceed his pecuniary interest therein and also represents units held by the following affiliated entities and individuals: The estate of Donald J. Bruckmann, BCB Family Partners, L.P., NAZ Family Partners, L.P. and Nancy A. Zweng. Mr. Bruckmann disclaims beneficiary ownership of these shares except those shares owned by him directly.

- <sup>(5)</sup> The address of Mr. Edmonds is c/o Bruckmann, Rosser, Sherrill & Co., Inc., 126 East 56<sup>th</sup> Street, 29<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10022.
- (6) Unless otherwise indicated, the address of each executive officer or director is c/o H&E Equipment Services L.L.C., 11100 Mead Road, Suite 200, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816.
- <sup>(7)</sup> The address of Ms. Engquist Dunne is 11100 Mead Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816.
- (8) The address of Mr. Wheeler is 4899 West 2100 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 48120.
- (9) Lindsay C. Jones resigned effective November 2, 2004.
- (10) J. Rice Edmonds resigned effective March 4, 2005.
- (11) Each Class A Common Unit holder is entitled to two votes per Class A Common Unit held and each Class B Common Unit Holder is entitled to one vote per Class B Common Unit held. Each Voting Preferred Unit holder is entitled to one vote per Voting Preferred Unit held.

#### Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions

#### **Management Agreements and Transaction Fees**

Each of H&E and ICM were acquired by affiliates of BRS in 1999 pursuant to separate recapitalizations. In connection with the recapitalizations of H&E and ICM, we entered into management agreements with each of BRS and Bruckmann, Rosser, Sherrill & Co., L.L.C. (BRS L.L.C.), affiliates of BRS Equipment Company and BRSEC Co-Investment II, L.L.C. (BRS Co-Investment II) pursuant to which BRS and BRS L.L.C. have agreed to provide certain advisory and consulting services to us, relating to business and organizational strategy, financial and investment management and merchant and investment banking. In exchange for such services we agreed to pay BRS and BRS L.L.C. (i) \$7.2 million of transaction fees in connection with the ICM and H&E recapitalizations; (ii) an annual fee during the term of these agreements equal to the lesser of \$2.0 million or 1.75% of our yearly EBITDA, excluding operating lease expense, plus all reasonable out-of-pocket fees and expenses; and (iii) a transaction fee in connection with each material acquisition, divestiture or financing or refinancing we enter into in an amount equal to 1.25% of the aggregate value of such transaction plus all reasonable out-of-pocket fees and expenses.

#### **Contribution Agreement**

The contribution agreement contains customary provisions for such agreements, including representations and warranties with respect to each of Gulf Wide and ICM equityholders, covenants with respect to the consummation of the combination of H&E and ICM and various closing conditions, including the execution of a registration rights agreement.

#### Securityholders Agreement

In connection with the offering of senior subordinated and senior secured notes, H&E Holdings entered into a securityholders agreement with BRS Co-Investment, L.L.C. (BRS Co-Investment), BRS Co-Investment II certain members of management and other members of H&E Holdings. The securityholders agreement (i) restricts the transfer of the equity interests of H&E Holdings; (ii) grants tag-along rights on certain transfers of the equity interests of H&E Holdings; (iii) requires the securityholders to consent to a sale of H&E Holdings to an independent third party if such sale is approved by the holders of a majority of the then-outstanding common equity interests held by BRSEC Co-Investment and BRSEC Co-Investment II; and (iv) grants preemptive rights on certain issuances of the equity interests of H&E Holdings. The securityholders agreement will terminate upon a sale of H&E Holdings approved by the holders of a majority of the then-outstanding common equity interests held by BRS Co-Investment and BRSEC Co-Investment II.

#### **Registration Rights Agreement**

In connection with the offering of senior subordinated and senior secured notes, H&E Holdings entered into a registration rights agreement with BRS Co-Investment, BRSEC Co-Investment II, certain members of management and other members of H&E Holdings. Pursuant to the terms of the registration rights agreement, the holders of a majority of the then-outstanding common equity interests held by BRS Co-Investment and BRSEC Co-Investment II have the right to require H&E Holdings, subject to certain conditions, to register any or all of their common equity interests under the Securities Act at H&E Holdings' expense. In addition, all holders of the common equity interests of H&E Holdings are entitled to request the inclusion of any common equity interests subject to the registration rights agreement in any registration statement at the expense of H&E Holdings whenever H&E Holdings proposes to register any of its common equity interests under the Securities Act. In connection with all such registrations, H&E Holdings has agreed to indemnify all holders of its common equity interests against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

#### Limited Liability Company Agreement

In connection with the offering of senior subordinated and senior secured notes, BRS Co-Investment, BRSEC Co-Investment II, certain members of management and the other members of H&E Holdings entered into a limited liability company agreement of H&E Holdings. This operating agreement governs the relative rights and duties of the members of H&E Holdings.

*Membership Interests.* The ownership interests of the members in H&E Holdings consist of Preferred Units and Common Units. The Common Units represent the common equity of H&E Holdings and consist of Class A Common Units and Class B Common Units. The Preferred Units consist of Series A Preferred Units. Series B Preferred Units, Series C Preferred Units and Series D Preferred Units (the "Voting Preferred Units"). Each member is entitled to (x) two votes per Class A Common Unit held by such member, (y) one vote per Class B Common Unit held by such member. Holders of the Preferred Units are entitled to return of capital contributions prior to any distributions made to holders of the Common Units.

*Distributions.* Subject to any restrictions contained in any agreements involving payments to third parties, the board of directors of H&E Holdings (the "Board") may make distributions, whether in available cash or other assets of H&E Holdings, at any time or from time to time in the following order of priority:

*First*, to the holders of Series A Preferred Units in proportion to and to the extent of the Series A Preferred Redemption Values (as defined and described in the limited liability company agreement) of such Series A Preferred Units.

*Second*, to the holders of Series B Preferred Units in proportion to and to the extent of the Series B Preferred Redemption Values (as defined and described in the limited liability company agreement) of such Series B Preferred Units.



*Third*, to the holders of Series C Preferred Units, in proportion to and to the extent of the Series C Preferred Redemption Values (as defined and described in the limited liability company agreement) of such Series C Preferred Units.

*Fourth*, to the holders of Series D Preferred Units, in proportion to and to the extent of the Series D Preferred Redemption Values (as defined and described in the limited liability company agreement) of such Series D Preferred Units.

Fifth, pro rata to the holders of Common Units, based upon the number of Common Units held.

The limited liability company agreement places certain restrictions on the ability of H&E Holdings to make distributions attributable to the Preferred Units prior to June 30, 2022.

*Board of Directors.* Pursuant to the securityholders agreement, the holders of a majority of the common equity units held by BRS Co-Investment and BRSEC Co-Investment II designate a majority of the directors of the Board. The Board consists of "Class A Directors" and "Class B Directors." Each Class A Director is entitled to two votes and each Class B Director is entitled to one vote. At no time will the authorized number of Class B Directors exceed that number which would provide all of the then authorized Class B Directors with a number of votes that exceeds 50% of the number of votes of the then authorized number of Class A Directors are elected by the members which own a majority of the number of votes of all Common Units then-outstanding. The Class B Directors are elected by the members which own a majority of the Noting Preferred Units then-outstanding.

#### The BRS Purchase

In connection with the senior subordinated note offering, BRS was paid \$7.2 million by H&E Equipment Services on account of \$7.2 million of obligations payable to BRS and its affiliates in connection with the recapitalizations of H&E and ICM and BRS purchased a portion of the securities issued in the senior subordinated note offering. In connection with the senior subordinated note offering, BRS purchased notes having an accreted value of \$7.2 million and a corresponding pro rata share of the limited liability company interests included in the securities offered thereby.

#### **Other Related Party Transactions**

John M. Engquist, our Chief Executive Officer and President, and his sister, Kristan Engquist Dunne, each have a 16.6% ownership interest in a joint venture, from which we lease our Baton Rouge, Louisiana and Kenner, Louisiana facilities. Mr. Engquist's mother beneficially owns 50% of such joint venture. In 2004, we paid the joint venture a total of approximately \$329,000 in lease payments.

Mr. Engquist has a 50% ownership interest in T&J Partnership and J&T Company, from which we lease our Shreveport, Louisiana and Lake Charles, Louisiana facilities. Mr. Engquist's mother beneficially owns the other 50% of such entities. In 2004, we paid such entities a total of approximately \$207,000 in lease payments. In January 2005, J&T Company sold the Lake Charles, Louisiana parcel to an unaffiliated third party.

Mr. Engquist and his wife each hold a 50% ownership interest in John Engquist LLC, from which we lease our Alexandria, Louisiana facility. In 2004, we paid such entity a total of approximately \$53,000 in lease payments.

We charter an aircraft from Gulf Wide Aviation, in which Mr. Engquist and his mother each have a 50% ownership interest. We pay an hourly rate to Gulf Wide Aviation for the use of the aircraft by various members of our management. In addition, a portion of one pilot's salary is paid by us. In 2004,

our payments in respect of charter costs to Gulf Wide Aviation and salary to the pilot totaled approximately \$273,000.

Mr. Engquist has a 25% ownership interest in Perkins-McKenzie Insurance Agency, Inc. ("Perkins-McKenzie"), an insurance brokerage. Perkins-McKenzie brokers a substantial portion of our liability insurance. As the broker, Perkins-McKenzie receives from our insurance provider as commission a portion of the premiums we paid to our insurance provider in 2004.

We purchase products and services from, and sell products and services to a company, B-C Equipment Sales, Inc., in which Mr. Engquist has a 50% ownership interest. In 2004, our purchases totaled approximately \$129,000 and our sales totaled approximately \$64,000.

Don M. Wheeler, an equity holder, has an ownership interest and controls Silverado Investments, Wheeler Investments and WG LLC, from which we lease our Salt Lake City, Utah, Colorado Springs, Colorado, Phoenix, Arizona, Tucson, Arizona and Denver, Colorado facilities. In 2004, our lease payments to such entities totaled approximately \$1,358,000.

Dale W. Roesener, Vice President, Fleet Management, has a 47.6% ownership interest in Aero SRD LLC, from which we lease our Las Vegas, Nevada facility. In 2004, our lease payments to such entity totaled approximately \$489,000.

In connection with the recapitalization of H&E in 1999, we entered into a \$3.0 million consulting and non-competition agreement with Thomas R. Engquist, the father of John M. Engquist, our Chief Executive Officer and President. The agreement provided for total payments over a ten-year term, payable in increments of \$25,000 per month. Mr. Engquist was obligated to provide us consulting services and was to comply with the non-competition provision set forth in the Recapitalization Agreement between us and others dated June 19, 1999. The parties specifically acknowledged and agreed that in the event of the death of Mr. Engquist during the term of the agreement, the payments that otherwise would have been payable to Mr. Engquist under the agreement shall be paid to his heirs (including John M. Engquist). Due to Mr. Engquist's passing away during 2003, he will not be providing any further consulting services. Therefore, we recorded a \$1.3 million during 2003 for the present value of the remaining future payments. As of December 31, 2004, the balance for this obligation amounted to \$1,062,000.

We expensed \$612,000 and \$363,000 in 2004 to the deferred compensation accounts of Gary W. Bagley, our Chairman, and Kenneth R. Sharp, Jr., an executive officer, respectively.

Mr. Engquist's son is one of our employees and received compensation of approximately \$83,000 in 2004.

Bradley W. Barber's brother is one of our employees and received compensation of approximately \$63,000 in 2004.

#### Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services

In October 2004, the Company dismissed KPMG LLP ("KPMG") as its principal independent auditors and appointed BDO Seidman LLP ("BDO") to serve as the Company's independent auditors for the current fiscal year, which ends on December 31, 2004.

Accordingly, the aggregate fees incurred by the Company during the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003 by its principal accounting firm BDO Seidman, LLP in 2004 and KPMG LLP in 2004 and 2003 are set forth below. The Audit Committee of the Company's Board of Directors has considered whether the provision of the non-audit services described below is compatible with

maintaining the principal accountant's independence. All services performed by the independent auditors have been approved by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors prior to performance.

	 2004	 2003
BDO		
Audit fees <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 932,291	\$ _
Audit related fees <sup>(2)</sup>	—	
Tax fees <sup>(3)</sup>	—	_
All other fees <sup>(4)</sup>	—	—
<u>KPMG</u>		
Audit fees <sup>(1)</sup>	474,433	556,645
Audit related fees <sup>(2)</sup>	5,500	15,700
Tax fees <sup>(3)</sup>	16,560	140,075
All other fees <sup>(4)</sup>	_	_
Total aggregate fees billed	\$ 1,428,784	\$ 712,420

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes the aggregate fees billed in each of the last two fiscal years for professional services rendered by BDO Seidman, LLP and KPMG LLP for the audit of the Company's annual financial statements, review of financial statements included in Form 10-Q, re-audit of 2002 and 2003 annual financial statements by BDO Seidman, LLP and for services that are normally provided by BDO Seidman, LLP and KPMG LLP in connection with statutory or regulatory filings or engagements for those fiscal years.

### PART IV

#### Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules

- (a) Document List
- 1. Financial Statements

The following consolidated financial statements of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. are included in Part II, Item 8:

	Page
Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	F-1
Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2004 and 2003	F-2
Consolidated Statements of Operations for the years ended December 31, 2004, 2003 and 2002	F-3
Consolidated Statements of Members' Equity (Deficit) for the years ended December 31, 2004, 2003 and 2002	F-4
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2004, 2003 and 2002	F-5
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	F-7

2. Financial Statement Schedules

Schedule II Valuation and Qualifying Accounts

All other schedules for which provision is made in the applicable accounting requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission are not required or the required information has been included within the financial statements or the notes thereto.



<sup>(2)</sup> Includes the aggregate fees billed in each of the last two fiscal years for assurance and related services by BDO Seidman, LLP and KPMG LLP that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of the Company's financial statements. Services in this category include the 2002 employee benefit plan audit.

<sup>(3)</sup> Includes the aggregate fees billed in each of the last two fiscal years for professional services rendered by BDO Seidman, LLP and KPMG LLP for tax compliance, tax advice, and tax planning.

<sup>(4)</sup> There were no other fees billed in each of the last two fiscal years for services rendered by BDO Seidman, LLP and KPMG LLP.

- 3.2 Amended and Restated Articles of Organization of Gulf Wide Industries, L.L.C. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).
- 3.3 Amended Articles of Organization of Gulf Wide Industries, L.L.C., Changing Its Name To H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.3 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).
- 3.4 Amended and Restated Operating Agreement of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.8 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).
- 3.5 Certificate of Incorporation of H&E Finance Corp. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.4 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).
- 3.6 Certificate of Incorporation of Great Northern Equipment, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.5 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).
- 3.7 Articles of Incorporation of Williams Bros. Construction, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.6 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).
- 3.8 Articles of Amendment to Articles of Incorporation of Williams Bros. Construction, Inc. Changing its Name to GNE Investments, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.7 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).
- 3.10 Bylaws of H&E Finance Corp. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.9 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).
- 3.11 Bylaws of Great Northern Equipment, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.10 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).
- 3.12 Bylaws of Williams Bros. Construction, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.11 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).
- 4.1 Indenture, among H&E Equipment Services L.L.C., H&E Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and The Bank of New York, dated as of June 17, 2002 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).
- 4.2 Registration Rights Agreement, among H&E Equipment Services L.L.C., H&E Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and Credit Suisse First Boston Corporation, dated as of June 17, 2002 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).
- 10.1 Credit Agreement among H&E Equipment Services L.L.C., Great Northern Equipment, Inc., H&E Holdings, L.L.C., GNE Investments, Inc., H&E Finance Corp., General Electric Capital Corporation, and the Lenders party thereto dated as of June 17, 2002 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).
- 10.1a Amendment No. 1 to Credit Agreement among H&E Equipment Services L.L.C., Great Northern Equipment, Inc., H&E Holdings, L.L.C., GNE Investments, Inc., H&E Finance Corp., General Electric Capital Corporation and the Lenders party thereto dated as of March 31, 2003 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. for the quarter ended March 31, 2003 (File No. 333-99587), filed November 14, 2003).
- 10.1b Amendment No. 2 to Credit Agreement among H&E Equipment Services L.L.C., Great Northern Equipment, Inc., H&E Holdings, L.L.C., GNE Investments, Inc., H&E Finance Corp., General Electric Capital Corporation and the Lenders party thereto dated as of May 14, 2003 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. for the quarter ended September 30, 2003 (File No. 333-99587), filed November 14, 2003).

- 10.1c Amendment No. 3 to Credit Agreement among H&E Equipment Services L.L.C., Great Northern Equipment, Inc., H&E Holdings, L.L.C., GNE Investments, Inc., H&E Finance Corp., General Electric Corporation and the Lenders party thereto dated as of February 10, 2004 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1(c) to Current Report on Form 8-K of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. File No. 333-99587 filed February 11, 2004).
- 10.1d Amendment No. 4 to Credit Agreement among H&E Equipment Services L.L.C., Great Northern Equipment, Inc., H&E Holdings, L.L.C., GNE Investments, Inc., H&E Finance Corp., General Electric Capital Corporation and the Lenders party thereto dated as of October 26, 2004.\*
- 10.1e Amendment No. 5 to Credit Agreement among H&E Equipment Services L.L.C., Great Northern Equipment, Inc., H&E Holdings, L.L.C., GNE Investments, Inc., H&E Finance Corp., General Electric Capital Corporation and the Lenders party thereto dated as of January 13, 2005.\*
- 10.1f Amendment No. 6 to Credit Agreement among H&E Equipment Services L.L.C., Great Northern Equipment, Inc., H&E Holdings, L.L.C, GNE Investments, Inc., H&E Finance Corp., General Electric Capital Corporation and the Lenders party, thereto dated as of March 11, 2005, (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Current Report on Form 8-K of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99587), filed March 14, 2005).
- 10.1g Amendment No. 7 to Credit Agreement among H&E Equipment Services L.L.C, Great Northern Equipment, Inc., H&E Holdings, L.L.C., GNE Investments, Inc., H&E Finance Corp., General Electric Capital Corporation and the Lenders party, thereto dated as of March 29, 2005.\*
- 10.2 Contribution Agreement and Plan of Reorganization, dated as of June 14, 2002, by and among H&E Holdings, L.L.C., BRSEC Co-Investment II, LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).
- 10.3 Securityholders Agreement, dated as of June 17, 2002, by and among H&E Holdings L.L.C., BRSEC Co-Investment, LLC, BRSEC Co-Investment II, LLC, certain members of management and other members of H&E Holdings L.L.C. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).
- 10.4 Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of June 17, 2002, by and among H&E Holdings L.L.C., BRSEC Co-Investment, LLC, BRSEC Co-Investment II, LLC, certain members of management and other members of H&E Holdings L.L.C. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).
- 10.7 First Amended and Restated Management Agreement, dated as of June 17, 2002, Bruckmann, Rosser, Sherrill & Co., Inc., Bruckmann, Rosser, Sherrill & Co., L.L.C., H&E Holdings L.L.C. and H&E Equipment Services, L.L.C. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.7 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).
- 10.8 Employment Agreement, dated as of June 29, 1999, by and between Gulf Wide Industries, L.L.C., and John M. Engquist (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.8 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).
- 10.9 First Amendment to the Employment Agreement, dated as of August 10, 2001, by and among Gulf Wide Industries, L.L.C. and John M. Engquist (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.9 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).
- 10.14 Employment Agreement, dated as of February 4, 1998, by and between ICM Equipment Company L.L.C. and Kenneth R. Sharp, Jr. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.14 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).
- 10.15 First Amendment to the Employment Agreement, dated as of May 26, 1999, between ICM Equipment Company L.L.C. and Kenneth R. Sharp, Jr. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.15 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).
- 10.16 Second Amendment to the Employment Agreement, dated as of December 6, 1999, between ICM Equipment Company L.L.C. and Kenneth Sharp, Jr. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.16 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).

- 10.17 Third Amendment to the Employment Agreement, dated as of June 14, 2002, between ICM Equipment Company L.L.C. and Kenneth Sharp, Jr. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.17 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).
- 10.18 Deferred Compensation Agreement made and entered into as of June 17, 2002, by and between Gary Bagley and H&E Holdings L.L.C. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.18 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).
- 10.19 Deferred Compensation Agreement made and entered into as of June 17, 2002, by and between Kenneth Sharp, Jr. and H&E Holdings, L.L.C. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.19 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).
- 10.20 Consulting and Noncompetition Agreement, dated as of June 29, 1999, between Head & Engquist Equipment, L.L.C. and Thomas R. Engquist (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.20 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).
- 10.21 Purchase Agreement by and among H&E Equipment Services L.L.C., H&E Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and Credit Suisse First Boston Corporation, dated June 3, 2002 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.21 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99587), filed September 13, 2002).
- 10.21a Purchase Agreement, among H&E Equipment Services L.L.C., H&E Finance Corp., H&E Holdings L.L.C., the guarantors party thereto and Credit Suisse First Boston Corporation, Inc. dated June 17, 2002 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.21 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).
- 10.22 Investor Rights Agreement by and among H&E Holdings, L.L.C., BRSEC Co-Investment, LLC, BRSEC Co-Investment II, LLC and Credit Suisse First Boston Corporation, dated as of June 17, 2002 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.22 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (File No. 333-99589), filed September 13, 2002).
- 10.24 Security Agreement, dated June 17, 2002, between H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. and The Bank of New York (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.24 to Annual Report on Form 10-K of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. for the year ended December 31, 2002 (File No. 333-99587), filed April 14, 2003).
- 10.25 Pledge Agreement, dated June 17, 2002, between H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. and The Bank of New York (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.25 to Annual Report on Form 10-K of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. for the year ended December 31, 2002 (File No. 333-99587), filed April 14, 2003).
- 10.26 Trademark Security Agreement, dated June 17, 2002, between H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. and The Bank of New York (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.26 to Annual Report on Form 10-K of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. for the year ended December 31, 2002 (File No. 333-99587), filed April 14, 2003).
- 10.27 Security Agreement, dated June 17, 2002, between H&E Finance Corp. and The Bank of New York (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.27 to Annual Report on Form 10-K of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. for the year ended December 31, 2002 (File No. 333-99587), filed April 14, 2003).
- 10.28 Security Agreement, dated June 17, 2002, between GNE Investments, Inc. and The Bank of New York (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.28 to Annual Report on Form 10-K of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. for the year ended December 31, 2002 (File No. 333-99587), filed April 14, 2003).
- 10.29 Pledge Agreement, dated June 17, 2002, between GNE Investments, Inc. and The Bank of New York (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.29 to Annual Report on Form 10-K of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. for the year ended December 31, 2002 (File No. 333-99587), filed April 14, 2003).
- 10.30 Security Agreement, dated June 17, 2002, between Great Northern Equipment, Inc. and The Bank of New York (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.30 to Annual Report on Form 10-K of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. for the year ended December 31, 2002 (File No. 333-99587), filed April 14, 2003).
- 10.31 Trademark Security Agreement, dated June 17, 2002, between Great Northern Equipment, Inc. and The Bank of New York (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.31 to Annual Report on Form 10-K of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. for the year ended December 31, 2002 (File No. 333-99587), filed April 14, 2003).

- 10.32 Patent Security Agreement, dated June 17, 2002, between Great Northern Equipment, Inc. and The Bank of New York (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.32 to Annual Report on Form 10-K of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. for the year ended December 31, 2002 (File No. 333-99587), filed April 14, 2003).
- 10.33 Severance and Consulting Agreement, dated March 1, 2004, between H&E Equipment Services, L.L.C. and Robert W. Hepler.\*
- 10.34 Consulting and Non-competition Agreement, dated July 31, 2004, between H&E Equipment Services, L.L.C. and Gary W. Bagley.\*
- 31.1 Certification Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.\*
- 31.2 Certification Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.\*
- 32.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.\*
- 32.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.\*

\* Filed herewith

#### **Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

The Board of Directors H&E Equipment Services L.L.C.:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2004 and 2003 and the related consolidated statements of operations, members' deficit and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2004. We have also audited the schedule listed in Item 15(a)(2) of the Form 10-K. These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and schedule are free of material misstatement. The Company is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. Our audits included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements and schedule. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement and schedule presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2004 and 2003, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2004, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Also, in our opinion, the schedule presents fairly, in all material respects, the information set forth herein.

As discussed in Note 20 to the consolidated financial statements the fiscal 2003 and 2002 financial statements have been restated to correct errors in the accounting for deferred taxes in connection with the Company's combination with ICM Equipment Company on June 17, 2002.

/s/ BDO Seidman, LLP

Dallas, Texas September 28, 2005

## CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

# AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003 (RESTATED)

# (Dollars in thousands)

	 2004	 2003 (restated)
Assets		
ash	\$ 3,358	\$ 3,89
eceivables, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$2,732		
d \$3,188, respectively	68,902	62,61
ventories, net of reserve for obsolescence of \$1,490 and \$1,235, respectively	56,811	44,07
epaid expenses and other assets	1,044	2,52
ental equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of \$124,411 and \$114,014, respectively	243,630	261,15
operty and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization of \$17,674 and \$13,942, respectively	16,101	15,32
eferred financing costs, net of accumulated amortization of \$5,092 and \$2,751, respectively	10,251	11,23
oodwill, net	8,572	8,57
Total assets	\$ 408,669	\$ 409,39
Liabilities and Members' Deficit		
abilities:		
Amount due on senior secured credit facility	\$ 55,293	\$ 43,95
Accounts payable	92,592	91,44
Accrued expenses payable and other liabilities	20,919	15,90
Accrued loss from litigation	17,434	17,43
Related party obligation	1,062	1,23
Notes payable	727	1,06
Senior secured notes, net of discount	198,761	198,66
Senior subordinated notes, net of discount	43,491	43,01
Capital lease obligations	1,120	5,35
Deferred compensation payable	 10,570	10,89
	441,969	428,95

Commitments and contingent liabilities (see note 14 of Consolidated Financial Statements)

Members' deficit	(33,300)	(19,563)
Total liabilities and members' deficit	\$ 408,669	\$ 409,393

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated statements.

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

# FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004, 2003 (RESTATED) AND 2002 (RESTATED)

# (Dollars in thousands)

	2004	2003 (Restated)	(1	2002 Restated)
Revenues:				
Equipment rentals	\$ 160,342	\$ 153,851	\$	136,624
New equipment sales	116,907	81,692		72,143
Used equipment sales	84,999	70,926		52,487
Parts sales	58,014	53,658		47,218
Service revenue	33,696	33,349		27,755
Other	24,214	20,510		14,778
Total revenues	478,172	413,986		351,005
Cost of Revenues:				
Rental depreciation	49,590	55,244		46,627
Rental expense	50,666	49,696		37,706
New equipment sales	104,111	73,228		65,305
Used equipment sales	67,906	58,145		43,776
Parts sales	41,500	39,086		34,011
Service revenue	12,865	13,043		11,438
Other	28,246	26,433		19,774
Total cost of revenues	354,884	314,875		258,637
Gross profit	123,288	99,111		92,368
Selling, general and administrative expenses	97,525	93,054		78,352
Loss from litigation		17,434		
Related party expense	—	1,275		
Gain on sale of property and equipment	207	80		59
Income (loss) from operations	25,970	(12,572)		14,075
Other income (expense):		(20.20.4)		
Interest expense	(39,856)	(39,394) 221		(28,955)
Other, net	149			372
Total other expense, net	(39,707)	(39,173)		(28,583)
Loss before income taxes	(13,737)	(51,745)		(14,508)
Income tax provision (benefit)	-	(5,694)		(6,287)
Net loss	\$ (13,737)	\$ (46,051)	\$	(8,221)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated statements.

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF MEMBERS' EQUITY (DEFICIT)

# FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004, 2003 (RESTATED) AND 2002 (RESTATED)

# (Dollars in thousands)

	Series A Senior Preferred	_	Junior Preferred		Class A Common	_	Class B Common		Additional Paid-in Capital		Accumulated Deficit	Member's Interest	Total Members' Equity (Deficit)
January 1, 2002 (as previously													
reported)	\$ 1,235	\$	5,000	\$	1,152	\$	1,152	\$	50,090	\$	(76,546) \$	6 —	\$ (17,917)
Prior period adjustment											(2,790)		(2,790)
Net loss—January 1, 2002													
to June 17, 2002	_				—				—		(2,365)	—	(2,365)
Accretion of liquidation value													
on Preferred Units outside of													
equity through June 17, 2002							—		—		(1,009)	—	(1,009)
Members' equity issued with													
Senior Subordinated Notes at													
June 17, 2002	_		_		—		—		—		—	7,600	7,600
Conversion of Senior													
Exchangeable Preferred Units at													
June 17, 2002	—						—		—		—	10,652	10,652
Conversion of Senior													
Subordinated Preferred Units at												20 172	20 172
June 17, 2002 Conversion of series A Senior	_		_								_	38,173	38,173
Preferred, Junior Preferred,													
Class A Common, Class B													
Common, Additional Paid-in													
Capital and accumulated deficit													
to members' interest at June 17,													
2002	(1,235)	)	(5,000)		(1,152)		(1,152)		(50,090)		82,710	(24,081)	
Net loss—June 17, 2002 to		/											
December 31, 2002			_		_				_		_	(5,856)	(5,856)
		_		_		_		_					
December 31, 2002 (restated)	_				_		_		_		_	26,488	26,488
Net loss	_		_				—		—		—	(46,051)	(46,051)
	 	_		_		_		_		_			
December 31, 2003 (restated)	_											(19,563)	(19,563)
Net loss												(13,737)	(13,737)
		_		_		_		_					
December 31, 2004	\$ _	\$	_	\$	_	\$	_	\$	_	\$	— \$	6 (33,300)	\$ (33,300)
	 	_								_			

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated statements.

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

# FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004, 2003 (RESTATED) AND 2002 (RESTATED)

# (Dollars in thousands)

	 2004	2003 (Restated)		2002 (Restated)
Cash flows from operating activities:				
Net loss	\$ (13,737)	\$ (46,0	51) \$	(8,221)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash provided by operating activities:				
Depreciation on property and equipment	3,642	3,9		3,032
Depreciation on rental equipment	49,590	55,2	44	46,627
Amortization of other intangible assets	295			_
Amortization of loan discounts and deferred financing costs	2,627	2,3	94	1,091
Provision for losses on accounts receivable	1,395	1,2	69	1,517
Provision for obsolescence	240		12	121
Gain on sale of property and equipment	(207)	(	80)	(59)
Gain on sale of rental equipment	(15,230)	(11,1	61)	(5,876)
Deferred income taxes	—	(5,7	17)	(6,322)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities, net of business combination:				
Receivables, net	(7,682)	1,2	61	(3,145)
Inventories, net	(22,263)	(4,9	80)	(15,988)
Prepaid expenses and other assets	1,477	(5	76)	1,433
Accounts payable	1,146	2	33	9,159
Accrued expenses payable and other liabilities	4,674	4,8	82	1,460
Accrued loss from litigation	_	17,4	34	_
Deferred compensation payable	 (328)	6	65	490
Net cash provided by operating activities	5,639	19,3	44	25,319
Cash flows from investing activities:				
Purchases of property and equipment	(4,558)	(2,4		(3,821)
Purchases of rental equipment	(72,940)	(30,5	88)	(52,369)
Proceeds from sale of property and equipment	349	2,7	00	115
Proceeds from sale of rental equipment	65,396	51,2	79	33,738
Cash acquired in ICM business combination	 			3,643
Net cash (used in) provided by investing activities	 (11,753)	20,9	08	(18,694)
Cash flows from financing activities:				
Net proceeds from issuance of senior secured notes	—			198,526
Net proceeds from issuance of senior subordinated notes				50,009
Payments of amounts due to members	—			(13,347)
Payment of deferred financing costs	(887)	(1,0		(13,466)
Borrowings on senior secured credit facility	479,756	385,5		436,081
Payments on senior secured credit facitily	(468,421)	(418,2	70)	(658,489)
Payments of related party obligation	(300)	(	75)	
Principal payments on notes payable	(336)		39)	(2,022)
Payments of capital lease obligations	 (4,231)	(5,4	90)	(4,841)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	5,581	(39,7	59)	(7,549)
Net increase (decrease) in cash	 (533)	4	93 —	(924)
Cash, beginning of year	 3,891	3,3	98	4,322
Cash, end of year	\$ 3,358	\$ 3,8	91 \$	3,398

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated statements.

	200	)4	 2003 (Restated)	_	2002 (Restated)
Supplemental schedule of noncash investing and financing activities:					
Noncash asset purchases:					
Assets transferred from new and used inventory to rental fleet	\$	9,292	\$ 8,852	\$	11,602
Members' equity issued with the senior subordinated notes		_			7,600
Rental equipment financed under capital lease obligations		_			4,182
Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information: Cash paid during the year for:					
Interest	\$	33,648	\$ 35.160	\$	22,295
Income taxes		19	98		6

## Supplemental Disclosures of Non-Cash Investing and Financing Activities:

As of December 31, 2004 and 2003, the Company had \$51.2 million and \$51.8 million, respectively, in manufacturer flooring plans payable outstanding, which were used to finance purchases of inventory and rental equipment.

On June 17, 2002, the Company entered into a business combination acquiring substantially all the assets and assuming certain liabilities of ICM Equipment Company L.L.C. The following table sets forth information relating to the acquisition (in thousands)

Fair value of assets acquired	\$ 187,781
Fair value of liabilities assumed	(187,781)
Excess of liabilities assumed over fair value of assets acquired	—

During the first quarter of 2004, the Company entered into a twelve month non-competition agreement with a former vice-president. Accordingly, the Company recorded a \$0.3 million intangible asset and accrued liability. The intangible asset was valued at the present value of the future payments discounted at the Company's weighted average cost over the term of the agreement and is being amortized using the straight-line method over the term of the agreement.

During the third quarter of 2004, the Company entered into a three year non-competition agreement with a former officer. Accordingly, the Company recorded a \$0.1 million intangible asset and accrued liability. The intangible asset was valued at the present value of the future payments discounted at the Company's weighted average cost over the term of the agreement and is being amortized using the straight-line method over the term of the agreement.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated statements.

#### NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### (Dollars in thousands, except share amounts)

### (1) Organization and Nature of Operations

### **Basis of Presentation**

H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (H&E Equipment Services or the Company) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of H&E Holdings L.L.C. (H&E Holdings). H&E Holdings is principally a holding company conducting all of its operations through H&E Equipment Services (see Note 3). The consolidated financial statements include the results of operations of H&E Equipment Services and its wholly-owned subsidiaries H&E Finance Corp., GNE Investments, Inc. and Great Northern Equipment, Inc., collectively referred to herein as the "Company".

The nature of the Company's business is such that short-term obligations are typically met by cash flows generated from long-term assets. Consequently, consistent with industry practice, the accompanying consolidated balance sheets are presented on an unclassified basis.

#### **Nature of Operations**

As one of the largest integrated equipment services companies in the United States focused on heavy construction and industrial equipment, we rent, sell and provide parts and service support for four core categories of specialized equipment: (1) hi-lift or aerial platform equipment, (2) cranes, (3) earthmoving equipment, and (4) industrial lift trucks. By providing equipment sales, rental, on-site parts, and repair and maintenance functions under one roof, we are a one-stop provider for our customers' varied equipment needs. This full service approach provides us with multiple points of customer contact, enables us to maintain an extremely high quality rental fleet, as well as an effective distribution channel for fleet disposal and provides cross-selling opportunities among our new and used equipment sales, rental, parts sales and service operations.

# (2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

### Principles of Consolidation and Basis of Presentation

The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the accounts of H&E Equipment Services and its subsidiaries. All intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

## **Revenue Recognition**

The Company's policy is to recognize revenue from equipment rentals in the period earned, over the contract term, regardless of the timing of the billing to customers. A rental contract term can be daily, weekly or monthly. Because the term of the contracts can extend across financial reporting periods, the Company records unbilled rental revenue and deferred revenue at the end of reporting periods so rental revenue is appropriately stated in the periods presented. Revenue from the sale of equipment and parts is recognized at the time of delivery to, or pick-up by, the customer and when all obligations under the sales contract have been fulfilled and collectability is reasonably assured. Service revenue is recognized at the time the services are rendered. Other revenues consist primarily of billings to customers for rental equipment delivery and damage waiver charges.



#### **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

The Company considers all highly liquid debt instruments purchased with an initial maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

#### Inventories

New and used equipment is stated at the lower of cost or market, with cost determined by specific-identification. Parts and supplies are stated at the lower of the average cost or market.

### **Rental Equipment**

Rental equipment purchased by the Company is stated at cost and is depreciated over the estimated useful lives of the equipment using the straight-line method. Estimated useful lives vary based upon type of equipment. Generally, the Company depreciates cranes and aerial work platforms over a ten year useful life, earthmoving equipment over a five year useful life with a 25% salvage value, and industrial lift trucks over a seven year useful life. Attachments and other smaller type equipment are fully depreciated over a three year life.

Ordinary repair and maintenance costs and property taxes are charged to operations as incurred. Expenditures for additions or improvements that extend the useful life of the asset are capitalized in the period incurred. When rental equipment is sold or disposed of, the related cost and accumulated depreciation are removed from the respective accounts, and any gain or loss is included in the Company's consolidated results of operations. Rental fleet is held for sale at all times and is not transferred to inventory held for sale prior to disposal. The Company periodically reviews the carrying value of its long-lived assets for possible impairment. In management's opinion, there is no impairment of long lived assets at December 31, 2004.

## **Property and Equipment**

Property and equipment are recorded at cost and are depreciated over the assets' estimated useful lives using the straight-line method. Ordinary repair and maintenance costs are charged to operations as incurred. The Company periodically reviews the carrying value of its long-lived assets for possible impairment. In management's opinion, there is no impairment of long-lived assets at December 31, 2004. Leasehold improvements are amortized using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives or the remaining life of the lease, whichever is shorter. Generally, the Company assigns the following useful lives to these categories:

Category	Estimated Useful Life
Transportation equipment	5 years
Buildings	39 years
Office equipment	5 years
Computer equipment	3 years
Machinery and equipment	7 years
Buildings Office equipment Computer equipment	39 year 5 year 3 year

#### Deferred Financing Costs and Initial Purchasers' Discounts

Deferred financing costs and initial purchasers' discounts were recorded in 2003 and 2002 in connection with entering into the new senior secured credit facility and issuing senior secured notes and senior subordinated notes (see Note 12). The Company paid a \$0.4 million and \$0.8 million amendment fee in May 2003 and February 2004, respectively, in connection with amending the senior secured credit facility. The amounts are being amortized over the terms of the related debt, utilizing the effective interest method. The amortization expense of deferred financing costs and initial purchasers' discounts is included with interest expense as an overall cost of the financing. During the years ended December 31, 2004, 2003 and 2002, interest expense related to the amortization of these costs totaled \$2,627, \$2,394 and \$1,091, respectively.

### Goodwill

Goodwill recorded in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets was \$8.6 million. The goodwill was established in connection with two separate acquisitions in 1999 and 2002. Prior to the adoption of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 142, "Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets" (SFAS No. 142) on January 1, 2002, \$3.2 million of goodwill recorded as a result of the 1999 acquisition was being amortized over 40 years.

The Company adopted the provisions of SFAS No. 142, effective January 1, 2002. The provisions of SFAS No. 142 eliminate the amortization of goodwill and certain intangible assets that are deemed to have indefinite lives and require such assets to be tested for impairment annually and to be written down to fair value, if necessary. Accordingly, the Company does not have goodwill amortization subsequent to December 31, 2001.

The Company made an assessment of its goodwill for impairment during the year ended December 31, 2004 in accordance with SFAS No. 142. Based on the assessment, the Company was not required to adjust the carrying value of its goodwill.

## Advertising

Advertising costs are expensed as incurred and totaled \$1,024, \$1,046, and \$993 for the years ended December 31, 2004, 2003 and 2002, respectively.

#### Legal Costs

Legal costs are expensed as incurred. A significant portion of our legal costs are associated with the litigation as described in Note 14.

## Shipping and Handling Fees and Costs

Shipping and handling fees billed to customers are recorded as revenues while the related shipping and handling costs are included in other cost of revenues.

#### **Income Taxes**

The Company files a consolidated federal income tax return with its wholly owned subsidiaries. As a Limited Liability Corporation, the Company has elected to be taxed as a C Corporation under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). Income taxes are accounted for under the asset and liability method. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases and operating loss and tax credit carryforwards. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date. Deferred income tax assets are reviewed for recoverability and valuation allowances are provided, when necessary, to reduce deferred tax assets to the amounts expected to be realized.

### Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The carrying amounts reported in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets for accounts receivable, accounts payable, accrued liabilities, and deferred compensation payable approximate fair value due to the immediate or short-term maturity of these financial instruments. The carrying amount of the amended senior secured credit facility approximates fair value due to the fact that the underlying instruments include provisions to adjust interest rates to approximate fair market value. The estimated

fair value of the Company's notes payable, senior secured and senior subordinated notes payable at December 31, 2004 and 2003 are as follows (in thousands):

	December 31, 2004			04	
	Carrying Amount			Fair Value	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	3,358	\$	3,358	
Senior secured notes with interest computed at $11^{1}/8\%$		198,761		220,000	
Senior subordinated notes with interest computed at $12^{1/2}$ %		43,491		51,940	
Notes payable to financial institution with interest computed at $4^{1}/4\%$		654		516	
Notes payable to suppliers with interest computed at 2.9%		55		50	
Notes payable to finance companies with interest rates ranging from					
$9^{1}/2\%$ to $10^{1}/2\%$		18		17	
			_		
	\$	246,337	\$	275,881	
		December 31, 2003			
		Decembe	r 31, 20	03	
		Decembe Carrying Amount	r 31, 20	03 Fair Value	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	Carrying	r 31, 20 \$	Fair	
Cash and cash equivalents Senior secured notes with interest computed at 11 <sup>1</sup> /8%	\$	Carrying Amount		Fair Value	
•	\$	Carrying Amount 3,891		Fair Value 3,891	
Senior secured notes with interest computed at 11 <sup>1</sup> /8%	\$	Carrying Amount 3,891 198,660		Fair Value 3,891 201,000	
Senior secured notes with interest computed at 11 <sup>1</sup> /8% Senior subordinated notes with interest computed at 12 <sup>1</sup> /2%	\$	Carrying Amount 3,891 198,660 43,010		Fair Value 3,891 201,000 44,520	
Senior secured notes with interest computed at 11 <sup>1</sup> /8% Senior subordinated notes with interest computed at 12 <sup>1</sup> /2% Notes payable to financial institution with interest computed at 4 <sup>1</sup> /4% Notes payable to suppliers with interest computed at 2.9% Notes payable to finance companies with interest rates ranging from	\$	Carrying Amount 3,891 198,660 43,010 838		Fair Value 3,891 201,000 44,520 655	
Senior secured notes with interest computed at $11^{1/8\%}$ Senior subordinated notes with interest computed at $12^{1/2\%}$ Notes payable to financial institution with interest computed at $4^{1/4\%}$ Notes payable to suppliers with interest computed at 2.9%	\$	Carrying Amount 3,891 198,660 43,010 838		Fair Value 3,891 201,000 44,520 655	
Senior secured notes with interest computed at 11 <sup>1</sup> /8% Senior subordinated notes with interest computed at 12 <sup>1</sup> /2% Notes payable to financial institution with interest computed at 4 <sup>1</sup> /4% Notes payable to suppliers with interest computed at 2.9% Notes payable to finance companies with interest rates ranging from	\$	Carrying Amount 3,891 198,660 43,010 838 0175		Fair Value 3,891 201,000 44,520 655 161	

## **Concentrations of Credit and Supplier Risk**

Financial instruments that potentially subject the Company to concentrations of credit risk consist primarily of cash and cash equivalents and trade accounts receivable. Cash and cash equivalents consist primarily of money market accounts which are maintained with high credit quality financial institutions. Cash and cash equivalents are in excess of Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") insurance limits. Credit risk with respect to trade accounts receivable is mitigated by the large number of geographically diverse customers and the Company's credit evaluation procedures. Although generally no collateral is required, when feasible, mechanics' liens are filed and personal guarantees are signed to protect the Company's interests. The Company maintains reserves for potential losses.

The Company records trade receivables at sales value and establishes specific reserves for certain customer accounts identified as known collection problems due to insolvency, disputes or other collection issues. The amounts of the specific reserves estimated by management are based on the following assumptions and variables: the customer's financial position, age of the customer's receivables and changes in payment schedules. In addition to the specific reserves, management establishes a non-specific allowance for doubtful accounts by applying specific percentages to the different receivable

aging categories (excluding the specifically reserved accounts). The percentage applied against the aging categories increases as the accounts become further past due. The allowance for doubtful accounts is charged with the write-off of uncollectible customer accounts.

The Company purchases a significant amount of equipment from the same manufacturers with whom it has distribution agreements. The Company believes that while there are alternative sources of supply for the equipment it purchases in each of the principal product categories, termination of one or more of our relationships with any of its major suppliers of equipment could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, financial condition or results of operation if it is unable to obtain adequate or timely rental and sales equipment.

#### **Use of Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions. The use of estimates and assumptions may affect the amounts reported in the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes. Significant estimates include the allowance for doubtful accounts, useful lives for depreciation, goodwill and other asset impairments, loss contingencies and fair values of financial instruments. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

## Reclassifications

Certain amounts in the prior years' consolidated financial statements have been reclassified for comparative purposes to conform to the presentation in the current-year consolidated financial statements. See Note 20 for further discussion of reclassifications.

#### **Recent Accounting Pronouncements**

In December 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued SFAS No. 123(R), "Share-Based Payment", which is a revision of SFAS No. 123 and supersedes APB Opinion No. 25. SFAS No. 123(R) requires all share-based payments to employees, including grants of employee stock options, to be valued at fair value on the date of grant, and to be expensed over the applicable vesting period. SFAS No. 123(R) is effective for all stock-based awards granted on or after July 1, 2005. In addition, companies must also recognize compensation expense related to any awards that are not fully vested as of the effective date. Compensation expense for the unvested awards will be measured based on the fair value of the awards previously calculated in developing the pro forma disclosures in accordance with the provisions of SFAS No. 123. Historically, we have not used share-based compensation schemes for compensating our employees. Therefore, the adoption of SFAS No. 123(R) is not expected to have any impact on our reported results of operations upon adoption. However, should we determine to employ share-based compensation schemes in the future, SFAS No. 123(R) would have a currently indeterminate impact on us.

In May 2005, the FASB issued Statement No. 154, "Accounting Changes and Error Corrections" (SFAS 154). SFAS 154 replaces APB Opinion No. 20. "Accounting Changes" and FASB Statement No. 3. "Reporting Accounting Charges in Interim Financial Statements," SFAS 154 requires that a voluntary change in accounting principle be applied retrospectively with all prior period financial

statements presented on the new accounting principle, unless it is impracticable to do so. SFAS 154 also provides that a correction of errors in previously issued financial statements should be termed a "restatement." The new standard is effective for accounting changes and correction of errors beginning July 1, 2005. The Company has incorporated the provisions of SFAS 154 in the presentation of our December 31, 2004 financial statements.

## (3) Reorganization and Acquisition of ICM Equipment Company L.L.C.

On June 17, 2002, the equity holders of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (formerly Gulf Wide Industries L.L.C.) and ICM Equipment Company L.L.C. (ICM) formed H&E Holdings by executing a Limited Liability Company Agreement of H&E Holdings and by contributing to H&E Holdings all of the outstanding equity securities and certain outstanding subordinated debt of the two companies to the members of H&E Holdings in exchange for certain equity securities of H&E Holdings. H&E Holdings issued cancellation certificates for the previously issued outstanding shares. Pursuant to a Contribution Agreement and Plan of Reorganization, H&E Holdings contributed all of the outstanding equity securities of ICM to H&E Equipment Services, merging ICM out of existence.

Pursuant to the Contribution Agreement and Plan of Reorganization, H&E Holdings issued a series of preferred and common units in exchange for all the outstanding stock of ICM. The acquisition was based upon a strategic plan to achieve market penetration in contiguous territories. In addition, the combined companies incurred significant operating synergies. The acquisition was accounted for under the purchase method of accounting. H&E Equipment Services was considered the acquirer for accounting purposes. Under the purchase method of accounting, the acquired assets and assumed liabilities have been recorded at their fair values at the date of acquisition. The operating results of ICM have been included in the accompanying consolidated financial statements from the date of the acquisition.

The following table summarizes the fair value of assets acquired and liabilities assumed as allocated in purchase accounting (in thousands):

Fair value of assets acquired:	
Cash	\$ 3,643
Accounts receivable	27,020
Inventories	12,082
Rental equipment	131,894
Property and equipment	5,201
Deferred tax assets	1,512
Other assets	1,062
Goodwill	5,367
	\$ 187,781
Fair value of liabilities assumed:	
	\$ 117,493
Fair value of liabilities assumed: Outstanding borrowings on senior secured credit facility Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 117,493 50,092
Outstanding borrowings on senior secured credit facility	\$
Outstanding borrowings on senior secured credit facility Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 50,092
Outstanding borrowings on senior secured credit facility Accounts payable and accrued liabilities Amounts due to members	\$ 50,092 10,147
Outstanding borrowings on senior secured credit facility Accounts payable and accrued liabilities Amounts due to members Deferred compensation payable	\$ 50,092 10,147 9,743
Outstanding borrowings on senior secured credit facility Accounts payable and accrued liabilities Amounts due to members Deferred compensation payable	\$ 50,092 10,147 9,743

The consolidated results of operations data shown below is presented on an unaudited pro forma basis and represents the results of H&E Equipment Services had the business combination occurred at the beginning of 2002 (in thousands):

	 Year Ended December 31, 2002
Revenues	\$ 431,721
Net loss	\$ (18,597)

The unaudited pro forma financial information is presented for informational purposes only and is based upon certain assumption and estimates, which are subject to change. The results are not necessarily indicative of the operating results that would have occurred had the transaction been consummated at the beginning of the period presented, nor are they necessarily indicative of future operating results.

# (4) Receivables

Receivables consisted of the following at December 31, 2004 and 2003 (in thousands):

	2004		2003
Trade receivables	\$ 68,704	\$	62,039
Unbilled rental revenue	2,628		2,756
Income tax receivables	218		149
Advances to employees	21		115
Affiliated companies	63		295
Sales-type leases			397
Other			52
	71,634		65,803
Less allowance for doubtful accounts	(2,732)		(3,188)
	\$ 68,902	\$	62,615

# (5) Inventories

Inventories consisted of the following at December 31, 2004 and 2003 (in thousands):

		2004		2003
New equipment		\$ 33,598	\$	20,517
Used equipment		6,331		8,574
Parts, supplies and other		16,882		14,987
			_	
	5	56,811	\$	44,078

As of December 31, 2004, the Company had reserves for inventory obsolescence totalling \$1,490.

<b>F-</b> 2	14
-------------	----

## (6) Property and Equipment

Property and equipment consisted of the following at December 31, 2004 and 2003 (in thousands):

	2004		2004 2	
			_	
Land	\$	1,331	\$	1,334
Transportation equipment		11,780		9,913
Building and leasehold improvements		8,295		8,250
Office and computer equipment		7,528		6,271
Machinery and equipment		4,841		3,501
		33,775		29,269
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization		(17,674)		(13,942)
	\$	16,101	\$	15,327

### (7) Accounts Payable

Accounts payable consisted of the following at December 31, 2004 and 2003 (in thousands):

	_	2004	 2003
Trade accounts payable	\$	41,393	\$ 39,677
Manufacturer flooring plans payable		51,199	51,769
	_		 
	\$	92,592	\$ 91,446
	_		

Manufacturer flooring plans payable are financing arrangements for inventory and rental equipment. The interest paid on the manufacturer flooring plans ranges between zero percent and Prime Interest Rate plus 6.9 percent. Certain manufacturer flooring plans provide for a one to twelve-month reduced interest rate term or a deferred payment period. The Company makes payments in accordance with the original terms of the financing agreements. However, the Company routinely sells equipment that is financed under manufacturer flooring plans prior to the original maturity date of the financing agreement. The payable is paid at the time equipment being financed is sold. The manufacturer flooring plans payable are secured by the equipment being financed.

Maturities (based on original financing terms) of the manufacturer flooring plans payable as of December 31, 2004 for each of the next five years ending December 31 are as follows (in thousands):

2005	12,648
2006	12,600
2007	7,556
2008	14,452
2009	1,447
Thereafter	2,496
	\$ 51,199

# (8) Accrued Expenses Payable and Other Liabilities

Accrued expenses payable and other liabilities consisted of the following at December 31, 2004 and 2003 (in thousands):

	200	2004		2003
Payroll and related liabilities	\$	6,788	\$	7,129
Sales, use and property taxes		3,969		2,824
Accrued interest		3,088		1,862
Accrued insurance		2,532		1,560
Deferred revenue		2,139		1,616
Other		2,403		910
	\$	20,919	\$	15,901

# (9) Notes Payable

A summary of notes payable as of December 31, 2004 and 2003 are as follows (in thousands):

	2	2004		2003
Notes payable to a financial institution maturing through 2008.				
Payable in monthly installments of approximately \$19. Interest is at 4.25%. Notes are				
collateralized by real estate.	\$	654	\$	838
Notes payable to suppliers maturing through 2005.				
Payable in monthly installments of approximately \$11. Interest is at 2.9%. Notes are				
collateralized by equipment.		55		175
Notes payable to finance companies maturing through 2006.				
Payable in monthly installments of approximately \$3. Interest ranges from 9.5% to 10.5%.				
Notes are collateralized by equipment.		18		50
	\$	727	\$	1,063

Maturities of notes payable as of December 31, 2004 for each of the next four years ending December 31, are as follows (in thousands):

2005	265
2005 2006 2007 2008	184
2007	181
2008	97
	\$ 727

# (10) Convertible and Preferred Securities

# Senior Exchangeable Preferred Units

In connection with a recapitalization completed in 2001, Bruckmann, Rosser, Sherrill & Co. L.P. (BRS) purchased for \$10.0 million in cash 10,000 units of \$1,000 par value Senior Exchangeable

Preferred Units. These units included a 10% liquidation value compounded semi-annually from their issuance date. The liquidation value was to include the par value plus any accreted value to be paid. At any time prior to July 31, 2006, the holders of the Senior Exchangeable Preferred Units could have exchanged any part of the liquidation value of these units into a senior subordinated promissory note of either the Company or its subsidiary, at the election of the holder. The difference between the carrying value and liquidation value was accreted through periodic charges to accumulated deficit.

### Senior Subordinated Preferred Units.

In connection with the August 10, 2001 recapitalization, the Company issued 36,286,902 shares of \$1,000 par value Senior Subordinated Preferred Units. These units included an 8% liquidation value compounded semi-annually from their issuance date. The liquidation value as of December 31, 2001 included the par value plus any accreted value to be paid under the terms of the agreement. The Senior Subordinated Preferred Units could be redeemed at the discretion of the Company's Board of Directors. The Company's Board of Directors is subject to voting control of BRS, who have voting control of the Company. The differences between the carrying value and the liquidation value was accreted through periodic charges to accumulated deficit.

## Series A Senior Preferred Units

In connection with the August 10, 2001 recapitalization, the Company issued 1,235,229 shares of \$1,000 par value Senior Series A Preferred Units. These units included a 12% liquidation value compounded semi-annually from their issuance date. The liquidation value was to include the par value plus any accreted value to be paid under the terms of the agreement. These units could be redeemed at the discretion of the Company's Board of Directors.

#### **Junior Preferred Units**

In connection with the August 10, 2001 recapitalization, the Company issued 5,000 shares of \$1,000 par value Junior Preferred Units. These units included an 8% liquidation value compounded semi-annually from their issuance date. The liquidation value was to include the par value plus any accreted value to be paid under the terms of the agreement. These units could be redeemed at the discretion of the Company's Board of Directors.

In connection with the Company's reorganization and acquisition of ICM in June 2002 (see Note 3), the Senior Exchangeable Preferred Units, the Senior Subordinated Preferred Units, the Series A Senior Preferred Units and the Junior Preferred Units were converted to member's interest.

## (11) Capital Lease Obligations

The Company leases various equipment under capital leases expiring in various years through 2005. The assets and liabilities under capital leases are recorded at the lower of the present value of the future minimum lease payments or the fair value of the assets. The assets are amortized over their estimated useful lives. Amortization of assets under capital leases is included in depreciation expense.

Following is a summary of assets held under capital leases at December 31, 2004 and 2003 (in thousands):

	_	2004		2003	
Rental equipment	\$	4,182	\$	18,879	
Less accumulated amortization		(1,471)		(5,308)	
			_		
	\$	2,711	\$	13,571	
	_				

Future minimum lease payments under capital leases as of December 31, 2004 are as follows (in thousands):

Total minimum lease payments for 2005	\$ 1,401
Less amount representing interest	 (281)
Total present value of future minimum payments with interest at 9.5%	\$ 1,120

## (12) Senior Secured Notes, Senior Subordinated Notes and Senior Secured Credit Facility

In connection with the reorganization of the Company and acquisition of ICM (see Note 3), the Company issued \$200.0 million aggregate principal amount of  $11^{1}/8\%$  senior secured notes and \$53.0 million aggregate principal amount of  $12^{1}/2\%$  senior subordinated notes and entered into a new senior secured credit facility. The senior secured credit facility is comprised of a \$150.0 million revolving line of credit. The proceeds from the senior secured notes, senior subordinated notes and senior secured credit facility were used to payoff the existing credit facilities of the two companies which had aggregate outstanding balances of approximately \$306.4 million, repay senior subordinated promissory notes of approximately \$13.3 million, and pay for financing costs of approximately \$13.5 million. The deferred financing costs are being amortized to interest expense over the life of the respective related debt using the effective interest rate method.

# Senior Secured Notes

On June 17, 2002, the Company issued \$200.0 million aggregate principal amount of 11<sup>1</sup>/8% Senior Secured Notes due 2012. The following table reconciles the \$200.0 million Senior Secured Notes to the balance (in thousands):

	2004		2003	
Aggregate principal amount issued	\$	200,000	\$	200,000
Initial purchasers' discount		(1,474)		(1,474)
Initial purchasers' discount amortization (June 17, 2002 through December 31, 2004)		235		134
Senior Secured Notes balance at December 31, 2004	\$	198,761	\$	198,660

The net proceeds from the sale of the notes were approximately \$190.7 million (after deducting the initial purchasers' discount and related financing costs). Interest on the notes is paid semi-annually

on June 15 and December 15 of each year, commencing on December 15, 2002. The notes mature on June 15, 2012 and are guaranteed by the Company's domestic subsidiaries (see Note 21). The notes are secured by junior security interests in substantially all of the assets of H&E Equipment Services. The Company, at its option, may redeem the notes on or after June 15, 2007, at specified redemption prices, which range from 105.563% in 2007 to 100.0% in 2010 and thereafter. In addition, at any time on or prior to June 15, 2005, the Company may redeem up to 35% of the outstanding notes at a redemption price of 111.125% with the net proceeds of certain equity offerings. The indenture governing the notes contains certain restrictive covenants including limitations on (i) additional indebtedness; (ii) restricted payments; (iii) liens and guarantees; (iv) dividends and other payments; (v) preferred stock of subsidiaries; (vi) transactions with affiliates; (vii) sale and leaseback transactions; and (viii) the Company's ability to consolidate, merge or sell all or substantially all of its assets.

#### **Senior Subordinated Notes**

On June 17, 2002, the Company issued \$53.0 million aggregate principal amount of  $12^{1/2}$ % Senior Subordinated Notes due 2013. The following table reconciles the \$53.0 million Senior Subordinated Notes to the balance (in thousands):

	2004		2003	
	 	_		
Aggregate principal amount issued	\$ 53,000	\$	53,000	
Initial purchasers' discount	(10,591)		(10,591)	
Initial purchasers' discount amortization (June 17, 2002 through December 31, 2004)	1,082		601	
Senior Subordinated Notes balance at December 31, 2004	\$ 43,491	\$	43,010	

The net proceeds from the sale of the notes were approximately \$40.7 million (after deducting the initial purchasers' discount and related financing costs). Interest on the notes is paid semi-annually on June 15 and December 15 of each year, commencing on December 15, 2002. The notes mature on June 15, 2013 and are guaranteed by the Company's domestic subsidiaries (see Note 21). The notes are senior to all other subordinated debt and are unsecured. The Company, at its option, may redeem the notes on or after June 15, 2007, at specified redemption prices which range from 106.250% in 2007 to 100.0% in 2010 and thereafter. In addition, at any time prior to June 15, 2005, the Company may redeem up to 35% of the outstanding notes at a redemption price of 112.50% with the net proceeds of certain equity offerings. The indenture governing the notes contains certain restrictive covenants including limitations on (i) additional indebtedness, (ii) restricted payments, (iii) liens and guarantees, (iv) dividends and other payments, (v) preferred stock of subsidiaries, (vi) transactions with affiliates, (vii) sale and leaseback transactions, and (viii) the Company's ability to consolidate, merge or sell all or substantially all of its assets.

In connection with and attached to the issuance of the senior subordinated notes, H&E Holdings issued approximately 553 shares of Series A preferred stock, 1,476 shares of Series B preferred stock, 4,239 shares of Series C preferred stock, 2,613 shares of Series D preferred stock, 106,842 shares of

Class A common stock, and 103,684 shares of Class B common stock, all of which are limited liability company interests in H&E Holdings.

Also in connection with the issuances of the senior secured notes and the senior subordinated notes, the Company recorded original issue discounts of \$1.5 million and \$3.0 million, respectively. Additionally, \$7.6 million of value was allocated to the H&E Holdings' limited liability company interests issued as part of the offering of the senior subordinated notes. The value allocated to these interests has been accounted for as additional original issue discount. The value allocated to the limited liability interests was based on an estimate of the relative fair values of these interests and the senior subordinated notes at the date of issuance. The original issue discounts are being amortized to interest expense over the lives of the respective notes using the effective interest rate method.

#### Senior Secured Credit Facility

In accordance with the amended senior secured credit facility, the Company may borrow up to \$150 million depending upon the availability of borrowing base collateral consisting of eligible trade receivables, inventories, property and equipment, and other assets. The amended senior secured credit facility bears interest at LIBOR plus 300 basis points and matures February 10, 2009. The credit facility is senior to all other outstanding debt, secured by substantially all the assets of the Company, and is guaranteed by the Company's domestic subsidiaries (see Note 21). The balance outstanding on the amended senior secured credit facility as of December 31, 2004 was approximately \$55.3 million. Additional borrowings available under the terms of the amended senior secured credit facility as of December 31, 2004, taking into account the standby letters of credit outstanding, totaled \$67.6 million based on the borrowing base collateral value of assets. The average interest rate on outstanding borrowings for the year ended December 31, 2004 was 7.1%.

If at any time an event of default exists, the interest rate on the amended senior secured credit facility will increase by 2.0% per annum. The Company is also required to pay a commitment fee equal to 0.5% per annum in respect of undrawn commitments under the revolving credit facility.

In accordance with the terms of the amended senior secured credit facility, the Company must comply with certain restrictive financial covenants and must maintain certain financial ratios. The Company is required to, among other things, satisfy certain financial tests relating to (a) the maximum senior debt to tangible assets ratio, (b) maximum leverage ratio, (c) maximum adjusted leverage ratio, (d) minimum utilization rate of equipment inventory ratio, (e) minimum adjusted interest coverage ratio and (f) maximum property and equipment capital expenditures.

As a result of the Company recording the estimated loss from litigation (see Note 14), on May 14, 2003, the Company's senior secured credit agreement was amended to modify certain restrictive financial covenants and financial ratios. The credit agreement was amended to:

- 1. exclude the loss from litigation from the calculation of Company's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization.
- 2. adjust the maximum leverage ratio and the maximum adjusted leverage ratio, respectively, to 5.20x from 4.60x for the remaining term of the credit agreement. The minimum adjusted

interest coverage ratio was adjusted to 1.25x from 1.45x through 2004. In 2005, the ratio increases to 1.30x with an additional increase to 1.40x in 2006 through the remainder of the agreement.

- 3. increase the maximum amount of letters of credit allowed under the amended senior credit facility to \$30.0 million from \$10.0 million.
- 4. institute a pricing grid such that if excess availability (defined as the total borrowing base assets less total outstanding borrowings):
  - a. falls below \$90.0 million, the interest rate and letter of credit fee increase by 25 basis points,
  - b. falls below \$50.0 million, the interest rate and letter or credit fee increase an additional 25 basis points.
- 5. institute a \$20.0 million block on availability based on the total borrowing base assets.

On May 14, 2003, the Company paid a loan amendment fee of \$0.4 million that will be amortized over the remaining term of the loan.

On February 10, 2004, the Company's senior secured credit agreement was amended to extend the maturity date and to modify certain restrictive financial covenants and financial ratios, providing additional liquidity. Principally, the amendment:

- 1. extends the maturity date of the senior secured credit facility to February 2009.
- 2. eliminates the maximum leverage ratio covenant.
- 3. increases the adjusted maximum leverage ratio covenant from 5.2x to 5.8x for each quarter in the first year; 5.7x for each quarter in the second year; 5.4x for each quarter in the third year; 5.3x for each quarter in the fourth year; and 5.2x for each quarter in the fifth year. The minimum adjusted interest coverage ratio is set at 1.25x for each quarter through 2005; 1.35x for each quarter in 2006 and 2007; and 1.40x for each quarter in 2008 and through the remaining term of the agreement.
- 4. increases the block on availability of assets from \$20.0 million to \$30.0 million based on the total borrowing base assets.
- 5. reduces the advance rate on rental fleet assets to 75 percent from 80 percent of orderly liquidation value.

On February 10, 2004, the Company paid a loan amendment fee of \$0.8 million that is being amortized over the remaining term of the loan.

On October 26, 2004, the Company's senior secured credit agreement was further amended to eliminate the requirement to provide separate collateral reports for the Company's wholly-owned subsidiary, Great Northern Equipment, Inc. No amendment fee was paid related to this amendment.

On January 13, 2005, the Company further amended its senior secured credit agreement to increase the maximum amount of property and equipment capital expenditures from \$5.0 million to \$8.5 million during any fiscal year. No amendment fee was paid relating to this amendment.

On March 11, 2005, we amended the senior secured credit agreement dated June 17, 2002, governing our senior secured credit facility. Principally, the amendment:

- 1. lowers interest rates according to a pricing grid based upon daily average excess availability for the immediately preceding fiscal month. With daily average excess availability equal to or more than \$40 million, the LIBOR margin shall be 2.25% and the Index margin shall be .75%. If availability falls below \$40 million and equal to or more than \$25 million, the senior secured credit facility bears interest at a LIBOR margin of 2.50% and the Index margin shall be 1.00%. If availability is less than \$25 million, the LIBOR margin will be 2.75% and the Index margin shall be 1.25%. We elect interest at either the Index rate plus the applicable revolver Index margin per annum or the applicable LIBOR rate plus the applicable revolver LIBOR margin per each calendar month. The commitment fee equal to .5% per annum in respect to un-drawn commitments remains unchanged;
- 2. decreases the block on availability of assets from \$30.0 million to \$15.0 million based on the total borrowing base assets; and
- 3. increases the advance rate on rental fleet assets to 80% of orderly liquidation value as defined in the senior secured credit agreement.

On March 29, 2005, we also amended the senior secured credit agreement to extend the requirement of the delivery of annual audited financial statements from March 31, 2005 until September 30, 2005. The Company paid no amendment fee relating to this amendment.

As of August 26, 2005, we were granted a waiver under our senior secured credit agreement, pursuant to which, our lenders have waived our noncompliance with, and the effects of our non-compliance under, various representations and non-financial covenants contained in the senior secured credit agreement affected by the accounting adjustments in connection with the restatement described in "Item 6. Selected Financial Data—Restatement" and the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in "Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules." As a result of the restatement, among other things, we would no longer be able to make the representations under the senior secured credit agreement concerning the conformity with GAAP of our previously delivered financial statements, or confirm our prior compliance with certain obligations concerning the maintenance of our books and records in accordance with GAAP. Because the restatement is not expected to result in our having breached any of the financial covenants in the senior secured credit agreement, the waiver does not waive or modify any such financial covenants. As a result of the waiver, we continue to have full access to our revolving credit facility under the senior secured credit agreement.

As of December 31, 2004, the Company was in compliance with all covenants associated with its debt.

## (13) Income Taxes

Income tax provision (benefit) for the years ended December 31, 2004, 2003 and 2002, consists of (in thousands):

	Cu	Current		Deferred		Total
Year ended December 31, 2004:						
U.S. Federal	\$	_	\$		\$	_
State				—		—
			_		_	
	\$		\$		\$	—
Year ended December 31, 2003:						
U.S. Federal	\$	67	\$	(5,717)	\$	(5,650)
State		(44)		_		(44)
			_		_	
	\$	23	\$	(5,717)	\$	(5,694)
Year ended December 31, 2002:						
U.S. Federal	\$		\$	(6,108)	\$	(6,108)
State		20		(200)		(180)
			_		_	
	\$	20	\$	(6,308)	\$	(6,288)
					_	

Significant components of the Company's deferred income tax assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2004 and 2003 are as follows (in thousands):

2004			2003
\$	1,038	\$	1,212
	566		469
	52,473		55,227
	832		832
	629		489
	8,906		8,411
	2,366		2,595
	1,651		1,546
			1,013
	520		408
	68,981		72,202
	(19,099)		(13,456)
	49,882		58,746
	(47,901)		(56,950)
	(1,520)		(1,520)
	(461)		(276)
	(49,882)		(58,746)
\$	_	\$	_
		566 52,473 832 629 8,906 2,366 1,651 	566 52,473 832 629 8,906 2,366 1,651 520 68,981 (19,099) 49,882 (47,901) (1,520) (461) (49,882)

The difference between income taxes computed using statutory federal income tax rates and the effective corporate rates are as follows for the years ended December 31, 2004, 2003 and 2002 (in thousands):

		2004		2003		2002
			_		_	
Computed tax at statutory rates	\$	(4,670)	\$	(17,593)	\$	(4,934)
Permanent item		(629)		411		312
State income tax—net of federal tax effect		(594)		(1,446)		(119)
Increase in valuation allowance		5,643		13,456		
Other		250		(522)		(1,547)
	_					
	\$	—	\$	(5,694)	\$	(6,288)

At December 31, 2004, the Company had available net operating loss carryforwards of approximately \$147.2 million, which expire in varying amounts from 2019 through 2023. The Company also had federal alternative minimum tax credit carryforwards at December 31, 2004 of approximately \$.8 million which do not expire. The utilization of all or some of these loss carryforwards will be limited pursuant to Internal Revenue Code Section 382 as a result of ownership changes.

Management has concluded that it is more likely than not that the Company will not have sufficient taxable income within the carryback and carryforward periods permitted by the current law to allow for the utilization of certain carryforwards and other tax attributes. Therefore, a valuation allowance of \$19.1 million has been established to reduce the deferred tax assets as of December 31, 2004.

#### (14) Commitments and Contingencies

#### **Operating Leases**

The Company leases certain property and rental equipment under non-cancelable operating lease agreements expiring at various dates through 2018. Rent expense on property and rental equipment under non-cancelable operating lease agreements for the years ended December 31, 2004, 2003 and 2002 amounted to approximately \$23,324, \$24,343 and \$21,023, respectively.

Future minimum operating lease payments, in the aggregate, existing at December 31, 2004 for each of the next five years ending December 31 are as follows (in thousands):

2005	21,492
2006	16,359
2007	8,220
2008	2,976
2009	1,753
Thereafter	8,211
	\$ 59,011

#### Legal Matters

In July 2000, one of our competitors, Sunbelt Rentals, Inc., brought claims against us in the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division, State of North Carolina, County of Mecklenburg alleging, among other things, that in connection with our hiring of former employees of the plaintiff there occurred a breach of fiduciary duty, misappropriation of trade secrets, unfair trade practices and interference with prospective advantages. In May 2003, the Court ruled in favor of the plaintiff in the amount of \$17.4 million. Consequently, we recorded a \$17.4 million loss in 2003. We subsequently appealed the judgment. In conjunction with the appeal and in accordance with the Court's ruling, we issued an irrevocable standby letter of credit for \$19.8 million, representing the amount of the judgment plus \$2.4 million in anticipated statutory interest (8%) for the twenty-four months while the judgment is being appealed. Going forward, we intend to expense any statutory interest as interest expense in the statement of operations. As of December 31, 2004, we paid a 300 basis point fee on the amount available for issuance. Currently, we pay a 225 basis point fee on the amount available for issuance. Oral arguments took place on March 3, 2005, and the appeal was then submitted for the appellate court's decision. While we are appealing this judgment, we believe that even if there is a reduction in the amount of damages awarded to the plaintiff on appeal, the judgment could have a material adverse effect on our business or financial condition.

The Company is also involved in various claims and legal actions arising in the ordinary course of business. In the opinion of management, after consultation with legal counsel, the ultimate disposition of these various matters will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's consolidated financial position, results of operations or liquidity.

#### **Employment Contracts**

The Company has entered into employment contracts with various officers and members, which provide for annual payments to the officers and members, subject to their continued employment with the Company. The employment contracts mature on December 31, 2006 and require aggregate annual payments of approximately \$500 with bonuses at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

#### Letters of Credit

The Company had outstanding letters of credit totaling \$27,067 and \$24,338 as of December 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

#### (15) Employee Benefit Plan

The Company offers its employees participation in a qualified 401(k)/profit-sharing plan which requires the Company to match employee contributions up to predetermined limits for qualified employees as defined by the plan. For the years ended December 31, 2004, 2003 and 2002, the Company contributed \$739, \$657 and \$609, respectively, to this plan.

#### (16) Deferred Compensation Plans

In connection with the acquisition of ICM, the Company assumed nonqualified employee deferred compensation plans under which certain employees had previously elected to defer a portion of their

annual compensation. Participants in the plans can no longer defer compensation. Compensation previously deferred under the plans is payable upon the termination, disability or death of the participants. One of the plans accumulates interest each year at a bank's prime rate in effect as of the beginning of January. This rate remains constant throughout the year. The effective rate for the 2004 plan year was 4.0 percent. The aggregate deferred compensation payable (including accrued interest of \$1,559) at December 31, 2004 was \$2,598. The other plan accumulates interest each year at 8.50%. The aggregate deferred compensation payable (including accrued interest of \$265) at December 31, 2004 was \$451.

The Company also assumed, in connection with the acquisition of ICM, a liability for subordinated deferred compensation for certain officers and members of the Company. Compensation deferred is payable in December 2013 and is subordinate to all other debt. Interest is accrued quarterly at a rate of 13 percent per annum. The aggregate deferred compensation payable (including accrued interest of \$2,521) at December 31, 2004 was \$7,521.

#### (17) Related Party Transactions

John M. Engquist, our Chief Executive Officer and President, has a 16.6% ownership interest in a joint venture, from which we lease our Baton Rouge, Louisiana and Kenner, Louisiana facilities. In 2004, 2003 and 2002, we paid such entity a total of approximately \$329, \$297, and \$397, respectively, in lease payments.

Mr Engquist has a 50% ownership interest in T&J Partnership and J&T Company, from which we lease our Shreveport, Louisiana and Lake Charles, Louisiana facilities. In 2004, 2003 and 2002, we paid such entities a total of approximately \$207, \$186 and \$171, respectively, in lease payments. In January 2005, J&T Company sold the Lake Charles, Louisiana parcel to an unaffiliated third party.

Mr. Engquist and his wife, Martha Engquist, each hold a 50% ownership interest in John Engquist LLC, from which we lease our Alexandria, Louisiana facility. In 2004, 2003 and 2002, we paid such entity a total of approximately \$53, \$48 and \$48, respectively, in lease payments.

We charter an aircraft from Gulf Wide Aviation, in which Mr. Engquist and his mother, Rubye Engquist, each have a 50% ownership interest. We pay an hourly rate to Gulf Wide Aviation for the use of the aircraft by various members of our management. In addition, a portion of one pilot's salary is paid by us. In 2004, 2003 and 2002, our payments in respect of charter costs to Gulf Wide Aviation and salary to the pilot totaled approximately \$273, \$244 and \$294, respectively. The Company had a receivable from the charter aircraft company of approximately \$63 and \$66 as of December 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

Mr. Engquist has a 25% ownership interest in Perkins-McKenzie Insurance Agency, Inc. ("Perkins-McKenzie"), an insurance brokerage. Perkins-McKenzie brokers a substantial portion of our liability insurance. As the broker, Perkins-McKenzie receives from our insurance provider as a commission a portion of the premiums we paid to our insurance provider in 2002, 2003 and 2004. In 2004, 2003 and 2002, our payments to Perkins-McKenzie totaled approximately \$5,531, \$5,694 and \$3,096, respectively.

We purchase products and services from, and sell products and services to, B-C Equipment Sales, Inc., in which Mr. Engquist has a 50% ownership interest. In 2004, 2003 and 2002, our purchases

totaled approximately \$129, \$573 and \$606, respectively, and our sales totaled approximately \$64, \$194 and \$170, respectively. Amounts owed this equipment company were \$9 and \$21, and amounts due from this equipment company were \$21 and \$11 as of December 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

The Company owed companies related through common ownership \$7 at December 31, 2003 and 2002. The Company had no sales transactions with these affiliated companies during 2004, 2003 and 2002.

Don M. Wheeler, an equity holder, has an ownership interest and controls Silverado Investments, Wheeler Investments and WG LLC, from which we lease our Salt Lake City, Utah, Colorado Springs, Colorado, Phoenix, Arizona, Tucson, Arizona and Denver, Colorado facilities. In 2004, 2003 and 2002, our lease payments to such entities totaled approximately \$1,358, \$1,437 and \$1,270, respectively.

Dale W. Roesener, Vice President, Fleet Management, has a 47.6% ownership interest in Aero SRD LLC, from which we lease our Las Vegas, Nevada facility. In 2004, 2003 and 2002, our lease payments to such entity totaled approximately \$489, \$519 and \$471, respectively.

In connection with the recapitalization of H&E in 1999, we entered into a \$3.0 million consulting and non-competition agreement with Thomas R. Engquist, the father of John M. Engquist, our Chief Executive Officer and President. The agreement provided for total payments over a ten-year term, payable in increments of \$25,000 per month. Mr. Engquist was obligated to provide us consulting services and was to comply with the non-competition provision set forth in the Recapitalization Agreement between us and others dated June 19, 1999. The parties specifically acknowledged and agreed that in the event of the death of Mr. Engquist during the term of the agreement, the payments that otherwise would have been payable to Mr. Engquist under the agreement shall be paid to his heirs (including John M. Engquist). Due to Mr. Engquist's passing away during 2003, he will not be providing any further consulting services. Therefore, we recorded a \$1.3 million during 2003 for the present value of the remaining future payments. The total amount paid under this agreement was \$300 for each of the years ended December 31, 2004, 2003 and 2002. As of December 31, 2004, the balance for this obligation amounted to \$1,062.

The Company had a management agreement with BRS and its affiliates, under which the Company was obligated to pay the lesser of \$500 or 1% of earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization. The total paid for the year ended December 31, 2002 was \$670. The management agreement terminated on June 17, 2002.

In connection with the acquisition of ICM, the Company entered into a management agreement with BRS and its affiliates payable in the lesser of \$2 million annually or 1.75% of annual earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, excluding operating lease expense, plus all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses. The total amount paid to BRS and its affiliates under the management agreement for the years ended December 31, 2004, 2003 and 2002 was \$1,537, \$1,549 and \$1,085, respectively. The Company had a receivable from BRS and its affiliates of \$229 as of December 31, 2003.

The Company has consulting and noncompetition agreements with two former stockholders of Coastal Equipment, Inc., acquired in 1999, for \$1,000, payable in four annual installments of \$250 beginning March 1, 2000 and ending March 31, 2003.

During the years ended December 31, 2004, 2003 and 2002, the Company expensed a combined total of \$975, \$766, and \$360, respectively for interest earned under a deferred compensation plan for Gary W. Bagley, our Chairman, and Kenneth R. Sharp, Jr., an executive officer.

Mr. Engquist's son is an employee and received compensation of approximately \$83 and \$64 in 2004 and 2003, respectively.

Bradley W. Barber's brother is an employee and received compensation of approximately \$63 in 2004.

#### (18) Segment Information

The Company has identified five reportable segments: equipment rentals, new equipment sales, used equipment sales, parts sales and service revenue. These segments are based upon how management of the Company allocates resources and assesses performance. Non-segmented revenues and non-segmented costs relate to equipment support activities including transportation, hauling, parts freight and damage-waiver charges and are not allocated to the other reportable segments. There were no sales between segments for any of the periods presented. Selling, general, and administrative expenses as well as all other income and expense items below gross profit are not generally allocated to reportable segments. The Company does not compile discrete financial information by its segments other than the information presented below. The following table presents information about the Company's reportable segments (in thousands):

		Years Ended December 31,						
		2004		2003 estated)		2002 (Restated)		
Revenues:								
Equipment rentals	\$	160,342	\$	153,851	\$	136,624		
New equipment sales		116,907		81,692		72,143		
Used equipment sales		84,999		70,926		52,487		
Parts sales		58,014		53,658		47,218		
Service revenue	_	33,696		33,349		27,755		
Total segmented revenues		453,958		393,476		336,227		
Non-segmented revenues	_	24,214		20,510		14,778		
Total revenues	\$	478,172	\$	413,986	\$	351,005		
	_							

Gross Profit:						
Equipment rentals	\$	60,086	\$	48,911	\$	52,291
New equipment sales		12,796		8,464		6,838
Used equipment sales		17,093		12,781		8,711
Parts sales		16,514		14,572		13,207
Service revenue		20,831		20,306		16,317
Total gross profit from revenues		127,320		105,034		97,364
Non-segmented gross profit (loss)		(4,032)		(5,923)		(4,996)
Total gross profit	\$	123,288	\$	99,111	\$	92,368
			ears End			
	_	U	ecember	31,		
	_	2004	ecember .	2003 (Restated)	_	
Segment identified assets:	-		ecember .	2003	_	
Segment identified assets: Equipment sales	\$			2003	91	
-	\$	2004		2003 (Restated)		
Equipment sales	\$	2004 39,92	 28 \$ 30	2003 (Restated) 29,0	54	
Equipment sales Equipment rentals	\$	2004 39,92 243,63	28 \$ 30 32 	2003 (Restated) 29,0 261,1	54 87	
Equipment sales Equipment rentals Parts and service	\$	2004 39,92 243,63 16,88	28 \$ 30 32 41	2003 (Restated) 29,0 261,1 14,9	54 87 32	
Equipment sales Equipment rentals Parts and service Total segment identified assets	\$	2004 39,92 243,63 16,88 300,44 108,22	28 \$ 30 32 41 29	2003 (Restated) 29,0 261,1 14,9 305,2	54 87 32 61	

The Company operates primarily in the United States and had minimal international sales for any of the periods presented. No one customer accounted for more than 10% of the Company's sales on an overall or segment basis for any of the periods presented.

#### (19) Impact of Recent Natural Disaster

The Company has three facilities located in the area most significantly affected by Hurricane Katrina. None of these facilities were forced to close for any extended period of time, and all of them are currently open and fully operational. While the financial impact of Hurricane Katrina relating to these three facilities is not expected to be material to the Company, the Company remains in the process of assessing the potential overall impact of the hurricane on the Company's business.

#### (20) Restatements of Previously Issued Consolidated Financial Statements

Our previous accountants, KPMG LLP ("KPMG"), refused to give its consent to the inclusion, in our annual report on Form 10-K for 2004, of its audit opinion on our financial statements for fiscal years 2002 and 2003, notwithstanding that KPMG consented to the inclusion of their audit opinions in our prior Forms 10-K for those years. KPMG informed us that it refused to furnish its consent due to a pending lawsuit against KPMG brought by John M. Engquist, our President and Chief Executive Officer. The lawsuit relates to a personal matter between KPMG and Mr. Engquist, and it does not involve in any manner us or our business or financial results or condition. KPMG's refusal to issue its consent is not based on any disagreement on accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure, or auditing scope and procedure involving the Company.

As a result, we asked BDO Seidman LLP to re-audit our 2002 and 2003 annual financial statements and issue new audit opinions thereon. During the reaudits of the Company's consolidated financial statements as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, we discovered errors related to the treatment of deferred taxes in connection with the Company's combination with ICM Equipment Company on June 17, 2002. Based on the Company's internal review, and after consultation with the Audit Committee of the Company's Board of Directors on August 24, 2005, the Company's Board of Directors concluded to restate its previously issued consolidated financial statements as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002 to reflect the proper accounting treatment of deferred income taxes.

In accounting for the business combination on June 17, 2002, the Company incorrectly recognized the deferred tax components related to the tax basis of carryover goodwill acquired in the business combination. Financial Accounting Standard Board No. 109, Accounting for Income Taxes, provides that a deferred tax asset should not be recognized as a result of carryover goodwill in a business combination. As a result, the Company reduced the deferred tax asset of approximately \$9.5 million, net of a \$17.3 valuation allowance, to \$1.5 million.

The primary effect of the correction discussed above resulted in a change to the original purchase accounting for the business combination. The Company restated its rental equipment and property and equipment to their fair values at the time of the combination and recorded goodwill of \$5.4 million. In addition, depreciation expense on rental equipment and property and equipment was restated. The effect of these changes also resulted in the Company's adjustment to its valuation allowance and income tax benefit.

The Company also made certain reclassifications to prior years' consolidated financial statements unrelated to the restatements discussed above. Primarily, these reclassifications were made to reflect transportation costs associated with field service trucks as other cost of revenues rather than the historical presentation as selling, general and administrative expenses. Following is a summary of the effects of the restatement adjustments and reclassifications on the Company's consolidated statements

of operations for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002 and the Company's consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2003:

		Consolidated Statements of Operations							
	As Previously Reported	Restatement Adjustments	Reclassification Adjustments	As Restated					
Year Ended December 31, 2003:									
Other revenues	20,206	_	304	20,510					
Total revenues	413,682	_	304	413,986					
Rental depreciation	54,931	313	_	55,244					
Rental expense	49,345	—	351	49,696					
New equipment cost of revenues	74,166	_	(938)	73,228					
Used equipment cost of revenues	57,207	—	938	58,145					
Other cost of revenues	19,638	_	6,795	26,433					
Total cost of revenues	307,416	313	7,146	314,875					
Selling, general and administration expenses	99,872	24	(6,842)	93,054					
Income from operations	(12,235)	(337)	_	(12,572)					
Loss before income taxes	(51,408)	(337)		(51,745					
Income tax provision	24	(5,718)	_	(5,694					
Net loss	(51,432)	5,381		(46,051					
Year Ended December 31, 2002:									
Other revenues	15,473		(695)	14,778					
Total revenues	351,700		(695)	351,005					
Rental depreciation	46,471	156	_	46,627					
Rental expense	37,408	—	298	37,706					
New equipment cost of revenues	66,055	—	(750)	65,305					
Used equipment cost of revenues	43,026	—	750	43,776					
Other cost of revenues	16,813	—	2,961	19,774					
Total cost of revenues	255,222	156	3,259	258,637					
Selling, general and administration expenses	82,294	12	(3,954)	78,352					
Income from operations	14,243	(168)	—	14,075					
Loss before income taxes	(14,340)	(168)	_	(14,508)					
Income tax benefit	(1,271)	(5,016)		(6,287)					
Net loss	(13,069)	4,848 Consolidated Bala	nce Sheet	(8,221					
	As Previously Reported	Restatement Adjustments	Reclassification Adjustments	As Restated					

	Reported	Adjustments	Adjustments	As Restated
December 31, 2003:				
Rental equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	259,282	1,872	—	261,154
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	15,128	199	—	15,327
Goodwill, net	3,204	5,368	—	8,572
Total assets	401,954	7,439	—	409,393
Members' deficit	(27,002)	7,439		(19,563)
Total liabilities and members' deficit	401,954	7,439	—	409,393

#### (21) Condensed Consolidating Financial Information of Guarantor Subsidiaries

All of the indebtedness of H&E Equipment Services is guaranteed by GNE Investments, Inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiary Great Northern Equipment, Inc. The guarantor subsidiaries are all wholly-owned and the guarantees, made on a joint and several basis, are full and unconditional (subject to subordination provisions and subject to a standard limitation which provides that the maximum amount guaranteed by each guarantor will not exceed the maximum amount that can be guaranteed without making the guarantee void under fraudulent conveyance laws). There are no restrictions on H&E Equipment Services' ability to obtain funds from the guarantor subsidiaries by dividend or loan.

The condensed consolidating financial statements of H&E Equipment Services and its subsidiaries are included below. The condensed financial statements for H&E Finance Corp., the subsidiary co-issuer, is not presented because H&E Finance Corp. has no assets or operations.

# CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING BALANCE SHEET (in thousands)

	As of December 31, 2004							
			Guarantor Subsidiaries	Elimination	Consolidated			
Assets:								
Cash	\$	3,334	\$ 24	\$	\$ 3,358			
Receivables, net		66,434	2,468	—	68,902			
Inventories, net		52,641	4,170	—	56,811			
Prepaid expenses and other assets		1,044	—	—	1,044			
Rental equipment, net		231,330	12,300	—	243,630			
Property and equipment, net		15,615	486		16,101			
Deferred financing costs, net		10,251	_	_	10,251			
Investment in guarantor subsidiaries		5,238	_	(5,238)				
Goodwill, net		8,572		—	8,572			
Total assets		394,459	19,448	(5,238)	408,669			
Liabilities and Member's Equity (Deficit):								
Amount due on senior secured credit facility		51,822	3,471	—	55,293			
Accounts payable		92,592		_	92,592			
Accrued expenses payable and other liabilities		20,804	115	—	20,919			
Intercompany balance		(10,624)	10,624	_	_			
Accrued loss from litigation		17,434	—	—	17,434			
Related party obligation		1,062	-	-	1,062			
Notes payable		727	—	—	727			
Senior secured notes, net of discount		198,761		_	198,761			
Senior subordinated notes, net of discount		43,491	—	—	43,491			
Capital lease obligations		1,120			1,120			
Deferred compensation payable		10,570			10,570			
Total liabilities		427,759	14,210		441,969			
Members' equity (deficit)		(33,300)	5,238	(5,238)	(33,300			
Total liabilities and members' equity (deficit)	\$		\$ 19,448	\$ (5,238)	\$ 408,669			

	As of December 31, 2003 (Restated)							
	H	H&E Equipment Guarantor Services Subsidiaries			Elimination			Consolidated
issets:								
Cash	\$	3,868	\$	23	\$	—	\$	3,891
Receivables, net		61,318		1,297		—		62,615
Inventories, net		42,783		1,295		—		44,078
Prepaid expenses and other assets		2,521		—		—		2,521
Rental equipment, net		252,298		8,856				261,154
Property and equipment, net		15,071		256		_		15,327
Deferred financing costs, net		11,235		—				11,235
Investment in guarantor subsidiaries		4,464		_		(4,464)		
Goodwill, net		8,572					_	8,572
Total assets	\$	402,130	\$	11,727	\$	(4,464)	\$	409,393
iabilities and Member's Equity (Deficit): Amount due on senior secured credit facility	\$	39,679	\$	4,279	\$	_	\$	43,958
Amount due on senior secured credit facility Accounts payable	Э	39,679 91,446	Э	4,279	Э		Э	43,958 91,446
Accrued expenses payable and other liabilities		15,741		160				15,901
Intercompany balance		(2,824)		2,824				15,501
Accrued loss from litigation		17,434		2,024				17,434
Related party obligation		1,235						1,235
Notes payable		1,063						1,063
Senior secured notes, net of discount		198,660		_				198,660
Senior subordinated notes, net of discount		43,010						43,010
Capital lease obligations		5,351		_				5,351
Deferred compensation payable		10,898						10,898
Deterred compensation payable		10,030						10,030
Total liabilities		421,693		7,263		_		428,956
Members' equity (deficit)		(19,563)		4,464		(4,464)		(19,563
Total liabilities and members' equity (deficit)	\$	402,130	\$	11,727	\$	(4,464)	\$	409,393

# CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS (in thousands)

	Year Ended December 31, 2004							
			Guarantor Subsidiaries	Elimi	nation	Co	nsolidated	
Revenues:			-					
Equipment rentals	\$	154,333	\$	6,009	\$		\$	160,342
New equipment sales		112,790		4,117		—		116,907
Used equipment sales		80,248		4,751		—		84,999
Parts sales		56,331		1,683		—		58,014
Service revenue		32,607		1,089		—		33,696
Other		23,421		793				24,214
Total revenues		459,730		18,442				478,172
Cost of Revenues:								
Rental depreciation		47,650		1,940				49,590
		49,520				_		49,590
Rental expense				1,146				
New equipment sales		100,628		3,483		_		104,111
Used equipment sales		64,384		3,522				67,906
Parts sales		40,343		1,157		_		41,500
Service revenue		12,532		333		—		12,865
Other		27,084		1,162				28,246
Total cost of revenues		342,141		12,743		—		354,884
Equipment rentals New equipment sales Used equipment sales Parts sales		57,163 12,162 15,864 15,988		2,923 634 1,229 526				60,086 12,796 17,093 16,514
Service revenue		20,075		756		_		20,831
Other		(3,663)		(369)		_		(4,032)
Gross profit		117,589		5,699		_		123,228
Selling, general and administrative expenses		93,499		4,026				97,525
Equity in loss of guarantor subsidiaries Gain on sale of property and equipment		774 183		 24		(774)		207
Income (loss) from operations		25,047		1,697		(774)		25,970
Other income (expense):		(55.5.1)		(00)				(00.077
Interest expense		(38,919)		(937)		_		(39,856)
Other, net		135		14				149
Total other expense, net		(38,784)		(923)		_		(39,707
Loss before income taxes		(13,737)		774		(774)		(13,737
Income tax provision		_				_		
Net loss	\$	(13,737)	\$	774	\$	(774)	\$	(13,737)

Year Ended December 31, 2003 (Restated)

	H&E Equipment Services	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Elimination	Consolidated
Revenues:				
Equipment rentals	\$ 149,092	\$ 4,759	\$ —	\$ 153,851
New equipment sales	79,534	2,158	_	81,692
Used equipment sales	66,948	3,978	_	70,926
Parts sales	52,278	1,380	_	53,658
Service revenue	32,479	870	_	33,349
Other	19,940	570		20,510
Ouler	13,540	570		20,510
Total revenues	400,271	13,715		413,986
Cost of Revenues:				
Rental depreciation	53,447	1,797		55,244
Rental expense	48,762	934		49,696
New equipment sales	71,286	1,942	_	73,228
Used equipment sales	55,219	2,926		58,145
			_	
Parts sales	38,117	969	_	39,086
Service revenue	12,748	295	—	13,043
Other	25,685	748		26,433
Total cost of revenues	305,264	9,611		314,875
Gross Profit:				
	46,002	2 020		40.011
Equipment rentals	46,883	2,028	—	48,911
New equipment sales	8,248	216		8,464
Used equipment sales	11,729	1,052		12,781
Parts sales	14,161	411		14,572
Service revenue	19,731	575	—	20,306
Other	(5,745)	(178)		(5,923
Gross profit	95,007	4,104		99,111
Selling, general and administrative expenses	89,379	3,675		93,054
		5,075		
Loss from litigation	17,434	_	—	17,434
Related party expense	1,275			1,275
Equity in loss of guarantor subsidiaries	(377)	—	377	
Gain on sale of property and equipment	42	38		80
Income (loss) from operations	(13,416)	467	377	(12,572
Other income (expense):				
Interest expense	(38,547)	(847)		(39,394
Other, net	218	3		221
Total other expense, net	(38,329)	(844)	_	(39,173
Loss before income taxes	(51,745)	(377)	377	(51,745
Income tax provision	(5,694)	(377)		(5,694
	\$ (46,051)	\$ (377)	\$ 377	\$ (46,051

# CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

(in thousands)

	Year Ended December 31, 2004							
	H&E Equipment Services			Guarantor Subsidiaries		Elimination	Consolidated	
Cash flows from operating activities:								
Net loss	\$	(13,737)	\$	774	\$	(774)	\$	(13,737)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash provided by operating activities:								
Depreciation on property and equipment		3,493		149				3,642
Depreciation on rental equipment		46,666		2,924				49,590
Amortization of other intangible assets		295		_				295
Amortization of loan discounts and deferred financing costs		2,627		_		_		2,627
Provision for losses on accounts receivable		1,341		54				1,395
Provision for obsolescence		240						240
Gain on sale of property and equipment		(183)		(24)		_		(207)
Gain on sale of rental equipment		(14,112)		(1,118)				(15,230)
Equity in earnings of guarantor subsidiaries		(774)		_		774		_
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:								
Receivables, net		(6,457)		(1,225)		—		(7,682)
Inventories, net		(14,752)		(7,511)		—		(22,263)
Prepaid expenses and other assets		1,477		—		—		1,477
Accounts payable		1,146		—		—		1,146
Accrued expenses payable and other liabilities		4,719		(45)		_		4,674
Intercompany balance		(7,800)		7,800		—		—
Deferred compensation payable		(328)			_			(328)
Net cash provided by operating activities		3,861		1,778		—		5,639
Cash flows from investing activities:								
Purchases of property and equipment		(4,176)		(382)		—		(4,558)
Purchases of rental equipment		(68,117)		(4,823)		-		(72,940)
Proceeds from sale of property and equipment		322		27				349
Proceeds from sale of rental equipment		61,187	_	4,209	_			65,396
Net cash used in investing activities		(10,784)	_	(969)	_	_		(11,753)
Cash flows from financing activities: Payment of deferred financing costs		(887)						(007)
Borrowings on senior secured credit facility		479,756						(887) 479,756
Payments on senior secured credit facility		(467,613)		(808)				(468,421)
Payment of related party obligation		(300)		(000)		_		(300)
Principal payments of notes payable		(336)						(336)
Payments on capital lease obligations		(4,231)		_		_		(4,231)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities		6,389	_	(808)	_			5,581
	_		_		_			
Net (decrease) increase in cash		(534)		1		_		(533)
Cash, beginning of year		3,868		23				3,891
Cash, end of year	\$	3,334	\$	24	\$		\$	3,358

	H&E Equipment Services		Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eli	mination	C	onsolidated
Cash flows from operating activities:		_					
Net loss	\$ (46,051)	\$	(377)	\$	377	\$	(46,051)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash provided by							
operating activities:							
Depreciation on property and equipment	3,827		88				3,915
Depreciation on rental equipment	53,447		1,797				55,244
Amortization of loan discounts and deferred financing							
costs	2,394		_				2,394
Provision for losses on accounts receivable	1,209		60				1,269
Provision for obsolescence	612		_				612
Provision for deferred taxes	(5,717)		_				(5,717
Gain on sale of property and equipment	(42)		(38)				(80
Gain on sale of rental equipment	(10,200)		(961)				(11,161
Equity in loss of guarantor subsidiaries	377		_		(377)		_
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:							
Receivables, net	2,215		(954)				1,261
Inventories, net	(4,462)		(518)				(4,980)
Prepaid expenses and other assets	(580)		(510)				(4,500)
Accounts payable	321		(88)				233
	-		. ,		_		
Accrued expenses payable and other liabilities	4,742		140		_		4,882
Intercompany balance	(5,056)		5,056		—		17 424
Accrued loss from litigation	17,434		_				17,434
Deferred compensation payable	 665						665
Net cash provided by operating activities	 15,135		4,209				19,344
Cash flar is from investing activities.							
Cash flows from investing activities:	(2.256)		(227)				(2,402)
Purchases of property and equipment Purchases of rental equipment	(2,256)		(227)				(2,483)
	(23,890)		(6,698)		_		(30,588)
Proceeds from sale of property and equipment	2,654		46		_		2,700
Proceeds from sale of rental equipment	 47,707		3,572				51,279
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	 24,215		(3,307)				20,908
Cash flows from financing activities:							
Payment of deferred financing costs	(1,089)		—		_		(1,089)
Borrowings on senior secured credit facility	385,504		—				385,504
Payments on senior secured credit facility	(417,324)		(946)		—		(418,270
Payment of related party obligation	(75)		—				(75)
Principal payments of notes payable	(339)		—				(339
Payments on capital lease obligations	 (5,490)						(5,490)
Net cash used in financing activities	(38,813)		(946)				(39,759
Net increase (decrease) in cash	537		(44)		_		493
Cash, beginning of year	 3,331		67				3,398
Cash, end of year	\$ 3,868	\$	23	\$	_	\$	3,891

Year Ended December 31, 2003 (Restated)

#### SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) or 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 on September 28, 2005.

## H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES L.L.C.

#### By: /s/ JOHN M. ENGQUIST

John M. Engquist Its: President and Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

	Signature	Capacity	Date
By:	/s/ JOHN M. ENGQUIST	President, Chief Executive Officer and	September 28, 2005
J	John M. Engquist	Director (Principal Executive Officer)	-
By:	/s/ LESLIE S. MAGEE	Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	September 28, 2005
	Leslie S. Magee		
By:	/s/ GARY W. BAGLEY	Chairman and Director	September 28, 2005
	Gary W. Bagley		
By:	/s/ BRUCE C. BRUCKMANN	Director	September 28, 2005
	Bruce C. Bruckmann		
By:	/s/ JOHN T. SAWYER	Director	September 28, 2005
	John T. Sawyer		
By:	/s/ KEITH E. ALESSI	Director	September 28, 2005
	Keith E. Alessi		
By:	/s/ LAWRENCE C. KARLSON	Director	September 28, 2005
	Lawrence C. Karlson		

# SCHEDULE II: VALUATION AND QUALIFYING ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004, 2003 AND 2002 (Dollars in thousands)

Description		Balance at Beginning of Year	 Additions Charged to Costs and Expenses		Recoveries (Deductions)		Impact of Acquisition	1	Balance at End of Year
Year Ended December 31, 2004									
Allowance for doubtful accounts receivable	\$	3,188	\$ 1,395	\$	(1,851)		—	\$	2,732
Allowance for inventory obsolescence		1,235	240		15		—		1,490
			 					_	
	\$	4,423	\$ 1,635	\$	(1,836)	\$	_	\$	4,222
Year Ended December 31, 2003									
Allowance for doubtful accounts receivable	\$	3,609	\$ 1,269	\$	(1,690)	\$	—	\$	3,188
Allowance for inventory obsolescence		1,139	612		(516)		—		1,235
			 					_	
	\$	4,748	\$ 1,881	\$	(2,206)	\$	—	\$	4,423
Year Ended December 31, 2002									
Allowance for doubtful accounts receivable	\$	708	\$ 1,517	\$	(1,524)	\$	2,908	\$	3,609
Allowance for inventory obsolescence		533	121		(6)		491		1,139
				_		_		_	
	\$	1,241	\$ 1,638	\$	(1,530)	\$	3,399	\$	4,748
	_								

See accompanying independent registered public accounting firm.

## QuickLinks

TABLE OF CONTENTS Forward-Looking Statements PART I PART II PART III Summary Compensation Table **Common Units Beneficial Ownership Table** Voting Preferred Units Beneficial Ownership Table PART IV Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES L.L.C. CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003 (RESTATED) (Dollars in thousands) H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES L.L.C. CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004, 2003 (RESTATED) AND 2002 (RESTATED) (Dollars in thousands) H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES L.L.C. CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF MEMBERS' EQUITY (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004, 2003 (RESTATED) AND 2002 (RESTATED) (Dollars in thousands) H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES L.L.C. CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004, 2003 (RESTATED) AND 2002 (RESTATED) (Dollars in thousands) H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES L.L.C. NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Dollars in thousands, except share amounts)

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING BALANCE SHEET (in thousands)

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS (in thousands)

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS (in thousands)

SIGNATURES

SCHEDULE II: VALUATION AND QUALIFYING ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004, 2003 AND 2002 (Dollars in thousands)

#### **AMENDMENT NO. 4**

This AMENDMENT No. 4 dated as of October 26, 2004 ("<u>Amendment No. 4</u>"), is entered into by and among H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES L.L.C., a Louisiana limited liability company ("<u>H&E</u>"), GREAT NORTHERN EQUIPMENT, INC., a Montana corporation ("<u>Great Northern</u>" and together with H&E, individually a "<u>Borrower</u>" and jointly, severally and collectively, the "<u>Borrowers</u>"), H&E HOLDINGS, L.L.C., a Delaware limited liability company, GNE INVESTMENTS, INC., a Washington corporation and H&E FINANCE CORP, a Delaware corporation, the persons designated as "Lenders" on the signature pages hereto, and GENERAL ELECTRIC CAPITAL CORPORATION, a Delaware corporation, as Agent.

WHEREAS, Borrowers, the other Credit Parties, the Lenders (as defined therein) and Agent are party to the Credit Agreement dated as of June 17, 2002 (including all annexes, exhibits and schedules thereto, and as amended by Amendment No. 1 dated as of March 31, 2003, Amendment No. 2 dated as of May 14, 2003 and Amendment No. 3 dated as of February 10, 2004, and as further amended, restated, supplemented or otherwise modified and in effect from time to time, "<u>Original Credit Agreement</u>"; all capitalized terms defined in the Original Credit Agreement and not otherwise defined herein have the meanings assigned to them in the Original Credit Agreement or in <u>Annex A</u> thereto); and

WHEREAS, Borrowers and Lenders, subject to Section 3 hereof, wish to amend the Original Credit Agreement in the manner set forth below.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the agreements, provisions and covenants herein contained, Borrowers, Credit Parties, Lenders and Agent agree as follows:

#### SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS TO ORIGINAL CREDIT AGREEMENT

Subject to the satisfaction of the conditions to effectiveness referred to in <u>Section 2</u> hereof, the Original Credit Agreement is hereby amended as follows:

(a) The Original Credit Agreement is hereby amended by adding the following new <u>Section 1.1(a)(iii)</u> immediately following <u>Section 1.1(a)</u>(<u>iii)</u>:

"(iii) Notwithstanding the foregoing, without the prior written consent of Requisite Lenders, Great Northern shall not request any Revolving Credit Advance or any issuance of a Letter of Credit, and unless Requisite Lenders shall have given consent in respect of any such request, no Lender shall be obligated to make any Revolving Credit Advance to Great Northern or advance any Letter of Credit for the account or at the request of Great Northern. Nothing contained in this Section 1.1(a)(iii) shall affect or limit Great Northern's liability in respect of any of its Obligations or any Obligations of H&E."

(b) Annex F of the Original Credit Agreement is hereby amended by adding the following new paragraph immediately following paragraph (h) appearing therein:

"Notwithstanding the foregoing, Great Northern shall have no obligation to deliver the Collateral Reports identified in this Annex F (other than the Collateral Reports

identified in paragraph (e) of this Annex F) (i) until such time as Agent shall request, or (ii) Requisite Lenders shall have given their prior written consent to any Revolving Credit Advance or issuance of any Letter of Credit pursuant to Section 1.1(a)(iii).

#### SECTION 2. CONDITIONS TO EFFECTIVENESS

This Amendment No. 4 shall become effective on November 1, 2004 (the "Effective Date") in the event that on or prior to such date:

- (a) Agent shall have received one or more counterparts of this Amendment No. 4 executed and delivered by Borrowers, the other Credit Parties, Agent and the Lenders; and
- (b) there shall be no continuing Default or Event of Default (after giving effect to the amendments contemplated by this Amendment No. 4 and the representations and warranties of the Borrowers contained in this Amendment No. 4 shall be true and correct in all material respects.

#### SECTION 3. LIMITATION ON SCOPE

Except as expressly amended hereby, all of the representations, warranties, terms, covenants and conditions of the Loan Documents shall remain in full force and effect in accordance with their respective terms. The amendments set forth herein shall be limited precisely as provided for herein and shall not be deemed to be waivers of, amendments of, consents to or modifications of any term or provision of the Loan Documents or any other document or instrument referred to therein or of any transaction or further or future action on the part of Borrowers or any other Credit Party requiring the consent of Agent or Lenders except to the extent specifically provided for herein. Agent and Lenders have not and shall not be deemed to have waived any of their respective rights and remedies against Borrowers or any other Credit Party for any existing or future Defaults or Event of Default.

#### SECTION 4. MISCELLANEOUS

(a) Borrowers hereby represent and warrant as follows:

(i) this Amendment No. 4 has been duly authorized and executed by Borrowers and each other Credit Party, and the Original Credit Agreement, as amended by this Amendment No. 4, is the legal, valid and binding obligation of Borrowers and each other Credit Party that is a party thereto, enforceable in accordance with its terms, except as such enforceability may be limited by applicable bankruptcy, moratorium and similar laws affecting the rights of creditors in general; and

(ii) Borrowers repeat and restate the representations and warranties of Borrowers contained in the Original Credit Agreement as of the date of this Amendment No. 4 and as of the Effective Date, except to the extent such representations and warranties relate to a specific date.

(b) This Amendment No. 4 is being delivered in the State of New York.

2

- (c) Borrowers and the other Credit Parties hereby ratify and confirm the Original Credit Agreement as amended hereby, and agree that, as amended hereby, the Original Credit Agreement remains in full force and effect.
- (d) Borrowers and the other Credit Parties agree that all Loan Documents to which each such Person is a party remain in full force and effect notwithstanding the execution and delivery of this Amendment No. 4.
- (e) This Amendment No. 4 may be executed by the parties hereto in separate counterparts, each of which when so executed and delivered shall be deemed an original, but all of which counterparts together shall constitute but one and the same instrument.
- (f) All references in the Loan Documents to the "Credit Agreement" and in the Original Credit Agreement as amended hereby to "this Agreement," "hereof," "herein" or the like shall mean and refer to the Original Credit Agreement as amended by this Amendment No. 4 (as well as by all subsequent amendments, restatements, modifications and supplements thereto).
- (g) Each of the following provisions of the Credit Agreement is hereby incorporated herein by this reference with the same effect as though set forth in its entirety herein, *mutatis mutandis*, and as if "this Agreement" in any such provision read "this Amendment No. 4": <u>Section 11.6</u>, (Severability), <u>Section 11.9</u> (Governing Law), <u>Section 11.10</u> (Notices), <u>Section 11.11</u> (Section Titles) <u>Section 11.13</u> (Waiver of Jury Trial), <u>Section 11.16</u> (Advice of Counsel) and <u>Section 11.17</u> (No Strict Construction).

[SIGNATURE PAGES FOLLOW]

3

WITNESS the due execution hereof by the respective duly authorized officers of the undersigned as of the date first written above.

#### **BORROWERS:**

H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES, L.L.C.

By: \_

Name: Title:

#### GREAT NORTHERN EQUIPMENT, INC.

By:

Name: Title:

**CREDIT PARTIES:** 

#### H&E HOLDINGS, L.L.C.

By: \_\_\_

Name: Title:

#### GNE INVESTMENTS, INC.

By:

Name: Title:

#### H&E FINANCE CORP.

By:

Name: Title:

SIGNATURE PAGE TO AMENDMENT NO. 4

#### AGENT AND LENDERS:

# GENERAL ELECTRIC CAPITAL CORPORATION,

as Agent and a Lender

By: \_

Name: Title:

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., as a Lender

By:

Name: Title:

**PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,** as a Lender

By: \_

Name: Title:

**LASALLE BUSINESS CREDIT, LLC**, as a Lender

By:

Name:

Title:

SIGNATURE PAGE TO AMENDMENT NO. 4

**ORIX FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.,** as a Lender

By: \_

Name: Title:

SIGNATURE PAGE TO AMENDMENT NO. 4

#### **AMENDMENT NO. 5**

This AMENDMENT No. 5 dated as of January 13, 2005 ("<u>Amendment No. 5</u>"), is entered into by and among H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES L.L.C., a Louisiana limited liability company ("<u>H&E</u>"), GREAT NORTHERN EQUIPMENT, INC., a Montana corporation ("<u>Great Northern</u>" and together with H&E, individually a "<u>Borrower</u>" and jointly, severally and collectively, the "<u>Borrowers</u>"), H&E HOLDINGS, L.L.C., a Delaware limited liability company, GNE INVESTMENTS, INC., a Washington corporation and H&E FINANCE CORP., a Delaware corporation, the persons designated as "Lenders" on the signature pages hereto, and GENERAL ELECTRIC CAPITAL CORPORATION, a Delaware corporation, as Agent.

WHEREAS, Borrowers, the other Credit Parties, the Lenders (as defined therein) and Agent are party to the Credit Agreement dated as of June 17, 2002 (including all annexes, exhibits and schedules thereto, and as amended by Amendment No. 1 dated as of March 31, 2003, Amendment No. 2 dated as of May 14, 2003, Amendment No. 3 dated as of February 10, 2004, and Amendment No. 4 dated as of October 26, 2004, and as further amended, restated, supplemented or otherwise modified and in effect from time to time, "<u>Original Credit Agreement</u>"; all capitalized terms defined in the Original Credit Agreement and not otherwise defined herein have the meanings assigned to them in the Original Credit Agreement or in <u>Annex A</u> thereto); and

WHEREAS, Borrowers and Requisite Lenders, subject to <u>Section 3</u> hereof, wish to amend the Original Credit Agreement in the manner set forth below.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the agreements, provisions and covenants herein contained, Borrowers, Credit Parties, Requisite Lenders and Agent agree as follows:

#### SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS TO ORIGINAL CREDIT AGREEMENT

Subject to the satisfaction of the conditions to effectiveness referred to in <u>Section 2</u> hereof, <u>Annex G</u> of the Original Credit Agreement is hereby amended by replacing the number "\$5,000,000" in paragraph (f) thereof with "\$8,500,000".

#### SECTION 2. CONDITIONS TO EFFECTIVENESS

This Amendment No. 5 shall become effective on the date, which must be prior to January 20, 2005 (the "<u>Effective Date</u>") on which the following conditions shall have been satisfied:

- (a) Agent shall have received one or more counterparts of this Amendment No. 5 executed and delivered by Borrowers, the other Credit Parties, Agent and Requisite Lenders; and
- (b) there shall be no continuing Default or Event of Default (after giving effect to the amendments contemplated by this Amendment No. 5), and the representations and warranties of the Borrowers contained in this Amendment No. 5 shall be true and correct in all material respects.

#### SECTION 3. LIMITATION ON SCOPE

Except as expressly amended hereby, all of the representations, warranties, terms, covenants and conditions of the Loan Documents shall remain in full force and effect in accordance with their respective terms. The amendments set forth herein shall be limited precisely as provided for herein and shall not be deemed to be waivers of, amendments of, consents to or modifications of any term or provision of the Loan Documents or any other document or instrument referred to therein or of any transaction or further or future action on the part of Borrowers or any other Credit Party requiring the consent of Agent or Lenders except to the extent specifically provided for herein. Agent and Lenders have not and shall not be deemed to have waived any of their respective rights and remedies against Borrowers or any other Credit Party for any existing or future Defaults or Event of Default.

#### SECTION 4. MISCELLANEOUS

(a) Borrowers hereby represent and warrant as follows:

(i) this Amendment No. 5 has been duly authorized and executed by Borrowers and each other Credit Party, and the Original Credit Agreement, as amended by this Amendment No. 5, is the legal, valid and binding obligation of Borrowers and each other Credit Party that is a party thereto, enforceable in accordance with its terms, except as such enforceability may be limited by applicable bankruptcy, moratorium and similar laws affecting the rights of creditors in general; and

(ii) Borrowers repeat and restate the representations and warranties of Borrowers contained in the Original Credit Agreement as of the date of this Amendment No. 5 and as of the Effective Date, except to the extent such representations and warranties relate to a specific date.

- (b) This Amendment No. 5 is being delivered in the State of New York.
- (c) Borrowers and the other Credit Parties hereby ratify and confirm the Original Credit Agreement as amended hereby, and agree that, as amended hereby, the Original Credit Agreement remains in full force and effect.

- (d) Borrowers and the other Credit Parties agree that all Loan Documents to which each such Person is a party remain in full force and effect notwithstanding the execution and delivery of this Amendment No. 5.
- This Amendment No. 5 may be executed by the parties hereto in separate counterparts, each of which when so executed and delivered shall (e) be deemed an original, but all of which counterparts together shall constitute but one and the same instrument.
- All references in the Loan Documents to the "Credit Agreement" and in the Original Credit Agreement as amended hereby to "this (f) Agreement," "hereof," "herein" or the like shall mean and refer to the Original Credit Agreement as amended by this Amendment No. 5 (as well as by all subsequent amendments, restatements, modifications and supplements thereto).
- Each of the following provisions of the Original Credit Agreement is hereby incorporated herein by this reference with the same effect as (g) though set forth in its

2

entirety herein, mutatis mutandis, and as if "this Agreement" in any such provision read "this Amendment No. 5": Section 11.6, (Severability), Section 11.9 (Governing Law), Section 11.10 (Notices), Section 11.11 (Section Titles) Section 11.13 (Waiver of Jury Trial), Section 11.16 (Advice of Counsel) and Section 11.17 (No Strict Construction).

#### [SIGNATURE PAGES FOLLOW]

3

WITNESS the due execution hereof by the respective duly authorized officers of the undersigned as of the date first written above.

#### **BORROWERS:**

#### **H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES, L.L.C.**

By:

Name: Title:

#### GREAT NORTHERN EQUIPMENT, INC.

By:

Name: Title:

#### **CREDIT PARTIES:**

#### H&E HOLDINGS, L.L.C.

By:

Name: Title:

### GNE INVESTMENTS, INC.

By:

Name:

Title:

#### **H&E FINANCE CORP.**

By:

Name: Title:

#### SIGNATURE PAGE TO AMENDMENT NO. 5

# GENERAL ELECTRIC CAPITAL

CORPORATION,

as Agent and a Lender

By:

Name: Title:

#### FLEET CAPITAL CORP.,

as a Lender

By:

Name:

Title:

# **PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,** as a Lender

a Lein

By:

Name: Title:

# LASALLE BUSINESS CREDIT, LLC,

as a Lender

By:

Name: Title:

# ORIX FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.,

as a Lender

By:

Name: Title:

# **GENERAL ELECTRIC VENDOR FINANCIAL SERVICES,** as a Lender

#### By:

Name: Title:

#### AMENDMENT NO. 7

This AMENDMENT No. 7 dated as of March 31, 2005 ("*Amendment No. 7*"), is entered into by and among H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES L.L.C., a Louisiana limited liability company ("*H&E*"), GREAT NORTHERN EQUIPMENT, INC., a Montana corporation ("*Great Northern*" and together with H&E, individually a "*Borrower*" and jointly, severally and collectively, the "*Borrowers*"), H&E HOLDINGS, L.L.C., a Delaware limited liability company, GNE INVESTMENTS, INC., a Washington corporation and H&E FINANCE CORP., a Delaware corporation, the persons designated as "Lenders" on the signature pages hereto, and GENERAL ELECTRIC CAPITAL CORPORATION, a Delaware corporation, as Agent.

WHEREAS, Borrowers, the other Credit Parties, the Lenders (as defined therein) and Agent are party to the Credit Agreement dated as of June 17, 2002 (including all annexes, exhibits and schedules thereto, and as amended by Amendment No. 1 dated as of March 31, 2003, Amendment No. 2 dated as of May 14, 2003, Amendment No. 3 dated as of February 10, 2004, Amendment No. 4 dated as of October 26, 2004, Amendment No. 5 dated as of January 13, 2005 and Amendment No. 6 dated as of March 11, 2005, and as further amended, restated, supplemented or otherwise modified and in effect from time to time, "*Original Credit Agreement*"; all capitalized terms defined in the Original Credit Agreement and not otherwise defined herein have the meanings assigned to them in the Original Credit Agreement or in *Annex A* thereto); and

WHEREAS, Borrowers and each Lender, subject to Section 3 hereof, wish to amend the Original Credit Agreement in the manner set forth below.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the agreements, provisions and covenants herein contained, Borrowers, Credit Parties, each Lender and Agent agree as follows:

#### SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS TO ORIGINAL CREDIT AGREEMENT

Subject to the satisfaction of the conditions to effectiveness referred to in Section 3 hereof, the Original Credit Agreement is hereby amended as follows:

Paragraph (d) of Annex E of the Original Credit Agreement is amended by adding the following new sentence to the end of such paragraph:

Notwithstanding the other provisions of this clause (d), in the case of H&E Holdings' audited Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year ended December 31, 2004 and the accompanying written statement of H&E Holdings' independent public accountants required to be delivered in connection therewith, the Credit Parties shall be deemed to have complied with the requirements of this clause (d) if such Financial Statements and accompanying report are delivered on or before September 30, 2005.

#### SECTION 2. CONSENTS AND WAIVERS.

1. *Waivers.* The Borrowers hereby acknowledge and agree that certain Events of Default have occurred and are continuing under the Credit Agreement as a result of the Borrowers' failure to comply with Section 4.03 and 4.04(b) of the Senior Note Indenture and the Senior Subordinated Note Indenture as a result of the Borrowers' failure to timely comply the reporting requirements contained therein for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2004 (such Events of Default are hereinafter collectively referred to as the "*Specified Events of Default*"). The Borrowers request, and the Lenders and the Agent hereby agree to waive any Event of Default arising under Section 8.1(e)(ii) of the Credit Agreement arising as a result of the occurrence of the Specified Events of Default. The waivers set forth above are limited solely to the Events of Default described herein and shall not be deemed to be a waiver of any other Default or Event of Default.

2. Lenders hereby consent to the amendment to the Senior Secured Note Indenture substantially in the form of *Exhibit A* attached hereto and the amendment to the Senior Subordinated Note Indenture substantially in the form of *Exhibit B* attached hereto.

#### SECTION 3. CONDITIONS TO EFFECTIVENESS

This Amendment No. 7 shall become effective on the date, which must be prior to March 31, 2005 (the "*Effective Date*") on which the following conditions shall have been satisfied:

- (a) Agent shall have received one or more counterparts of this Amendment No. 7 executed and delivered by Borrowers, the other Credit Parties, Agent and the Requisite Lenders; and
- (b) there shall be no continuing Default or Event of Default (after giving effect to the amendments contemplated by this Amendment No. 7), and the representations and warranties of the Borrowers contained in this Amendment No. 7 shall be true and correct in all material respects.

#### SECTION 4. LIMITATION ON SCOPE

Except as expressly amended hereby, all of the representations, warranties, terms, covenants and conditions of the Loan Documents shall remain in full force and effect in accordance with their respective terms. The amendments set forth herein shall be limited precisely as provided for herein and shall not be deemed to be waivers of, amendments of, consents to or modifications of any term or provision of the Loan Documents or any other document or instrument referred to therein or of any transaction or further or future action on the part of Borrowers or any other Credit Party requiring the consent of Agent or Lenders except to the extent specifically provided for herein. Agent and Lenders have not and shall not be deemed to have waived any of their respective rights and remedies against Borrowers or any other Credit Party for any existing or future Defaults or Event of Default.

#### SECTION 5. MISCELLANEOUS

(a) Borrowers hereby represent and warrant as follows:

(i) this Amendment No. 7 has been duly authorized and executed by Borrowers and each other Credit Party, and the Original Credit Agreement, as amended by this Amendment No. 7, is the legal, valid and binding obligation of Borrowers and each other Credit Party that is a party thereto, enforceable in accordance with its terms, except as such enforceability may be limited by applicable bankruptcy, moratorium and similar laws affecting the rights of creditors in general; and

(ii) Borrowers repeat and restate the representations and warranties of Borrowers contained in the Original Credit Agreement as of the date of this Amendment No. 7 and as of the Effective Date, except to the extent such representations and warranties relate to a specific date.

- (b) This Amendment No. 7 is being delivered in the State of New York.
- (C) Borrowers and the other Credit Parties hereby ratify and confirm the Original Credit Agreement as amended hereby, and agree that, as amended hereby, the Original Credit Agreement remains in full force and effect.
- (d) Borrowers and the other Credit Parties agree that all Loan Documents to which each such Person is a party remain in full force and effect notwithstanding the execution and delivery of this Amendment No. 7.

- (e) This Amendment No. 7 may be executed by the parties hereto in separate counterparts, each of which when so executed and delivered shall be deemed an original, but all of which counterparts together shall constitute but one and the same instrument.
- (f) All references in the Loan Documents to the "Credit Agreement" and in the Original Credit Agreement as amended hereby to "this Agreement," "hereof," "herein" or the like shall mean and refer to the Original Credit Agreement as amended by this Amendment No. 7 (as well as by all subsequent amendments, restatements, modifications and supplements thereto).
- (g) Each of the following provisions of the Original Credit Agreement is hereby incorporated herein by this reference with the same effect as though set forth in its entirety herein, *mutatis mutandis*, and as if "this Agreement" in any such provision read "this Amendment No. 7": Section 11.6, (Severability), Section 11.9 (Governing Law), Section 11.10 (Notices), Section 11.11 (Section Titles) Section 11.13 (Waiver of Jury Trial), Section 11.16 (Advice of Counsel) and Section 11.17 (No Strict Construction).

#### [SIGNATURE PAGES FOLLOW]

WITNESS the due execution hereof by the respective duly authorized officers of the undersigned as of the date first written above.

### **BORROWERS:**

### H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES, L.L.C.

By:

Name: Title:

## GREAT NORTHERN EQUIPMENT, INC.

By:

Name: Title:

#### **CREDIT PARTIES:**

#### H&E HOLDINGS, L.L.C.

By:

Name: Title:

## GNE INVESTMENTS, INC.

By:

Name: Title:

## H&E FINANCE CORP.

By:

Name: Title:

#### AGENT AND LENDERS:

# GENERAL ELECTRIC CAPITAL CORPORATION,

as Agent and a Lender By:

By:

Name: Title:

# FLEET CAPITAL CORPORATION,

as a Lender

By:

Name:

Title:

# PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,

as a Lender

By:

Name:

Title:

## LASALLE BUSINESS CREDIT, LLC,

as a Lender

By:

Name: Title:

## QuickLinks

AMENDMENT NO. 7 SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS TO ORIGINAL CREDIT AGREEMENT SECTION 2. CONSENTS AND WAIVERS. SECTION 3. CONDITIONS TO EFFECTIVENESS SECTION 4. LIMITATION ON SCOPE SECTION 5. MISCELLANEOUS

#### SEVERANCE AND CONSULTING AGREEMENT AND GENERAL RELEASE

**THIS SEVERANCE AND CONSULTING AGREEMENT AND GENERAL RELEASE** (the "<u>Agreement</u>") is made and entered into by and between H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. ("<u>H&E</u>") and Robert W. Hepler ("<u>Rob</u>").

#### **RECITALS**

WHEREAS, Rob's employment with H&E terminated effective March 1, 2004;

WHEREAS, by separate check, H&E has paid Rob for all vacation and paid-time-off accrued during the period of his employment with H&E;

WHEREAS, H&E desires Rob to provide general business consultancy and administrative services to H&E;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and of the mutual agreements hereinafter set forth, the parties declare and agree as follows:

#### WITNESSETH:

1. <u>Recitals</u>. The above Recitals are incorporated herein by reference.

2. <u>Severance, Consultancy, Restrictive Covenant and Settlement Payment</u>. Upon expiration of the revocation period in Paragraph 6 below, H&E agrees to pay Rob \$347,121.84, payable on a bi-weekly basis, commencing March 15, 2004, over the course of a period of twelve (12) months, in exchange for the promises described below.

3. <u>Consulting Period</u>. H&E hereby engages Rob for a period of twelve (12) months commencing March 2, 2004 (the "<u>Consulting Period</u>"), as a consultant to H&E, and its affiliates and subsidiaries, including but not limited to GNE Investments, Inc. and Great Northern Equipment, Inc., of all matters directly or indirectly related to H&E's business. Rob shall be available to furnish at the reasonable request of H&E such consulting and administrative services hereunder as may reasonably be requested by H&E; provided, however, that Rob shall not be obligated to furnish more than eight (8) hours of consulting services hereunder during a calendar month during the Consulting Period, except as regards consulting services necessary in development, preparation for deposition, preparation for trial, and trial, of that lawsuit entitled "H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. v. HEK Platforms & Hoists, Inc.," pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia, bearing Civil Action No. CV203-183.

4. <u>Release of H&E</u>. In consideration of the benefits provided in this Agreement, Rob releases, holds harmless and forever discharges H&E, any and all other subsidiary or affiliate companies of H&E, including but not limited to GNE Investments, Inc. and Great Northern Equipment, Inc., their predecessors, successors, assigns, transferees, past or present officers, managers, employees, directors, representatives, agents, partners, members, owners and shareholders, of and from any and all actions, claims, causes of action, suits, compensation,

deferred compensation, wages, benefits, vacation, sick or paid-time-off benefits, debts, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, rights, damages or demands which he has, may have or ever will have, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, including but not limited to, claims of wrongful discharge, retaliation, emotional distress, defamation, violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act, Americans With Disabilities Act, Family Medical Leave Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, federal and state civil rights laws and any other laws and regulations relating to employment discrimination, any claim under other state or federal statutory or common law, any claim arising out of or in connection with his employment or the termination thereof, and any claim based on an express or implied contract. Rob expressly waives the benefits of any rule or law that provides, in sum or substance, that a release does not extend to claims which the party does not know or suspect to exist in his favor at the time of executing the release, which if known by him, would have materially affected his settlement with the other party. Rob expressly waives and releases all such claims. This release is intended to be comprehensive.

5. <u>Release of Rob</u>. In consideration of the benefits provided in this Agreement, H&E releases, holds harmless and forever discharges Rob, his heirs, successors and assigns, of and from any and all action, claims, causes of action, suits, debts, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, rights, damages or demands which it had may have or ever will have, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, including but not limited to, any claim arising out of or in connection with his employment, and my claim arising out or in connection with that lawsuit entitled "Sunbelt Rentals, Inc. v. Head & Engquist Equipment, L.L.C., d/b/a H&E Hi-Lift, Robert Hepler, Douglas Kline, <u>et al</u>, pending in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, on the docket in the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division. H&E expressly waives the benefits of any rule or law that provides, in sum or substance, that a release time of executing the release, which if known by it, would have materially affected its settlement with the other party. H&E expressly waives and releases all such claims. This release is intended to be comprehensive.

6. <u>Release of Age Discrimination Claims</u>. Rob understands that he is releasing any and all claims or causes of action he has or may have under state and federal law concerning age discrimination, including but not limited to, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, 29 U.S.C. Section 621 <u>et seq</u>. He further acknowledges that he has been advised that he should seek the advise of his own independent attorney. He has been given 21 days in which to review and consider this Agreement. Should Rob elect to execute this Agreement sooner than 21 days after receiving it, he specifically and voluntarily waives the right to claim that he has not been allowed by H&E or by any other circumstances to consider this Agreement for a full 21 days. He has been advised that he has an additional 7 days after signing this Agreement to change his mind and rescind it without any penalty to him by giving notice to H&E. This Agreement will not become effective or enforceable until after this 7 day period has expired.

7. <u>Independent Contractor Status</u>. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, Rob shall be an independent contractor and shall not be considered an employee of H&E during the Consulting Period.

8. <u>Restrictive Covenants</u>. For purposes of this Agreement, "<u>Restrictive Covenants</u>" mean the provisions of this Paragraph 8. It is stipulated and agreed that H&E is engaged in the business of (i) selling, renting and servicing equipment for use in the manufacturing, industrial and construction industries, and (ii) the prevision of related services, together with any other lines of business in which H&E becomes engaged during the Consulting Period, being referred to herein as the "<u>Business</u>." It is further stipulated and agreed that as a result of Rob's employment by H&E and continuing during the Consultancy Period, Rob has had and may have access to valuable, highly confidential, privileged and proprietary information relating to H&E's business, including, without limitation, existing and future equipment information, customer lists, identities of distributors and distributorships, sales methods and techniques, cost and costing methods, pricing techniques and strategies, sales agreements with customers, profits and product line profitability information, unpublished present and future marketing strategies and promotional programs, and other information regarded by H&E as proprietary and confidential (the "<u>Confidential Information</u>"). It is further acknowledged that unauthorized use or disclosure by Rob of Confidential Information would seriously damage H&E in its business.

In consideration of the provisions of this Paragraph 8 and the payments referred to in Paragraph 2 hereof, which Rob acknowledges are legally sufficient to support enforceability by H&E of the Restrictive Covenants, Rob agrees as follows.

8.1 During the Consulting Period and thereafter, Rob will not, without H&E's prior written consent, use, divulge, disclose, furnish, or make accessible to any third person, company, or other entity, any aspect of the Confidential Information (other than as required in the ordinary discharge of Rob's duties hereunder).

- 8.2 During the Consultancy Period (also referred to as the "<u>Restrictive Period</u>"), Rob shall not directly or indirectly:
- (i) employ, or solicit the employment of, a person who at any time during the twelve (12) calendar months immediately preceding the date of this Agreement was employed by H&E;
- (ii) provide or solicit the provision of products or services, similar to those provided by H&E, at the "Designated Branches" (as defined below), to any person or entity who purchased or leased products or services from H&E at any time during the twelve (12) calendar months immediately preceding the date of this Agreement and for or with whom Rob had contact, responsibility or access to Confidential Information related to such person or entity; provided, however, the restrictions of this subsection (ii) shall be limited in scope to the "Territory" (as defined below) and to any office, branch, or other place of business in which, or in connection with which, Rob has had business contact with such person or entities during the twelve (12) calendar months immediately preceding the date of this Agreement;
- (iii) interfere or attempt to interfere with the terms or other aspects of the relationship between H&E and any person or entity from whom H&E has purchased

```
3
```

equipment, supplies or inventory at any time during the twelve (12) calendar months immediately preceding the date of this Agreement;

- (iv) compete with H&E, its successors and assigns by engaging, either directly or indirectly, with the Business as conducted at the Designated Branches or in a business substantially similar to the Business as conducted at the Designated Branches or in a business substantially similar to the Business as conducted at the Designated Branches, within the Territory (as defined below); or
- (v) provide information to, solicit or sell for, organize or own any interest in (either directly or through any parent, affiliate, or subsidiary corporation, partnership, or other entity), or become employed or engaged by or act as agent for any person, corporation, or other entity that is directly or indirectly engaged in a business in the "Territory" (as defined below), which is substantially similar to the Business as conducted at the Designated Branches or competitive with H&E's Business as conducted at the Designated Branches; provided however, that nothing herein shall preclude Rob from holding not more than one (1%) percent of the outstanding shares of any publicly held company which may be so engaged in a trade or business identical or similar to the Business of H&E.

As used herein, the "<u>Territory</u>" means: The geographical area within a fifty (50) mile radius of any H&E's branches, including but not limited to Jacksonville, Florida, in which, or in connection with which, Rob performed or was responsible for performing services at any tune during the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the date of this Agreement (the "<u>Designated Branches</u>").

8.3 In the event of a breach or a threatened breach by Rob of any of the Restrictive Covenants contained in this Paragraph 8, H&E, in addition to and not in derogation of any other remedies it may have, shall be entitled to any or all of the following remedies:

8.3.1 It is stipulated that a breach by Rob of the Restrictive Covenants would cause irreparable damage to H&E; H&E, in addition to any other rights or remedies which H&E may have, shall be entitled to an injunction restraining Rob from violating or continuing any violation of such Restrictive Covenants; such right to obtain injunctive relief may be exercised, at the option of H&E, concurrently with, prior to, after, or in lieu of, the exercise of any other rights or remedies which H&E may have as a result of any such breach or threatened breach;

8.3.2 Rob agrees that upon breach of any of the Restrictive Covenants, H&E shall be entitled to rescind any remaining payments referred to in Paragraph 2 hereof, and to repayment of all profits, royalties, compensation, and/or other benefits back which Rob directly or indirectly has realized or may realize as a result of, or in connection with any such breach.

8.3.3 Rob agrees that the Restrictive Period shall not include any period of time in which he is in violation of the Restrictive Covenants.

9. <u>Surrender of Books and Records</u>. Rob acknowledges that all files, records, lists, designs, specifications, formulas, books, products, and other materials owned and used by H&E

in connection with the conduct of its Business shall at all times remain the property of H&E, and that as of the date of this Agreement, he has or will have returned and surrendered to H&E all such materials, including but not limited to credit cards, keys, and access to computerized data.

10. <u>Tax Consequences</u>. Rob agrees that the tax consequences, if any, of the payments referred to in Paragraph 2 hereof will be his responsibility, and any tax liability for such payments shall not be the responsibility of H&E.

11. <u>Governing Law, Mandatory Venue</u>. This Agreement and the legal relations between the parties shall be governed by and construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida applicable to agreements made and to be performed wholly in the State of Florida, without regard to conflicts of law principles of any jurisdiction. ANY SUIT OR OTHER PROCEEDING ARISING OUT OF OR RELATED TO THIS AGREEMENT SHALL BE INSTITUTED AND MAINTAINED IN THE STATE OR FEDERAL COURTS SITTING IN EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LOUISIANA, ABSENT WRITTEN CONSENT OF H&E TO THE CONTRARY. ROB EXPRESSLY WAIVES ANY OBJECTIONS TO SUCH JURISDICTION AND VENUE AND IRREVOCABLY CONSENTS AND SUBMITS TO THE PERSONAL AND SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION OF SUCH COURTS IN ANY SUCH ACTION OR PROCEEDING.

12. <u>Entire Agreement</u>. This Agreement is the entire agreement between the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter hereof and shall not be amended, altered or modified in any manner whatsoever, except by a written instrument executed by the parties hereto. This Agreement supersedes all prior agreements between H&E and Rob with respect to the matters hereof and all prior agreements shall be void and of no further force or effect as of the date hereof.

13. <u>Notices</u>. Any notice contemplated, required, or permitted under this Agreement shall be sufficient if in writing and shall be deemed given when delivered personally or mailed by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to the addresses listed below:

(a)	To H&E:	H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. 11100 Mead Road, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Post Office Box 40247 Baton Rouge, LA 70815/70835 Attn: John M. Engquist
	with a copy to:	Taylor, Porter, Brooks & Phillips L.L.P. 451 Florida Street, 8 <sup>th</sup> Floor Post Office Box 2471 Baton Rouge, LA 70801/70821 Attn: John Ashley Moore
(b)	To Rob:	Robert W. Hepler 4548 Ortega Island Drive Jacksonville, FL 32210

5

or to such subsequent address(es) as the respective parties may hereafter by written notice designate.

14. <u>Counterparts</u>. This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be an original, but which together constitute one and the same instrument.

**WHEREFORE**, the parties acknowledge that each has read and understood the terms of this Agreement and has freely and voluntarily entered into this Agreement.

### **H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES L.L.C.**

By: /s/ John M. Engquist John M. Engquist, President and Chief Executive Officer Date: 3/5/04

/s/ Robert W. Hepler ROBERT W. HEPLER Date: 3/02/04

## CONSULTING AND NONCOMPETITION AGREEMENT

THIS CONSULTING AND NONCOMPETITION AGREEMENT ("<u>Agreement</u>") effective as of the 31<sup>st</sup> of July, 2004, between H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES L.L.C. ("<u>H&E</u>"), whose principal mailing address is 11100 Mead Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816, and GARY W. BAGLEY ("<u>Consultant</u>"), whose mailing address is 9 Altawood Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah 84092.

## **RECITALS:**

**WHEREAS,** H&E is the successor by statutory merger of Head & Engquist Equipment, L.L.C., and ICM Equipment Company L.L.C. ("ICM"), effective June 17, 2002;

**WHEREAS,** H&E is engaged in the business of selling, renting, and servicing manufacturing, industrial, construction, and mining equipment, and the provision of related services;

**WHEREAS**, H&E has heretofore employed Consultant as an officer and its Chairman pursuant to an Employment Agreement, initially dated February 4, 1998, and amended subsequently with the third and final amendment dated as of June 14, 2002 ("<u>Employment Agreement</u>"); and

WHEREAS, H&E and Consultant now desire to terminate the Employment Agreement and to have Consultant provide his services pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and of the mutual agreements hereinafter set forth, the parties declare and agree as follows:

#### WITNESSETH:

1. <u>Term and Duties</u>. H&E hereby appoints and engages Consultant, for a period of five (5) years (the "<u>Consulting Period</u>") commencing on the date hereof, as a consultant to H&E and its affiliates and subsidiaries, of all matters directly or indirectly related to H&E's business. The Consultant shall be available to furnish at the reasonable request of the Board of Directors, the CEO and/or the CFO of H&E such consulting services hereunder as may reasonably be requested by H&E; provided, however, that Consultant shall not be obligated to furnish more than sixteen (16) hours of consulting services hereunder during any business week averaged over the course of the preceding year during the Consulting Period.

2. <u>Continuation of Term</u>. At the end of the Consulting Period, this Agreement thereafter may be renewed on a year to year basis, subject to the mutual agreement of the parties.

3. <u>Effect on Employment Agreement</u>. The Employment Agreement is terminated effective the date of this Agreement. Notwithstanding that termination, the provisions in the Employment Agreement for the payment of Deferred Compensation as defined in the Employment Agreement and as subsequently defined in the Deferred Compensation Agreement, the Security Holders Agreement, and the Registration Rights Agreement, all executed by

Consultant as of June 17, 2002, and any and all other rights vested in Consultant prior to the date of this Agreement remain in full force and effect.

4. <u>Nondisclosure</u>. Consultant agrees to continue to be bound by the nondisclosure requirements of Article V of the Employment Agreement. However the noncompetition and nonsolicitation provisions of Article VI of the Employment Agreement are replaced by the "Restrictive Covenants" as defined and set forth in Paragraph 7 of this Agreement.

5. <u>Deferred Wages</u>. It is agreed that the termination of the Employment Agreement is on a no cause basis and due to a voluntary retirement from H&E by Consultant as an officer and employee. As a consequence, past wages owed to Consultant which have been retained by H&E on a deferred basis, amounting to the sum of \$ 1,414,256.61 as of July 31<sup>st</sup> 2004, are due to Consultant immediately upon the execution of this Agreement.

- 6. <u>Compensation, Etc</u>.
  - (a) As full and complete compensation for any and all services which the Consultant may render hereunder, H&E shall pay Consultant the sum of \$150,000.00 per annum. Consultant shall be responsible for all federal and state taxes and other payments as required by applicable law. The fee shall be paid in equal portions to Consultant bi-weekly.
  - (b) H&E will reimburse Consultant for all reasonable and actual out-of-pocket expenses incurred by him in the performance of his duties hereunder upon presentation of appropriate documentation.
  - (c) Consultant will be provided an office, appropriate office supplies and equipment, and such support and secretarial staff as is reasonably needed by Consultant to meet his obligations under this Agreement. The expenses of the office and staff will be paid by H&E.
  - (d) In keeping with past treatment of retiring senior executive officers of H&E, and subject to Subparagraph (e) below, H&E will, during the Consulting Period and any continuation of the term hereunder, continue to provide the Consultant and his spouse with the hospitalization and medical insurance group plan coverages that were available to him pursuant to the Employment Agreement immediately prior to the effectiveness of this Agreement or otherwise provide hospitalization and medical insurance group plan coverages that are substantially similar thereto in all material respects.
  - (e) As an additional consideration for obligations assumed hereunder by Consultant, and the services Consultant hereby agrees to furnish to H&E, H&E agrees to reimburse Consultant for any and all medical expenses incurred by Consultant and his spouse to the extent, but only to the extent, that such medical expenses are allowable as medical expenses under Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code (the "<u>Code</u>"), and such medical expenses are not otherwise paid or payable by H&E or by any group or

individual health or insurance policy or plan for the benefit of Consultant and his spouse or by any governmental program, including Medicare and Medicaid, of which Consultant and his spouse is a beneficiary. Consultant agrees, as an express condition of entitlement to the reimbursement provided for in this Paragraph, that Consultant and his spouse shall promptly apply for enrollment in any private or public program or health or insurance plan for which Consultant and his spouse may be eligible, and shall continuously maintain eligibility for and participation in such programs, policies or plans. Consultant agrees, as an express condition of entitlement to the reimbursement provided for in this Paragraph, that Consultant shall execute such authorizations, consents or other documents as may be necessary to permit H&E to make a determination whether any claims for reimbursement under this Paragraph have been paid or are payable under any private or public program or health insurance policy or plan. Regardless of eligibility for payment under the terms of this Paragraph, H&E shall have no liability for, and shall not be required to reimburse Consultant for, any claims submitted more than six (6) months after the date of the furnishing of any services or the purchase of any goods or supplies. Nothing in this Paragraph is intended to confer upon or create any rights, remedies, obligations, or liabilities whatsoever in any person other than H&E. Nothing herein shall be deemed to be the establishment of a qualified plan under Section 125 of the Code, nor the establishment of an employee welfare benefit plan under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

7. Restrictive Covenants. For purposes of this Agreement, "Restrictive Covenants" mean the provisions of this Paragraph 7. It is stipulated and agreed that H&E is engaged in the business of (i) selling, renting and servicing equipment for use in the manufacturing, industrial, construction, and mining industries, and (ii) the provision of related services, together with any other lines of business in which H&E becomes engaged during the Consulting Period, being referred to herein as the "Business." It is further stipulated and agreed that as a result of Consultant's employment by H&E and continuing during the Consultancy Period, Consultant has had and may have access to valuable, highly confidential, privileged and proprietary information relating to H&E's business, including, without limitation, existing and future equipment information, customer lists, identities of distributors and distributorships, sales methods and techniques, cost and costing methods, pricing techniques and strategies, sales agreements with customers, profits and product line profitability information, unpublished present and future marketing strategies and promotional programs, and other information regarded by H&E as proprietary and confidential Information"). It is further acknowledged that unauthorized use or disclosure by Consultant of Confidential Information would seriously damage H&E in its business.

In consideration of the payments and benefits referred to in Paragraphs 1 through 6 of this Agreement, which Consultant acknowledges are legally sufficient to support enforceability by H&E of the Restrictive Covenants, Consultant agrees as follows:

3

7.1 During the Consulting Period and thereafter, Consultant will not, without H&E's prior written consent, use, divulge, disclose, furnish, or make accessible to any third person, company, or other entity, any aspect of the Confidential Information (other than as required in the ordinary discharge of Consultant's duties hereunder).

7.2 During the Consultancy Period, and for the period in which H&E continues to provide Consultant with benefits under this Agreement (also referred to as the "<u>Restrictive Period</u>"), Consultant shall not directly or indirectly:

(i) employ, or solicit the employment of, any person who at any time during the twelve (12) calendar months immediately preceding the date of this Agreement was employed by H&E;

(ii) provide, or solicit the provision, of products or services, similar to those provided by H&E, at the "Designated Branches" (as defined below), to any person or entity who purchased or leased products or services from H&E at any time during the twelve (12) calendar months immediately preceding the date of this Agreement; provided, however, the restrictions of this subsection (ii) shall be limited in scope to the "Territory" (as defined below);

(iii) interfere, or attempt to interfere, with the terms or other aspects of the relationship between H&E and any person or entity from whom H&E has purchased equipment, supplies or inventory at any time during the twelve (12) calendar months immediately preceding the date of this Agreement;

(iv) compete with H&E, its successors and assigns by entering, either directly or indirectly, in the Business as conducted at the Designated Branches, or in a business substantially similar to the Business as conducted at the Designated Branches, or in a business substantially similar to the Business as conducted at the Designated Branches, or in a business substantially similar to the Business as conducted at the Designated Branches, or in a business substantially similar to the Business as conducted at the Designated Branches, or in a business substantially similar to the Business as conducted at the Designated Branches, within the Territory (as defined below); or

(v) provide information to, solicit or sell for, organize or own any interest in (either directly or through any parent, affiliate, or subsidiary corporation, partnership, or other entity), or become employed or engaged by or act as agent for any person, corporation, or other entity that is directly or indirectly engaged in a business in the "Territory" (as defined below), which is substantially similar to the Business as conducted at the Designated Branches or competitive with H&E's Business as conducted at the Designated Branches; provided, however, that nothing herein shall preclude Consultant from holding not more than one (1%) percent of the outstanding shares of any publicly-held company which may be so engaged in a trade or business substantially similar to or competitive with the Business of H&E, or is substantially similar to the Business as conducted at the Designated Branches or competitive with H&E's Business as conducted at the Designated Branches.

As used herein, the term "<u>Territory</u>" means: The geographical area within a fifty (50) mile radius of any of H&E's branches, including but not limited to, branches of H&E's affiliates and subsidiaries (the "<u>Designated Branches</u>").

7.3 In the event of a breach, or a threatened breach, by Consultant of any of the Restrictive Covenants contained in this Paragraph 7, H&E, in addition to, and not in derogation of, any other remedies it may have, shall be entitled to any or all of the following remedies:

7.3.1. It is stipulated that a breach by Consultant of the Restrictive Covenants would cause irreparable damage to H&E; H&E, in addition to any other rights or remedies which H&E may have, shall be entitled to an injunction restraining Consultant from violating or continuing any violation of such Restrictive Covenants; such right to obtain injunctive relief may be exercised, at the option of H&E, concurrently with, prior to, after, or in lieu of, the exercise of any other rights or remedies which H&E may have as a result of any such breach or threatened breach;

7.3.2. Consultant agrees that upon breach of any of the Restrictive Covenants, H&E shall be entitled to rescind any remaining payments referred to in Paragraphs 1 through 6 hereof, and to repayment of all profits, royalties, compensation, and/or other benefits back which Consultant directly or indirectly has realized or may realize as a result of, or in connection with, any such breach.

7.3.3. Consultant agrees that the Restrictive Period shall not include any period of time in which he is in violation of the Restrictive Covenants.

8. <u>Status</u>. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Consultant shall be an independent contractor and shall not be considered an employee of H&E.

9. <u>Entire Agreement</u>. This Agreement is the entire agreement between the parties hereto with respect to subject matter hereof and shall not be amended, altered or modified in any manner whatsoever, except by a written instrument executed by the parties hereto. This Agreement supersedes all prior agreements between the Company and Consultant with respect to the matter hereof and all prior agreements shall be void and of no further force or effect as of the date hereof.

10. <u>Governing Law</u>. This Agreement and the legal relations between the parties shall be governed by and construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Utah applicable to agreements made and to be performed wholly in the State of Utah, without regard to conflicts of law principles of any jurisdiction. ANY SUIT OR OTHER PROCEEDING ARISING OUT OF OR RELATED TO THIS AGREEMENT SHALL BE INSTITUTED AND MAINTAINED IN THE STATE OR FEDERAL COURTS SITTING IN EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LOUISIANA, ABSENT WRITTEN CONSENT OF H&E TO THE CONTRARY. CONSULTANT EXPRESSLY WAIVES ANY OBJECTIONS TO SUCH JURISDICTION AND VENUE AND IRREVOCABLY CONSENTS AND SUBMITS TO THE PERSONAL AND SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION OF SUCH COURTS IN ANY SUCH ACTION OR PROCEEDING.

11. <u>Binding Effect</u>. This Agreement shall be binding upon the heirs, assigns, and successors of the parties hereto, including any successor to H&E by way of reorganization or restructuring, sale or merger.

5

12. <u>Attorney Fees</u>. In the event of a breach of this Agreement the prevailing party shall be entitled to its cost of court and reasonable attorneys fees.

13. <u>Notices</u>. All notices, requests, or other communications hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given if delivered or mailed first class, certified mail, postage prepaid, addressed as set forth:

To H&E:	H&E Equipment Services L.L.C.
	11100 Mead Road, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
	Post Office Box 40247
	Baton Rouge, LA 70815/70835
	Attn: John M. Engquist
with a copy to:	Taylor, Porter, Brooks & Phillips L.L.P.
	451 Florida Street, 8 <sup>th</sup> Floor
	Post Office Box 2471
	Baton Rouge, LA 70801/70821
	Attn: John Ashley Moore
To Consultant:	Gary W. Bagley
	9 Altawood Drive
	Salt Lake City, UT 84092

or to such other address as may have been furnished in writing to the party giving the notice by the party to whom the notice is to be given.

14. <u>Counterparts</u>. This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be an original, but which together constitute one and the same instrument.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have duly executed this Consulting and Noncompetition Agreement on 31 day of July, 2004.

# **H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES L.L.C.**

By: /s/ John M. Engquist

John M. Engquist, its President and Chief Executive Officer

# **CONSULTANT:**

/s/ Gary W. Bagley Gary W. Bagley

#### CERTIFICATIONS

I, John M. Engquist, President and Chief Executive Officer of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C., certify that:

- 1. I have reviewed this report on Form 10-K of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C.;
- <sup>2</sup> Based on my knowledge, this annual report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this annual report;
- 3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of and for the periods presented in this annual report;
- 4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15e and 15d-15e) for the registrant and have:
  - (a) designed disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such internal control and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - (b) evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures; and
  - (c) presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation and disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
- 5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's Board of Directors (or persons performing the equivalent function):
  - (a) All significant deficiencies in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: September 28, 2005

By: /s/ JOHN M. ENGQUIST

John M. Engquist President and Chief Executive Officer

**CERTIFICATIONS** 

#### CERTIFICATIONS

I, Leslie S. Magee, Chief Financial Officer of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C., certify that:

- 1. I have reviewed this report on Form 10-K of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C.;
- <sup>2</sup> Based on my knowledge, this annual report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this annual report;
- 3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of and for the periods presented in this annual report;
- 4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15e and 15d-15e) for the registrant and have:
  - (a) designed disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such internal control and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - (b) evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures; and
  - (c) presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation and disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
- 5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's Board of Directors (or persons performing the equivalent function):
  - (a) All significant deficiencies in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: September 28, 2005

By: /s/ LESLIE S. MAGEE

Leslie S. Magee Chief Financial Officer

**CERTIFICATIONS** 

## CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350 AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

In connection with the Annual Report of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (the "Company") on Form 10-K for the period ending December 31, 2004 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, John M. Engquist, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350, as adopted pursuant to § 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

- (1) the Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) the information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

/s/ JOHN M. ENGQUIST

John M. Engquist President and Chief Executive Officer

September 28, 2005

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350 AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

## CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350 AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

In connection with the Annual Report of H&E Equipment Services L.L.C. (the "Company") on Form 10-K for the period ending December 31, 2004 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, Leslie S. Magee, Chief Financial Officer of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350, as adopted pursuant to § 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

- (1) the Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) the information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

/s/ Leslie S. Magee

Leslie S. Magee Chief Financial Officer

September 28, 2005

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350 AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002