

COMFORT SYSTEMS USA INC  
Form 10-Q  
October 25, 2018  
Table of Contents

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 10 Q

(Mark One)

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

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2018

OR

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

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission file number: 1 13011

COMFORT SYSTEMS USA, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE 76 0526487  
(State or other jurisdiction of (I.R.S. Employer  
Incorporation or Organization) Identification No.)  
675 Bering Drive  
Suite 400  
Houston, Texas 77057  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip  
Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (713) 830 9600

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S T (Section 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files). Yes No

Edgar Filing: COMFORT SYSTEMS USA INC - Form 10-Q

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of “large accelerated filer,” “accelerated filer,” “smaller reporting company,” and “emerging growth company” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer   Accelerated filer   Non accelerated filer   Smaller reporting company   Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

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

The number of shares outstanding of the issuer’s common stock as of October 22, 2018 was 37,149,822 (excluding treasury shares of 3,973,543).

Table of Contents

COMFORT SYSTEMS USA, INC.

INDEX TO FORM 10-Q

FOR THE QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

	Page
Part I—Financial Information	
Item 1—Financial Statements	
<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets</u>	1
<u>Consolidated Statements of Operations</u>	2
<u>Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity</u>	3
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows</u>	4
<u>Condensed Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	5
<u>Item 2—Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	18
<u>Item 3—Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk</u>	28
<u>Item 4—Controls and Procedures</u>	29
Part II—Other Information	29
<u>Item 1—Legal Proceedings</u>	29
<u>Item 1A—Risk Factors</u>	29
<u>Item 2—Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u>	29
<u>Item 6—Exhibits</u>	31
<u>Signatures</u>	32

---

Table of Contents

COMFORT SYSTEMS USA, INC.

## CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(In Thousands, Except Share Amounts)

	September 30, 2018 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2017
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 19,248	\$ 36,542
Billed accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$5,660 and \$3,400, respectively	497,861	382,867
Unbilled accounts receivable	40,251	—
Other receivables	12,187	21,235
Inventories	12,795	10,303
Prepaid expenses and other	6,329	8,294
Costs and estimated earnings in excess of billings	11,008	30,116
Total current assets	599,679	489,357
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET	102,960	87,591
GOODWILL	231,190	200,584
IDENTIFIABLE INTANGIBLE ASSETS, NET	98,712	76,044
DEFERRED TAX ASSETS	20,018	22,966
OTHER NONCURRENT ASSETS	7,381	4,578
Total assets	\$ 1,059,940	\$ 881,120
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>		
Current maturities of long-term debt	\$ 3,279	\$ 613
Accounts payable	150,880	132,011
Accrued compensation and benefits	81,888	69,217
Billings in excess of costs and estimated earnings	131,152	106,005
Accrued self-insurance	33,531	32,228
Other current liabilities	45,116	33,654
Total current liabilities	445,846	373,728
LONG-TERM DEBT	93,672	59,926
DEFERRED TAX LIABILITIES	4,835	2,263
OTHER LONG-TERM LIABILITIES	22,820	27,258
Total liabilities	567,173	463,175
<b>COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES</b>		
<b>STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY:</b>		
Preferred stock, \$.01 par, 5,000,000 shares authorized, none issued and outstanding	—	—
Common stock, \$.01 par, 102,969,912 shares authorized, 41,123,365 and 41,123,365 shares issued, respectively	411	411
Treasury stock, at cost, 3,902,843 and 3,936,291 shares, respectively	(71,084)	(63,519)
Additional paid-in capital	316,354	312,784
Retained earnings	247,086	168,269

Edgar Filing: COMFORT SYSTEMS USA INC - Form 10-Q

Total stockholders' equity	492,767	417,945
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 1,059,940	\$ 881,120

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

1

---

Table of Contents

COMFORT SYSTEMS USA, INC.

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

(In Thousands, Except Per Share Data)

(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30,		September 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
REVENUE	\$ 594,536	\$ 480,851	\$ 1,594,520	\$ 1,326,850
COST OF SERVICES	466,668	379,993	1,266,416	1,054,300
Gross profit	127,868	100,858	328,104	272,550
SELLING, GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	75,297	66,707	216,528	196,553
GOODWILL IMPAIRMENT	—	—	—	1,105
GAIN ON SALE OF ASSETS	(219)	(184)	(630)	(464)
Operating income	52,790	34,335	112,206	75,356
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE):				
Interest income	25	16	53	55
Interest expense	(1,152)	(961)	(2,601)	(2,392)
Changes in the fair value of contingent earn-out obligations	434	2,469	493	1,845
Other	39	10	4,062	57
Other income (expense)	(654)	1,534	2,007	(435)
INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES	52,136	35,869	114,213	74,921
PROVISION FOR INCOME TAXES	13,595	13,585	26,466	27,188
NET INCOME	\$ 38,541	\$ 22,284	\$ 87,747	\$ 47,733
INCOME PER SHARE:				
Basic	\$ 1.03	\$ 0.60	\$ 2.36	\$ 1.28
Diluted	\$ 1.02	\$ 0.59	\$ 2.33	\$ 1.27
SHARES USED IN COMPUTING INCOME PER SHARE:				
Basic	37,294	37,232	37,236	37,259
Diluted	37,667	37,626	37,634	37,684
DIVIDENDS PER SHARE	\$ 0.085	\$ 0.075	\$ 0.240	\$ 0.220

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

Table of Contents

COMFORT SYSTEMS USA, INC.

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

(In Thousands, Except Share Amounts)

	Common Stock Shares	Common Stock Amount	Treasury Stock Shares	Treasury Stock Amount	Additional Paid-In Capital	Retained Earnings	Total Stockholders' Equity
BALANCE							
AT							
DECEMBER							
31, 2016	41,123,365	\$ 411	(3,914,251)	\$ (57,387)	\$ 309,625	\$ 123,984	\$ 376,633
Net income	—	—	—	—	—	55,272	55,272
Issuance of Stock:							
Issuance of shares for options exercised	—	—	145,746	2,257	(205)	—	2,052
Issuance of restricted stock & performance stock Shares received in lieu of tax withholding payment on vested restricted stock	—	—	134,646	2,037	(421)	—	1,616
Stock-based compensation	—	—	(39,335)	(1,419)	—	—	(1,419)
Dividends	—	—	—	—	3,785	—	3,785
Share repurchase	—	—	—	—	—	(10,987)	(10,987)
Share repurchase	—	—	(263,097)	(9,007)	—	—	(9,007)
BALANCE							
AT							
DECEMBER							
31, 2017	41,123,365	411	(3,936,291)	(63,519)	312,784	168,269	417,945
Net income (unaudited)	—	—	—	—	—	87,747	87,747
Issuance of Stock:							
Issuance of shares for options exercised	—	—	191,875	3,321	(422)	—	2,899

(unaudited) Issuance of restricted stock & performance stock								
(unaudited) Shares received in lieu of tax withholding payment on vested restricted stock	—	—	129,569	2,227	(4)	—		2,223
(unaudited) Stock-based compensation	—	—	(36,967)	(1,540)	—	—		(1,540)
(unaudited) Dividends	—	—	—	—	3,996	—		3,996
(unaudited) Share repurchase	—	—	—	—	—	(8,930)		(8,930)
(unaudited) BALANCE	—	—	(251,029)	(11,573)	—	—		(11,573)
AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2018								
(unaudited)	41,123,365	\$ 411	(3,902,843)	\$ (71,084)	\$ 316,354	\$ 247,086		\$ 492,767

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



Table of Contents

COMFORT SYSTEMS USA, INC.

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(In Thousands)

(Unaudited)

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2018	2017
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Net income	\$ 87,747	\$ 47,733
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities—		
Amortization of identifiable intangible assets	14,102	12,622
Depreciation expense	16,630	14,714
Goodwill impairment	—	1,105
Bad debt expense	2,905	29
Deferred tax provision (benefit)	5,520	(112)
Amortization of debt financing costs	288	282
Gain on sale of assets	(630)	(464)
Changes in the fair value of contingent earn-out obligations	(493)	(1,845)
Stock-based compensation	6,021	4,317
Changes in operating assets and liabilities, net of effects of acquisitions and divestitures—		
(Increase) decrease in—		
Receivables, net	(80,726)	(38,051)
Inventories	(1,917)	(1,059)
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	3,085	(608)
Costs and estimated earnings in excess of billings and unbilled accounts receivable	(18,328)	(7,348)
Other noncurrent assets	(199)	913
Increase (decrease) in—		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	19,537	22,595
Billings in excess of costs and estimated earnings	17,682	10,309
Other long-term liabilities	(3,222)	560
Net cash provided by operating activities	68,002	65,692
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Purchases of property and equipment	(22,059)	(16,830)
Proceeds from sales of property and equipment	1,077	784
Cash paid for acquisitions, net of cash acquired	(65,287)	(94,860)
Net cash used in investing activities	(86,269)	(110,906)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Proceeds from revolving line of credit	104,000	140,000
Payments on revolving line of credit	(79,000)	(74,000)
Payments on other debt	(1,094)	(798)
Payments on capital lease obligations	—	(133)
Debt financing costs	(844)	—
Payments of dividends to stockholders	(8,930)	(8,199)

Edgar Filing: COMFORT SYSTEMS USA INC - Form 10-Q

Share repurchase	(11,573)	(8,909)
Shares received in lieu of tax withholding	(1,540)	(1,419)
Proceeds from exercise of options	2,899	1,296
Deferred acquisition payments	(750)	(2,802)
Payments for contingent consideration arrangements	(2,195)	(2,400)
Net cash provided by financing activities	973	42,636
NET DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(17,294)	(2,578)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, beginning of period	36,542	32,074
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, end of period	\$ 19,248	\$ 29,496

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

Table of Contents

COMFORT SYSTEMS USA, INC.

CONDENSED NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

September 30, 2018

(Unaudited)

1. Business and Organization

Comfort Systems USA, Inc., a Delaware corporation, provides comprehensive mechanical contracting services, which principally includes heating, ventilation and air conditioning (“HVAC”), plumbing, piping and controls, as well as off-site construction, electrical, monitoring and fire protection. We install, maintain, repair and replace products and systems throughout the United States. Approximately 37.6% of our consolidated 2018 revenue is attributable to installation of systems in newly constructed facilities, with the remaining 62.4% attributable to maintenance, repair and replacement services. The terms “Comfort Systems,” “we,” “us,” or “the Company,” refer to Comfort Systems USA, Inc. or Comfort Systems USA, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries, as appropriate in the context.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

These interim statements should be read in conjunction with the historical Consolidated Financial Statements and related notes of Comfort Systems included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) for the year ended December 31, 2017 (the “Form 10-K”).

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements were prepared using generally accepted accounting principles for interim financial information and the instructions to Form 10-Q and applicable rules of Regulation S-X of the SEC. Accordingly, these financial statements do not include all the footnotes required by generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements and should be read in conjunction with the Form 10-K. We believe all adjustments necessary for a fair presentation of these interim statements have been included and are of a normal and recurring nature. The results of operations for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of the results for the full fiscal year.

#### Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires the use of estimates and assumptions by management in determining the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, revenue and expenses and disclosures regarding contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates. The most significant estimates used in our financial statements affect revenue and cost recognition for construction contracts, the allowance for doubtful accounts, self-insurance accruals, deferred tax assets, warranty accruals, fair value accounting for acquisitions and the quantification of fair value for reporting units in connection with our goodwill impairment testing.

#### Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) issued Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) No. 2014-09, “Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606).” Topic 606 supersedes the revenue recognition requirements in “Revenue Recognition (Topic 605)” and requires entities to recognize revenue when control of the promised goods or services is transferred to customers at an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. We adopted Topic 606 as of January 1, 2018.

In accordance with Topic 606, we applied the modified retrospective method to those contracts which were not completed as of January 1, 2018. Under the modified retrospective method, the cumulative effect of applying the standard is recognized at the date of initial application. Results for reporting periods beginning after January 1, 2018 are

## Table of Contents

presented under Topic 606, while prior period amounts are not adjusted and continue to be reported in accordance with our historic accounting under Topic 605.

In implementing Topic 606, we were required to recalculate the revenue earned on any work in process at the implementation date and to restate the revenue and cost of services as if Topic 606 had been followed from the inception of the contract. In recalculating costs and revenue under Topic 606 guidelines, we identified no material difference in the account balances. Since a material difference was not found, no retrospective analysis of account balance changes was required.

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-02, “Leases (Topic 842)”. The standard requires substantially all leases (with the exception of leases with a term of one year or less) to be recorded on the balance sheet using a method referred to as the right-of-use asset approach. ASU 2016-02 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018 and interim periods within those years. Early adoption is permitted. Full retrospective application is prohibited. We currently plan to adopt the new standard on January 1, 2019 using a transition method allowed by ASU No. 2018-11, “Leases (Topic 842) Targeted Improvements” where lessees apply the new lease standard on the adoption date and recognize a cumulative-effect adjustment to the opening balance of retained earnings in the period of adoption. We are currently evaluating the potential impact of this authoritative guidance on our consolidated financial statements, but currently do not expect it to have a significant impact to our Statement of Operations or Cash Flows. Our Balance Sheet will be impacted from this standard by recording right-of-use assets and lease liabilities.

In August 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-15, “Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230): Classification of Certain Cash Receipts and Cash Payments”. This standard provides guidance on how certain cash receipts and cash payments are presented and classified in the statement of cash flows and is intended to reduce diversity in practice with respect to these items. The standard is applied using a retrospective transition method and is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017, including interim periods within those fiscal years. Early adoption is permitted. We adopted this standard on January 1, 2018 and the adoption did not have any impact on our consolidated financial statements.

## Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognized when control of the promised goods or services is transferred to our customers, in an amount that reflects the consideration to which we expect to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. Sales-based taxes are excluded from revenue.

We provide comprehensive mechanical contracting services, which principally includes HVAC, plumbing, piping and controls, as well as off site construction, electrical, monitoring and fire protection. We install, maintain, repair and replace products and systems throughout the United States. All of our revenue is recognized over time as we deliver

goods and services to our customers. Revenue can be earned based on an agreed upon fixed price or based on actual costs incurred marked up at an agreed upon percentage.

For fixed price agreements, we use the percentage of completion method of accounting under which contract revenue recognizable at any time during the life of a contract is determined by multiplying expected total contract revenue by the percentage of contract costs incurred at any time to total estimated contract costs. More specifically, as part of the negotiation and bidding process to obtain installation contracts, we estimate our contract costs, which include all direct materials, labor and subcontract costs and indirect costs related to contract performance, such as indirect labor, supplies, tools, repairs and depreciation costs. These contract costs are included in our results of operations under the caption "Cost of Services." Then, as we perform under those contracts, we measure costs incurred, compare them to total estimated costs to complete the contract and recognize a corresponding proportion of contract revenue. Labor costs are considered to be incurred as the work is performed. Subcontractor labor is recognized as the work is performed. Non labor project costs consist of purchased equipment, prefabricated materials and other materials. Purchased equipment on our projects is substantially produced to job specifications and is a value-added element to our work. The costs are considered to be incurred when title is transferred to us, which typically is upon delivery to the work site. Prefabricated materials, such as ductwork and piping, are generally performed at our shops and recognized as contract costs when fabricated for the unique specifications of the job. Other materials costs are generally recorded when

Table of Contents

delivered to the work site. This measurement and comparison process requires updates to the estimate of total costs to complete the contract, and these updates may include subjective assessments and judgments.

We account for a contract when: (i) it has approval and commitment from both parties, (ii) the rights of the parties are identified, (iii) payment terms are identified, (iv) the contract has commercial substance, and (v) collectability of consideration is probable. We consider the start of a project to be when the above criteria have been met and we either have written authorization from the customer to proceed or an executed contract.

Selling, marketing and estimation costs incurred in relation to selling contracts are expensed as incurred. On rare occasions, we may incur significant expense related to selling a contract that we only incurred because we sold that contract. If this occurs, we capitalize that cost and amortize it on a straight-line basis over the expected life of the job. We do not currently have any capitalized selling, marketing, or estimation costs on our Balance Sheet and did not incur any impairment loss in the current year.

We generally do not incur significant incremental costs related to obtaining or fulfilling a contract prior to the start of a project. On rare occasions, when significant pre contract costs are incurred, they are capitalized and amortized on a percentage of completion basis over the life of the contract. We do not currently have any capitalized obtaining or fulfillment costs on our Balance Sheet and did not incur any impairment loss on such costs in the current year.

Project contracts typically provide for a schedule of billings or invoices to the customer based on our job to date percentage of completion of specific tasks inherent in the fulfillment of our performance obligation(s). The schedules for such billings usually do not precisely match the schedule on which costs are incurred. As a result, contract revenue recognized in the statement of operations can and usually does differ from amounts that can be billed or invoiced to the customer at any point during the contract. Amounts by which cumulative contract revenue recognized on a contract as of a given date exceed cumulative billings and unbilled receivables to the customer under the contract are reflected as a current asset in our balance sheet under the caption "Costs and estimated earnings in excess of billings" and "Unbilled accounts receivable." Amounts by which cumulative billings to the customer under a contract as of a given date exceed cumulative contract revenue recognized on the contract are reflected as a current liability in our balance sheet under the caption "Billings in excess of costs and estimated earnings."

We typically invoice our customers with payment terms of net due in 30 days. It is common in the construction industry for a contract to specify specific more lenient payment terms allowing the customer 45 to 60 days to make their payment. It is also common for the contract in the construction industry to specify that a general contractor is not required to submit payments to a subcontractor until it has received those funds from the owner or funding source. In most instances we receive payment of our invoices between 30 to 90 days of the date of the invoice.

A performance obligation is a promise in a contract to transfer a distinct good or service to the customer and is the unit of account in ASC Topic 606. A contract's transaction price is allocated to each distinct performance obligation and recognized as revenue when, or as, the performance obligation is satisfied.

To determine the proper revenue recognition method for contracts, we evaluate whether two or more contracts should be combined and accounted for as one performance obligation and whether the combined or single contract should be accounted for as more than one performance obligation. This evaluation requires significant judgment and the decision to combine a group of contracts or separate the combined or single contract into multiple performance obligations could change the amount of revenue and profit recorded in a given period. For most of our contracts, the customer contracts with us to provide a significant service of integrating a complex set of tasks and components into a single project or capability (even if that single project results in the delivery of multiple units). Hence, the entire contract is accounted for as one performance obligation. Less commonly, however, we may promise to provide distinct goods or services within a contract in which case we separate the contract into more than one performance obligation. If a contract is separated into more than one performance obligation, we allocate the total transaction price to each performance obligation in an amount based on the estimated relative standalone selling prices of the promised goods or services underlying each performance obligation. We infrequently sell standard products with observable standalone sales. In cases where we do, the observable standalone sales are used to determine the standalone selling price. More frequently, we sell a customized customer specific solution, and in these cases we typically use the expected cost plus a margin approach to estimate the standalone selling price of each performance obligation.



Table of Contents

We recognize revenue over time for all of our services as we perform them, because (i) control continuously transfers to that customer as work progresses, and (ii) we have the right to bill the customer as costs are incurred. The customer typically controls the work in process as evidenced either by contractual termination clauses or by our rights to payment for work performed to date plus a reasonable profit to deliver products or services that do not have an alternative use to the Company.

Because of control transferring over time, revenue is recognized based on the extent of progress towards completion of the performance obligation. The selection of the method to measure progress towards completion requires judgment and is based on the nature of the products or services to be provided. We generally use the cost to cost measure of progress for our contracts as it best depicts the transfer of assets to the customer that occurs as we incur costs on our contracts. Under the cost to cost measure of progress, the extent of progress towards completion is measured based on the ratio of costs incurred to date to the total estimated costs at completion of the performance obligation. Revenue, including estimated fees or profits, is recorded proportionally as costs are incurred. Costs to fulfill include labor, materials and subcontractors' costs, other direct costs and an allocation of indirect costs.

For a small portion of our business where our services are delivered in the form of service maintenance agreements for existing systems to be repaired and maintained, as opposed to constructed, our performance obligation is to maintain the customer's mechanical system for a specific period of time. Similar to jobs, we recognize revenue over time; however, for service maintenance agreements where the full cost to provide services may not be known, we generally use an output method to recognize revenue, which is based on the amount of time we have provided our services out of the total time we have been contracted to perform those services.

Due to the nature of the work required to be performed on many of our performance obligations, the estimation of total revenue and cost at completion (the process described below in more detail) is complex, subject to many variables and requires significant judgment. The consideration to which we are entitled on our long-term contracts may include both fixed and variable amounts. Variable amounts can either increase or decrease the transaction price. A common example of variable amounts that can either increase or decrease contract value are pending change orders that represent contract modifications for which a change in scope has been authorized or acknowledged by our customer, but the final adjustment to contract price is yet to be negotiated. Other examples of positive variable revenue include amounts awarded upon achievement of certain performance metrics, program milestones or cost of completion date targets and can be based upon customer discretion. Variable amounts can result in a deduction from contract revenue if we fail to meet stated performance requirements, such as being in compliance with the construction schedule.

Contracts are often modified to account for changes in contract specifications and requirements. We consider contract modifications to exist when the modification either creates new or changes the existing enforceable rights and obligations. Most of our contract modifications are for goods or services that are not distinct from the existing performance obligation(s). The effect of a contract modification on the transaction price, and our measure of progress for the performance obligation to which it relates, is recognized as an adjustment to revenue (either as an increase or

decrease) on a cumulative catchup basis.

We have a Company-wide policy requiring periodic review of the Estimate at Completion in which management reviews the progress and execution of our performance obligations and estimated remaining obligations. As part of this process, management reviews information including, but not limited to, any outstanding key contract matters, progress towards completion and the related program schedule, identified risks and opportunities and the related changes in estimates of revenue and costs. The risks and opportunities include management's judgment about the ability and cost to achieve the schedule (e.g., the number and type of milestone events), technical requirements (e.g., a newly developed product versus a mature product) and other contract requirements. Management must make assumptions and estimates regarding labor productivity and availability, the complexity of the work to be performed, the availability of materials, the length of time to complete the performance obligation (e.g. to estimate increases in wages and prices for materials and related support cost allocations), execution by our subcontractors, the availability and timing of funding from our customer, and overhead cost rates, among other variables.

Based on this analysis, any adjustments to revenue, cost of services, and the related impact to operating income are recognized as necessary in the quarter they become known. These adjustments may result from positive program

## Table of Contents

performance if we determine we will be successful in mitigating risks surrounding the technical, schedule and cost aspects of those performance obligations or realizing related opportunities and may result in an increase in operating income during the performance of individual performance obligations. Likewise, if we determine we will not be successful in mitigating these risks or realizing related opportunities these adjustments may result in a decrease in operating income. Changes in estimates of revenue, cost of services and the related impact to operating income are recognized quarterly on a cumulative catchup basis, which recognizes in the current period the cumulative effect of the changes on current and prior periods based on a performance obligation's percentage of completion. A significant change in one or more of these estimates could affect the profitability of one or more of our performance obligations. For projects where estimates of total costs to be incurred on a performance obligation exceed total estimates of revenue to be earned, a provision for the entire loss on the performance obligation is recognized in the period the loss is determined.

The Company typically does not incur any returns, refunds, or similar obligations after the completion of the performance obligation since any deficiencies are corrected during the course of the work or are included as a modification to revenue. The Company does offer an industry standard warranty on our work, which is most commonly for a one-year period. The vendors providing the equipment and materials are responsible for any failures in their product unless installed incorrectly. We include an estimated amount to cover estimated warranty expense in our Cost of Services and record a liability on our Balance Sheet to cover our current estimated outstanding warranty obligations.

Prior to implementing ASC 606 on January 1, 2018, our methods for recognizing revenue were very similar to our current method under ASC 606. We used the actual cost as a percent of total expected cost at completion to estimate our percentage complete on fixed price jobs, a mark-up of costs for jobs where revenue was based on time and materials incurred and elapsed time for those service maintenance contracts where the full cost to provide the services cannot be reasonably estimated. Furthermore, our process for allocating transaction price to performance obligations is also substantially similar to prior years where, in most cases, a contract is one performance obligation. In those cases where a contract is determined to have more than one performance obligation, the contract price is allocated to each performance obligation based on its standalone sales price.

In the first nine months of 2018, net revenue recognized from our performance obligations satisfied in previous periods was not material.

## Disaggregation of Revenue

We disaggregate our revenue from contracts with customers by activity, customer type and contract type, as we believe it best depicts how the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of our revenue and cash flows are affected by economic factors. Our consolidated 2018 revenue was derived from the following service activities, all of which are in the mechanical services industry, the single industry segment we serve. See details in the following tables (dollars in thousands):

Edgar Filing: COMFORT SYSTEMS USA INC - Form 10-Q

Revenue by Service Provided	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,				
	2018	2017		2018	2017			
HVAC and Plumbing Building Automation	\$ 540,733	91.0 %	\$ 446,035	92.8 %	\$ 1,448,761	90.9 %	\$ 1,207,434	91.0 %
Control Systems	25,822	4.3 %	15,583	3.2 %	72,128	4.5 %	66,343	5.0 %
Other	27,981	4.7 %	19,233	4.0 %	73,631	4.6 %	53,073	4.0 %
Total	\$ 594,536	100.0 %	\$ 480,851	100.0 %	\$ 1,594,520	100.0 %	\$ 1,326,850	100.0 %

Table of Contents

Revenue by Type of Customer	Three Months Ended September 30,					Nine Months Ended September 30,				
	2018			2017		2018			2017	
Industrial	\$ 184,174	31.0 %	\$ 110,569	23.0 %	\$ 398,351	25.0 %	\$ 295,939	22.3 %		
Education	115,202	19.4 %	102,459	21.3 %	312,852	19.6 %	253,321	19.1 %		
Office										
Buildings	75,871	12.8 %	49,646	10.3 %	224,300	14.1 %	178,550	13.5 %		
Healthcare	79,424	13.3 %	60,427	12.6 %	214,537	13.4 %	171,516	12.9 %		
Government	32,633	5.5 %	33,745	7.0 %	106,065	6.6 %	105,304	7.9 %		
Retail, Restaurants and Entertainment	60,908	10.2 %	67,959	14.1 %	169,899	10.7 %	167,853	12.7 %		
Multi-Family and Residential	33,903	5.7 %	29,335	6.1 %	102,995	6.5 %	86,465	6.5 %		
Other	12,421	2.1 %	26,711	5.6 %	65,521	4.1 %	67,902	5.1 %		
Total	\$ 594,536	100.0 %	\$ 480,851	100.0 %	\$ 1,594,520	100.0 %	\$ 1,326,850	100.0 %		

Revenue by Activity Type	Three Months Ended September 30,					Nine Months Ended September 30,				
	2018			2017		2018			2017	
New Construction	\$ 232,192	39.1 %	\$ 170,540	35.5 %	\$ 599,627	37.6 %	\$ 497,443	37.5 %		
Existing Building Construction	203,618	34.2 %	163,932	34.1 %	566,590	35.5 %	429,178	32.3 %		
Service Projects	57,322	9.6 %	50,232	10.4 %	149,083	9.4 %	139,269	10.5 %		
Service Calls, Maintenance and Monitoring	101,404	17.1 %	96,147	20.0 %	279,220	17.5 %	260,960	19.7 %		
Total	\$ 594,536	100.0 %	\$ 480,851	100.0 %	\$ 1,594,520	100.0 %	\$ 1,326,850	100.0 %		

## Accounts Receivables

Accounts Receivable, include amounts billed and billable from work completed in which we have billed or have an unconditional right to bill our customers. The amounts due are stated at their net estimated realizable value. We maintain an allowance for doubtful accounts to provide for the estimated amount of receivables that will not be collected. The allowance is based upon an assessment of customer creditworthiness, historical payment experience, the age of outstanding receivables and collateral to the extent applicable.

## Contract Assets and Liabilities

Contract assets include unbilled amounts typically resulting from sales under long term contracts when the cost to cost method of revenue recognition is used and revenue recognized exceeds the amount billed to the customer and right to payment is conditional, subject to completing a milestone, such as a phase of the project. Contract assets are generally classified as current.

Contract liabilities consist of advance payments and billings in excess of revenue recognized. Our contract assets and liabilities are reported in a net position on a contract by contract basis at the end of each reporting period. We classify advance payments and billings in excess of revenue recognized as current. It is very unusual for us to have advanced payments with a term of greater than one year; therefore, our contract assets are usually all current. If we have advanced payments with a term greater than one year, the noncurrent portion of advanced payments would be included in other long-term liabilities in our consolidated balance sheets.

Table of Contents

The following table presents the changes in contract assets and contract liabilities (in thousands):

	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2018	
	Contract Assets	Contract Liabilities
Balance at beginning of period	\$ 30,116	\$ 106,005
Change due to acquisitions	2,815	7,465
Change due to conditional versus unconditional	7,057	—
Reclassified to unbilled accounts receivable	(28,980)	—
Change in timing for performance obligation to be satisfied	—	17,682
Balance at September 30, 2018	\$ 11,008	\$ 131,152

In the first nine months of 2018 and 2017, we recognized revenue of \$99.8 million and \$84.5 million related to our contract liabilities at January 1, 2018 and January 1, 2017, respectively.

We did not have any impairment losses recognized on our receivables or contract assets in the first nine months of 2018 and 2017.

#### Remaining Performance Obligations

Remaining construction performance obligations represent the remaining transaction price of firm orders for which work has not been performed and excludes unexercised contract options. As of September 30, 2018, the aggregate amount of the transaction price allocated to remaining performance obligations was \$1.25 billion. The Company expects to recognize revenue on approximately 85% of the remaining performance obligations over the next 12 months, with the remaining recognized thereafter. Our service maintenance agreements are generally one-year renewable agreements. We have adopted the practical expedient that allows us to not include service maintenance contracts less than one year, therefore we do not report unfulfilled performance obligations for service maintenance agreements.

#### Income Taxes

We conduct business throughout the United States in virtually all fifty states. Our effective tax rate changes based upon our relative profitability, or lack thereof, in states with varying tax rates and rules. In addition, discrete items, such as tax law changes, judgments and legal structures can impact our effective tax rate. These items can also include

the tax treatment for impairment of goodwill and other intangible assets, changes in fair value of acquisition-related assets and liabilities, tax reserves for uncertain tax positions, accounting for losses associated with underperforming operations and noncontrolling interests.

Our provision for income taxes was reduced by \$2.8 million in the first quarter of 2018 due to a decrease in unrecognized tax benefits from the filing of a federal income tax automatic accounting method change application.

While we believe we were able to make reasonable estimates of the impact of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in our financial statements, the amounts recorded are provisional and the final impact may differ from these estimates due to, among other things, changes in our interpretations and assumptions and additional guidance that may be issued by regulatory authorities.

#### Other Income

In April 2018, we entered into settlement agreements with British Petroleum (“BP”) related to two claims from one of our subsidiaries regarding the April 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill. We recorded a gain of \$4.0 million in the second quarter of 2018 as a result of these settlements. We do not have any remaining subsidiaries with outstanding claims against BP related to this matter.



Table of Contents

## Financial Instruments

Our financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, other receivables, accounts payable, life insurance policies, notes to former owners, capital leases and a revolving credit facility. We believe that the carrying values of these instruments on the accompanying balance sheets approximate their fair values.

## Segment Disclosure

Our activities are within the mechanical services industry, which is the single industry segment we serve. Each operating unit represents an operating segment and these segments have been aggregated, as the operating units meet all of the aggregation criteria.

## 3. Fair Value Measurements

We classify and disclose assets and liabilities carried at fair value in one of the following three categories:

- Level 1—quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities;
- Level 2—observable market based inputs or unobservable inputs that are corroborated by market data; and
- Level 3—significant unobservable inputs in which little or no market data exists, therefore requiring an entity to develop its own assumptions.

The following table summarizes the fair values, and levels within the fair value hierarchy in which the fair value measurements fall, for assets and liabilities measured on a recurring basis as of September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017 (in thousands):

	Fair Value Measurements at September 30, 2018			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 19,248	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 19,248
Life insurance—cash surrender value	\$ —	\$ 3,354	\$ —	\$ 3,354
Contingent earn-out obligations	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 8,066	\$ 8,066

Edgar Filing: COMFORT SYSTEMS USA INC - Form 10-Q

	Fair Value Measurements at December 31, 2017			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 36,542	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 36,542
Life insurance—cash surrender value	\$ —	\$ 3,128	\$ —	\$ 3,128
Contingent earn-out obligations	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 7,993	\$ 7,993

Cash and cash equivalents consist primarily of highly rated money market funds at a variety of well known institutions with original maturities of three months or less. The original cost of these assets approximates fair value due to their short-term maturity. The carrying value of our borrowings associated with the Revolving Credit Facility approximate its fair value due to the variable rate on such debt.

We have life insurance policies covering 56 employees with a combined face value of \$40.3 million. The policy is invested in several investment vehicles and the fair value measurement of the cash surrender balance associated with these policies is determined using Level 2 inputs within the fair value hierarchy and will vary with investment performance. The cash surrender value of these policies was \$3.4 million as of September 30, 2018 and \$3.1 million as of December 31, 2017. These assets are included in “Other Noncurrent Assets” in our consolidated balance sheets.

We value contingent earn-out obligations using a probability weighted discounted cash flow method. This fair value measurement is based on significant unobservable inputs in the market and thus represents a Level 3 measurement within the fair value hierarchy. This analysis reflects the contractual terms of the purchase agreements (e.g., minimum and maximum payments, length of earn-out periods, manner of calculating any amounts due, etc.) and utilizes assumptions with regard to future cash flows, probabilities of achieving such future cash flows and a discount rate. The contingent earn-out obligations are measured at fair value each reporting period and changes in estimates of fair value are recognized in earnings.

Table of Contents

The table below presents a reconciliation of the fair value of our contingent earn-out obligations that use significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) (in thousands).

Balance at beginning of year	\$ 7,993
Issuances	4,366
Settlements	(3,800)
Adjustments to fair value	(493)
Balance at September 30, 2018	\$ 8,066

We measure certain assets at fair value on a nonrecurring basis. These assets are recognized at fair value when they are deemed to be other-than-temporarily impaired. During the first quarter of 2017, we recorded a goodwill impairment charge of \$1.1 million based on Level 3 measurements. See Note 5 “Goodwill” for further discussion.

#### 4. Acquisitions

On April 1, 2017, we acquired all of the issued and outstanding stock of BCH Holdings, Inc. and each of its wholly-owned subsidiaries (collectively “BCH”) for \$121.3 million of which \$97.0 million was allocated to goodwill and identifiable intangible assets. The total purchase price included \$95.4 million in cash, \$14.3 million in notes payable to former owners and an \$11.6 million contingent earn-out obligation. BCH is an integrated, single-source provider of mechanical service, maintenance and construction with headquarters in Tampa, Florida and operations throughout the southeastern region of the United States, which reports as a separate operating location.

We completed two acquisitions in the third quarter of 2018, three acquisitions in the second quarter of 2018 and two acquisitions in the first quarter of 2018 with a total preliminary purchase price of \$94.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2018. In addition to the BCH acquisition, we completed four additional acquisitions in 2017. The total purchase price for these additional acquisitions, including earn-outs, was \$9.4 million. These acquisitions were not material. One acquisition completed in the third quarter of 2018 reports as a separate operating location and the remainder were “tucked-in” with existing operations.

The results of operations of acquisitions are included in our consolidated financial statements from their respective acquisition dates. Our consolidated balance sheet includes preliminary allocations of the purchase price to the assets acquired and liabilities assumed for the applicable acquisitions pending the completion of the final valuation of intangible assets and accrued liabilities. The acquisitions completed in the current and prior year were not material, individually or in the aggregate. Additional contingent purchase price (“earn-out”) has been or will be paid if certain acquisitions achieve predetermined profitability targets. Such earn-outs, which are not subject to the continued

employment of the sellers, are estimated as of the purchase date and included as part of the consideration paid for the acquisition. If we have an earn-out where continued employment is a condition to receive payment, then the earn-out is recorded as compensation expense over the period earned.

## 5. Goodwill

The changes in the carrying amount of goodwill are as follows (in thousands):

	September 30, 2018	December 31, 2017
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 200,584	\$ 149,208
Additions (See Note 4)	30,606	52,481
Impairment adjustment	—	(1,105)
Balance at end of period	\$ 231,190	\$ 200,584

We recorded a goodwill impairment charge of \$1.1 million during the first quarter of 2017. Based on changes to our market strategy that occurred in March 2017 related to our reporting unit based in California, we reevaluated our projected future earnings for this operating location. When the carrying value of a given reporting unit exceeds its fair value, a goodwill impairment loss is recorded for this difference, not to exceed the carrying amount of goodwill. Based

Table of Contents

upon our projected future earnings for this location, we could no longer support the related goodwill balance and therefore the goodwill associated with this location was fully impaired. The fair value was estimated using a discounted cash flow model.

## 6. Debt Obligations

Debt obligations consist of the following (in thousands):

	September 30, 2018	December 31, 2017
Revolving credit facility	\$ 70,000	\$ 45,000
Notes to former owners	26,813	15,325
Other debt	138	214
Total debt	96,951	60,539
Less—current portion	(3,279)	(613)
Total long-term portion of debt	\$ 93,672	\$ 59,926

## Revolving Credit Facility

On April 18, 2018, we amended our senior credit facility (the “Facility”) provided by a syndicate of banks, increasing our borrowing capacity from \$325.0 million to \$400.0 million, with a \$100 million accordion option. The Facility, which is available for borrowings and letters of credit, expires in April 2023 and is secured by a first lien on substantially all of our personal property except for assets related to projects subject to surety bonds and assets held by certain unrestricted subsidiaries and a second lien on our assets related to projects subject to surety bonds. In 2018, we incurred approximately \$0.8 million in financing and professional costs in connection with an amendment to the Facility, which combined with the previous unamortized costs of \$1.1 million, are being amortized on a straight-line basis as a non-cash charge to interest expense over the remaining term of the Facility. As of September 30, 2018, we had \$70.0 million of outstanding borrowings, \$33.6 million in letters of credit outstanding and \$296.4 million of credit available.

There are two interest rate options for borrowings under the Facility, the Base Rate Loan Option and the Eurodollar Rate Loan Option. These rates are floating rates determined by the broad financial markets, meaning they can and do

move up and down from time to time. Additional margins are then added to these two rates.

The following is a summary of the additional margins:

Additional Per Annum Interest Margin Added Under:	Consolidated Total Indebtedness to Credit Facility Adjusted EBITDA			
	Less than 1.00	1.00 to 1.75	1.75 to 2.50	2.50 or greater
Base Rate Loan Option	0.25	% 0.50	% 0.75	% 1.00
Eurodollar Rate Loan Option	1.25	% 1.50	% 1.75	% 2.00

The weighted average interest rate applicable to the borrowings under the Facility was approximately 3.4% as of September 30, 2018.

Certain of our vendors require letters of credit to ensure reimbursement for amounts they are disbursing on our behalf, such as to beneficiaries under our self-funded insurance programs. We have also occasionally used letters of credit to guarantee performance under our contracts and to ensure payment to our subcontractors and vendors under those contracts. Our lenders issue such letters of credit through the Facility for a fee. We have never had a claim made against a letter of credit that resulted in payments by a lender or by us and believe such a claim is unlikely in the foreseeable future. The letter of credit fees range from 1.25% to 2.00% per annum, based on the ratio of Consolidated Total Indebtedness to Credit Facility Adjusted EBITDA, as defined in the credit agreement.

Table of Contents

Commitment fees are payable on the portion of the revolving loan capacity not in use for borrowings or letters of credit at any given time. These fees range from 0.20% to 0.35% per annum, based on the ratio of Consolidated Total Indebtedness to Credit Facility Adjusted EBITDA, as defined in the credit agreement.

The Facility contains financial covenants defining various financial measures and the levels of these measures with which we must comply. Covenant compliance is assessed as of each quarter end.

The Facility's principal financial covenants include:

**Total Leverage Ratio**—The Facility requires that the ratio of our Consolidated Total Indebtedness to our Credit Facility Adjusted EBITDA not exceed 3.00 to 1.00 as of the end of each fiscal quarter. The total leverage ratio as of September 30, 2018 was 0.5.

**Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio**—The Facility requires that the ratio of (a) Credit Facility Adjusted EBITDA, less non-financed capital expenditures, provision for income taxes, dividends and amounts used to repurchase stock to (b) the sum of interest expense and scheduled principal payments of indebtedness be at least 2.00 to 1.00; provided that the calculation of the fixed charge coverage ratio excludes stock repurchases and the payment of dividends at any time that the Company's Net Leverage Ratio, as defined in the credit agreement, does not exceed 1.75 to 1.00. The Facility also allows the fixed charge coverage ratio not to be reduced for stock repurchases made after the effective date of the Facility in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$30 million, if at the time of and after giving effect to such repurchase the Company's Net Leverage Ratio was less than or equal to 1.75 to 1.00. Credit Facility Adjusted EBITDA, capital expenditures, provision for income taxes, dividends, stock repurchase payments, interest expense, and scheduled principal payments are defined under the Facility for purposes of this covenant to be amounts for the four quarters ending as of any given quarterly covenant compliance measurement date. The fixed charge coverage ratio as of September 30, 2018 was 18.6.

**Other Restrictions**—The Facility permits acquisitions of up to \$40.0 million per transaction, provided that the aggregate purchase price of all such acquisitions in the same fiscal year does not exceed \$80.0 million. However, these limitations only apply when the Company's Total Leverage Ratio is greater than 2.00 to 1.00.

While the Facility's financial covenants do not specifically govern capacity under the Facility, if our debt level under the Facility at a quarter-end covenant compliance measurement date were to cause us to violate the Facility's leverage ratio covenant, our borrowing capacity under the Facility and the favorable terms that we currently have could be negatively impacted by the lenders.

We were in compliance with all of our financial covenants as of September 30, 2018.

#### Notes to Former Owners

As part of the consideration used to acquire six companies, we have outstanding notes to the former owners. These notes had an outstanding balance of \$26.8 million as of September 30, 2018. In conjunction with an acquisition in the third quarter of 2018, we issued a promissory note to former owners with an outstanding balance of \$6.5 million as of September 30, 2018 that bears interest, payable quarterly, at a weighted average interest rate of 3.5%. The principal is due in three equal installments in July 2019, 2020 and 2021. In conjunction with a separate acquisition in the third quarter of 2018, we issued a promissory note to former owners with an outstanding balance of \$3.5 million as of September 30, 2018 that bears interest, payable quarterly, at a weighted average interest rate of 2.9%. The principal is due in September 2020. In conjunction with a small acquisition in the second quarter of 2018, we issued a subordinated note to former owners with an outstanding balance of \$1.0 million as of September 30, 2018 that bears interest, payable quarterly, at a weighted average interest rate of 3.5%. The principal is due in equal installments in May 2020 and 2021. In conjunction with a small acquisition in the first quarter of 2018, we issued a subordinated note to former owners with an outstanding balance of \$1.0 million as of September 30, 2018 that bears interest, payable quarterly, at a weighted average interest rate of 2.5%. The principal is due in equal installments in January 2019 and 2020. In conjunction with the BCH acquisition in the second quarter of 2017, we issued a promissory note to former owners with an outstanding balance of \$14.3 million as of September 30, 2018 that bears interest, payable quarterly, at a weighted average interest rate of 3.0%. The principal is due in equal installments in April 2020 and 2021. In conjunction with the Shoffner



## Table of Contents

acquisition in the first quarter of 2016, we issued a subordinated note to former owners with an outstanding balance of \$0.5 million as of September 30, 2018 that bears interest, payable quarterly, at a weighted average interest rate of 3.0%. The principal is due in February 2019.

### Other Debt

As part of the Shoffner acquisition, we acquired debt with an outstanding balance at the acquisition date of \$0.4 million with principal and interest due the last day of every month; ending on the December 30, 2019 maturity date. The interest rate is the one month LIBOR rate plus 2.25%. As of September 30, 2018, \$0.1 million of the note was outstanding, of which \$0.1 million was considered current.

## 7. Commitments and Contingencies

### Claims and Lawsuits

We are subject to certain legal and regulatory claims, including lawsuits arising in the normal course of business. We maintain various insurance coverages to minimize financial risk associated with these claims. We have estimated and provided accruals for probable losses and related legal fees associated with certain litigation in the accompanying consolidated financial statements. While we cannot predict the outcome of these proceedings, in management's opinion and based on reports of counsel, any liability arising from these matters individually and in the aggregate will not have a material effect on our operating results, cash flows or financial condition, after giving effect to provisions already recorded.

### Surety

Many customers, particularly in connection with new construction, require us to post performance and payment bonds issued by a financial institution known as a surety. If we fail to perform under the terms of a contract or to pay subcontractors and vendors who provided goods or services under a contract, the customer may demand that the surety make payments or provide services under the bond. We must reimburse the surety for any expenses or outlays it incurs. To date, we are not aware of any losses to our sureties in connection with bonds the sureties have posted on our behalf, and do not expect such losses to be incurred in the foreseeable future.

Surety market conditions have seen some strengthening as the commercial construction markets have started to rebound. Bonding capacity remains adequate in the current market conditions along with acceptable terms and conditions. Historically, approximately 20% to 30% of our business has required bonds. While we currently have strong surety relationships to support our bonding needs, future market conditions or changes in the sureties' assessment of our operating and financial risk could cause the sureties to decline to issue bonds for our work. If that were to occur, the alternatives include doing more business that does not require bonds, posting other forms of collateral for project performance such as letters of credit or cash, and seeking bonding capacity from other sureties. We would likely also encounter concerns from customers, suppliers and other market participants as to our creditworthiness. While we believe our general operating and financial characteristics would enable us to ultimately respond effectively to an interruption in the availability of bonding capacity, such an interruption would likely cause our revenue and profits to decline in the near term.

#### Self-Insurance

We are substantially self insured for workers' compensation, employer's liability, auto liability, general liability and employee group health claims, in view of the relatively high per incident deductibles we absorb under our insurance arrangements for these risks. Losses are estimated and accrued based upon known facts, historical trends and industry averages. Estimated losses in excess of our deductible, which have not already been paid, are included in our accrual with a corresponding receivable from our insurance carrier. Loss estimates associated with the larger and longer developing risks, such as workers' compensation, auto liability and general liability, are reviewed by a third party actuary quarterly.

Table of Contents

## 8. Stockholders' Equity

## Earnings Per Share

Basic earnings per share ("EPS") is computed by dividing net income by the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the year. Diluted EPS is computed considering the dilutive effect of stock options, restricted stock, restricted stock units and performance stock units. The vesting of unvested contingently issuable performance stock units is based on the achievement of certain earnings per share targets and total shareholder return. These shares are considered contingently issuable shares for purposes of calculating diluted earnings per share. These shares are not included in the diluted earnings per share denominator until the performance criteria are met, if it is assumed that the end of the reporting period was the end of the contingency period.

Unvested restricted stock, restricted stock units and performance stock units are included in diluted earnings per share, weighted outstanding until the shares and units vest. Upon vesting, the vested restricted stock, restricted stock units and performance stock units are included in basic earnings per share weighted outstanding from the vesting date.

There were less than 0.1 million anti-dilutive stock options excluded from the calculation of diluted EPS for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively.

The following table reconciles the number of shares outstanding with the number of shares used in computing basic and diluted earnings per share for each of the periods presented (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Common shares outstanding, end of period	37,221	37,134	37,221	37,134
Effect of using weighted average common shares outstanding	73	98	15	125
Shares used in computing earnings per share—basic	37,294	37,232	37,236	37,259
Effect of shares issuable under stock option plans based on the treasury stock method	280	293	294	312
Effect of restricted and contingently issuable shares	93	101	104	113
Shares used in computing earnings per share—diluted	37,667	37,626	37,634	37,684

## Share Repurchase Program

On March 29, 2007, our Board of Directors (the “Board”) approved a stock repurchase program to acquire up to 1.0 million shares of our outstanding common stock. Subsequently, the Board has from time to time increased the number of shares that may be acquired under the program and approved extensions of the program. On August 10, 2018, the Board approved an extension to the program by increasing the shares authorized for repurchase by 0.7 million shares. Since the inception of the repurchase program, the Board has approved 8.8 million shares to be repurchased. As of September 30, 2018, we have repurchased a cumulative total of 7.9 million shares at an average price of \$14.79 per share under the repurchase program.

The share repurchases will be made from time to time at our discretion in the open market or privately negotiated transactions as permitted by securities laws and other legal requirements, and subject to market conditions and other factors. The Board may modify, suspend, extend or terminate the program at any time. During the nine months ended September 30, 2018, we repurchased 0.3 million shares for approximately \$11.6 million at an average price of \$46.10 per share.

Table of Contents

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with our historical Consolidated Financial Statements and related notes included elsewhere in this Form 10 Q and the Annual Report on Form 10 K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for the year ended December 31, 2017 (the "Form 10 K"). This discussion contains "forward looking statements" regarding our business and industry within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based on our current plans and expectations and involve risks and uncertainties that could cause our actual future activities and results of operations to be materially different from those set forth in the forward looking statements. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ include risks set forth in "Item 1A. Risk Factors" included in our Form 10 K. We undertake no obligation to revise or publicly release the results of any revision to these forward looking statements, except as required by law. Given these risks and uncertainties, readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such forward looking statements. The terms "Comfort Systems," "we," "us," or "the Company," refer to Comfort Systems USA, Inc. or Comfort Systems USA, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries, as appropriate in the context.

Introduction and Overview

We are a national provider of comprehensive mechanical installation, renovation, maintenance, repair and replacement services within the mechanical services industry. We operate primarily in the commercial, industrial and institutional HVAC markets and perform most of our services within office buildings, retail centers, apartment complexes, manufacturing plants, and healthcare, education and government facilities.

Nature and Economics of Our Business

Approximately 82.5% of our revenue is earned on a project basis for installation of mechanical systems in newly constructed facilities or for replacement of systems in existing facilities. Customers hire us to ensure such systems deliver specified or generally expected heating, cooling, conditioning and circulation of air in a facility. This entails installing core system equipment such as packaged heating and air conditioning units, or in the case of larger facilities, separate core components such as chillers, boilers, air handlers, and cooling towers. We also typically install connecting and distribution elements such as piping and ducting. Our responsibilities usually require conforming the systems to pre established engineering drawings and equipment and performance specifications, which we frequently participate in establishing. Our project management responsibilities include staging equipment and materials to project sites, deploying labor to perform the work, and coordinating with other service providers on the project, including any subcontractors we might use to deliver our portion of the work.

When competing for project business, we usually estimate the costs we will incur on a project, and then propose a bid to the customer that includes a contract price and other performance and payment terms. Our bid price and terms are

intended to cover our estimated costs on the project and provide a profit margin to us commensurate with the value of the installed system to the customer, the risk that project costs or duration will vary from estimate, the schedule on which we will be paid, the opportunities for other work that we might forego by committing capacity to this project, and other costs that we incur to support our operations but which are not specific to the project. Typically customers will seek pricing from competitors for a given project. While the criteria on which customers select a service provider vary widely and include factors such as quality, technical expertise, on time performance, post project support and service, and company history and financial strength, we believe that price for value is the most influential factor for most customers in choosing a mechanical installation and service provider.

After a customer accepts our bid, we generally enter into a contract with the customer that specifies what we will deliver on the project, what our related responsibilities are, and how much and when we will be paid. Our overall price for the project is typically set at a fixed amount in the contract, although changes in project specifications or work conditions that result in unexpected additional work are usually subject to additional payment from the customer via what are commonly known as change orders. Project contracts typically provide for periodic billings to the customer as we meet progress milestones or incur cost on the project. Project contracts in our industry also frequently allow for a small portion of progress billings or contract price to be withheld by the customer until after we have completed the work. Amounts withheld under this practice are known as retention or retainage.

Table of Contents

Labor and overhead costs account for the majority of our cost of service. Accordingly, labor management and utilization have the most impact on our project performance. Given the fixed price nature of much of our project work, if our initial estimate of project costs is wrong or we incur cost overruns that cannot be recovered in change orders, we can experience reduced profits or even significant losses on fixed price project work. We also perform some project work on a cost plus or a time and materials basis, under which we are paid our costs incurred plus an agreed upon profit margin, and such projects are sometimes subject to a guaranteed maximum cost. These margins are frequently less than fixed price contract margins because there is less risk of unrecoverable cost overruns in cost plus or time and materials work.

As of September 30, 2018 we had 5,557 projects in process. Our average project takes six to nine months to complete, with an average contract price of approximately \$572,000. Our projects generally require working capital funding of equipment and labor costs. Customer payments on periodic billings generally do not recover these costs until late in the job. Our average project duration together with typical retention terms as discussed above generally allow us to complete the realization of revenue and earnings in cash within one year. We have what we believe is a well diversified distribution of revenue across end use sectors that we believe reduces our exposure to negative developments in any given sector. Because of the integral nature of HVAC and related controls systems to most buildings, we have the legal right in almost all cases to attach liens to buildings or related funding sources when we have not been fully paid for installing systems, except with respect to some government buildings. The service work that we do, which is discussed further below, usually does not give rise to lien rights.

A stratification of projects in progress as of September 30, 2018, by contract price, is as follows:

Contract Price of Project	No. of Projects	Aggregate Contract Price Value (millions)
Under \$1 million	4,920	\$ 639.0
\$1 million - \$5 million	512	1,132.4
\$5 million - \$10 million	81	564.0
\$10 million - \$15 million	22	268.2
Greater than \$15 million	22	573.6
Total	5,557	\$ 3,177.2

In addition to project work, approximately 17.5% of our revenue represents maintenance and repair service on already installed HVAC and controls systems. This kind of work usually takes from a few hours to a few days to perform. Prices to the customer are based on the equipment and materials used in the service as well as technician labor time. We usually bill the customer for service work when it is complete, typically with payment terms of up to thirty days. We also provide maintenance and repair service under ongoing contracts. Under these contracts, we are paid regular monthly or quarterly amounts and provide specified service based on customer requirements. These agreements typically are for one or more years and frequently contain thirty to sixty day cancellation notice periods.

A relatively small portion of our revenue comes from national and regional account customers. These customers typically have multiple sites, and contract with us to perform maintenance and repair service. These contracts may also provide for us to perform new or replacement systems installation. We operate a national call center to dispatch technicians to sites requiring service. We perform the majority of this work with our own employees, with the balance being subcontracted to third parties that meet our performance qualifications.

#### Profile and Management of Our Operations

We manage our 37 operating units based on a variety of factors. Financial measures we emphasize include profitability, and use of capital as indicated by cash flow and by other measures of working capital principally involving project cost, billings and receivables. We also monitor selling, general, administrative and indirect project support expense, backlog, workforce size and mix, growth in revenue and profits, variation of actual project cost from original estimate, and overall financial performance in comparison to budget and updated forecasts. Operational factors we emphasize include project selection, estimating, pricing, management and execution practices, labor utilization, safety,



## Table of Contents

training, and the make up of both existing backlog as well as new business being pursued, in terms of project size, technical application and facility type, end use customers and industries, and location of the work.

Most of our operations compete on a local or regional basis. Attracting and retaining effective operating unit managers is an important factor in our business, particularly in view of the relative uniqueness of each market and operation, the importance of relationships with customers and other market participants such as architects and consulting engineers, and the high degree of competition and low barriers to entry in most of our markets. Accordingly, we devote considerable attention to operating unit management quality, stability, and contingency planning, including related considerations of compensation, and non competition protection where applicable.

## Economic and Industry Factors

As a mechanical and building controls services provider, we operate in the broader nonresidential construction services industry and are affected by trends in this sector. While we do not have operations in all major cities of the United States, we believe our national presence is sufficiently large that we experience trends in demand for and pricing of our services that are consistent with trends in the national nonresidential construction sector. As a result, we monitor the views of major construction sector forecasters along with macroeconomic factors they believe drive the sector, including trends in gross domestic product, interest rates, business investment, employment, demographics, and the general fiscal condition of federal, state and local governments.

Spending decisions for building construction, renovation and system replacement are generally made on a project basis, usually with some degree of discretion as to when and if projects proceed. With larger amounts of capital, time, and discretion involved, spending decisions are affected to a significant degree by uncertainty, particularly concerns about economic and financial conditions and trends. We have experienced periods of time when economic weakness caused a significant slowdown in decisions to proceed with installation and replacement project work.

## Operating Environment and Management Emphasis

Industry conditions improved during the three-year period from 2015 to 2017 and we currently expect that activity will continue at improved levels during 2018 and 2019. Based on our backlog and in light of economic conditions, we currently expect year-over-year improvement in our revenue and net earnings in the fourth quarter of 2018, and we expect continued favorable conditions in 2019.

As a result of our continued strong emphasis on cash flow, at September 30, 2018 we had a strong financial position, as discussed further in “Liquidity and Capital Resources” below. We have a credit facility in place with considerably

less restrictive terms than those of our previous facilities; this facility does not expire until April 2023. We have strong surety relationships to support our bonding needs, and we believe our relationships with the surety markets are strong and benefit from our solid current results and financial position. We have generated positive free cash flow in each of the last nineteen calendar years and will continue our emphasis in this area. We believe that the relative size and strength of our balance sheet and surety support as compared to most companies in our industry represent competitive advantages for us.

As discussed at greater length in “Results of Operations” below, we expect price competition to continue as our customers and local and regional competitors respond cautiously to improved market conditions. We will continue our efforts to invest in our service business, to pursue the more active sectors in our markets, and to emphasize our regional and national account business. Our primary emphasis for 2018 has been on execution and cost control, but we are seeking growth based on our belief that industry conditions will continue to be strong in the near term, and we believe that activity levels will permit us to continue to earn solid profits while preserving and developing our workforce. We continue to focus on project qualification, estimating, pricing and management; and we are investing in growth and improved performance.

Table of Contents

## Cyclical and Seasonality

Historically, the construction industry has been highly cyclical. As a result, our volume of business, particularly in new construction projects and renovation, may be adversely affected by declines in new installation and replacement projects in various geographic regions of the United States during periods of economic weakness.

The HVAC industry is subject to seasonal variations. The demand for new installation and replacement is generally lower during the winter months (the first quarter of the year) due to reduced construction activity during inclement weather and less use of air conditioning during the colder months. Demand for HVAC services is generally higher in the second and third calendar quarters due to increased construction activity and increased use of air conditioning during the warmer months. Accordingly, we expect our revenue and operating results generally will be lower in the first calendar quarter.

## Results of Operations (dollars in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,				Nine Months Ended September 30,			
	2018		2017		2018		2017	
Revenue	\$ 594,536	100.0 %	\$ 480,851	100.0 %	\$ 1,594,520	100.0 %	\$ 1,326,850	100.0 %
Cost of services	466,668	78.5 %	379,993	79.0 %	1,266,416	79.4 %	1,054,300	79.5 %
Gross profit	127,868	21.5 %	100,858	21.0 %	328,104	20.6 %	272,550	20.5 %
Selling, general and administrative expenses	75,297	12.7 %	66,707	13.9 %	216,528	13.6 %	196,553	14.8 %
Goodwill impairment	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,105	0.1 %
Gain on sale of assets	(219)	—	(184)	—	(630)	—	(464)	—
Operating income	52,790	8.9 %	34,335	7.1 %	112,206	7.0 %	75,356	5.7 %
Interest income	25	—	16	—	53	—	55	—
Interest expense	(1,152)	(0.2) %	(961)	(0.2) %	(2,601)	(0.2) %	(2,392)	(0.2) %
Changes in the fair value of contingent earn-out obligations	434	0.1 %	2,469	0.5 %	493	—	1,845	0.1 %

Edgar Filing: COMFORT SYSTEMS USA INC - Form 10-Q

Other income (expense)	39	—	10	—	4,062	0.3 %	57	—
Income before income taxes	52,136	8.8 %	35,869	7.5 %	114,213	7.2 %	74,921	5.6 %
Provision for income taxes	13,595		13,585		26,466		27,188	
Net income	\$ 38,541	6.5 %	\$ 22,284	4.6 %	\$ 87,747	5.5 %	\$ 47,733	3.6 %

We had 36 operating locations as of December 31, 2017. In the third quarter of 2018, we completed one acquisition of a company that reports as a separate operating location in Indiana (the “Indiana acquisition”). Other than this addition, we did not make any changes to operating locations during the first nine months of 2018. As of September 30, 2018, we had 37 operating locations. Acquisitions are included in our results of operations from the respective acquisition date. The same store comparison from 2018 to 2017, as described below, excludes three months of results for the Indiana acquisition, which was acquired July 1, 2018, as well as the first three months of 2018 results for BCH, which was acquired in April 2017. An operating location is included in the same store comparison on the first day it has comparable prior year operating data, except for immaterial acquisitions that were absorbed and integrated, or “tucked-in”, with existing operations.

Revenue—Revenue increased \$113.7 million, or 23.6%, to \$594.5 million for the third quarter of 2018 compared to the same period in 2017. The increase included a 5.7% increase related to the Indiana acquisition and an 17.9% increase in revenue related to same-store activity. The same-store revenue increase was broad-based, including an increase in activity at our North Carolina operation (\$42.3 million), one of our New York operations (\$5.7 million) and two of our Virginia operations (\$11.0 million).

Table of Contents

Revenue increased \$267.7 million, or 20.2%, to \$1.59 billion for the first nine months of 2018 compared to the same period in 2017. The increase included a 4.0% increase related to the Indiana acquisition and BCH and a 16.2% increase in revenue related to same-store activity. The same-store revenue increase was broad-based, including an increase in activity at our North Carolina operation (\$83.1 million), one of our Virginia operations (\$25.6 million) and our Wisconsin operation (\$18.9 million).

Backlog reflects revenue still to be recognized under contracted or committed installation and replacement project work. Project work generally lasts less than one year. Service agreement revenue and service work and short duration projects, which are generally billed as performed, do not flow through backlog. Accordingly, backlog represents only a portion of our revenue for any given future period, and it represents revenue that is likely to be reflected in our operating results over the next six to twelve months. As a result, we believe the predictive value of backlog information is limited to indications of general revenue direction over the near term, and should not be interpreted as indicative of ongoing revenue performance over several quarters.

Backlog as of September 30, 2018 was \$1.25 billion, a 2.2% increase from June 30, 2018 backlog of \$1.23 billion, and a 39.3% increase from September 30, 2017 backlog of \$901.2 million. Backlog increased \$34.4 million due to the Indiana acquisition. Same-store sequential backlog decreased \$7.5 million primarily due to completion of project work at our North Carolina operation (\$35.0 million), which was partially offset by increased project bookings at one of our Texas operations (\$27.3 million). Additionally, same-store year over year backlog increased \$319.4 million primarily due to increased project bookings at one of our Florida operations (\$75.8 million), our North Carolina operation (\$74.5 million), our Wisconsin operation (\$50.8 million) and one of our Virginia operations (\$50.2 million).

Gross Profit—Gross profit increased \$27.0 million, or 26.8%, to \$127.9 million for the third quarter of 2018 as compared to the same period in 2017. The increase included a 2.9% increase related to the Indiana acquisition and a 23.9% increase in same-store activity. The same-store increase in gross profit was primarily due to increased volumes and improvement in project execution at our North Carolina operation (\$9.4 million). Additionally, we had improvements in project execution at one of our Florida operations (\$3.2 million) and our Wisconsin operation (\$1.7 million) compared to the prior year. As a percentage of revenue, gross profit increased from 21.0% in 2017 to 21.5% in 2018 primarily due to the improvement in project execution at our North Carolina operation as previously discussed.

Gross profit increased \$55.6 million, or 20.4%, to \$328.1 million for the first nine months of 2018 as compared to the same period in 2017. The increase included a 2.9% increase related to the Indiana acquisition and BCH and a 17.5% increase in same store activity. The same store increase in gross profit was primarily due to increased volumes and improvement in project execution at our North Carolina operation (\$15.8 million), our Wisconsin operation (\$6.3 million) and one of our Texas operations (\$5.2 million) compared to the prior year. As a percentage of revenue, gross profit increased from 20.5% in 2017 to 20.6% in 2018 due to the improvement in project execution at our North Carolina operation partially offset by job underperformance at our California operation in the first nine months of 2018 (\$3.1 million).

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses (“SG&A”)—SG&A increased \$8.6 million, or 12.9%, to \$75.3 million for the third quarter of 2018 as compared to 2017. On a same store basis, excluding amortization expense, SG&A increased \$5.3 million, or 8.4%. This increase is primarily due to the increase in revenue and increased compensation costs related to earnings growth compared to the prior year period. Additionally, we had an increase in amortization expense of \$1.0 million during the period as compared to the prior year period, primarily as a result of the Indiana acquisition. As a percentage of revenue, SG&A decreased from 13.9% in 2017 to 12.7% in 2018.

SG&A increased \$20.0 million, or 10.2%, to \$216.5 million for the first nine months of 2018 as compared to 2017. On a same store basis, excluding amortization expense, SG&A increased \$10.2 million, or 5.4%. This increase is primarily due to the increase in revenue and increased compensation costs related to earnings growth compared to the prior year period. Amortization expense increased \$4.2 million during the period, primarily as a result of the BCH and Indiana acquisitions. These increases were partially offset by expenses in the first quarter of 2017 of \$0.8 million in compensation costs related to leadership changes and \$0.4 million in expenses related to the BCH acquisition. As a percentage of revenue, SG&A decreased from 14.8% in 2017 to 13.6% in 2018.

Table of Contents

We have included same store SG&A, excluding amortization, because we believe it is an effective measure of comparative results of operations. However, same store SG&A, excluding amortization, is not considered under generally accepted accounting principles to be a primary measure of an entity's financial results, and accordingly, should not be considered an alternative to SG&A as shown in our consolidated statements of operations.

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30,		September 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	(in thousands)		(in thousands)	
SG&A	\$ 75,297	\$ 66,707	\$ 216,528	\$ 196,553
Less: SG&A from companies acquired	(2,292)	—	(5,544)	—
Less: Amortization expense	(4,384)	(3,394)	(12,315)	(8,072)
Same-store SG&A, excluding amortization expense	\$ 68,621	\$ 63,313	\$ 198,669	\$ 188,481

**Goodwill Impairment**—We recorded a goodwill impairment charge of \$1.1 million during the first quarter of 2017. Based on changes to our market strategy that occurred in March 2017 related to our reporting unit based in California, we reevaluated our projected future earnings for this operating location. When the carrying value of a given reporting unit exceeds its fair value, a goodwill impairment loss is recorded for this difference, not to exceed the carrying amount of goodwill. Based upon our projected future earnings for this location, we could no longer support the related goodwill balance and therefore the goodwill associated with this location was fully impaired. The fair value was estimated using a discounted cash flow model.

**Interest Expense**—Interest expense increased \$0.2 million, or 19.9%, to \$1.2 million for the third quarter of 2018 as compared to the same period in 2017. Interest expense increased \$0.2 million, or 8.7%, to \$2.6 million for the first nine months of 2018 as compared to the same period in 2017. The increase reflects the increased borrowings on the revolving credit facility and notes to former owners as a result of our recent acquisitions.

**Changes in the Fair Value of Contingent Earn out Obligations**—The contingent earn out obligations are measured at fair value each reporting period and changes in estimates of fair value are recognized in earnings. Income from changes in the fair value of contingent earn out obligations for the third quarter of 2018 decreased \$2.0 million as compared to the same period in 2017. Income from changes in the fair value of contingent earn out obligations for the first nine months of 2018 decreased \$1.4 million as compared to the same period in 2017. This income was the result of reducing our obligation related to BCH. The decrease in the third quarter of 2018 was based on updated measurements of estimated future cash flows for our contingent obligations. The decrease in the third quarter of 2017 was due to results being below the initial estimate as a result of Hurricane Irma and less project activity in the quarter than previously estimated.

**Other Income**—Other income increased to \$4.1 million for the first nine months of 2018 as compared to the same period in 2017. In April 2018, we entered into settlement agreements with British Petroleum (“BP”) related to two claims from one of our subsidiaries regarding the April 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill. We recorded a gain of \$4.0 million in the second quarter of 2018 as a result of these settlements. We do not have any remaining subsidiaries with

outstanding claims against BP related to this matter.

Provision for Income Taxes—Our provision for income taxes for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 was \$26.5 million with an effective tax rate of 23.2% as compared to a provision for income taxes of \$27.2 million with an effective tax rate of 36.3% for the same period in 2017. The effective tax rate for 2018 was higher than the 21.0% federal statutory rate primarily due to net state income taxes (4.5%) and nondeductible expenses (1.1%) partially offset by a decrease in unrecognized tax benefits from the filing of a federal income tax automatic accounting method change application (2.4%) and deductions for stock-based compensation (1.0%). The effective tax rate for 2017 was higher than the 35.0% federal statutory rate primarily due to net state income taxes (3.6%) and nondeductible expenses (1.1%) partially offset by deductions for stock-based compensation (1.2%) and the domestic production activities deduction (1.9%).

We currently estimate our effective tax rate for the full year 2018 will be between 22% and 25%. This includes the impact of the decrease in unrecognized tax benefits that lowered our 2018 effective tax rate. Starting in 2019, we



Table of Contents

currently estimate our effective tax rate will be between 25% and 30%. While we believe we were able to make reasonable estimates of the impact of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in the financial statements, the amounts recorded are provisional and the final impact may differ from these estimates due to, among other things, changes in our interpretations and assumptions and additional guidance that may be issued by regulatory authorities.

## Outlook

Industry conditions improved during the three-year period from 2015 to 2017 and we currently expect that activity will continue at improved levels during 2018 and 2019. Our current emphasis is on efficient project performance, labor force development, and investments in growth. Based on our backlog and in light of economic conditions, we currently expect year-over-year improvement in our revenue and net earnings in the fourth quarter of 2018, and we expect continued favorable conditions in 2019.

## Liquidity and Capital Resources (in thousands):

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2018	2017
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operating activities	\$ 68,002	\$ 65,692
Investing activities	(86,269)	(110,906)
Financing activities	973	42,636
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	\$ (17,294)	\$ (2,578)
Free cash flow:		
Cash provided by operating activities	\$ 68,002	\$ 65,692
Purchases of property and equipment	(22,059)	(16,830)
Proceeds from sales of property and equipment	1,077	784
Free cash flow	\$ 47,020	\$ 49,646

## Cash Flow

Our business does not require significant amounts of investment in long term fixed assets. The substantial majority of the capital used in our business is working capital that funds our costs of labor and installed equipment deployed in project work until our customer pays us. Customary terms in our industry allow customers to withhold a small portion of the contract price until after we have completed the work, typically for six months. Amounts withheld under this practice are known as retention or retainage. Our average project duration together with typical retention terms

generally allow us to complete the realization of revenue and earnings in cash within one year.

**Cash Provided by Operating Activities**—Cash flow from operations is primarily influenced by demand for our services and operating margins, but can also be influenced by working capital needs associated with the various types of services that we provide. In particular, working capital needs may increase when we commence large volumes of work under circumstances where project costs, primarily associated with labor, equipment and subcontractors, are required to be paid before the receivables resulting from the work performed are billed and collected. Working capital needs are generally higher during the late winter and spring months as we prepare and plan for the increased project demand when favorable weather conditions exist in the summer and fall months. Conversely, working capital assets are typically converted to cash during the late summer and fall months as project completion is underway. These seasonal trends are sometimes offset by changes in the timing of major projects, which can be impacted by the weather, project delays or accelerations and other economic factors that may affect customer spending.

Cash provided by operating activities was \$68.0 million during the first nine months of 2018 compared with \$65.7 million during the same period in 2017. The \$2.3 million increase is primarily due to a \$40.0 million increase in net income and a \$7.4 million increase in billings in excess of costs and estimated earnings due to the timing of billings and various project work. This was partially offset by a \$42.7 million increase in accounts receivable related to project work timing and the schedule for billings as well as the increase in revenue compared to the same period in 2017.

## Table of Contents

**Cash Used in Investing Activities**—During the first nine months of 2018, cash used in investing activities was \$86.3 million compared to \$110.9 million during the same period in 2017. The \$24.6 million decrease in cash used primarily relates to cash paid (net of cash acquired) for acquisitions in 2018 compared to the same period in 2017.

**Cash Provided by Financing Activities**—Cash provided by financing activities was \$1.0 million for the first nine months of 2018 compared to \$42.6 million during the same period in 2017. The \$41.7 million decrease is primarily due to \$41.0 million less in net proceeds from the revolving line of credit compared to the prior year.

**Free Cash Flow**—We define free cash flow as cash provided by operating activities, less customary capital expenditures, plus the proceeds from asset sales. We believe free cash flow, by encompassing both profit margins and the use of working capital over our approximately one year working capital cycle, is an effective measure of operating effectiveness and efficiency. We have included free cash flow information here for this reason, and because we are often asked about it by third parties evaluating us. However, free cash flow is not considered under generally accepted accounting principles to be a primary measure of an entity's financial results, and accordingly free cash flow should not be considered an alternative to operating income, net income, or amounts shown in our consolidated statements of cash flows as determined under generally accepted accounting principles. Free cash flow may be defined differently by other companies.

## Share Repurchase Program

On March 29, 2007, our Board of Directors (the "Board") approved a stock repurchase program to acquire up to 1.0 million shares of our outstanding common stock. Subsequently, the Board has from time to time increased the number of shares that may be acquired under the program and approved extensions of the program. On August 10, 2018, the Board approved an extension to the program by increasing the shares authorized for repurchase by 0.7 million shares. Since the inception of the repurchase program, the Board has approved 8.8 million shares to be repurchased. As of September 30, 2018, we have repurchased a cumulative total of 7.9 million shares at an average price of \$14.79 per share under the repurchase program.

The share repurchases will be made from time to time at our discretion in the open market or privately negotiated transactions as permitted by securities laws and other legal requirements, and subject to market conditions and other factors. The Board may modify, suspend, extend or terminate the program at any time. During the nine months ended September 30, 2018, we repurchased 0.3 million shares for approximately \$11.6 million at an average price of \$46.10 per share.

## Debt

## Revolving Credit Facility

On April 18, 2018, we amended our senior credit facility (the “Facility”) provided by a syndicate of banks, increasing our borrowing capacity from \$325.0 million to \$400.0 million, with a \$100 million accordion option. The Facility, which is available for borrowings and letters of credit, expires in April 2023 and is secured by a first lien on substantially all of our personal property except for assets related to projects subject to surety bonds and assets held by certain unrestricted subsidiaries and a second lien on our assets related to projects subject to surety bonds. In 2018, we incurred approximately \$0.8 million in financing and professional costs in connection with an amendment to the Facility, which combined with the previous unamortized costs of \$1.1 million, are being amortized on a straight-line basis as a non-cash charge to interest expense over the remaining term of the Facility. As of September 30, 2018, we had \$70.0 million of outstanding borrowings, \$33.6 million in letters of credit outstanding and \$296.4 million of credit available.

There are two interest rate options for borrowings under the Facility, the Base Rate Loan Option and the Eurodollar Rate Loan Option. These rates are floating rates determined by the broad financial markets, meaning they can and do move up and down from time to time. Additional margins are then added to these two rates.

Certain of our vendors require letters of credit to ensure reimbursement for amounts they are disbursing on our behalf, such as to beneficiaries under our self-funded insurance programs. We have also occasionally used letters of credit to guarantee performance under our contracts and to ensure payment to our subcontractors and vendors under

Table of Contents

those contracts. Our lenders issue such letters of credit through the Facility for a fee. We have never had a claim made against a letter of credit that resulted in payments by a lender or by us and believe such a claim is unlikely in the foreseeable future. The letter of credit fees range from 1.25% to 2.00% per annum, based on the ratio of Consolidated Total Indebtedness to Credit Facility Adjusted EBITDA, as defined in the credit agreement.

Commitment fees are payable on the portion of the revolving loan capacity not in use for borrowings or letters of credit at any given time. These fees range from 0.20% to 0.35% per annum, based on the ratio of Consolidated Total Indebtedness to Credit Facility Adjusted EBITDA, as defined in the credit agreement.

The Facility contains financial covenants defining various financial measures and the levels of these measures with which we must comply. Covenant compliance is assessed as of each quarter end.

The Facility's principal financial covenants include:

**Total Leverage Ratio**—The Facility requires that the ratio of our Consolidated Total Indebtedness to our Credit Facility Adjusted EBITDA not exceed 3.00 to 1.00 as of the end of each fiscal quarter. The total leverage ratio as of September 30, 2018 was 0.5.

**Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio**—The Facility requires that the ratio of (a) Credit Facility Adjusted EBITDA, less non-financed capital expenditures, provision for income taxes, dividends and amounts used to repurchase stock to (b) the sum of interest expense and scheduled principal payments of indebtedness be at least 2.00 to 1.00; provided that the calculation of the fixed charge coverage ratio excludes stock repurchases and the payment of dividends at any time that the Company's Net Leverage Ratio, as defined in the credit agreement, does not exceed 1.75 to 1.00. The Facility also allows the fixed charge coverage ratio not to be reduced for stock repurchases made after the effective date of the Facility in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$30 million, if at the time of and after giving effect to such repurchase the Company's Net Leverage Ratio was less than or equal to 1.75 to 1.00. Credit Facility Adjusted EBITDA, capital expenditures, provision for income taxes, dividends, stock repurchase payments, interest expense, and scheduled principal payments are defined under the Facility for purposes of this covenant to be amounts for the four quarters ending as of any given quarterly covenant compliance measurement date. The fixed charge coverage ratio as of September 30, 2018 was 18.6.

**Other Restrictions**—The Facility permits acquisitions of up to \$40.0 million per transaction, provided that the aggregate purchase price of all such acquisitions in the same fiscal year does not exceed \$80.0 million. However, these limitations only apply when the Company's Total Leverage Ratio is greater than 2.00 to 1.00.

While the Facility's financial covenants do not specifically govern capacity under the Facility, if our debt level under the Facility at a quarter end covenant compliance measurement date were to cause us to violate the Facility's leverage ratio covenant, our borrowing capacity under the Facility and the favorable terms that we currently have could be negatively impacted by the lenders.

We were in compliance with all of our financial covenants as of September 30, 2018.

#### Notes to Former Owners

As part of the consideration used to acquire six companies, we have outstanding notes to the former owners. These notes had an outstanding balance of \$26.8 million as of September 30, 2018. In conjunction with an acquisition in the third quarter of 2018, we issued a promissory note to former owners with an outstanding balance of \$6.5 million as of September 30, 2018 that bears interest, payable quarterly, at a weighted average interest rate of 3.5%. The principal is due in three equal installments in July 2019, 2020 and 2021. In conjunction with a separate acquisition in the third quarter of 2018, we issued a promissory note to former owners with an outstanding balance of \$3.5 million as of September 30, 2018 that bears interest, payable quarterly, at a weighted average interest rate of 2.9%. The principal is due in September 2020. In conjunction with a small acquisition in the second quarter of 2018, we issued a subordinated note to former owners with an outstanding balance of \$1.0 million as of September 30, 2018 that bears interest, payable quarterly, at a weighted average interest rate of 3.5%. The principal is due in equal installments in May 2020 and 2021. In conjunction with a small acquisition in the first quarter of 2018, we issued a subordinated note to former owners with

## Table of Contents

an outstanding balance of \$1.0 million as of September 30, 2018 that bears interest, payable quarterly, at a weighted average interest rate of 2.5%. The principal is due in equal installments in January 2019 and 2020. In conjunction with the BCH acquisition in the second quarter of 2017, we issued a promissory note to the former owners with an outstanding balance of \$14.3 million as of September 30, 2018 that bears interest, payable quarterly, at a weighted average interest rate of 3.0%. The principal is due in equal installments in April 2020 and 2021. In conjunction with the Shoffner acquisition in the first quarter of 2016, we issued a subordinated note to former owners with an outstanding balance of \$0.5 million as of September 30, 2018 that bears interest, payable quarterly, at a weighted average interest rate of 3.0%. The principal is due in February 2019.

## Other Debt

As part of the Shoffner acquisition, we acquired debt with an outstanding balance at the acquisition date of \$0.4 million with principal and interest due the last day of every month; ending on the December 30, 2019 maturity date. The interest rate is the one month LIBOR rate plus 2.25%. As of September 30, 2018, \$0.1 million of the note was outstanding, of which \$0.1 million was considered current.

## Outlook

We have generated positive net free cash flow for the last nineteen calendar years, much of which occurred during challenging economic and industry conditions. We also continue to have significant borrowing capacity under our credit facility, and we maintain what we feel are reasonable cash balances. We believe these factors will provide us with sufficient liquidity to fund our operations for the foreseeable future.

## Off Balance Sheet Arrangements and Other Commitments

As is common in our industry, we have entered into certain off balance sheet arrangements in the ordinary course of business that result in risks not directly reflected in our balance sheets. Our most significant off balance sheet transactions include liabilities associated with noncancelable operating leases. We also have other off balance sheet obligations involving letters of credit and surety guarantees.

We enter into noncancelable operating leases for many of our facility, vehicle and equipment needs. These leases allow us to conserve cash by paying a monthly lease rental fee for use of facilities, vehicles and equipment rather than purchasing them. At the end of the lease, we have no further obligation to the lessor. If we decide to cancel or terminate a lease before the end of its term, we would typically owe the lessor the remaining lease payments under the term of the lease.

Certain of our vendors require letters of credit to ensure reimbursement for amounts they are disbursing on our behalf, such as to beneficiaries under our self funded insurance programs. We have also occasionally used letters of credit to guarantee performance under our contracts and to ensure payment to our subcontractors and vendors under those contracts. The letters of credit we provide are actually issued by our lenders through the Facility as described above. A letter of credit commits the lenders to pay specified amounts to the holder of the letter of credit if the holder demonstrates that we have failed to perform specified actions. If this were to occur, we would be required to reimburse the lenders. Depending on the circumstances of such a reimbursement, we may also have to record a charge to earnings for the reimbursement. Absent a claim, there is no payment or reserving of funds by us in connection with a letter of credit. However, because a claim on a letter of credit would require immediate reimbursement by us to our lenders, letters of credit are treated as a use of the Facility's capacity just the same as actual borrowings. Claims against letters of credit are rare in our industry. To date we have not had a claim made against a letter of credit that resulted in payments by a lender or by us. We believe that it is unlikely that we will have to fund claims under a letter of credit in the foreseeable future.

Many customers, particularly in connection with new construction, require us to post performance and payment bonds issued by a financial institution known as a surety. If we fail to perform under the terms of a contract or to pay subcontractors and vendors who provided goods or services under a contract, the customer may demand that the surety make payments or provide services under the bond. We must reimburse the sureties for any expenses or outlays they



## Table of Contents

incur. To date, we are not aware of any losses to our sureties in connection with bonds the sureties have posted on our behalf, and we do not expect such losses to be incurred in the foreseeable future.

Under standard terms in the surety market, sureties issue bonds on a project by project basis, and can decline to issue bonds at any time. Historically, approximately 20% to 30% of our business has required bonds. While we currently have strong surety relationships to support our bonding needs, future market conditions or changes in our sureties' assessment of our operating and financial risk could cause our sureties to decline to issue bonds for our work. If that were to occur, our alternatives include doing more business that does not require bonds, posting other forms of collateral for project performance such as letters of credit or cash, and seeking bonding capacity from other sureties. We would likely also encounter concerns from customers, suppliers and other market participants as to our creditworthiness. While we believe our general operating and financial characteristics would enable us to ultimately respond effectively to an interruption in the availability of bonding capacity, such an interruption would likely cause our revenue and profits to decline in the near term.

## Contractual Obligations

As of September 30, 2018, we have \$33.6 million in letter of credit commitments, of which \$7.5 million will expire in 2018 and \$26.1 million will expire in 2019. The substantial majority of these letters of credit are posted with insurers who disburse funds on our behalf in connection with our workers' compensation, auto liability and general liability insurance program. These letters of credit provide additional security to the insurers that sufficient financial resources will be available to fund claims on our behalf, many of which develop over long periods of time, should we ever encounter financial duress. Posting of letters of credit for this purpose is a common practice for entities that manage their self insurance programs through third party insurers as we do. While many of these letter of credit commitments expire in 2018, we expect nearly all of them, particularly those supporting our insurance programs, will be renewed annually.

## Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

We are exposed to market risk primarily related to potential adverse changes in interest rates as discussed below. We are actively involved in monitoring exposure to market risk and continue to develop and utilize appropriate risk management techniques. We are not exposed to any other significant financial market risks including commodity price risk, foreign currency exchange risk or interest rate risks from the use of derivative financial instruments. We do not use derivative financial instruments.

We have exposure to changes in interest rates under our revolving credit facility. We have a modest level of indebtedness under our debt facility and our indebtedness could increase in the future. Our debt with fixed interest rates consists of notes to former owners of acquired companies.

The weighted average interest rate applicable to borrowings under the Facility was approximately 3.4% as of September 30, 2018.

We measure certain assets at fair value on a nonrecurring basis. These assets are recognized at fair value when they are deemed to be other-than-temporarily impaired. During the first quarter of 2017 we recorded a goodwill impairment charge of \$1.1 million based on Level 3 measurements. See Note 5 “Goodwill” for further discussion.

The valuation of our contingent earn out payments is determined using a probability weighted discounted cash flow method. This analysis reflects the contractual terms of the purchase agreements (e.g., minimum and maximum payment, length of earn out periods, manner of calculating any amounts due, etc.) and utilizes assumptions with regard to future cash flows, probabilities of achieving such future cash flows and a discount rate.

Table of Contents

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Our executive management is responsible for ensuring the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures. We carried out an evaluation under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based on that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) are effective as of the end of the period covered by this report.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There have not been any changes in our internal control over financial reporting (as such term is defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) during the three months ended September 30, 2018 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II—OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

We are subject to certain claims and lawsuits arising in the normal course of business. We maintain various insurance coverages to minimize financial risk associated with these claims. We have estimated and provided accruals for probable losses and related legal fees associated with certain litigation in our consolidated financial statements. While we cannot predict the outcome of these proceedings, in our opinion and based on reports of counsel, any liability arising from these matters individually and in the aggregate will not have a material effect on our operating results, cash flows or financial condition, after giving effect to provisions already recorded.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

In addition to the other information set forth in this report, you should carefully consider the factors discussed in Part 1, “Item 1A. Risk Factors” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017, which could materially affect our business, financial condition, or future results. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem to be immaterial also may materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, or future results.

## Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

### Recent Sales of Unregistered Securities

None.

### Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

On March 29, 2007, our Board of Directors (the “Board”) approved a stock repurchase program to acquire up to 1.0 million shares of our outstanding common stock. Subsequently, the Board has from time to time increased the number of shares that may be acquired under the program and approved extensions of the program. On August 10, 2018, the Board approved an extension to the program by increasing the shares authorized for repurchase by 0.7 million shares. Since the inception of the repurchase program, the Board has approved 8.8 million shares to be repurchased. As of September 30, 2018, we have repurchased a cumulative total of 7.9 million shares at an average price of \$14.79 per share under the repurchase program.

Table of Contents

The share repurchases will be made from time to time at our discretion in the open market or privately negotiated transactions as permitted by securities laws and other legal requirements, and subject to market conditions and other factors. The Board may modify, suspend, extend or terminate the program at any time. During the nine months ended September 30, 2018, we repurchased 0.3 million shares for approximately \$11.6 million at an average price of \$46.10 per share.

During the quarter ended September 30, 2018, we purchased our common shares in the following amounts at the following average prices:

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid Per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs (1)	Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs
July 1 - July 31	500	\$ 46.00	7,771,895	340,598
August 1 - August 31	25,429	\$ 55.60	7,797,324	986,085
September 1 - September 30	59,293	\$ 55.78	7,856,617	926,792
	85,222	\$ 55.67	7,856,617	926,792

Under our 2012 Equity Incentive Plan and 2017 Omnibus Incentive Plan, employees may elect to have us withhold common shares to satisfy statutory federal, state and local tax withholding obligations arising on the vesting of restricted stock awards and exercise of options. When we withhold these shares, we are required to remit to the appropriate taxing authorities the market price of the shares withheld, which could be deemed a purchase of the common shares by us on the date of withholding.

Table of Contents

## Item 6. Exhibits

Exhibit Number	Description of Exhibits	Incorporated by Reference to the Exhibit Indicated Below and to the Filing with the Commission Indicated Below
		Exhibit     Filing or Number     File Number
3.1	<u>Second Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Registrant</u>	3.1     333 24021
3.2	<u>Certificate of Amendment dated May 21, 1998</u>	3.2     1998 Form 10 K
3.3	<u>Certificate of Amendment dated July 9, 2003</u>	3.3     2003 Form 10 K
3.4	<u>Certificate of Amendment dated May 20, 2016</u>	3.1     May 20, 2016
3.5	<u>Amended and Restated Bylaws of Comfort Systems USA, Inc.</u>	3.1     Form 8 K March 25, 2016
31.1	<u>Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002</u>	Form 8 K Filed Herewith
31.2	<u>Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002</u>	Filed Herewith
32.1	<u>Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002</u>	Furnished Herewith
32.2	<u>Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002</u>	Furnished Herewith
101.INS	XBRL Instance Document	
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document	
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document	
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document	
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document	
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase	

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

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

Comfort Systems USA, Inc.

October 25, 2018 By: /s/ Brian E. Lane  
Brian E. Lane  
President, Chief Executive Officer and Director

October 25, 2018 By: /s/ William George  
William George  
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

October 25, 2018 By: /s/ Julie S. Shaeff  
Julie S. Shaeff  
Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer