
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, 2020
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: 001-35628

PERFORMANT FINANCIAL CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

20-0484934
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

Performant Financial Corporation
333 North Canyons Parkway
Livermore, CA 94551
(925) 960-4800

(Address, including zip code and telephone number, including area code of registrant's principal executive offices)

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

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

Indicate by check mark 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 Emerging growth company
Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting 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 Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

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

Title of each class
Common Stock, par value \$.0001 per share

Trading Symbol(s)
PFMT

Name of exchange on which registered
The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC

The number of shares of Common Stock outstanding as of November 10, 2020 was 54,756,683.

**PERFORMANT FINANCIAL CORPORATION
QUARTERLY REPORT ON FORM 10-Q
FOR THE QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020
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PERFORMANT FINANCIAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
Consolidated Balance Sheets
(In thousands)

	September 30, 2020	December 31, 2019
	(Unaudited)	
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 15,655	\$ 3,373
Restricted cash	1,622	1,622
Trade accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$21 and \$237, respectively	22,414	27,170
Contract assets	2,862	1,339
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	2,846	3,329
Income tax receivable	3,719	164
Total current assets	49,118	36,997
Property, equipment, and leasehold improvements, net	17,647	18,769
Identifiable intangible assets, net	748	925
Goodwill	47,372	74,372
Right-of-use assets	4,948	6,834
Other assets	1,160	975
Total assets	\$ 120,993	\$ 138,872
Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity		
Current liabilities:		
Current maturities of notes payable to related party, net of unamortized debt issuance costs of \$1,285 and \$130, respectively	\$ 60,440	\$ 3,320
Accrued salaries and benefits	5,045	6,126
Accounts payable	1,372	2,532
Other current liabilities	4,199	3,576
Deferred revenue	1,062	83
Estimated liability for appeals and disputes	1,033	1,018
Lease liabilities	2,338	2,775
Total current liabilities	75,489	19,430
Notes payable to related party, net of current portion and unamortized debt issuance costs of \$— and \$2,301, respectively	—	58,562
Earnout payable	375	475
Lease liabilities	3,514	4,984
Other liabilities	3,962	1,796
Total liabilities	83,340	85,247
Commitments and contingencies (note 3 and note 4)		
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock, \$0.0001 par value. Authorized, 500,000 shares at September 30, 2020 and December 31, 2019 respectively; issued and outstanding 54,735 and 53,900 shares at September 30, 2020 and December 31, 2019, respectively	5	5
Additional paid-in capital	82,326	80,589
Accumulated deficit	(44,678)	(26,969)
Total stockholders' equity	37,653	53,625
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 120,993	\$ 138,872

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

PERFORMANT FINANCIAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Statements of Operations

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Revenues	\$ 36,228	\$ 35,903	\$ 115,901	\$ 106,609
Operating expenses:				
Salaries and benefits	23,522	28,771	74,493	86,816
Other operating expenses	10,813	12,948	32,075	37,112
Impairment of goodwill	—	—	27,000	—
Total operating expenses	34,335	41,719	133,568	123,928
Income (loss) from operations	1,893	(5,816)	(17,667)	(17,319)
Interest expense	(1,569)	(2,166)	(5,827)	(5,260)
Interest income	6	11	18	33
Income (loss) before provision for (benefit from) income taxes	330	(7,971)	(23,476)	(22,546)
Provision for (benefit from) income taxes	(1,644)	99	(5,767)	412
Net income (loss)	\$ 1,974	\$ (8,070)	\$ (17,709)	\$ (22,958)
Net income (loss) per share				
Basic	\$ 0.04	\$ (0.15)	\$ (0.33)	\$ (0.43)
Diluted	\$ 0.04	\$ (0.15)	\$ (0.33)	\$ (0.43)
Weighted average shares				
Basic	54,684	53,665	54,299	53,366
Diluted	54,710	53,665	54,299	53,366

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

PERFORMANT FINANCIAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity

(In thousands)

(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2020					Three Months Ended September 30, 2019				
	Common Stock		Additional Paid-In Capital	Accumulated Deficit	Total	Common Stock		Additional Paid-In Capital	Accumulated Deficit	Total
	Shares	Amount				Shares	Amount			
Balances at beginning of period	54,462	\$ 5	\$ 81,680	\$ (46,652)	\$ 35,033	53,648	\$ 5	\$ 78,980	\$ (15,037)	\$ 63,948
Common stock issued under stock plans, net of shares withheld for employee taxes	273	—	(11)	—	(11)	37	—	(21)	—	(21)
Stock-based compensation expense	—	—	657	—	657	—	—	525	—	525
Recognition of warrant issued in debt financing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	362	—	362
Net income (loss)	—	—	—	1,974	1,974	—	—	—	(8,070)	(8,070)
Balances at end of period	<u>54,735</u>	<u>\$ 5</u>	<u>\$ 82,326</u>	<u>\$ (44,678)</u>	<u>\$ 37,653</u>	<u>53,685</u>	<u>\$ 5</u>	<u>\$ 79,846</u>	<u>\$ (23,107)</u>	<u>\$ 56,744</u>

	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2020					Nine Months Ended September 30, 2019				
	Common Stock		Additional Paid-In Capital	Accumulated Deficit	Total	Common Stock		Additional Paid-In Capital	Accumulated Deficit	Total
	Shares	Amount				Shares	Amount			
Balances at beginning of period	53,900	\$ 5	\$ 80,589	\$ (26,969)	\$ 53,625	52,999	\$ 5	\$ 77,370	\$ (149)	\$ 77,226
Common stock issued under stock plans, net of shares withheld for employee taxes	835	—	(260)	—	(260)	686	—	(432)	—	(432)
Stock-based compensation expense	—	—	1,997	—	1,997	—	—	1,743	—	1,743
Recognition of warrant issued in debt financing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,165	—	1,165
Net loss	—	—	—	(17,709)	(17,709)	—	—	—	(22,958)	(22,958)
Balances at end of period	<u>54,735</u>	<u>\$ 5</u>	<u>\$ 82,326</u>	<u>\$ (44,678)</u>	<u>\$ 37,653</u>	<u>53,685</u>	<u>\$ 5</u>	<u>\$ 79,846</u>	<u>\$ (23,107)</u>	<u>\$ 56,744</u>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

PERFORMANT FINANCIAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

(In thousands)

(Unaudited)

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2020	2019
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net loss	\$ (17,709)	\$ (22,958)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Loss on disposal of assets	88	7
Impairment of goodwill	27,000	—
Depreciation and amortization	4,072	6,698
Right-of-use assets amortization	1,886	1,913
Stock-based compensation	1,997	1,743
Interest expense from debt issuance costs	1,145	896
Earnout mark-to-market	(162)	(1,086)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Trade accounts receivable	4,756	354
Contract assets	(1,523)	(1,159)
Prepaid expenses and other current assets and other assets	298	(219)
Income tax receivable	(3,555)	179
Accrued salaries and benefits	(1,081)	1,236
Accounts payable	(1,160)	460
Deferred revenue and other current liabilities	1,664	280
Estimated liability for appeals and disputes	15	159
Lease liabilities	(1,907)	(2,066)
Other liabilities	2,168	187
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>17,992</u>	<u>(13,376)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchase of property, equipment, and leasehold improvements	(2,862)	(4,101)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(2,862)</u>	<u>(4,101)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Repayment of notes payable	(2,588)	(1,750)
Debt issuance costs paid	—	(68)
Taxes paid related to net share settlement of stock awards	(260)	(466)
Proceeds from exercise of stock options	—	34
Borrowings from notes payable	—	21,000
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	<u>(2,848)</u>	<u>18,750</u>
Net increase in cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash	12,282	1,273
Cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash at beginning of period	4,995	7,275
Cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash at end of period	<u>\$ 17,277</u>	<u>\$ 8,548</u>
Reconciliation of the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows to the Consolidated Balance Sheets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 15,655	\$ 6,888
Restricted cash	1,622	1,660
Total cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash at end of period	<u>\$ 17,277</u>	<u>\$ 8,548</u>

PERFORMANT FINANCIAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

(In thousands)

(Unaudited)

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2020	2019
Non-cash financing activities:		
Recognition of warrants issued in debt financing	\$ —	\$ 1,165
Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information:		
Cash received for income taxes	\$ 2,280	\$ 87
Cash paid for interest	\$ 4,616	\$ 4,363

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

PERFORMANT FINANCIAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

Notes To Consolidated Financial Statements

(Unaudited)

1. Organization and Description of Business

(a) Basis of Presentation and Organization

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, or U.S. GAAP, for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and notes required by U.S. GAAP for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management, the unaudited interim financial statements furnished herein include all adjustments necessary (consisting only of normal recurring adjustments) for a fair presentation of our financial position at September 30, 2020, and the results of our operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2020 and 2019 and cash flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2020 and 2019. Interim financial statements are prepared on a basis consistent with our annual consolidated financial statements. The interim financial statements included herein should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and related notes included in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2019.

Performant Financial Corporation (the "Company" or "we") is a leading provider of technology-enabled recovery and analytics services in the United States. The Company's services help identify, restructure and recover delinquent or defaulted assets and improper payments for both government and private clients in a broad range of markets. Clients of the Company typically operate in complex and regulated environments and contract for their recovery needs in order to reduce losses on defaulted student loans, improper healthcare payments and delinquent state tax and federal treasury receivables. The Company generally provides services on an outsourced basis; handling many or all aspects of the clients' recovery processes.

The Company's consolidated financial statements include the operations of Performant Financial Corporation (Performant), its wholly-owned subsidiaries Premiere Credit of North America, LLC (Premiere) and Performant Business Services, Inc. (PBS), and PBS's wholly-owned subsidiaries Performant Recovery, Inc. (Recovery) and Performant Technologies, LLC (PTL). Performant is a Delaware corporation headquartered in California and was formed in 2003. Premiere is an Indiana limited liability company acquired by Performant on August 31, 2018. PBS is a Nevada corporation founded in 1997. Recovery is a California corporation founded in 1976. PTL is a California limited liability company that was originally formed in 2004. All intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

The Company is managed and operated as one business, with a single management team that reports to the Chief Executive Officer.

The preparation of the consolidated financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make certain estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, primarily accounts receivable, contract assets, intangible assets, goodwill, right-of-use assets, deferred revenue, estimated liability for appeals and disputes, lease liabilities, earnout payable, other liabilities, deferred income taxes and income tax expense (benefit) and disclosure of contingent liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting periods. Our actual results could differ from those estimates.

(b) Liquidity

The accompanying consolidated financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which contemplates that the Company will be able to realize assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business. Accordingly, they do not give effect to any adjustments that would be necessary should the Company be required to liquidate its assets. The ability of the Company to continue to fund its business plans is dependent upon realizing sufficient cash flows in the future. The accompanying consolidated financial statements do not include any adjustments that might result from the outcome of these uncertainties.

In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") a pandemic. COVID-19 has had, and will likely continue to have, an impact on the Company's business, both operationally and financially. For example, many states in which the Company has offices are under state of emergency or other public health emergency and continue to have emergency orders, which has resulted in both management and employees continuing to work remotely (from home).

The United States Government passed multiple new laws designed to help companies respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, on March 27, 2020, Congress enacted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the “CARES Act”) which included several student loan-related changes. These changes have had an impact on the Company’s financial results and management expects that they will continue to affect the Company’s financial results into the foreseeable future.

The CARES Act included changes to student loans owned by the Department of Education. These changes include the suspension of payments, the ceasing of accruing interest, and stopping involuntary collections of payments (e.g., wage garnishments). On August 21, 2020, the Department of Education announced that the student loan relief to borrowers would be extended through December 31, 2020. While these changes impact the set-up of new loan rehabilitation agreements by defaulted student loan borrowers, the Department of Education will consider each month during the period of suspended payments as an eligible month towards achieving loan rehabilitation, which is an element in determining future revenue to which the Company is entitled. In addition, student loan revenue and related cash flows will continue during this period because the Company earns revenue for a number of months from existing in-process borrower rehabilitation agreements. Further, while not mandated by the CARES Act, all of the Company’s Guaranty Agency clients (who administer the Federal Family Education Loan Program) are largely complying with the provisions of the Act, with the exception of counting missed payments toward qualification for loan rehabilitation. Given the CARES Act impact on the Company’s recovery activities, the Company had furloughed more than 500 employees by the end of the second quarter, which has resulted in significant savings to date. During this quarter, the Company recalled a number of employees to work on contracts that resumed recovery activities, which resulted in over 300 employees remaining on furlough at the end of this quarter.

The Company’s healthcare business has not been impacted by COVID-19 to the extent that the recovery business has been impacted. While a few healthcare customers placed short term pauses on audit activities during the second quarter and part of third quarter of 2020, the Company has begun to resume growth in its healthcare business.

With respect to favorable impacts to the Company’s liquidity, the CARES Act provided the right to carryback net operating losses from 2018 and 2019 to earlier periods. The Company has already received a cash refund of approximately \$2.4 million. The Company further expects to file a refund request for an additional \$0.5 million for the 2013 tax year, and an additional refund request for the 2014 tax year which is currently expected to result in a refund of approximately \$3.1 million. The CARES Act also allows deferrals and credits for payroll tax amounts, which is expected to result in approximately \$3 million in cash savings through 2020.

The Company continues to analyze the impact of COVID-19. However, the Company believes that its forecasted results, considering the impact of COVID-19, will be sufficient to fund the Company’s current operations, for at least a year from the issuance of these consolidated financial statements. While the Company believes its financial projections are attainable, there can be no assurances that the financial results will be recognized in a timeframe necessary to meet the Company’s ongoing cash requirements.

To address the Company’s liquidity needs, the Company may need to execute various actions to increase cash necessary for operations. These actions include, but are not limited to, additional reductions in workforce (both through furloughs and layoffs), reduce or delay capital expenditures, seek additional capital infusions through public and/or private means, sales of real estate assets or operations, and scaling back of certain lower margin operations.

(c) Revenues, Accounts Receivable, and Estimated Liability for Appeals

The Company derives its revenues primarily from providing recovery services and healthcare audit services. Revenues are recognized when control of these services is transferred to its customers, in an amount that reflects the consideration the Company expects to be entitled to in exchange for those services.

The Company determines revenue recognition through the following steps:

- Identification of the contract with a customer
- Identification of the performance obligations in the contract
- Determination of the transaction price
- Allocation of the transaction price to the performance obligations in the contract
- Recognition of revenue when, or as, the performance obligations are satisfied

The Company accounts for a contract when it has approval and commitment from both parties, the rights of the parties are identified, payment terms are identified, the contract has commercial substance and collectability of consideration is probable.

The Company's contracts generally contain a single performance obligation, delivered over time as a series of services that are substantially the same and have the same pattern of transfer to the client, as the promise to transfer the individual services is not separately identifiable from other promises in the contracts and, therefore, not distinct.

The Company's contracts are composed primarily of variable consideration. Fees earned under the Company's recovery service and healthcare audit service contracts consist primarily of contingency fees based on a specified percentage of the amount the Company enables its clients to recover. The contingency fee percentage for a particular recovery depends on the type of recovery or claim facilitated. In certain contracts, the Company can earn additional performance-based bonuses determined based on its performance relative to the client's other contractors providing similar services.

The Company generally either applies the as-invoiced practical expedient, where its right to consideration corresponds directly to its right to invoice its clients, or the variable consideration allocation exception, where the variable consideration is attributable to one or more, but not all, of the services promised in a series of distinct services that form part of a single performance obligation. As such, the Company has elected the optional exemptions related to the as-invoiced practical expedient and the variable consideration allocation exception, whereby the disclosure of the amount of transaction price allocated to the remaining performance obligations is not required.

The Company estimates variable consideration upon completion of service using an output method to measure the satisfaction of its performance obligations and recognizes such revenue over the performance period only if it is probable that a significant reversal in the amount of cumulative revenue recognized will not occur. The Company exercises judgment to estimate the amount of constraint on variable consideration based on the facts and circumstances of the relevant contract operations and availability and reliability of data. Although the Company believes the estimates made are reasonable and appropriate, different assumptions and estimates could materially impact the amount of variable consideration.

For contracts that contain a refund right, these amounts are considered variable consideration and the Company estimates its refund exposure and recognizes revenue net of such estimate.

Under certain contracts, consideration can include periodic performance-based bonuses which can be awarded based on the Company's performance under the specific contract. These performance-based bonuses are considered variable and may be constrained by the Company until there is not a risk of a material reversal.

The Company has applied the as-invoiced practical expedient or the variable consideration allocation exception to contracts with performance obligations that have an average remaining duration of less than a year.

For certain recovery contracts, revenue is recognized when the clients collect on amounts owed to them as a result of the Company's services. For student loan recovery services, loan rehabilitation revenue is recognized when the rehabilitated loans are funded by clients. Bonuses are recognized upon receipt of official notification of bonus awards from customers.

For healthcare claims audit contracts, the Company may recognize revenue upon delivering the results of claims audits, when sufficient reliable information is available to the Company for estimating the variable consideration earned based on an output metric that reasonably measures the Company's satisfaction of its performance obligation.

For coordination-of-benefits contracts, the Company recognizes revenue when insurance companies or other responsible parties have remitted payments to the clients.

For customer care / outsourced services clients, the Company recognizes revenues based on the volume of processed transactions or the quantity of labor hours provided.

The following table presents revenue disaggregated by category for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2020 and 2019 (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
	(in thousands)		(in thousands)	
Healthcare	17,566	10,757	49,682	29,040
Recovery ⁽¹⁾	15,443	20,936	55,876	64,418
Customer Care / Outsourced Services	3,219	4,210	10,343	13,151
Total Revenues	\$ 36,228	\$ 35,903	\$ 115,901	\$ 106,609

(1) Represents student lending, state and municipal tax authorities, IRS and Department of Treasury markets, select financial institutions, as well as Premiere Credit of North America.

Healthcare providers have the right to appeal claims audit findings and may pursue additional appeals if the initial appeal is found in favor of healthcare clients. For coordination-of-benefits contracts, insurance companies or other responsible parties may dispute the Company's findings regarding our clients not being the primary payer of healthcare claims. Total estimated liability for appeals and disputes was \$1.0 million and \$1.0 million as of September 30, 2020 and December 31, 2019, respectively. This represents the Company's best estimate of the amount probable of being refunded to the Company's healthcare clients following successful appeals of claims or disputes of responsible payer for which commissions were previously collected.

Trade accounts receivable are recorded at the invoiced amount and do not bear interest. The Company determines the allowance for doubtful accounts by specific identification. Account balances are charged off against the allowance after all means of collection have been exhausted and the potential for recovery is consider remote. The allowance for doubtful accounts was \$21 thousand and \$0.2 million at September 30, 2020 and December 31, 2019, respectively.

The Company determined that it does not have any material costs related to obtaining or fulfilling a contract that are recoverable and as such, these contract costs are generally expensed as incurred.

The Company had contract assets of \$2.9 million and \$1.3 million as of September 30, 2020 and December 31, 2019, respectively. Contract assets relate to the Company's rights to payment for services completed, but not invoiced at the reporting date, and receipt of payment is conditional upon factors other than the passage of time. Contract assets primarily consist of completed claims audit findings submitted to healthcare clients. Generally, the Company's right to payment occurs when healthcare providers have paid our healthcare clients. The change in contract assets primarily resulted from an update in the measure of progress under certain contracts, consideration earned for services provided to healthcare clients, offset by invoiced amounts. Contract assets are recorded to accounts receivable when the rights become unconditional and amounts are invoiced. There was no impairment loss related to contract assets for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2020.

The Company had contract liabilities of \$1.1 million and \$0.1 million as of September 30, 2020 and December 31, 2019, respectively, which are included in deferred revenue on the consolidated balance sheets. The Company's contract liabilities mainly relate to an advance recovery commission payment received from a client, for which the Company anticipates revenue to be recognized as services are delivered.

(d) Prepaid Expenses and Other Current Assets

At September 30, 2020, prepaid expenses and other current assets were \$2.8 million and included approximately \$2.0 million related to prepaid software licenses and maintenance agreements, \$0.1 million for prepaid insurance, and \$0.7 million for various other prepaid expenses. At December 31, 2019, prepaid expenses and other current assets were \$3.3 million and included approximately \$2.2 million related to prepaid software licenses and maintenance agreements, \$0.7 million for prepaid insurance, and \$0.4 million for various other prepaid expenses.

(e) Impairment of Goodwill and Long-Lived Assets

Goodwill is reviewed for impairment at least annually or as certain events or conditions arise. The balance of goodwill was \$47.4 million as of September 30, 2020 and \$74.4 million as of December 31, 2019. The economic impact from the COVID-19 pandemic was a triggering factor requiring an interim assessment of goodwill for impairment. In performing the quantitative assessment of goodwill, if the carrying value of the Company, as one reporting unit, exceeds its fair value, goodwill is considered impaired. The amount of impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying value and the fair value of the reporting unit.

Impairment testing is based upon the best information available and estimates of fair value which incorporate assumptions marketplace participants would use in making their estimates of fair value. Significant assumptions and estimates are required, including, but not limited to, our market capitalization, projecting future cash flows and other assumptions, to estimate the fair value of the reporting unit. Although the Company believes the assumptions and estimates made are reasonable and appropriate, different assumptions and estimates could materially impact the amount of impairment. Based on management's analysis, we concluded that the carrying value of our reporting unit was not greater than its fair value as of September 30, 2020, as such there was no impairment charge for the three months ended September 30, 2020. For the nine months ended September 30, 2020, a non-cash goodwill impairment charge of \$27.0 million was recorded. The goodwill impairment charges had no impact on the Company's cash flows or compliance with debt covenants.

Long-lived assets and intangible assets that are subject to amortization are evaluated for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of such assets or intangibles may not be recoverable. Recoverability of assets to be held and used is measured by a comparison of the carrying amount of the assets to future undiscounted net cash flows expected to be generated by the assets. There was no need to impair long-lived assets or intangible assets as of September 30, 2020.

(f) Other Current Liabilities

At September 30, 2020, other current liabilities primarily included \$1.9 million for services received for which we have not received an invoice, \$1.6 million for accrued settlement costs, \$0.3 million for third party fees and equipment financing payables, and \$0.4 million for estimated workers' compensation claims incurred but not reported. At December 31, 2019, other current liabilities primarily included \$2.2 million for services received for which we have not received an invoice, \$0.6 million for insurance premium financing payables, \$0.3 million for accrued subcontractor fees, and \$0.3 million for estimated workers' compensation claims incurred but not reported.

(g) New Accounting Pronouncements

In August 2018, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2018-13, "Fair Value Measurements," which eliminates, adds, or modifies certain disclosure requirements for fair value measurements. Entities will no longer be required to disclose the amount of and reasons for transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy, but will be required to disclose the range and weighted average used to develop significant unobservable inputs for Level 3 fair value measurements. This ASU is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2019, including interim periods within that fiscal year. The Company adopted this pronouncement on January 1, 2020, noting no impact to the consolidated financial statements as the amounts subject to Level 3 fair value measurements are not material.

In December 2019, the FASB issued ASU 2019-12, "Income Taxes (Topic 740): Simplifying the Accounting for Income Taxes". This ASU clarifies and simplifies accounting for income taxes by eliminating certain exceptions for intra-period tax allocation principles and the methodology for calculating income tax rates in an interim period, among other updates. This ASU is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2020, with early adoption permitted. The Company is evaluating the effect of the adoption of this pronouncement.

In February 2020, the FASB issued ASU 2020-02, “Financial Instruments - Credit Losses (Topic 326) and Leases (Topic 842) – Amendments to SEC Paragraphs Pursuant to SEC Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 119 and Update to SEC Section on Effective Date Related to Accounting Standards Update No. 2016-02, Leases (Topic 842).” This ASU provides updated guidance on how an entity should measure credit losses on financial instruments, including trade receivables, held at the reporting date. The amendments make each Topic easier to understand and easier to apply by eliminating inconsistencies and providing clarifications. It also addresses transition and open effective date information for Topic 842. ASU 2016-13, ASU 2018-19, ASU 2019-04, ASU 2019-05, ASU 2019-11 and ASU 2020-02 (collectively, “ASC 326”) are effective for public entities for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2019, except for Smaller Reporting Companies. This ASU is effective for the Company for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2022.

In March 2020, the FASB issued ASU No 2020-04, “Reference Rate Reform (Topic 848): Facilitation of the Effects of Reference Rate Reform on Financial Reporting” (“ASU 2020-04”). ASU 2020-04 provides temporary optional expedients and exceptions to the US GAAP guidance on contract modifications and hedge accounting to ease the financial reporting burdens related to the expected market transition from the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) and other interbank offered rates to alternative reference rates. ASU 2020-04 is effective beginning on March 12, 2020, and the Company may elect to apply the amendments prospectively through December 31, 2022. The Company does not expect ASU 2020-04 to have a material effect on the Company’s current financial position, results of operations or financial statement disclosures.

2. Property, Equipment, and Leasehold Improvements

Property, equipment, and leasehold improvements consist of the following at September 30, 2020 and December 31, 2019 (in thousands):

	September 30, 2020	December 31, 2019
Land	\$ 1,943	\$ 1,943
Building and leasehold improvements	8,085	8,124
Furniture and equipment	6,132	6,257
Computer hardware and software	79,400	79,066
	<u>95,560</u>	<u>95,390</u>
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(77,913)	(76,621)
Property, equipment and leasehold improvements, net	<u>\$ 17,647</u>	<u>\$ 18,769</u>

Depreciation expense of property, equipment and leasehold improvements was \$1.2 million and \$2.1 million for the three months ended September 30, 2020 and 2019, respectively, and \$3.9 million and \$6.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2020 and 2019, respectively.

3. Credit Agreement

On August 7, 2017, we, through our wholly-owned subsidiary Performant Business Services, Inc. (the "Borrower"), entered into a credit agreement (as amended, the “Credit Agreement”) with ECMC Group, Inc. Before the amendment described below, the Credit Agreement provided for a term loan facility in the initial amount of \$44 million (the “Initial Term Loan”) and for up to \$15 million of additional term loans (“Additional Term Loans”; and together with the Initial Term Loan, the “Loans”) which original Additional Term Loans were initially able to be drawn until the second anniversary of the funding of the Initial Term Loans, subject to the satisfaction of customary conditions. On August 31, 2018, we entered into Amendment No. 2 to the Credit Agreement to among other things (i) extend the maturity date of the Initial Term Loan and any Additional Term Loans by one year to August 2021, (ii) expand the Additional Term Loans commitment from \$15 million to \$25 million, (iii) extend the period during which Additional Term Loans can be borrowed by one year to August 2020 and, (iv) relieve the Borrower from its obligations to comply with the financial covenants in the Credit Agreement during the six fiscal quarters following the Premiere acquisition.

On March 21, 2019, we entered into Amendment No. 3 to the Credit Agreement to, among other things, relieve the Borrower from its obligation to comply with the financial covenants in the Credit Agreement until the quarter ending June 30, 2020. As of September 30, 2019, the Company has borrowed all of the \$25 million available as Additional Term Loans.

As of September 30, 2020, \$61.7 million was outstanding under the Credit Agreement. While this amount is classified in current liabilities, we have the option to extend the maturity of the Loans for two additional one-year periods, subject to the satisfaction of customary conditions.

The Loans bear interest at the one-month LIBOR rate (subject to a 1% per annum floor) plus a margin which may vary from 5.5% per annum to 10.0% per annum based on our total debt to EBITDA ratio. Our annual interest rate at September 30, 2020 was 8.0% and 11.8% at December 31, 2019. We are required to pay 5% of the original principal balance of the Loans annually in quarterly installments and to make mandatory prepayments of the Loans with a percentage of our excess cash flow which may vary between 75% and 0% depending on our total debt to EBITDA ratio and from the net cash proceeds of certain asset dispositions and debt not otherwise permitted under the Credit Agreement, in each case, subject to the lender's right to decline to receive such payments.

The Credit Agreement contains certain restrictive financial covenants that became effective on June 30, 2020, which require, among other things, that we: (1) achieve a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio of 1.0 through December 31, 2020 and 1.25 to 1.0 through June 30, 2022 if the maturity date of the Loans is extended until the fifth anniversary of the Closing Date and (2) maintain a maximum total debt to EBITDA ratio of 6.00 to 1.00. The Credit Agreement also contains covenants that restrict the Company's and its subsidiaries' ability to incur certain types or amounts of indebtedness, incur liens on certain assets, make material changes in corporate structure or the nature of its business, dispose of material assets, engage in a change in control transaction, make certain foreign investments, enter into certain restrictive agreements, or engage in certain transactions with affiliates. The Credit Agreement also contains various customary events of default, including with respect to change of control of the Company or its ownership of the Borrower.

The obligations under the Credit Agreement are secured by substantially all of our subsidiaries' assets and are guaranteed by the Company and its subsidiaries, other than the Borrower.

In consideration for, and concurrently with, the origination of the Initial Term Loan in accordance with the terms of the Credit Agreement, we issued a warrant to the lender to purchase up to an aggregate of 3,863,326 shares of the Company's common stock (representing approximately up to 7.5% of our diluted common stock as calculated using the "treasury stock" method as defined under U.S. GAAP for the three month period ended June 30, 2017) with an exercise price of \$1.92 per share (the "Exercise Price").

Upon borrowing of the Additional Term Loans, the Company was required to issue additional warrants at the same Exercise Price to purchase up to an aggregate of 77,267 additional shares of common stock (which represents approximately 0.15% of our diluted common stock calculated using the "treasury stock" method as defined under U.S. GAAP for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2017) for each \$1.0 million of such Additional Term Loans. Similarly, upon our election to extend the maturity of the loans for two additional one year periods, we will be required to issue additional warrants at the same Exercise Price to purchase up to an aggregate of 515,110 additional shares of common stock for the first year, and to purchase up to an aggregate of 772,665 additional shares of common stock for the second year (which represent approximately 1.0% and 1.5% of our diluted common stock for the first and second years, respectively, calculated using the "treasury stock" method as defined under U.S. GAAP for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2017).

The Company has accounted for these warrants as equity instruments since the warrants are indexed to the Company's common shares and meet the criteria for classification in shareholders' equity. The relative fair values of the warrants are noted below and were treated as a discount to the associated debt. These amounts are being amortized to interest expense under the effective interest method over the life of the Term Loan and Additional Term Loans, respectively, which is a period of 48 months. The Company estimated the value of the warrants using the Black-Scholes model. The key information and assumptions used to value the warrants are as follows:

	August 2017 Issuance	October 2018 Issuance	April 2019 Issuance	May 2019 Issuance	August 2019 Issuance	September 2019 Issuance
Exercise price	\$1.92	\$1.92	\$1.92	\$1.92	\$1.92	\$1.92
Share price on date of issuance	\$1.85	\$1.93	\$2.24	\$1.75	\$1.11	\$1.10
Volatility	50.0%	55.0%	57.5%	57.5%	67.5%	67.5%
Risk-free interest rate	1.83%	3.01%	2.31%	2.15%	1.53%	1.60%
Expected dividend yield	—%	—%	—%	—%	—%	—%
Contractual term (in years)	5	5	5	5	5	5
Number of shares	3,863,326	309,066	386,333	463,599	386,333	386,333
Relative fair value of each warrant	\$3.3 million	\$0.2 million	\$0.4 million	\$0.4 million	\$0.2 million	\$0.2 million

In addition, at the closing of the Initial Term Loan, the Company paid transaction costs of \$0.6 million, which were recorded as a discount on the debt and are being amortized to interest expense using the effective interest method over the life of the Initial Term Loan, which is a period of 48 months.

Outstanding debt obligations are as follows (in thousands):

	September 30, 2020
Principal amount	\$ 61,725
Less: unamortized discount and debt issuance costs	(1,285)
Notes payable less unamortized discount and debt issuance costs	60,440
Less: current maturities, net of unamortized discount and debt issuance costs	(60,440)
Long-term notes payable, net of current maturities and unamortized discount and debt issuance costs	\$ —

4. Leases

The Company has entered into various non-cancelable operating lease agreements for office facilities and equipment with original lease periods expiring between 2020 and 2025. Certain of these arrangements have free rent periods and/or escalating rent payment provisions. As such, we recognize rent expense under such arrangements on a straight-line basis in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Some leases include options to renew. We do not assume renewals in our determination of the lease term unless the renewals are deemed to be reasonably assured at lease commencement. Our lease agreements do not contain any material residual value guarantees or material restrictive covenants. Leases with an initial term of twelve months or less are not recorded on the balance sheet.

Operating lease expense was \$0.8 million and \$0.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2020 and 2019, respectively, and \$2.3 million and \$2.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2020 and 2019, respectively.

Supplemental cash flow and other information related to operating leases was as follows:

	September 30, 2020	September 30, 2019
Weighted Average Remaining Lease Term (in years)	3.1	3.9
Weighted Average Discount Rate	6.7%	6.5%
Cash paid for amounts included in the measurement of operating lease liabilities	\$2.2 million	\$2.7 million

The following is a schedule, by years, of maturities of lease liabilities as of September 30, 2020 (in thousands):

Year Ending December 31,	Amount
Remainder of 2020	842
2021	2,401
2022	1,700
2023	578
2024	585
Thereafter	398
Total undiscounted cash flows	\$ 6,504
Less imputed interest	\$ (652)
Present value of lease liabilities	<u>\$ 5,852</u>

5. Stock-Based Compensation

(a) Stock Options

Total stock-based compensation expense charged as salaries and benefits expense in the consolidated statements of operations was \$2.0 million and \$1.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2020 and 2019, respectively.

The following table sets forth a summary of the Company's stock option activity for the nine months ended September 30, 2020:

	Outstanding Options	Weighted average exercise price per share	Weighted average remaining contractual life (Years)	Aggregate Intrinsic Value (in thousands)
Outstanding at December 31, 2019	1,991,166	\$ 10.06	2.81	\$ —
Granted	—	—		—
Forfeited	(163,605)	7.48		—
Exercised	—	—		—
Outstanding at September 30, 2020	<u>1,827,561</u>	<u>\$ 10.29</u>	2.19	<u>\$ —</u>
Vested and exercisable at September 30, 2020	<u>1,827,561</u>	<u>\$ 10.29</u>	2.19	<u>\$ —</u>

The Company recognizes share-based compensation costs as expense on a straight-line basis over the option vesting period, which generally is four years.

(b) Restricted Stock Units and Performance Stock Units

The following table summarizes restricted stock unit and performance stock unit activity for the nine months ended September 30, 2020:

	Number of Awards	Weighted average grant date fair value per share
Outstanding at December 31, 2019	3,254,254	\$ 2.12
Granted	2,804,479	0.64
Forfeited	(158,783)	2.18
Vested and converted to shares, net of units withheld for taxes	(835,073)	2.02
Units withheld for taxes	(318,481)	2.02
Outstanding at September 30, 2020	4,746,396	\$ 1.27
Expected to vest at September 30, 2020	4,516,968	\$ 1.22

Restricted stock units and performance stock units granted under the Performant Financial Corporation Amended and Restated 2012 Stock Incentive Plan generally vest over periods ranging from one year to four years.

6. Income Taxes

Our effective income tax rate changed to 25% for the nine months ended September 30, 2020 from (2)% for the nine months ended September 30, 2019. The change in the effective tax rate is primarily driven by the net operating loss (“NOL”) carryback benefit recorded as a result of the newly enacted provisions of the CARES Act for the nine months ended September 30, 2020.

We file income tax returns with the U.S. federal government and various state jurisdictions. We operate in a number of state and local jurisdictions, most of which have never audited our records. Accordingly, we are subject to state and local income tax examinations based upon the various statutes of limitations in each jurisdiction. For tax years before 2016, the Company is no longer subject to Federal and certain other state tax examinations. We are currently being examined by the Franchise Tax Board of California for tax years 2011 through 2014 and by the Internal Revenue Service for tax year 2017.

On March 27, 2020, the CARES Act was enacted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act, among other things, permits NOL carryovers and carrybacks to offset 100% of taxable income for taxable years beginning before 2021. In addition, the CARES Act allows NOLs incurred in 2018, 2019, and 2020 to be carried back to each of the five preceding taxable years to generate a refund of previously paid income taxes. This modification significantly impacts the Company by allowing for the carryback of 2018 and 2019 NOL to tax years 2013 and 2014, respectively. These NOL carryforwards had been represented in the December 31, 2019 financial statements by deferred tax assets (“DTA”) for which a valuation allowance had been recorded as the Company did not expect that these DTA would be more likely than not realizable in future periods. As a result of carrying back the NOL, the Company is recognizing an income tax benefit of \$5.9 million associated with these previously unrecognized DTA in the nine months ended September 30, 2020.

7. Net Income (Loss) per Share

For the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2020 and 2019, basic net income (loss) per share is calculated by dividing net loss by the sum of the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the period. Diluted earnings per share is calculated by dividing net income by the weighted average number of shares of common stock and dilutive common share equivalents outstanding during the period. Common share equivalents consist of stock options, restricted stock units, performance stock units, and warrants. When there is a loss in the period, dilutive common share equivalents are excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per share, as their effect would be anti-dilutive. For example, for the nine months ended September 30, 2020 and 2019, respectively, diluted weighted average shares outstanding are the same as basic average shares outstanding. When there is net income in the period, the Company excludes stock options, restricted stock units, performance stock units and warrants from the calculation of diluted earnings per share when their combined exercise price and unamortized fair value exceeds the average market price of the Company's common stock because their effect would be anti-dilutive.

The following table reconciles the basic to diluted weighted average shares outstanding using the treasury stock method (shares in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Weighted average shares outstanding – basic	54,684	53,665	54,299	53,366
Dilutive effect of stock options	26	—	—	—
Weighted average shares outstanding – diluted	54,710	53,665	54,299	53,366

8. Subsequent Events

We have evaluated subsequent events through the date these consolidated financial statements were filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and there are no other events that have occurred that would require adjustments or disclosures to our consolidated financial statements.

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

You should read the following discussion in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements (unaudited) and related notes included elsewhere in this report. This report on Form 10-Q contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. The words "believe," "may," "will," "estimate," "continue," "anticipate," "design," "intend," "expect" and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. We have based these forward-looking statements largely on our current expectations and projections about future events and trends that we believe may affect our financial condition, results of operations, strategy, short-term and long-term business operations and objectives, and financial needs. These forward-looking statements are subject to a number of risks, uncertainties and assumptions, including those described in "Risk Factors" under Item 1A of Part II of this report. In light of these risks, uncertainties and assumptions, the forward-looking events and trends discussed in this report may not occur, and actual results could differ materially and adversely from those anticipated or implied in the forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements about: the impact of COVID-19 on our business and operations, opportunities and expectations for growth in the student lending, healthcare and other markets; anticipated trends and challenges in our business and competition in the markets in which we operate; our client relationships and our ability to maintain such client relationships; our ability to generate sufficient cash flows to fund our ongoing operations and other liquidity needs; our ability to maintain compliance with the covenants in our debt agreements; our ability to generate revenue following long implementation periods associated with new customer contracts; the adaptability of our technology platform to new markets and processes; our ability to invest in and utilize our data and analytics capabilities to expand our capabilities; our growth strategy of expanding in our existing markets and considering strategic alliances or acquisitions; maintaining, protecting and enhancing our intellectual property; our expectations regarding future expenses; expected future financial performance; and our ability to comply with and adapt to industry regulations and compliance demands. The forward-looking statements in this report speak only as of the date hereof. We expressly disclaim any obligation or undertaking to release publicly any updates or revisions to any forward-looking statements contained herein to reflect any change in our expectations with regard thereto or any change in events, conditions or circumstances on which any such statement is based.

Overview

We provide technology-enabled audit, recovery, outsource services and related analytics services in the United States. Our services help identify improper payments, and in some markets, restructure and recover delinquent or defaulted assets and improper payments for both government and private clients in a broad range of markets. Our clients typically operate in complex and regulated environments and outsource their audit and recovery needs in order to reduce losses on billions of dollars of improper healthcare payments, delinquent state and federal tax and federal treasury, defaulted student loans and other receivables. We also provide complex outsource services for clients across our various markets, where we handle many or all aspects of our clients' various processes.

Our revenue model is generally success-based as we earn fees on the aggregate correct audits and/or amount of funds that we enable our clients to recover. Our services do not require any significant upfront investments by our clients and offer our clients the opportunity to recover significant funds otherwise lost. Because our model is based upon the success of our efforts, our business objectives are aligned with those of our clients and we are generally not reliant on their spending budgets. Furthermore, our business model does not require significant capital as we do not purchase loans or obligations.

COVID-19 Pandemic

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has become widespread in the United States, including the areas in which the Company conducts its business operations. State and local governments in places where our primary offices are located, as well as certain of our clients, have enacted emergency orders as well as restrictions to travel and business activities, all of which have had a significant negative impact on our business as well as global economic conditions.

We took proactive actions early on to protect the health of our employees and their families. As the COVID-19 pandemic worsened into April 2020, we required almost all personnel to work remotely and we restricted access to our sites to personnel who are required to perform critical business continuity activities. To date, we continue to require most personnel to work remotely.

While we believe that we have taken steps that will allow us to operate in a virtual or remote fashion as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the extent of the COVID-19 pandemic's effect on our operational and financial performance will depend on many factors, including the duration, spread and intensity of the pandemic, additional protective measures implemented by governmental authorities or by us to protect our employees, and effects of the pandemic and such protective measures on our clients, all of which are uncertain and difficult to predict. As a result, it is not currently possible to ascertain or predict the overall long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our business. In the second and third quarters of 2020, certain of our customers, including federal and state governments, delayed the recovery and audit services that we provide, which had a material negative impact on our revenues. For example, pursuant to the terms of the CARES Act enacted in March 2020, the U.S. Federal government suspended payments, ceased accruing interest, and stopped involuntary collections of payments (e.g., wage garnishments) for student loans owned by the Department of Education through September 30, 2020, which was subsequently extended through December 31, 2020. By the end of the second quarter of 2020, we had furloughed over 500 employees in our recovery business, in response to the suspension of certain of our recovery customer contracts. Subsequently, we recalled a number of employees to work on customer contracts that resumed recovery activities during the third quarter of 2020, which resulted in over 300 employees remaining on furlough as of September 30, 2020. If the COVID-19 pandemic persists or if overall global or localized economic activity continues to contract for any further appreciable length of time, it will continue to have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

Our healthcare business has not experienced a similar level of impact as the recovery business. While a few other healthcare customers placed short term pauses on audit activities during the second quarter and part of the third quarter of 2020, we have begun to resume growth in other healthcare offerings.

There continues to be significant uncertainty around the breadth and duration of business disruptions related to COVID-19 pandemic, as well as its impact on the U.S. economy, the ongoing business operations of our clients or our results of operations and financial condition. As the number of positive COVID-19 cases in the U.S. increased through the third quarter, and is expected to continue to rise through the end of the year, we expect to experience a continued impact on our results of operations and financial condition through the end of the year and into 2021. While the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic cannot be fully estimated at this point, our management team continues to actively monitor the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our current financial projections and is prepared to take further actions to alter our business operations that we determine are in the best interests of our employees and clients, or as required by federal, state, or local authorities. The assumptions and estimates underlying our current financial projections would be adjusted accordingly.

The following discussions are subject to the future effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on our ongoing business operations.

Sources of Revenues

We derive our revenues from services for clients in a variety of different markets. These markets include our two largest markets, healthcare and recovery, as well as our other markets which include but are not limited to outsourced call center services, delinquent state and federal taxes and federal treasury and other receivables.

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
	(in thousands)		(in thousands)	
Healthcare	17,566	10,757	49,682	29,040
Recovery ⁽¹⁾	15,443	20,936	55,876	64,418
Customer Care / Outsourced Services	3,219	4,210	10,343	13,151
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 36,228</u>	<u>\$ 35,903</u>	<u>\$ 115,901</u>	<u>\$ 106,609</u>

(1) Represents student lending, state and municipal tax authorities, IRS and Department of Treasury markets, select financial institutions, as well as Premiere Credit of North America.

Healthcare

We derive revenues from both commercial and government clients in the healthcare market. Revenues earned under contracts in the healthcare market are driven by auditing, identifying, and sometimes recovering improperly paid claims through both automated and manual review of such claims. We are paid contingency fees by our clients based on a percentage of the dollar amount of improper claims recovered as a result of our efforts. The revenues we recognize are net of our estimate of claims that we believe will be overturned by appeal following payment by the provider.

For our commercial healthcare business, our business strategy is focused on utilizing our technology-enabled services platform to provide audit, third-party liability recovery and analytical services for private healthcare payers. Revenues from our commercial healthcare clients were \$16.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2020 compared to revenues of \$11.3 million that we earned from our commercial healthcare clients during the nine months ended September 30, 2019.

On October 5, 2017, we announced that we were awarded the Medicare Secondary Payer Commercial Payment Center (MSP) contract by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ("CMS"). Under this agreement, we are responsible for coordination-of-benefits, which includes identifying and recovering payments in situations where Medicare should not be the primary payer of healthcare claims because a beneficiary has other forms of insurance coverage, such as through an employer group health plan or certain other payers.

On October 26, 2016, CMS awarded two new Medicare Recovery Audit Contractor ("RAC") contracts, for audit Regions 1 and 5. The RAC contract award for Region 1 allows us to continue our audit of payments under Medicare's Part A and Part B for all provider types other than Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies (DMEPOS) and home health and hospice within an 11 state region in the Northeast and Midwest. The Region 5 RAC contract provides for the post-payment review of DMEPOS and home health and hospice claims nationally.

Healthcare providers have the right to appeal a claim and may pursue additional appeals if the initial appeal is found in favor of the healthcare providers. In addition, healthcare providers or other insurers may dispute our findings regarding Medicare not being the primary payer of healthcare claims. Our total estimated liability for appeals and disputes was \$1.0 million and \$1.0 million as of September 30, 2020 and December 31, 2019, respectively. This represents our best estimate of the amount probable of being refunded to our healthcare clients following successful appeals of claims or disputes for which commissions were previously collected.

Recovery

Recovery market revenues are derived from student lending, Internal Revenue Services (IRS), state and municipal tax authorities, the Department of Treasury, select financial institutions and Premiere Credit of North America.

In the Spring of 2017, the IRS named us as one of four companies to perform recovery services under its private collection program. This program, authorized under a federal law, calls for the use of private companies to recover outstanding inactive tax receivables on the government's behalf.

We also service the federal agency market, which consists of government debt subrogated to the Department of the Treasury by numerous different federal agencies, comprising a mix of commercial and individual obligations and a diverse range of receivables. These debts are managed by the Bureau of the Fiscal Service (formerly the Department of Financial Management Service), a bureau of the Department of the Treasury.

For state and municipal tax authorities, we analyze a portfolio of delinquent tax and other receivables placed with us, develop a recovery plan and execute a recovery process designed to maximize the recovery of funds. In some instances, we have also run state tax amnesty programs, which provide one-time relief for delinquent tax obligations, and other debtor management services for our clients. We currently have relationships with numerous state and municipal governments. Delinquent obligations are placed with us by our clients and we utilize a process that is similar to the student loan recovery process for recovering these obligations.

Student lending revenues are contract-based and consist primarily of contingency fees based on a specified percentage of the amount we enable our clients to recover. Our contingency fee percentage for a particular recovery depends on the type of recovery facilitated. Our clients in the student loan recovery market mainly consist of several of the largest guaranty agencies, (GAs). We believe the size and the composition of our student loan inventory at any point provides us with a significant degree of revenue visibility for our student loan revenues. Based on data compiled from over two decades of experience with the recovery of defaulted student loans, at the time we receive a placement of student loans, we are able to make a reasonably accurate estimate of the recovery outcomes likely to be derived from such placement and the revenues we are likely able to generate based on the anticipated recovery outcomes.

An important metric in evaluating our student lending business is Placement Volume. Our Placement Volume represents the dollar volume of defaulted student loans first placed with us during the specified period by public and private clients for recovery. Placement Volume allows us to measure and track trends in the amount of inventory our clients in the student lending market are placing with us during any period. The revenues associated with the recovery of a portion of these loans may be recognized in subsequent accounting periods, which assists management in estimating future revenues and in allocating resources necessary to address current Placement Volumes. As a result of the Department of Education's termination of our January 2018 contract and its last procurement in its entirety, all of our Placement Volume is currently coming from GAs. For the nine months ended September 30, 2020 and 2019, the placement volume was \$211.1 million, and \$2.3 billion, respectively.

Customer Care / Outsourced Services

We also derive revenues from default aversion and/or first party call center services for certain clients and the licensing of hosted technology solutions to certain clients. For our hosted technology services, we license our system and integrate our technology into our clients' operations, for which we are paid a licensing fee. Our revenues for these services include contingency fees, fees based on dedicated headcount to our clients and hosted technology licensing fees.

Costs and Expenses

We generally report two categories of operating expenses: salaries and benefits and other operating expense. Salaries and benefits expenses consist primarily of salaries and performance incentives paid and benefits provided to our employees. Other operating expenses include expenses related to our use of subcontractors, other production related expenses, including costs associated with data processing, retrieval of medical records, printing and mailing services, amortization and other outside services, as well as general corporate and administrative expenses.

Factors Affecting Our Operating Results

Our results of operations are influenced by a number of factors, including costs associated with commencing new contracts, allocation of placement volume, claim recovery volume, contingency fees, regulatory matters, client contract cancellation and macroeconomic factors.

Costs Associated with Commencing New Contracts

When we obtain an engagement with a new client or a new contract with an existing client, it typically takes a long period of time to plan our services in detail, which includes integrating our technology, processes and resources with the client's operations and hiring new employees, before we receive any revenues from the new client or new contract. Our clients may also experience delays in obtaining approvals or managing protests from unsuccessful bidders, such as the lengthy protests on the Department of Education's contract procurement process in 2018, or delays associated with system implementations, such as the delays experienced with the implementation of our first RAC contracts with CMS. If we are not able to pay the upfront expenses out of cash from operations or availability of borrowings under our lending arrangements, we may scale back our operations or alter our business plans, either of which could prevent of us from earning future revenues under any such new client or new contract engagements.

Allocation of Placement Volume

Our clients have the right to unilaterally set and increase or reduce the volume of defaulted student loans or other receivables that we service at any given time. In addition, many of our recovery contracts for student loans and other receivables are not exclusive, with our clients retaining multiple service providers to service portions of their portfolios. Accordingly, the number of delinquent student loans or other receivables that are placed with us may vary from time to time, which may have a significant effect on the amount and timing of our revenues. We believe the major factors that influence the number of placements we receive from our clients in the student loan market include our performance under our existing contracts and our ability to perform well against competitors for a particular client. To the extent that we perform well under our existing contracts and differentiate our services from those of our competitors, we may receive a relatively greater number of placements under these existing contracts and may improve our ability to obtain future contracts from these clients and other potential clients. Further, delays in placement volume, as well as acceleration of placement volume, from any of our large clients may cause our revenues and operating results to vary from quarter to quarter.

Typically, we attempt to anticipate with reasonable accuracy the timing and volume of placements of defaulted student loans and other receivables based on historical patterns and regular communication with our clients. Occasionally, however, placements are delayed due to factors outside of our control.

Contingency Fees

Our revenues consist primarily of contract-based contingency fees. The contingency fee percentages that we earn are set by our clients or agreed upon during the bid process and may change from time to time either under the terms of existing contracts or pursuant to the terms of contract renewals.

Regulatory Matters

Each of the markets which we serve is highly regulated. Accordingly, changes in regulations that affect the types of loans, receivables and claims that we are able to service or the manner in which any such delinquent loans, receivables and claims can be recovered will affect our revenues and results of operations.

For example, the passage of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, or SAFRA, in 2010 had the effect of transferring the origination of all government-supported student loans to the Department of Education, thereby ending all student loan originations guaranteed by the GAs. Loans guaranteed by the GAs represented approximately 70% of government-supported student loans originated in 2009. While the GAs will continue to service existing outstanding student loans for years to come, this legislation means that there will be no further growth in student loans held by GAs. Further, we are seeing a larger amount of defaulted student loans in our GA clients' portfolios that have been previously rehabilitated and by regulation are not subject to rehabilitation for a second time. As a result of both of these factors, our placement volume of defaulted student loans and related rehabilitation revenues have both been reduced significantly over the prior two years and may continue to be reduced over time.

Further, pursuant to the terms of the CARES Act enacted in March 2020, the U.S. federal government suspended payments, ceased accruing interest, and stopped involuntary collections of payments (e.g., wage garnishments) for student loans owned by the Department of Education through September 30, 2020, which was subsequently extended through December 31, 2020.

In addition, our entry into the healthcare market was facilitated by passage of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006, which mandated CMS to contract with private firms to audit Medicare claims in an effort to increase the recovery of improper Medicare payments. Any changes to the regulations that affect the student loan industry or the recovery of defaulted student loans or the Medicare program generally or the audit and recovery of Medicare claims could have a significant impact on our revenues and results of operations.

Client Contract Cancellation

Substantially all of our contracts entitle our clients to unilaterally terminate their contractual relationship with us at any time without penalty. If we lose one or more of our significant clients, including if one of our significant clients is acquired by an entity that does not use our services, if the terms of compensation for our services change or if there is a reduction in the level of placements provided by any of these clients, our revenues could decline.

Macroeconomic Factors

Certain macroeconomic factors influence our business and results of operations. These include the increasing volume of student loan originations in the U.S. as a result of increased tuition costs and student enrollment, the default rate of student loan borrowers, the growth in Medicare expenditures or claims made to private healthcare providers resulting from changes in healthcare costs or the healthcare industry taken as a whole, as well as the fiscal budget tightening of federal, state and local governments as a result of general economic weakness and lower tax revenues.

Critical Accounting Policies

Our consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, or U.S. GAAP. The preparation of these consolidated financial statements requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues, costs and expenses and related disclosures. We base our estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances. In many instances, we could have reasonably used different accounting estimates, and in other instances changes in the accounting estimates are reasonably likely to occur from period-to-period. Accordingly, actual results could differ significantly from the estimates made by our management. To the extent that there are material differences between these estimates and actual results, our future financial statement presentation, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows will be affected. We believe that the accounting policies discussed below are critical to understanding our historical and future performance, as these policies relate to the more significant areas involving management's judgments and estimates.

Revenue Recognition

We derive our revenues primarily from providing recovery services and healthcare audit services. Revenues are recognized when control of these services is transferred to our customers, in an amount that reflects the consideration expect to be entitled to in exchange for those services.

We determine revenue recognition through the following steps:

- Identification of the contract with a customer
- Identification of the performance obligations in the contract
- Determination of the transaction price
- Allocation of the transaction price to the performance obligations in the contract
- Recognition of revenue when, or as, the performance obligations are satisfied

We account for a contract when it has approval and commitment from both parties, the rights of the parties are identified, payment terms are identified, the contract has commercial substance and collectability of consideration is probable.

Our contracts generally contain a single performance obligation, delivered over time as a series of services that are substantially the same and have the same pattern of transfer to a client, as the promise to transfer the individual services is not separately identifiable from other promises in the contracts and, therefore, not distinct.

Our contracts are composed primarily of variable consideration. Fees earned under our recovery service and healthcare audit service contracts consist primarily of contingency fees based on a specified percentage of the amount we enable our clients to recover. The contingency fee percentage for a particular recovery depends on the type of recovery or claim facilitated. In certain contracts, we can earn additional performance-based consideration determined based on its performance relative to a client's other contractors providing similar services.

We generally either apply the as-invoiced practical expedient, where our right to consideration corresponds directly to our right to invoice our clients, or the variable consideration allocation exception, where the variable consideration is attributable to one or more, but not all, of the services promised in a series of distinct services that form part of a single performance obligation. As such, we have elected the optional exemptions related to the as-invoiced practical expedient and the variable consideration allocation exception, whereby the disclosure of the amount of transaction price allocated to the remaining performance obligations is not required.

We estimate variable consideration upon completion of service using an output method to measure the satisfaction of our performance obligations and recognize such revenue over the performance period only if it is probable that a significant reversal in the amount of cumulative revenue recognized will not occur. We exercise judgment to estimate the amount of constraint on variable consideration based on the facts and circumstances of the relevant contract operations and the availability and reliability of data. Although we believe the estimates made are reasonable and appropriate, different assumptions and estimates could materially impact the amount of variable consideration.

For contracts that contain a refund right, these amounts are considered variable consideration, and we estimate our refund liability for each claim and recognize revenue net of such estimate.

Under certain contracts, consideration can include periodic performance-based bonuses which can be awarded based on our performance under the specific contract. These performance-based awards are considered variable and may be constrained by us until there is not a risk of a material reversal.

We have applied the as-invoiced practical expedient and the variable consideration allocation exception to contracts with performance obligations that have an average remaining duration of less than a year.

Goodwill

Goodwill represents the excess of purchase price and related costs over the fair value assigned to the net assets of businesses acquired. Goodwill is reviewed for impairment annually in December, or more frequently if certain indicators are present. We may first assess qualitative factors for indicators of impairment to determine whether it is necessary to perform the quantitative goodwill impairment test.

Per the quantitative goodwill test, goodwill is considered impaired if the carrying value of the Company, as one reporting unit, exceeds its fair value. The amount of impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying value and the fair value of the reporting unit. Impairment testing is based upon the best information available including estimates of fair value which incorporate assumptions marketplace participants would use in making their estimates of fair value. Significant assumptions and estimates are required, including, but not limited to, our market capitalization, projecting future cash flows and other assumptions, to estimate the fair value of the reporting unit including goodwill. Although we believe the assumptions and estimates made are reasonable and appropriate, different assumptions and estimates could materially impact the amount of impairment.

There was no impairment charge to goodwill for the three months ended September 30, 2020. We recorded a non-cash impairment charge to goodwill of \$27.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2020. This was mainly due to the decrease in our stock price and associated market capitalization in the prior quarters. There has been significant negative impact to the global economy and the public securities markets as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, our goodwill is at elevated risk of additional impairment should there be further decline in our stock price and associated market capitalization, which may result in potentially material non-cash charge to our earnings.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

See "New Accounting Pronouncements" in Note 1(g) of the Consolidated Financial Statements included in Part I - Item 1 of this report.

Results of Operations

Three Months Ended September 30, 2020 compared to the Three Months Ended September 30, 2019

The following table represents our historical operating results for the periods presented:

	Three Months Ended September 30,			
	2020	2019	\$ Change	% Change
(in thousands)				
Consolidated Statement of Operations Data:				
Revenues	\$ 36,228	\$ 35,903	\$ 325	1 %
Operating expenses:				
Salaries and benefits	23,522	28,771	5,249	18 %
Other operating expenses	10,813	12,948	2,135	16 %
Total operating expenses	34,335	41,719	7,384	18 %
Income (loss) from operations	1,893	(5,816)	7,709	133 %
Interest expense	(1,569)	(2,166)	597	28 %
Interest income	6	11	(5)	(45) %
Income (loss) before provision for (benefit from) income taxes	330	(7,971)	8,301	104 %
Provision for (benefit from) income taxes	(1,644)	99	1,743	1,761 %
Net income (loss)	\$ 1,974	\$ (8,070)	\$ 10,044	124 %

Revenues

Total revenues were \$36.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2020, an increase of approximately 1%, compared to total revenues of \$35.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2019.

Healthcare revenues were \$17.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2020, representing an increase of \$6.8 million, or 63%, compared to the three months ended September 30, 2019. This increase in healthcare revenues was primarily attributable to an increase in revenues earned under our coordination-of-benefits contracts.

Recovery revenues were \$15.4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2020, representing a decrease of \$5.5 million, or 26%, compared to the three months ended September 30, 2019. The decrease was primarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic that resulted in many of our customers pausing work on our recovery contracts.

Customer Care / Outsourced Services revenues were \$3.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2020, representing a decrease of \$1.0 million, or 24%, compared to the three months ended September 30, 2019. The decrease was primarily due to reduced demand for our services as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Salaries and Benefits

Salaries and benefits expense was \$23.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2020, a decrease of \$5.2 million, or 18%, compared to salaries and benefits expense of \$28.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2019. The decrease in salaries and benefits expense was primarily driven by furloughs of employees due to a pause in our services that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other Operating Expenses

Other operating expenses were \$10.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2020, compared to other operating expenses of \$12.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2019. The decrease in other operating expenses was primarily due to lower activity levels resulting from the pause in recovery services provided.

Income (Loss) from Operations

As a result of the factors described above, income from operations was \$1.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2020, compared to loss from operations of \$5.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2019, an increase \$7.7 million.

Interest Expense

Interest expense was \$1.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2020, compared to \$2.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2019. Interest expense decreased by approximately \$0.6 million or 28% for the three months ended September 30, 2020 due to a lower interest rate in 2020 compared to 2019.

Income Taxes

We recognized an income tax benefit of \$1.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2020, compared to an income tax expense of \$0.1 million for the three months ended September 30, 2019. Our effective income tax rate changed to (498)% for the three months ended September 30, 2020, from (1)% for the three months ended September 30, 2019. The change in the effective tax rate is primarily driven by the net operating loss (“NOL”) carryback benefit recorded as a result of the newly enacted provisions of the CARES Act for the three months ended September 30, 2020.

Net Income (Loss)

As a result of the factors described above, net income was \$2.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2020, which represented an increase of approximately \$10.0 million, or 124%, compared to net loss of \$8.1 million for the three months ended September 30, 2019.

Nine Months Ended September 30, 2020 compared to the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2019

The following table represents our historical operating results for the periods presented:

	Nine Months Ended September 30,			
	2020	2019	\$ Change	% Change
(in thousands)				
Consolidated Statement of Operations Data:				
Revenues	\$ 115,901	\$ 106,609	\$ 9,292	9 %
Operating expenses:				
Salaries and benefits	74,493	86,816	12,323	14 %
Other operating expenses	32,075	37,112	5,037	14 %
Impairment of goodwill	27,000	—	(27,000)	— %
Total operating expenses	133,568	123,928	(9,640)	(8)%
Loss from operations	(17,667)	(17,319)	(348)	(2)%
Interest expense	(5,827)	(5,260)	(567)	(11)%
Interest income	18	33	(15)	(45)%
Loss before provision for (benefit from) income taxes	(23,476)	(22,546)	(930)	(4)%
Provision for (benefit from) income taxes	(5,767)	412	(6,179)	(1,500)%
Net loss	\$ (17,709)	\$ (22,958)	\$ 5,249	23 %

Revenues

Total revenues were \$115.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2020, an increase of approximately \$9.3 million or 9%, compared to revenues of \$106.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2019.

Healthcare revenues were \$49.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2020, representing an increase of \$20.6 million or 71%, compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2019. This increase in healthcare revenues is primarily attributable to an increase in revenues earned under our coordination-of-benefits contracts.

Recovery revenues were \$55.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2020, representing a decrease of \$8.5 million, or (13)%, compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2019. The decrease was primarily due to our customers pausing work under our recovery contracts as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Customer Care / Outsourced Services revenues were \$10.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2020, representing a decrease of \$2.8 million, or (21)%, compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2019. The decrease was primarily due to reduced demand for our services as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Salaries and Benefits

Salaries and benefits expense was \$74.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2020, a decrease of \$12.3 million, or 14%, compared to salaries and benefits expense of \$86.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2019. The decrease in salaries and benefits expense was primarily driven by furloughs of employees due to a pause in our services that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other Operating Expenses

Other operating expenses were \$32.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2020, a decrease of \$5.0 million, or 14% compared to other operating expenses of \$37.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2019. The decrease in other operating expenses was primarily due to lower activity levels resulting from the pause in recovery services as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Impairment of Goodwill

Impairment of goodwill was \$27.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2020, compared to none for the nine months ended September 30, 2019. The impairment was a non-cash charge due to the decrease in our stock price and associated market capitalization during the prior quarters of this year.

Loss from Operations

As a result of the factors described above, loss from operations was \$17.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2020, compared to loss from operations of \$17.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2019, an increase in loss from operations of \$0.3 million.

Interest Expense

Interest expense was \$5.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2020, compared to \$5.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2019. Interest expense increased by approximately \$0.5 million or 11% for the nine months ended September 30, 2020, due to a higher average outstanding debt balance in 2020 compared to 2019.

Income Taxes

We recognized an income tax benefit of \$5.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2020, compared to an income tax expense of \$0.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2019. Our effective income tax rate changed to 25% for the nine months ended September 30, 2020, from (2)% for the nine months ended September 30, 2019. The change in the effective tax rate is primarily driven by the NOL carryback benefit recorded as a result of the newly enacted provisions of the CARES Act for the nine months ended September 30, 2020,

On March 27, 2020, the CARES Act was enacted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act, among other things, permits NOL carryovers and carrybacks to offset 100% of taxable income for taxable years beginning before 2021. In addition, the CARES Act allows NOLs incurred in 2018, 2019, and 2020 to be carried back to each of the five preceding taxable years to generate a refund of previously paid income taxes. This modification significantly impacts the Company by allowing for the carryback of 2018 and 2019 NOL to tax years 2013 and 2014, respectively. These NOL carryforwards had been represented in the December 31, 2019 financial statements by DTA for which a valuation allowance had been recorded as we did not expect that these DTA would be more likely than not realizable in future periods. As a result of carrying back the NOL, we are recognizing an income tax benefit of \$5.9 million associated with these previously unrecognized DTA in the nine months ended September 30, 2020.

Net Loss

As a result of the factors described above, net loss was \$17.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2020, which represented a decrease of \$5.2 million, or 23%, compared to net loss of \$23.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2019.

Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted Net Income

To provide investors with additional information regarding our financial results, we have disclosed in the table below adjusted EBITDA and adjusted net income, both of which are non-U.S. GAAP financial measures. We have provided a reconciliation below of adjusted EBITDA to net income and adjusted net income to net income, the most directly comparable U.S. GAAP financial measure to these non-U.S. GAAP financial measures.

We have included adjusted EBITDA and adjusted net income in this report because they are key measures used by our management and board of directors to understand and evaluate our core operating performance and trends and to prepare and approve our annual budget. Accordingly, we believe that adjusted EBITDA and adjusted net income provide useful information to investors and analysts in understanding and evaluating our operating results in the same manner as our management and board of directors.

Our use of adjusted EBITDA and adjusted net income has limitations as an analytical tool, and you should not consider it in isolation or as a substitute for analysis of our results as reported under U.S. GAAP. Some of these limitations are:

- although depreciation and amortization are non-cash charges, the assets being depreciated and amortized may have to be replaced in the future, and adjusted EBITDA does not reflect cash capital expenditure requirements for such replacements or for new capital expenditure requirements;
- adjusted EBITDA does not reflect interest expense on our indebtedness;
- adjusted EBITDA does not reflect changes in, or cash requirements for, our working capital needs;
- adjusted EBITDA does not reflect tax payments;
- adjusted EBITDA and adjusted net income do not reflect the potentially dilutive impact of equity-based compensation;
- adjusted EBITDA and adjusted net income do not reflect the impact of certain non-operating expenses resulting from matters we do not consider to be indicative of our core operating performance; and
- other companies may calculate adjusted EBITDA and adjusted net income differently than we do, which reduces its usefulness as a comparative measure.

Because of these limitations, you should consider adjusted EBITDA and adjusted net income alongside other financial performance measures, including net income and our other U.S. GAAP results. The following tables present a reconciliation of adjusted EBITDA and adjusted net income for each of the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
	(in thousands)		(in thousands)	
Adjusted EBITDA:				
Net income (loss)	\$ 1,974	\$ (8,070)	\$ (17,709)	\$ (22,958)
Provision for (benefit from) income taxes	(1,644)	99	(5,767)	412
Interest expense ⁽¹⁾	1,569	2,166	5,827	5,260
Interest income	(6)	(11)	(18)	(33)
Depreciation and amortization	1,277	2,141	4,072	6,698
Impairment of goodwill ⁽⁵⁾	—	—	27,000	—
Earnout mark-to-market ⁽⁶⁾	—	(174)	(162)	(1,086)
Stock-based compensation	657	525	1,997	1,743
Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 3,827	\$ (3,080)	\$ 15,240	\$ (9,655)

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
	(in thousands)		(in thousands)	
Adjusted Net Income (Loss):				
Net income (loss)	\$ 1,974	\$ (8,070)	\$ (17,709)	\$ (22,958)
Stock-based compensation	657	525	1,997	1,743
Amortization of intangibles ⁽²⁾	58	65	176	176
Impairment of goodwill ⁽⁵⁾	—	—	27,000	—
Deferred financing amortization costs ⁽³⁾	249	353	1,145	896
Earnout mark-to-market ⁽⁶⁾	—	(174)	(162)	(1,086)
Tax adjustments ⁽⁴⁾	265	(279)	(8,293)	(561)
Adjusted net income (loss)	\$ 3,203	\$ (7,336)	\$ 4,154	\$ (21,481)

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
	(in thousands)		(in thousands)	
Adjusted Net Income (Loss) Per Diluted Share:				
Net income (loss)	\$ 1,974	\$ (8,070)	\$ (17,709)	\$ (22,958)
Plus: Adjustment items per reconciliation of adjusted net income (loss)	1,229	734	21,863	1,477
Adjusted net income (loss)	3,203	(7,336)	4,154	(21,481)
Adjusted net income (loss) per diluted share	\$ 0.06	\$ (0.14)	\$ 0.08	\$ (0.40)
Diluted average shares outstanding ⁽⁷⁾	54,710	53,665	54,363	53,366

(1) Represents interest expense and amortization of issuance costs related to the refinancing of our indebtedness.

(2) Represents amortization of intangibles related to the acquisition of Performant by an affiliate of Parthenon Capital Partners in 2004.

(3) Represents amortization of capitalized financing costs related to our Credit Agreement.

- (4) Represents tax adjustments assuming a marginal tax rate of 27.5% at full profitability.
- (5) Represents a noncash goodwill impairment charge in 2020 mainly due to the decrease of our market capitalization in the first half of 2020.
- (6) Represents the change from prior reporting periods in the fair value of the potential earnout consideration payable to ECMC group in connection with the Premiere acquisition.
- (7) While net loss for the nine months ended September 30, 2020 is (\$17,553), the computation of adjusted net income (loss) results in adjusted net income of \$4,154. Therefore, the calculation of the adjusted net income per diluted share for the nine months ended September 30, 2020 includes dilutive common share equivalents of 64 added to the basic weighted average shares of 54,299.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Our primary sources of liquidity are cash flows from operations, and cash and cash equivalents on hand. Cash and cash equivalents, which includes restricted cash and consists primarily of cash on deposit with banks, totaled \$17.3 million as of September 30, 2020, compared to \$5.0 million as of December 31, 2019. The \$12.3 million increase in the balance of our cash and cash equivalents from December 31, 2019 to September 30, 2020, was primarily due to \$18.0 million provided by operating activities, offset by \$2.9 million used in investing activities and \$2.6 million repayment of notes payable.

Our ability to fund our business plans, capital expenditures and to fund our other liquidity needs depends on our financial and operating performance, which is subject to prevailing economic and competitive conditions and to certain financial, business and other factors beyond our control, and the availability of borrowings under our existing lending facility. We no longer have any remaining borrowing capacity under our existing Credit Agreement. Our current financial projections show that we expect to be able to maintain a level of cash flows from operating activities sufficient to permit us to fund our ongoing and planned business operations and to fund our other liquidity needs. If, however, we are required to obtain additional borrowings to fund our ongoing or future business operations, there can be no assurance that we will be successful in obtaining such additional borrowings or upon terms that are acceptable to us.

The recent COVID-19 pandemic has led certain of our customers to delay the recovery and audit services that we provide as a result of the economic hardships that may be faced by a large portion of the population, which may have a material negative impact on our cash flow from operations. For example, pursuant to the terms of the CARES Act enacted in March 2020, the U.S. Federal government suspended payments, ceased accruing interest, and stopped involuntary collections of payments (e.g., wage garnishments) for student loans owned by the Department of Education through September 30, 2020. On August 21, 2020, the Department of Education announced that the student loan relief to borrowers would be extended through December 31, 2020.

Further, a prolonged period of generating lower cash flows from operations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic could adversely affect our financial condition and the achievement of our strategic objectives. Conditions in the financial and credit markets may also limit the availability of funding or increase the cost of funding, which could adversely affect our business, financial position and results of operations.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our business operations cannot be fully estimated at this point and the speed of economic recovery in the markets we serve is highly uncertain. While we currently believe our financial projections are attainable, considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, there can be no assurances that our financial results will be recognized in a time frame necessary to meet our ongoing cash requirements. If our cash flows and capital resources are insufficient to fund our planned business operations or to fund our other liquidity needs, we may need to reduce or delay capital expenditures, alter our business plans, curtail the services we provide to our current or future clients, execute additional reductions in workforce (both through furloughs and layoffs), sell assets or operations, seek additional capital, restructure or refinance our indebtedness, any of which could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Our Credit Agreement contains, and any agreements to refinance our debt likely will contain, certain financial covenants, including the maintenance of minimum fixed charge coverage ratio and total debt to EBITDA ratio, as well as restrictive covenants that require us to limit our ability to incur additional debt, including to finance future operations or other capital needs, and to engage in other activities that we may believe are in our long-term best interests, including to dispose of or acquire assets. After considering a variety of potential effects the COVID-19 pandemic could have on our revenues and results of operations, as well as the actions we have already taken and other options available to us, we currently believe we will be in compliance with our covenants for the remainder of the term of the Credit Agreement. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our business operations cannot be fully estimated at this point and the speed of economic recovery in the markets we serve is highly uncertain. If conditions change in the future due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic or for other reasons and we expect to be out of compliance as a result, we will likely seek waivers from our lender prior to any covenant violation. Any covenant waiver may lead to increased costs, increased interest rates, additional restrictive covenants and other available lender protections that would be applicable. There can be no assurance that we would be able to obtain any such waivers in a timely manner, or on acceptable terms, or at all. Our failure to comply with these financial covenants or the restrictive covenants may result in an event of default, which, if not cured or waived, could accelerate the maturity of our indebtedness or result in modifications to our credit terms. If our indebtedness is accelerated, we may not have sufficient cash resources to satisfy our debt obligations and we may not be able to continue our operations as planned.

Cash flows from operating activities

Cash provided by operating activities was \$18.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2020, compared to cash used in operating activities of \$13.4 million for the same period in 2019. The cash provided by operating activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2020, is primarily a result of our income from operations of \$9.4 million, excluding the noncash impairment to goodwill of \$27.0 million. In addition, we received a tax refund of \$2.4 million and a \$1.0 million advance payment from a client, as well as \$2.1 million in deferral of payroll taxes.

Cash flows from investing activities

Cash used in investing activities of \$2.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2020 was mainly for capital expenditures related to information technology, data storage, hardware, telecommunication systems and security enhancements to our information technology systems. Cash used in investing activities for similar purposes in the nine months ended September 30, 2019 was \$4.1 million.

Cash flows from financing activities

Cash used in financing activities of \$2.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2020 was primarily attributable to \$2.6 million in repayments of notes payable during the same period. Cash provided by financing activities in the nine months ended September 30, 2019 was \$18.8 million primarily attributable to borrowing from notes payable of \$21.0 million offset by \$1.8 million in repayments.

Restricted Cash

As of September 30, 2020, restricted cash included in current assets on our consolidated balance sheet was \$1.6 million.

Long-term Debt

On August 7, 2017, we, through our wholly-owned subsidiary Performant Business Services, Inc. (the "Borrower"), entered into a credit agreement (as amended, the "Credit Agreement") with ECMC Group, Inc. ("ECMC"). Before the amendment described below, the Credit Agreement provided for a term loan facility in the initial amount of \$44 million (the "Initial Term Loan") and for up to \$15 million of additional term loans ("Additional Term Loans"); and together with the Initial Term Loan, the "Loans") which original Additional Term Loans were initially able to be drawn until the second anniversary of the funding of the Initial Term Loans, subject to the satisfaction of customary conditions. On August 31, 2018, we entered into Amendment No. 2 to the Credit Agreement to among other things (i) extend the maturity date of the Initial Term Loan and any Additional Term Loans by one year to August 2021, (ii) expand the Additional Term Loans commitment from \$15 million to \$25 million, (iii) extend the period during which the Additional Term Loans can be borrowed by one year to August 2020, and (iv) relieve the Borrower from its obligations to comply with the financial covenants in the Credit Agreement during the six fiscal quarters following the Premiere acquisition.

On March 21, 2019, we entered into Amendment No. 3 to the Credit Agreement to among other things relieve the Borrower from its obligation to comply with the financial covenants in the Credit Agreement until the quarter ending June 30, 2020. As of September 30, 2019, the Company has borrowed all of the \$25 million available as Additional Term Loans.

As of September 30, 2020, \$61.7 million was outstanding under the Credit Agreement. While this amount is classified in current liabilities, we have the option to extend the maturity of the Loans for two additional one-year periods, subject to the satisfaction of customary conditions.

The Loans bear interest at the one-month LIBOR rate (subject to a 1% per annum floor) plus a margin which may vary from 5.5% per annum to 10.0% per annum based on our total debt to EBITDA ratio. Our annual interest rate at September 30, 2020 was 8.0%, and 11.8% at December 31, 2019. We are required to pay 5% of the original principal balance of the Loans annually in quarterly installments and to make mandatory prepayments of the Loans with a percentage of our excess cash flow which may vary between 75% and 0% depending on our total debt to EBITDA ratio and from the net cash proceeds of certain asset dispositions and debt not otherwise permitted under the Credit Agreement, in each case, subject to the lender's right to decline to receive such payments.

The Credit Agreement contains certain restrictive financial covenants effective starting the quarter ended June 30, 2020, which require, among other things, that we (1) achieve a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio of 1.0 to 1.0 through December 31, 2020, 1.25 to 1.0 through June 30, 2021, and 1.25 to 1.0 through June 30, 2022 if the maturity date of the Loans is extended until the fifth anniversary of the Closing Date and (2) maintain a maximum total debt to EBITDA ratio of 6.00 to 1.00. The Credit Agreement also contains covenants that restrict the Company and its subsidiaries' ability to incur certain types or amounts of indebtedness, incur liens on certain assets, make material changes in corporate structure or the nature of its business, dispose of material assets, engage in a change in control transaction, make certain foreign investments, enter into certain restrictive agreements, or engage in certain transactions with affiliates. The Credit Agreement also contains various customary events of default, including with respect to change of control of the Company or its ownership of the Borrower.

The obligations under the Credit Agreement are secured by substantially all of our United States domestic subsidiaries' assets and are guaranteed by the Company and its United States domestic subsidiaries, other than the Borrower.

In consideration for, and concurrently with, the origination of the Initial Term Loan in accordance with the terms of the Credit Agreement, we issued a warrant to the lender to purchase up to an aggregate of 3,863,326 shares of our common stock (representing approximately up to 7.5% of our diluted common stock as calculated using the "treasury stock" method as defined under U.S. GAAP for the most recent fiscal quarter, with an exercise price of \$1.92 per share (the "Exercise Price")).

Upon borrowing of the Additional Term Loans, we were required to issue additional warrants at the same Exercise Price to purchase up to an aggregate of 77,267 additional shares of common stock (which represents approximately 0.15% of our diluted common stock calculated using the "treasury stock" method as defined under U.S. GAAP for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2017) for each \$1.0 million of such Additional Term Loans. Similarly, upon our election to extend the maturity of the Loans for additional one year periods, we will be required to issue additional warrants at the same Exercise Price to purchase up to an aggregate of 515,110 additional shares of common stock for the first year's extension, and to purchase up to an aggregate of 772,665 additional shares of common stock for the second year's extension (which represent approximately 1.0% and 1.5% of our diluted common stock for the first and second years, respectively, calculated using the "treasury stock" method as defined under U.S. GAAP for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2017).

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

We do not hold or issue financial instruments for trading purposes. We conduct all of our business in U.S. currency and therefore do not have any material direct foreign currency risk. We do have exposure to changes in interest rates with respect to the borrowings under our senior secured credit facility, which bear interest at a variable rate based on LIBOR. For example, if the interest rate on our borrowings increased 100 basis points (1%) from the credit facility floor of 1.0%, our annual interest expense would increase by approximately \$0.6 million.

While we currently hold our excess cash in an operating account, in the future we may invest all or a portion of our excess cash in short-term investments, including money market accounts, where returns may reflect current interest rates. As a result, market interest rate changes impact our interest expense and interest income. This impact will depend on variables such as the magnitude of interest rate changes and the level of our borrowings under our credit facility or excess cash balances.

ITEM 4. DISCLOSURE CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

We maintain a system of disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the Company's reports under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to management, including our Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Accounting Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. In designing and evaluating the disclosure controls and procedures, management recognized that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving the desired control objectives.

Management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Accounting Officer, has evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Exchange Act, as of the fiscal quarter covered by this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. Based on that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Accounting Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were functioning effectively at the reasonable assurance level as of September 30, 2020.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There was no change in our internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended September 30, 2020, that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

We are involved in various legal proceedings that arise from our normal business operations. These actions generally derive from our student loan recovery services, and generally assert claims for violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act or similar federal and state consumer credit laws. While litigation is inherently unpredictable, we believe that none of these legal proceedings, individually or collectively, will have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or our results of operations.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

Our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity are subject to various risks and uncertainties, including those described below, and as a result, the trading price of our common stock could decline.

Risks Related to Our Business

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had, and will likely continue to have, a material adverse impact on our business, results of operations and financial condition, as well as on the operations and financial performance of many of our customers. We are unable to predict the extent to which the COVID-19 pandemic and related impacts will continue to adversely impact our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Our business and the businesses of our customers have been materially and adversely affected by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic that has caused, and is expected to continue to cause, the global slowdown in economic activity. Because the severity, magnitude and duration of the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic consequences are uncertain and difficult to predict, the impact on our operations and financial performance, as well as its impact on our ability to successfully execute our business strategies and initiatives, remains uncertain and difficult to predict. Further, the ultimate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our operations and financial performance depends on many factors that are not within our control, including, but not limited, to: governmental and business actions that have been and continue to be taken in response to the pandemic; the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and actions taken in response on global and regional economies and economic activity; the availability of federal, state or local funding programs; general economic uncertainty and financial market volatility; global economic conditions and levels of economic growth; and the pace of recovery when the COVID-19 pandemic subsides.

Given the economic hardships that may be faced by a large portion of the population as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, certain of our customers have chosen to delay the recovery and audit services that we provide, and additional customers may choose to similarly delay the audit and recovery services that we provide, either of which could have a material negative impact on our revenues and results of operations. For example, pursuant to the terms of the CARES Act enacted in March 2020, the U.S. federal government suspended payments, ceased accruing interest, and stopped involuntary collections of payments (e.g., wage garnishments) for student loans owned by the Department of Education at least through September 30, 2020. In addition, on August 8, 2020, President Trump ordered the U.S. Secretary of Education to extend this relief to borrowers through December 31, 2020. By the end of the second quarter of 2020, we had furloughed over 500 employees in our recovery business in response to the suspension of certain of our recovery customer contracts. Subsequently, we recalled a number of employees to work on customer contracts that resumed recovery activities during the third quarter of 2020, which resulted in over 300 employees remaining on furlough as of September 30, 2020.

Further, a prolonged period of generating lower cash flows from operations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic could adversely affect our financial condition and the achievement of our strategic objectives. Conditions in the financial and credit markets may also limit the availability of funding or increase the cost of funding, which could adversely affect our business, financial position and results of operations. ***The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on our business operations cannot be fully estimated at this point and the speed of economic recovery in the markets we serve is highly uncertain.*** While we currently believe our financial projections are attainable, there can be no assurances that our financial results will be recognized in a timeframe necessary to meet our ongoing cash requirements.

In addition, a large portion of our employees continue to be subject to voluntary or mandated shelter-in-place or other quarantine orders, and the employees of our customers may also be subject to similar stay-at-home orders, either of which may result in the complete or partial closure of one or more of our recovery call centers or other disruptions in our ongoing business operations, which would harm our business and results of operations. If the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues for an extended period, it will continue to materially adversely impact our revenues and financial condition.

We may not have sufficient cash flows from operations or availability of funds under our lending arrangements to fund our ongoing operations and our other liquidity needs, which could adversely affect our business and financial condition.

Our ability to fund our business plans, capital expenditures and to fund our other liquidity needs depends on our financial and operating performance, which is subject to prevailing economic and competitive conditions and to certain financial, business and other factors beyond our control and the availability of borrowings under our existing lending facility. Following our \$5 million Additional Term Loan draw on September 25, 2019, we no longer have any remaining borrowing capacity under our existing Credit Agreement. As a result of no further borrowing capacity under our Credit Agreement, we cannot make assurances that we will maintain a level of cash flows from operating activities sufficient to permit us to fund our ongoing and planned business operations and to fund our other liquidity needs. The COVID-19 pandemic has led certain of our customers to delay the recovery and audit services that we provide as a result of the economic hardships that may be faced by a large portion of the population, which may have a material negative impact on our cash flow from operations. If we are required to obtain additional borrowings to fund our ongoing or future business operations, there can be no assurance that we will be successful in obtaining such additional borrowings or upon terms that are acceptable to us. While we currently believe our financial projections are attainable, there can be no assurances that our financial results will be recognized in a timeframe necessary to meet our ongoing cash requirements. If our cash flows and capital resources are insufficient to fund our planned business operations or to fund our other liquidity needs, we may be forced to reduce or delay capital expenditures, alter our business plans, curtail the services we provide to our current or future clients, sell assets or operations, seek additional capital or restructure or refinance our indebtedness, any of which could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Our indebtedness could adversely affect our business and financial condition and reduce the funds available to us for other purposes, and our failure to comply with the covenants contained in our Credit Agreement could result in an event of default that could adversely affect our results of operations.

Our ability to make scheduled payments under our Credit Agreement and to fund our other liquidity needs depends on our financial and operating performance, which is subject to prevailing economic and competitive conditions and to certain financial, business and other factors beyond our control, such as the recent global economic downturn as the result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We cannot make assurances that we will maintain a level of cash flows from operating activities sufficient to permit us to pay the principal and interest on our indebtedness and to fund our other liquidity needs. If our cash flows and capital resources are insufficient to fund our debt service obligations and allow us to maintain compliance with the covenants under our Credit Agreement or to fund our other liquidity needs, we may be forced to reduce or delay capital expenditures, alter our business plans, curtail the services we provide to our current or future clients, sell assets or operations, seek additional capital or restructure or refinance our indebtedness. We cannot ensure that we would be able to take any of these actions, that these actions would be successful and permit us to meet our scheduled debt service obligations or that these actions would be permitted under the terms of our existing or future debt agreements, including our Credit Agreement with ECMC. If we cannot make scheduled payments on our debt or remain in compliance with our covenants, we will be in default and, as a result, our debt holders could declare all outstanding principal and interest to be due and payable, and foreclose against the assets securing our borrowings and we could be forced into bankruptcy or liquidation.

Our Credit Agreement contains, and any agreements to refinance our debt likely will contain, certain financial covenants, including the maintenance of minimum fixed charge coverage ratio and total debt to EBITDA ratio, and restrictive covenants that limit our ability to incur additional debt, including to finance future operations or other capital needs, and to engage in other activities that we may believe are in our long-term best interests, including to dispose of or acquire assets. After considering a variety of potential effects the COVID-19 pandemic could have on our revenues and results of operations, as well as the actions we have already taken and other options available to us, we currently believe we will be in compliance with our covenants for the remainder of the term of the Credit Agreement. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, and the speed of economic recovery in the markets we serve is highly uncertain. If conditions change in the future due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic or for other reasons and we expect to be out of compliance as a result, we will likely seek waivers from our lender prior to any covenant violation. Any covenant waiver may lead to increased costs, increased interest rates, additional restrictive covenants and other available lender protections that would be applicable. There can be no assurance that we would be able to obtain any such waivers in a timely manner, or on acceptable terms, or at all. Our failure to comply with these covenants may result in an event of default, which, if not cured or waived, could accelerate the maturity of our indebtedness or result in modifications to our credit terms. If our indebtedness is accelerated, we may not have sufficient cash resources to satisfy our debt obligations and we may not be able to continue our operations as planned.

Downturns in domestic or global economic conditions and other macroeconomic factors could harm our business and results of operations.

Various macroeconomic factors influence our business and results of operations. These include the volume of student loan originations in the United States, together with tuition costs and student enrollment rates, the default rate of student loan borrowers, which is impacted by domestic and global economic conditions, rates of unemployment and similar factors, and the growth in Medicare expenditures or claims made to private healthcare providers resulting from changes in healthcare costs or the healthcare industry taken as a whole. Changes in the overall economy could lead to a reduction in overall recovery rates by our clients, which in turn could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. For example, our business and the businesses of our customers have been materially and adversely affected by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic that has caused, and is expected to continue to cause, the global slowdown in economic activity, which has resulted in a significant negative impact on our financial condition and results of operations.

We typically face a long period to start up a new contract which may cause us to incur expenses before we receive revenues from new client relationships.

If we are successful in obtaining an engagement with a new client or a new contract with an existing client, we typically have a subsequent long implementation period in which the services are planned in detail and we integrate our technology, processes and resources with the client's operations. If we enter into a contract with a new client, we typically will not receive revenues until implementation is completed and work under the contract actually begins, which can be a substantial period of time. Our clients may also experience delays in obtaining approvals or managing protests from unsuccessful bidders, such as the lengthy protests regarding the most recent contract procurement from the Department of Education, or delays associated with technology or system implementations, such as the delays experienced with the implementation of our first RAC contract with CMS. Because we generally begin to hire new employees to provide services to a new client once a contract is signed and otherwise incur significant upfront implantation expenses, we incur significant expenses associated with new contracts before we receive corresponding revenues under any such new contract. If we are not able to pay the upfront expenses for commencing new contracts out of cash from operations or availability of borrowings under our lending arrangements, we may be required to scale back our operations or alter our business plans to account for cash shortages, either of which could prevent us from earning future revenues under any such new client or contract engagements. Further, if we are not successful in maintaining contractual commitments after the expenses we incur during our typically long implementation cycle, our cash flows and results of operations could be adversely affected.

Revenues generated from our three largest clients represented 45% of our revenues for the year ended December 31, 2019, and 61% of our revenues for the year ended 2018. Any termination of or deterioration in our relationship with any of these or our other significant clients would result in a further decline in our revenues.

We have derived a substantial portion of our revenues from a limited number of clients. Revenues from our three largest clients represented 45% of our revenues for the year ended December 31, 2019, and 61% of our revenues for the year ended December 31, 2018. All of our contracts with our significant clients are subject to periodic renewal and re-bidding processes and if we lose one of these clients or if the terms of our relationships with any of these clients become less favorable to us, our revenues would decline, which would harm our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Many of our contracts with our clients for the recovery of student loans and other receivables are not exclusive and do not commit our clients to provide specified volumes of business. In addition, the terms of these contracts may be changed unilaterally and on short notice by our clients. As a consequence, there is no assurance that we will be able to maintain our revenues and operating results.

Substantially all of our existing contracts for the recovery of delinquent receivables (including student loans, state taxes, federal taxes and Treasury-related receivables), which represented approximately 71% of our revenues for the year ended December 31, 2019, and 64% of our revenues for the year ended December 31, 2018, enable our clients to terminate their contractual relationship with us at any time without penalty, potentially leading to loss of business or renegotiation of terms. Further, most of our contracts in these markets allow our clients to unilaterally change the volume of loans and other receivables that are placed with us or the payment terms at any given time. In addition, most of our contracts are not exclusive, with our clients retaining multiple service providers with whom we must compete for placements of loans or other obligations. Therefore, despite our contractual relationships with our clients, our contracts do not provide assurance that we will generate a minimum amount of revenues or that we will receive a specific volume of placements. Our revenues and operating results would be negatively affected if our student loan and receivables clients reduce the volume of student loan placements provided to us, modify the terms of service, including the success fees we are able to earn upon recovery of defaulted student loans, or any of these clients establish more favorable relationships with our competitors.

We may not be able to manage our potential growth effectively and our results of operations could be negatively affected.

Our RAC contracts, MSP CRC contract, and other commercial healthcare contracts provide the opportunity to restore growth in our business. However, our focus on growth and the expansion of our business may place additional demands on our management, operations and financial resources and will require us to incur additional expenses. We cannot be sure that we will be able to manage our performance under any significant new contracts effectively. In order to successfully perform under any significant new contracts, our expenses will increase to recruit, train and manage additional qualified employees and subcontractors and to expand and enhance our administrative infrastructure and continue to improve our management, financial and information systems and controls. If we cannot manage our growth effectively, our expenses may increase, and our results of operations could be negatively affected.

We face significant competition in connection with obtaining, retaining and performing under our client contracts, and an inability to compete effectively in the future could harm our relationships with our clients, which would impact our ability to maintain our revenues and operating results.

We operate in very competitive markets and in providing our services to the student loan and healthcare markets, we face competition from many other companies. Initially, we compete with these companies to be one of typically several firms engaged to provide recovery and audit services to a particular client and, if we are successful in being engaged, we then face continuing competition from the client's other retained firms based on the client's benchmarking of the recovery rates of its several vendors. In addition, those recovery and audit vendors who produce the highest recovery or audit rates from a client often will be allocated additional placements and, in some cases, additional success fees. Accordingly, maintaining high levels of recovery and audit performance, and doing so in a cost-effective manner, are important factors in our ability to maintain and grow our revenues and net income and the failure to achieve these objectives could harm our business, financial condition and results of operations. Some of our current and potential competitors in the markets in which we operate may have greater financial, marketing, technological or other resources than we do. The ability of any of our competitors and potential competitors to adopt new and effective technology to better serve our markets may allow them to gain market strength. Increasing levels of competition in the future may result in lower recovery or audit fees, lower volumes of contracted recovery or audit services or higher costs for resources. Any inability to compete effectively in the markets that we serve could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our ability to derive revenues under our new RAC contracts will depend in part on the number and types of potentially improper claims that we are allowed to pursue by CMS, and our results of operations may be harmed if the scope of claims that we are allowed to pursue and be compensated for is limited.

Under CMS's Medicare recovery audit program, RAC contractors have not been permitted to seek the recovery of an improper claim unless that particular type of claim has been pre-approved by CMS to ensure compliance with applicable Medicare payment policies, as well as national and local coverage determinations. As work under the first RAC contract progressed, CMS placed increasing restrictions on the scope of audits permitted by RAC contractors and these restrictions have not been relaxed under the newly awarded RAC contracts. Accordingly, the long-term growth of the revenues we derive under our two newly awarded RAC contracts will depend in significant part on the scope of potentially improper claims that we are allowed to pursue. Revenues from our RAC contracts with CMS during the years ended December 31, 2019, and December 31, 2018, were \$27.9 million and \$1.7 million (excluding the effects of the release of the \$28.4 million appeal reserve in connection with the termination of our first CMS RAC contract), respectively.

In particular, in September 2013, CMS implemented rules that prevent RAC contractors from being able to review and audit (i) whether inpatient care delivered to patients with hospital stays lasting less than two midnights was medically necessary and therefore deserving of the higher reimbursement levels under Medicare Part A or (ii) whether inpatient treatment was medically necessary for admissions spanning more than two midnights. In connection with these restrictions, hospitals cannot bill CMS for outpatient services on hospital stays lasting less than two midnights during such period. Fees associated with recoveries initiated by us based upon improper claims for inpatient reimbursement of these short stays had represented a substantial portion of the revenues we had earned under our prior RAC contract. The continued suspension of this type of review activity has had and may continue to have a material adverse effect on our future healthcare revenues and operating results, depending on a variety of factors including, among other things, CMS's evaluation of provider compliance with the new rules, the rules ultimately adopted by CMS with respect to medical necessity reviews of Medicare reimbursement claims associated with short stay inpatient admissions and, more generally, the scope of improper claims that CMS allows us to pursue and our ability to successfully identify improper claims within the permitted scope.

The U.S. federal government accounts for a significant portion of our revenues, and any loss of business from, or change in our relationship with, the U.S. federal government would result in a significant decrease in our revenues and operating results.

We have historically derived and are likely to continue to derive a significant portion of our revenues from the U.S. federal government. For 2019 and 2018, revenues under contracts with the U.S. federal government accounted for approximately 36% and 35%, respectively, of our total revenues. The continuation and exercise of renewal options on government contracts and any new government contracts are, among other things, contingent upon the availability of adequate funding for the applicable federal government agency. Changes in federal government spending, or other regulatory changes such as the recent decisions by several governmental agencies to suspend collection efforts in the near term as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, could directly affect our financial performance.

For example, although the Department of Education announced in January 2018 that we were selected as one of two recovery contractors under its award for new student loan recovery contracts, we were notified on May 3, 2018 that the Department of Education has decided to cancel the current procurement in its entirety, and as a result terminated our contract award. Protests have been filed by certain of the unsuccessful bidders of the procurement of the new contracts from the Department of Education, and at this time, we cannot speculate on the outcome of any such protest or when work will begin under our new contract award. Further, pursuant to the terms of the CARES Act enacted in March 2020, the U.S. federal government suspended payments, ceased accruing interest, and stopped involuntary collections of payments (e.g., wage garnishments) for student loans owned by the Department of Education through September 30, 2020, which was subsequently extended through December 31, 2020. The loss of business from the U.S. federal government, or significant policy changes or financial pressures within the agencies of the U.S. federal government that we serve would result in a significant decrease in our revenues, which would adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Future legislative or regulatory changes affecting the markets in which we operate could impair our business and operations.

Two of the principal markets in which we provide our recovery and audit services, government-supported student loans and the Medicare program, are a subject of significant legislative and regulatory focus and we cannot anticipate how future changes in government policy may affect our business and operations. For example, Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, (SAFRA) significantly changed the structure of the government-supported student loan market by assigning responsibility for all new government-supported student loan originations to the Department of Education, rather than originations by private institutions and backed by one of the remaining 24 government-supported GAs. Further, the Department of Education's decision to cancel the current procurement in its entirety in 2018, terminated our contract award, which has significantly reduced our revenues in the student loan market. Lastly, the continued suspension of the type of review activity we are allowed to conduct under our contracts with CMS has resulted in limitation on our healthcare revenues and operating results. Any future changes in the legislation and regulations that govern these markets, may require us to adapt our business to the new circumstances and we may be unable to do so in a manner that does not adversely affect our business and operations.

The reduction in the number of government-supported student loans originated by our GA clients has resulted in a lower amount of student loans that we are able to rehabilitate, and may result in the consolidation among the GAs, either of which would decrease our revenues.

As a result of SAFRA, which terminated the ability of the GAs to originate government-supported student loans, the overall number of defaulted student loans that we are able to service on behalf of our GA clients has begun to decline. Further, we are seeing a larger amount of defaulted student loans within our GA client portfolios that have previously been rehabilitated, which, according to current regulations, prevents us from rehabilitating any such student loan for a second time. This overall reduction in the number of defaulted student loans in our GA client portfolios, and the larger percentage of defaulted student loans that have been previously rehabilitated, together with the cessation of placements of defaulted student loans from the Department of Education, has resulted in a decrease in revenues from our GA clients, which has negatively impacted our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Further, some have speculated that there may be consolidation among the remaining GAs. This speculation has heightened as a result of the reduction of fees that the GAs will receive for rehabilitating student loans as a result of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. If GAs that are our clients are combined with GAs with whom we do not have a relationship, we could suffer a loss of business. Two of our GA clients were responsible for 22% and 33%, respectively, of revenues for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018. The consolidation of our GA clients with others and the failure to provide recovery services to the consolidated entity could decrease our revenues, which could negatively impact our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our results of operations may fluctuate on a quarterly or annual basis and cause volatility in the price of our stock.

Our revenues and operating results could vary significantly from period-to-period and may fail to match our past performance because of a variety of factors, some of which are outside of our control. Any of these factors could cause the price of our common stock to fluctuate. Factors that could contribute to the variability of our operating results include:

- the amount of defaulted student loans and other receivables that our clients place with us for recovery;
- the timing of placements of student loans and other receivables which are entirely in the discretion of our clients;
- the schedules of government agencies for awarding contracts;
- our ability to maintain contractual commitments after the expenses we incur during our typically long implementation cycle for new customer contracts;

- our ability to successfully identify improper Medicare claims and the number and type of potentially improper claims that CMS authorizes us to pursue under our RAC contact;
- our ability to continue to generate revenues under our private healthcare contracts;
- the loss or gain of significant clients or changes in the contingency fee rates or other significant terms of our business arrangements with our significant clients;
- technological and operational issues that may affect our clients and regulatory changes in the markets we service; and
- general industry and macroeconomic conditions.

A failure of our operating systems or technology infrastructure, or those of our third-party vendors and subcontractors, could disrupt the operation of our business.

A failure of our operating systems or technology infrastructure, or those of our third-party vendors and subcontractors, could disrupt our operations. Our operating systems and technology infrastructure are susceptible to damage or interruption from various causes, including acts of God and other natural disasters, power losses, computer systems failures, Internet and telecommunications or data network failures, global health crises, operator error, computer viruses, losses of and corruption of data and similar events. The occurrence of any of these events could result in interruptions, delays or cessations in service to our clients, reduce the attractiveness of our recovery services to current or potential clients and adversely impact our financial condition and results of operations. While we have backup systems in many of our operating facilities, an extended outage of utility or network services may harm our ability to operate our business. Further, the situations we plan for and the amount of insurance coverage we maintain for losses as result of failures of our operating systems and infrastructure may not be adequate in any particular case.

If our security measures are breached or fail and unauthorized access is obtained to our clients' confidential data, our services may be perceived as insecure, the attractiveness of our recovery services to current or potential clients may be reduced, and we may incur significant liabilities.

Our recovery services involve the storage and transmission of confidential information relating to our clients and their customers, including health, financial, credit, payment and other personal or confidential information. Although our data security procedures are designed to protect against unauthorized access to confidential information, our computer systems, software and networks may be vulnerable to unauthorized access and disclosure of our clients' confidential information. Further, we may not effectively adapt our security measures to evolving security risks, address the security and privacy concerns of existing or potential clients as they change over time, or be compliant with federal, state, and local laws and regulations with respect to securing confidential information. Unauthorized access to confidential information relating to our clients and their customers could lead to reputational damage which could deter our clients and potential clients from selecting our recovery services, or result in termination of contracts with those clients affected by any such breach, regulatory action, and claims against us.

In the event of any unauthorized access to personal or other confidential information, we may be required to expend significant resources to investigate and remediate vulnerabilities in our security procedures, and we may be subject to fines, penalties, litigation costs, and financial losses that are either not insured against or not fully covered through any insurance maintained by us. If one or more of such failures in our security and privacy measures were to occur, our business, financial condition and results of operations could suffer.

Our business may be harmed if we lose members of our management team or other key employees.

We are highly dependent on members of our management team and other key employees and our future success depends in part on our ability to retain these people. Our inability to continue to attract and retain members of our management team and other key employees could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

The growth of our healthcare business will require us to hire and retain employees with specialized skills and failure to do so could harm our ability to grow our business.

The growth of our healthcare business will depend in part on our ability to recruit, train and manage additional qualified employees. Our healthcare-related operations require us to hire registered nurses and experts in Medicare coding. Finding, attracting and retaining employees with these skills is a critical component of providing our healthcare-related recovery and audit services, and our inability to staff these operations appropriately represents a risk to our healthcare service offering and associated revenues. An inability to hire qualified personnel, particularly to serve our healthcare clients, may restrain the growth of our business.

We rely on subcontractors to provide services to our clients and the failure of subcontractors to perform as expected could harm our business operations and our relationships with our clients.

We engage subcontractors to provide certain services to our clients. These subcontractors participate to varying degrees in our recovery activities with regards to all of the services we provide. While we believe that we perform appropriate due diligence before we hire subcontractors, our subcontractors may not provide adequate service or otherwise comply with the terms set forth in their agreements. In the event a subcontractor provides deficient performance to one or more of our clients, any such client may reduce the volume of services we are providing under an existing contract or may terminate the relevant contract entirely and we may face claims for breach of contract. Any such disruption in our relations with our clients as a result of services provided by any of our subcontractors could adversely affect our revenues and operating results.

If our software vendors or utility and network providers fail to deliver or perform as expected our business operations could be adversely affected.

Our recovery services depend in part on third-party providers, including software vendors and utility and network providers. Our ability to service our clients depends on these third-party providers meeting our expectations and contractual obligations in a timely and effective manner. Our business could be materially and adversely affected, and we might incur significant additional liabilities, if the services provided by these third-party providers do not meet our expectations or if they terminate or refuse to renew their relationships with us on similar contractual terms.

We are subject to extensive regulations regarding the use and disclosure of confidential personal information and failure to comply with these regulations could cause us to incur liabilities and expenses.

We are subject to a wide array of federal and state laws and regulations regarding the use and disclosure of confidential personal information and security. For example, the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), as amended, and related state laws subject us to substantial restrictions and requirements with respect to the use and disclosure of the personal health information that we obtain in connection with our contracts with CMS and we must establish administrative, physical and technical safeguards to protect the confidentiality of this information. Similar protections extend to the type of personal financial and other information we acquire from our student loan, state tax and federal receivables clients. We are required to notify affected individuals and government agencies of data security breaches involving protected health and certain personally identifiable information. These laws and regulations also require that we develop, implement and maintain written, comprehensive information security programs containing safeguards that are appropriate to protect personally identifiable information or health information against unauthorized access, misuse, destruction or modification. Federal law generally does not preempt state law in the area of protection of personal information, and as a result we must also comply with state laws and regulations. Regulation of privacy, data use and security require that we incur significant expenses, which could increase in the future as a result of additional regulations, all of which adversely affects our results of operations. Failure to comply with these laws and regulations can result in penalties and in some cases expose us to civil lawsuits.

Our recovery business is subject to extensive regulation and consumer protection laws and our failure to comply with these regulations and laws may subject us to liability and result in significant costs.

Our recovery business is subject to regulation and oversight by various state and federal agencies, particularly in the area of consumer protection. The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA), and related state laws provide specific guidelines that we must follow in communicating with holders of student loans and other receivables and regulates the manner in which we can recover defaulted student loans and other receivables. Some state attorney generals have been active in this area of consumer protection regulation. We are subject, and may be subject in the future, to inquiries and audits from state and federal regulators, as well as frequent litigation from private plaintiffs regarding compliance under the FDCPA and related state regulations. We are also subject to the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), which regulates consumer credit reporting and may impose liability on us to the extent adverse credit information reported to a credit bureau is false or inaccurate. Our compliance with the FDCPA, FCRA and other federal and state regulations that affect our recovery business may result in significant costs, including litigation costs. We may also become subject to regulations promulgated by the United States Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), which was established in July 2011 as part of the Dodd-Frank Act to, among other things, establish regulations regarding consumer financial protection laws. In addition, the CFPB has investigatory and enforcement authority with respect to whether persons are engaged in unlawful acts or practices in connection with the collection of consumer debts.

Litigation may result in substantial costs of defense, damages or settlement, any of which could subject us to significant costs and expenses.

We are party to lawsuits in the normal course of business, particularly in connection with our student loan recovery services. For example, we are regularly subject to claims that we have violated the guidelines and procedures that must be followed under federal and state laws in communicating with consumer debtors. We may not ultimately prevail or otherwise be able to satisfactorily resolve any pending or future litigation, which may result in substantial costs of defense, damages or settlement. In the future, we may be required to alter our business practices or pay substantial damages or settlement costs as a result of litigation proceedings, which could adversely affect our business operations and results of operations.

If we are unable to adequately protect our proprietary technology, our competitive position could be harmed, or we could be required to incur significant costs to enforce our rights.

The success of our business depends in part upon our proprietary technology platform. We rely on a combination of copyright, patent, trademark, and trade secret laws, as well as on confidentiality procedures and non-compete agreements, to establish and protect our proprietary technology rights. The steps we have taken to deter misappropriation of our proprietary technology may be insufficient to protect our proprietary information. In particular, we may not be able to protect our trade secrets, know-how and other proprietary information adequately. Although we use reasonable efforts to protect this proprietary information and technology, our employees, consultants and other parties may unintentionally or willfully disclose our information or technology to competitors. Enforcing a claim that a third party illegally obtained and is using any of our proprietary information or technology is expensive and time consuming, and the outcome is unpredictable. We rely, in part, on nondisclosure, confidentiality and invention assignment agreements with our employees, consultants and other parties to protect our trade secrets, know-how and other intellectual property and proprietary information. These agreements may not be self-executing, or they may be breached, and we may not have adequate remedies for such breach. Moreover, third parties may independently develop similar or equivalent proprietary information or otherwise gain access to our trade secrets, know-how and other proprietary information. Any infringement, misappropriation or other violation of our patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, or other intellectual property rights could adversely affect any competitive advantage we currently derive or may derive from our proprietary technology platform and we may incur significant costs associated with litigation that may be necessary to enforce our intellectual property rights.

Claims by others that we infringe their intellectual property could force us to incur significant costs or revise the way we conduct our business.

Our competitors protect their proprietary rights by means of patents, trade secrets, copyrights, trademarks and other intellectual property. Any party asserting that we infringe, misappropriate or violate their intellectual property rights may force us to defend ourselves, and potentially our clients, against the alleged claim. These claims and any resulting lawsuit, if successful, could be time-consuming and expensive to defend, subject us to significant liability for damages or invalidation of our proprietary rights, prevent us from operating all or a portion of our business or force us to redesign our services or technology platform or cause an interruption or cessation of our business operations, any of which could adversely affect our business and operating results. In addition, any litigation relating to the infringement of intellectual property rights could harm our relationships with current and prospective clients. The risk of such claims and lawsuits could increase if we increase the size and scope of our services in our existing markets or expand into new markets.

We may make acquisitions that prove unsuccessful, strain or divert our resources and harm our results of operations and stock price.

We may consider acquisitions of other companies in our industry or in new markets. We may not be able to successfully complete any such acquisition and, if completed, any such acquisition may fail to achieve the intended financial results. We may not be able to successfully integrate any acquired businesses with our own and we may be unable to maintain our standards, controls and policies. Further, acquisitions may place additional constraints on our resources by diverting the attention of our management from other business concerns. Moreover, any acquisition may result in a potentially dilutive issuance of equity securities, the incurrence of additional debt, the amortization expenses related to intangible assets, and the potential impairment charges related to intangible assets or goodwill, all of which could adversely affect our results of operations and stock price.

The price of our common stock could be volatile, and you may not be able to sell your shares at or above the public offering price.

Since our initial public offering in August 2012, the price of our common stock, as reported by NASDAQ Global Select Market, has ranged from a low sales price of \$0.54 on June 1, 2020 to a high sales price of \$14.09 on March 4, 2013. The trading price of our common stock may be significantly affected by various factors, including: quarterly fluctuations in our operating results; the financial projections we may provide to the public, any changes in those projections or our failure to meet those projections; changes in investors' and analysts' perception of the business risks and conditions of our business; our ability to meet the earnings estimates and other performance expectations of financial analysts or investors; unfavorable commentary or downgrades of our stock by equity research analysts; changes in our capital structure, such as future issuances of debt or equity securities; our success or failure to obtain new contract awards; lawsuits threatened or filed against us; strategic actions by us or our competitors, such as acquisitions or restructurings; new legislation or regulatory actions; changes in our relationship with any of our significant clients; fluctuations in the stock prices of our peer companies or in stock markets in general; and general economic conditions.

Our significant stockholders have the ability to influence significant corporate activities and our significant stockholders' interests may not coincide with yours.

Parthenon Capital Partners, Prescott Group Management, LLC, Invesco Ltd., and Mill Road Capital Management LLC beneficially owned approximately 24.7%, 22.9%, 17.8%, and 6.4% of our common stock, respectively, as of September 30, 2020. As a result of their ownership, Parthenon Capital Partners, Prescott Group Management, LLC, Invesco Ltd., and Mill Road Capital Management LLC have the ability to influence the outcome of matters submitted to a vote of stockholders and, through our board of directors, the ability to influence decision making with respect to our business direction and policies. Parthenon Capital Partners, Prescott Group Management, LLC, Invesco Ltd., and Mill Road Capital Management LLC may have interests different from our other stockholders' interests and may vote in a manner adverse to those interests. Matters over which Parthenon Capital Partners, Prescott Group Management, LLC, Invesco Ltd., and Mill Road Capital Management LLC can, directly or indirectly, exercise influence include:

- mergers and other business combination transactions, including proposed transactions that would result in our stockholders receiving a premium price for their shares;
- other acquisitions or dispositions of businesses or assets;
- incurrence of indebtedness and the issuance of equity securities;
- repurchase of stock and payment of dividends; and
- the issuance of shares to management under our equity incentive plans.

In addition, Parthenon Capital Partners has a contractual right to designate a number of directors proportionate to its stock ownership. Further, under our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, Parthenon Capital Partners does not have any obligation to present to us, and Parthenon Capital Partners may separately pursue, corporate opportunities of which it becomes aware, even if those opportunities are ones that we would have pursued if granted the opportunity.

Anti-takeover provisions contained in our certificate of incorporation and bylaws could impair a takeover attempt that our stockholders may find beneficial.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws contain provisions that could have the effect of rendering more difficult or discouraging an acquisition deemed undesirable by our board of directors. Our corporate governance documents include the following provisions: establishing a classified board of directors so that not all members of our board are elected at one time; providing that directors may be removed by stockholders only for cause; authorizing blank check preferred stock, which could be issued with voting, liquidation, dividend and other rights superior to our common stock; limiting the ability of our stockholders to call and bring business before special meetings and to take action by written consent in lieu of a meeting; limiting our ability to engage in certain business combinations with any "interested stockholder," other than Parthenon Capital Partners, for a three-year period following the time that the stockholder became an interested stockholder; requiring advance notice of stockholder proposals for business to be conducted at meetings of our stockholders and for nominations of candidates for election to our board of directors; requiring a super majority vote for certain amendments to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws; and limiting the determination of the number of directors on our board of directors and the filling of vacancies or newly created seats on the board, to our board of directors then in office. These provisions, alone or together, could have the effect of delaying or deterring a change in control, could limit the opportunity for our stockholders to receive a premium for their shares of our common stock, and could also affect the price that some investors are willing to pay for our common stock.

ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

None.

ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES

None.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

None.

ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

(A) Exhibits:

Exhibit No.	Description
31.1	Certification of the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a)
31.2	Certification of the Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a)
32.1 ⁽¹⁾	Certification of the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 USC Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
32.2 ⁽¹⁾	Certification of the Principal Financial Officer pursuant to 18 USC Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
101.INS ⁽²⁾	XBRL Instance Document
101.SCH ⁽²⁾	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Scheme
101.CAL ⁽²⁾	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase
101.DEF ⁽²⁾	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document
101.LAB ⁽²⁾	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase
101.PRE ⁽²⁾	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase

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- (1) The material contained in Exhibit 32.1 and Exhibit 32.2 is not deemed “filed” with the Securities and Exchange Commission and is not to be incorporated by reference into any filing of the Company under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, whether made before or after the date hereof and irrespective of any general incorporation language contained in such filing, except to the extent that the registrant specifically incorporates it by reference.
- (2) In accordance with Rule 406T of Regulation S-T, the information furnished in these exhibits will not be deemed “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Exchange Act. Such exhibits will not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act or Exchange Act.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirement 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.

Date: November 12, 2020

PERFORMANT FINANCIAL CORPORATION

By: /s/ Lisa Im
Lisa Im
Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)

By: /s/ Ian Johnston
Ian Johnston
Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer

CERTIFICATION

I, Ian Johnston, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of Performant Financial Corporation;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: November 12, 2020

/s/ Ian Johnston

Ian Johnston

Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer (Principal Financial Officer)

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

I, Lisa Im, Chief Executive Officer of Performant Financial Corporation, do hereby certify to the best of my knowledge, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that the Quarterly Report of Performant Financial Corporation on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2020 to which this certification is attached fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and that information contained in such Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of Performant Financial Corporation.

Date: November 12, 2020

By: /s/ Lisa Im
Lisa Im
Chief Executive Officer

