MITCHAM INDUSTRIES INC
Form 10-K
April 09, 2010

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UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
Form 10-K

þ **ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**
For the fiscal year ended January 31, 2010

OR

o **TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**
For the transition period from to

Commission file number: 000-25142
Mitcham Industries, Inc.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Texas	**76-0210849**
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	*(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)*
8141 SH 75 South **P.O. Box 1175** **Huntsville, Texas**	**77342**
(Address of principal executive offices)	*(Zip Code)*

936-291-2277
(Registrant s telephone number, including area code)

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

Title of Each Class	**Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered**
Common Stock $0.01 par value per share	The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:
None

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

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

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

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 proceeding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes o No o

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

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

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

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

As of July 31, 2009, the last business day of the registrant s most recently completed second fiscal quarter, the aggregate market value of the registrant s common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant was $41,350,613 based on the closing sale price as reported on the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation System National Market System.

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the registrant s classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

Class	Outstanding at April 5, 2010
Common Stock, $0.01 par value per share	9,812,294 shares

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the definitive proxy statement of Mitcham Industries, Inc. for the 2010 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, which will be filed within 120 days of January 31, 2010, are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

MITCHAM INDUSTRIES, INC.
ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K

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CAUTIONARY STATEMENT ABOUT FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements contained in this Annual Report on Form 10-K (this Form-10-K) may be deemed to be forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act) and Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act). This information includes, without limitation, statements concerning:

- our future financial position and results of operations;
- international and economic instability;
- planned capital expenditures;
- our business strategy and other plans for future operations;
- the future mix of revenues and business;
- our relationships with suppliers;
- our ability to retain customers;
- our liquidity and access to capital;
- the effects of seasonality on our business;
- future demand for our services; and
- general conditions in the energy industry and seismic service industry.

Although we believe that the expectations reflected in these forward-looking statements are reasonable, we can not assure you that these expectations will prove to be correct. When used in this Form 10-K, the words anticipate, believe, estimate, expect, may and similar expressions, as they relate to our company and management, are intende identify forward-looking statements. The actual results of future events described in these forward-looking statements could differ materially from the results described in the forward-looking statements due to risks and uncertainties, including those set forth in Item 1A Risk Factors and elsewhere within this Form 10-K and in our reports and registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) from time to time. We caution readers to not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date hereof. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any of these forward-looking statements after the date they are made, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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PART I

Item 1. *Business*

Mitcham Industries, Inc. (MII), a Texas corporation, was incorporated in 1987. We are engaged directly and through our wholly owned subsidiaries in the leasing of seismic equipment to the oil and gas industry throughout the world. We are also engaged in the sale of new and used seismic equipment and in the design, manufacture and sale of marine seismic equipment. Our operating subsidiaries are Mitcham Canada Ltd (MCL), Seismic Asia Pacific Pty Ltd. (SAP), Mitcham Seismic Eurasia LLC (MSE), Seamap (UK) Ltd (Seamap UK) and Seamap Pte. Ltd (Seamap Singapore). Seamap UK and Seamap Singapore are collectively referred to as Seamap. During fiscal 2010, we established branch operations of MII in Colombia and in Peru.

In March 2010, MCL acquired Absolute Equipment Solutions, Inc. (AES), a company located in Calgary, Alberta. AES produces, leases and sells heli-pickers and related equipment. This equipment is utilized by seismic contractors and helicopter operators to more efficiently and safely deploy and retrieve seismic equipment in the field. See Item 7 Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations for information about the acquisition of AES.

We operate our business in two segments, equipment leasing (Equipment Leasing) and equipment manufacturing. The equipment manufacturing segment is conducted by our Seamap subsidiaries and, therefore, is referred to in this Form 10-K as our Seamap segment. For additional information about our business segments, including related financial information, see Note 14 to our consolidated financial statements and Item 7 Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations of this Form 10-K.

We lease and sell geophysical and other equipment used primarily by seismic data acquisition contractors to perform seismic data acquisition surveys on land, in transition zones (marsh and shallow water areas) and marine areas. We conduct our operations on a worldwide basis and believe that we are the world s largest independent lessor of seismic equipment. We believe that our competitors, in general, have neither as extensive a seismic equipment lease pool as we do, nor similar exclusive lease referral agreements with seismic equipment suppliers.

Prior to the Fall of 2008, we had experienced an extended period of growth in our business, as had most businesses involved in providing seismic related goods and services. This growth was, we believe, driven primarily by worldwide oil and gas exploration activity, which was in turn driven by the demand for oil and gas and historically high prices for oil and natural gas. With the global economic and financial crisis that arose in the Fall of 2008, we saw demand for our products decline, especially within certain markets such as North America and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), which consists of 11 former Soviet Republics. The onslaught of the global recession and the resulting decline in demand for oil and gas, coupled with a relatively high supply of those commodities, resulted in a dramatic decline in the price for oil and natural gas. This, we believe, resulted in a dramatic slow-down in oil and gas exploration activity and, therefore, a decline in demand for seismic related goods and services. In recent months, there have been indications of renewed oil and gas exploration activity, although we believe the extent of this improvement remains uncertain. The price for oil has recovered, although not to the levels seen in 2008. Natural gas prices, while recently higher than the lows seen during 2009, remain significantly depressed from 2008 levels. While the oil and gas industry has been, and we expect will be, subject to significant cyclicality, we believe that our business will benefit from a long-term demand for oil and gas.

Our equipment is utilized in a variety of geographic regions throughout the world, which are described in Item 1 Business Customers, Sales, Backlog and Marketing. We lease seismic equipment worldwide, and, on occasion, sell

new or used seismic equipment through MII in Huntsville, Texas and its branch operations in Colombia and Peru, and through MCL in Calgary, Alberta. MSE, from its location in Ufa, Bashkortostan, Russia, leases seismic equipment primarily in the Russian Federation and the CIS. SAP, from its location in Brisbane, Australia, leases seismic equipment in Australia and other locations within the Pacific Rim and also sells new seismic, oceanographic and hydrographic equipment throughout the Pacific Rim. Seamap UK, located in Somerset, United Kingdom and Seamap Singapore, located in Singapore, design, manufacture and sell marine seismic equipment throughout the world.

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We own a variety of technologically advanced equipment acquired from the leading seismic manufacturers. Our lease pool includes many types of equipment used in seismic data acquisition, including various electronic components of land, transition zone and marine seismic data acquisition systems, geophones and cables, earth vibrators, peripheral equipment, survey and other equipment. The majority of our seismic equipment lease pool is provided by two manufacturers, the Sercel subsidiaries of Compagnie Generale de Geophysique-Veritas (Sercel and CGV, respectively) and ION Geophysical Corporation (ION). We believe that the majority of the advanced seismic data acquisition systems in use worldwide are either Sercel or ION systems. At January 31, 2010, approximately 54% of our equipment lease pool, on a cost basis, consisted of seismic recording channels and related equipment, with the remainder consisting of geophones, compressors, energy source controllers and other peripheral equipment.

For the past several years, we have had a series of supply and exclusive lease referral agreements with Sercel, which we believe have provided us with certain competitive advantages, primarily due to preferential pricing and expedited delivery arrangements under the agreements. Under these agreements, we have been the exclusive worldwide short-term leasing representative for certain products. In September 2009, we renewed our agreement with Sercel.

We lease our equipment on a short-term basis, generally for two to six months, to seismic contractors who need additional capacity to complete a seismic survey. Certain equipment that is used in vertical seismic profiling or downhole operations is generally leased to oil field service companies and generally for shorter periods of one to two weeks. Short-term leasing agreements enable our customers to achieve operating and capital investment efficiencies. A typical seismic crew uses a wide variety of equipment to perform seismic data acquisition surveys. Our customers may lease a small amount of equipment to expand an existing crew s capabilities or a complete seismic data acquisition system to equip an entire crew. Demand for short-term seismic equipment leases is affected by many factors, including: (i) the highly variable size and technological demands of individual seismic surveys, (ii) seasonal weather patterns and sporadic demand for seismic surveys in certain regions, (iii) the term of the lease and (iv) the cost of seismic equipment. We believe these factors allow seismic contractors to use short-term seismic equipment leasing as a cost-effective alternative to purchasing additional equipment. Our equipment lease rates vary according to an item s expected useful life, utilization, acquisition cost and the term of the lease.

SAP sells equipment, consumables, systems integration, engineering hardware and software maintenance support services to the seismic, hydrographic, oceanographic, environmental and defense industries throughout Southeast Asia and Australia. MII and MCL also sell a broad range of used seismic equipment on a worldwide basis. Seamap designs, manufactures and sells a broad range of proprietary products for the seismic, hydrographic and offshore industries. Seamap s primary products include the GunLink seismic source acquisition and control systems, which provide operators of marine seismic surveys more precise control of energy sources, and the BuoyLink RGPS tracking system, which is used to provide precise positioning of seismic sources and streamers.

Business Strategy

Our business strategy is to meet the needs of the seismic industry by leasing a wide range of equipment and to provide technologically advanced solutions for marine seismic applications. To accomplish this, we have identified the following major objectives:

Provide a technologically advanced seismic equipment lease pool. We intend to maintain the size and diversity of our equipment lease pool. We believe that the availability of a large and diverse seismic equipment lease pool encourages seismic data acquisition contractors and oil field service providers to lease, rather than purchase, such equipment, due to the capital and operating efficiencies provided by short-term leases.

Continue to expand international operations. We intend to continue to expand our international leasing activities in new geographic areas, including the CIS, South America, Europe, the Middle East and North

Africa. Growth within the CIS has been abated by the global economic and financial crisis; however, we believe this to be a temporary situation and that this area presents long-term growth opportunities. We believe there are significant opportunities to continue to expand our international leasing and sales activities. We believe that we can conduct business in wide-ranging geographic areas from our existing facilities.

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However, for legal, tax or operational reasons, we may decide in the future to establish facilities in additional locations. We generally expect to establish any such facilities through a green field approach, but we may consider making selective acquisitions from time to time.

Maintain alliances with major seismic equipment manufacturers. Our relationships with leading seismic equipment manufacturers, particularly Sercel, allow us to expand our equipment lease pool through favorable pricing and delivery terms. We believe these relationships provide a competitive advantage.

Pursue additional business development opportunities. We regularly evaluate opportunities to expand our business activities within the oil service industry, particularly in the seismic sector. These opportunities could include the introduction of new products or services or the acquisition of existing businesses.

Seismic Technology and the Oil Service Industry

Seismic surveys are a principal source of information used by oil and gas companies to identify geological conditions that are favorable for the accumulation of oil and gas and to evaluate the potential for successful drilling, development and production of oil and gas. Seismic technology has been used by the oil and gas industry since the 1920 s, and has advanced significantly with improvements in computing and electronic technologies. Beginning in the early 1990 s, the oil and gas industry significantly expanded its use of 3-D seismic data. 3-D seismic data provides a more comprehensive subsurface image and is believed to have contributed to improved drilling success rates, particularly in mature oil and gas basins such as those in North America. Additionally, 2-D seismic data continues to be used in many areas where 3-D data acquisition is cost prohibitive or logistical access is limited.

Oil and gas exploration companies utilize seismic data generated from the use of digital seismic systems and peripheral equipment in determining optimal locations for drilling oil and gas wells, in the development of oil and gas reserves and in reservoir management for the production of oil and gas. A complete digital seismic data acquisition system generally consists of (i) a central electronics unit that records and stores digital data (CEU), (ii) seismic recording channel boxes that contain from one to eight seismic channels (channel boxes), (iii) geophones, or seismic sensors, (iv) energy sources including dynamite, air guns or earth vibrators that create the necessary acoustic wave to be recorded, (v) cables that transmit digital seismic data from the channel boxes to the CEU, (vi) geographic survey equipment, (vii) drilling equipment used in the seismic survey and (viii) other peripheral, or accessory, equipment.

In certain applications, specialized seismic recording devices are deployed vertically within a well bore. Multiple recording channels, or levels are generally deployed within a given well and are referred to as downhole or VSP (vertical seismic profiling) tools. These applications are used to provide additional data points in a traditional seismic survey, to monitor and analyze reservoir properties, to monitor and analyze fluid treatment operations, as well as a variety of other uses.

In seismic data acquisition, an acoustic wave is generated at or below the earth s surface through the discharge of compressed air, the detonation of small explosive charges or the use of large mechanical vibrators. As the acoustic wave travels through the earth, it is partially reflected by the underlying rock layers and the reflected energy is captured by sensors, such as geophones, which are situated at intervals along paths from the point of acoustical impulse. The resulting signals are then transmitted to the channel boxes, which convert the signals from analog to digital data and transmit this data via cable to the CEU. The CEU stores the seismic data on magnetic tape, disk or other recording media for processing. The digital data is then input into a specialized seismic processing system that uses sophisticated computer software programs to enhance the recorded signal and produce an image of the subsurface strata. By interpreting seismic data, oil and gas exploration companies create detailed maps of exploration prospects and oil and gas reservoirs.

Historically, a 2-D seismic survey was the standard data acquisition technique used to map geologic formations over a broad area. 2-D seismic data can be visualized as a single vertical plane of subsurface information. Data gathered from a 3-D seismic survey is best visualized as a cube of information that can be sliced into numerous planes, providing different views of a geologic structure with much higher resolution than is available with traditional 2-D seismic survey techniques. 3-D seismic surveys generally require a larger amount of equipment than 2-D surveys. By using a greater number of channels and flexible configuration, 3-D seismic data provides more

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extensive and detailed information regarding the subsurface geology than 2-D data. As a result, 3-D data allows the geophysicists interpreting the data to more closely select the optimal location of a prospective drill site or define an oil and gas reservoir.

In the exploration and development process, oil and gas companies establish requirements for seismic data acquisition programs based on their technical objectives. Because of the expense associated with drilling oil and gas wells, decisions regarding whether or where to drill are critical to the overall process. Since 3-D seismic data increases drilling success rates and reduces costs, we believe that 3-D seismic surveys are now predominant. As a result of the increasing requirements for this higher resolution data, which in turn requires additional channels to collect and transmit data, seismic data acquisition systems have been expanding in size during the past several years.

Industry advances include the use of high resolution 3-D, three-component geophones (3D-3C), which enhance the 3-D image of the sub-surface, and time lapse (4-D) seismic techniques, where surveys are periodically reacquired to allow the monitoring of producing oil and gas fields for optimal production and reserve recovery. These and other technical advances have contributed to increased drilling success rates and reduced oil and gas finding costs.

With the expanded use of seismic technology, particularly 3-D seismic surveys, the size of data acquisition surveys has increased substantially in the past several years. Demand for higher resolution data, larger surveys and more rapid completion of such surveys now requires seismic contractors to use data acquisition systems with a greater number of seismic recording channels. Additionally, the size of seismic surveys varies significantly, requiring frequent changes in the configuration of equipment and crews used for seismic surveys. As a result of these changes, the number of seismic survey channels has increased from smaller 2-D surveys, which typically averaged 120 channels, to larger 3-D surveys, which today average more than 5,000 channels and sometimes use as many as 100,000 channels. We believe that many seismic contractors will continue to meet changes in equipment needs by leasing incremental equipment to expand crew size as necessary, thereby reducing the substantial capital expenditures required to purchase such equipment.

Seismic surveys utilizing 2-D, 3-D or 4-D techniques require essentially the same equipment. The manner in which the equipment is deployed and the resulting data analyzed differs, however. Accordingly, our equipment can generally be utilized in 2-D, 3-D and 4-D seismic surveys. Since 3-D and 4-D seismic surveys generally utilize significantly more equipment than 2-D seismic surveys, the potential to lease our seismic equipment has increased from earlier periods.

Business and Operations

Equipment Leasing. We own a comprehensive lease pool of seismic equipment for short-term leasing to our customers, who are primarily seismic data acquisition contractors and oil field service providers (in the case of downhole equipment). We lease this equipment multiple times until the end of its useful life or its sale. Our equipment leasing services generally include the lease of the various components of seismic data acquisition systems and related equipment to meet a customer s job specifications. These specifications frequently vary as to the number of required recording channels, geophones, energy sources (e.g., earth vibrators) and other equipment. Our customers generally lease seismic equipment to supplement their own inventory of recording channels and related equipment.

Our land equipment lease pool includes a total of over 110,000 seismic recording land channels (each channel capable of electronically converting seismic data from analog to digital format and transmitting the digital data), geophones and cables, and other peripheral equipment. Our lease pool of marine seismic equipment includes more than 19 kilometers of streamers (recording channels that are towed behind a vessel), air compressors, air guns, streamer positioning equipment, energy source controllers and other equipment. Our lease pool of downhole equipment includes approximately 215 levels of downhole seismic tools. Our lease pool equipment is manufactured by leading

seismic equipment manufacturers and is widely used in the seismic industry. Our marine lease pool includes energy source controllers and RGPS tracking systems that are manufactured by our Seamap segment.

Our equipment leases generally have terms of two to six months, one to two weeks in the case of downhole equipment, and are typically renewable following the initial rental period. Our equipment lease rates vary according

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to an item s expected useful life, utilization, initial cost and the term of the lease. We provide maintenance of our leased equipment during the lease term for malfunctions due to failure of material and parts and will provide replacement equipment, as necessary. In addition, we provide field technical support services when requested by our customers. The customer is responsible for the cost of repairing equipment damages other than normal wear and tear and replacing destroyed or lost equipment under the terms of our standard lease agreements. The customer is also normally responsible for the costs of shipping the equipment from and to one of our facilities and is responsible for all taxes, other than income taxes, related to the lease of the equipment. The customer is required to obtain and maintain insurance for the replacement value of the equipment and a specified minimum amount of general liability insurance. While it is our general practice to lease our seismic equipment on a monthly basis, in certain circumstances we lease equipment on a day rate usage basis.

Seismic equipment leasing is susceptible to weather patterns in certain geographic regions. In Canada and Russia, a significant percentage of the seismic survey activity occurs in the winter months, from December through March or April. During the months in which the weather is warmer, certain areas are not accessible to trucks, earth vibrators and other heavy equipment because of the unstable terrain. In other areas of the world, such as Southeast Asia and the Pacific Rim, periods of heavy rain, known as monsoons, can impair seismic operations. We are able, in many cases, to transfer our equipment from one region to another in order to deal with seasonal demand and to increase our equipment utilization. For additional information about the impact of seasonality and weather, see Item 1A Risk Factors .

Upon completion of a lease, the equipment must generally be returned to one of our facilities for inspection, testing and, if necessary, repair. While the customer is normally responsible for the costs of shipping and repairs, during this time the equipment is not available for lease to another customer. Therefore, managing this process and the utilization of the equipment is an important aspect of our operations. Given the short term of most of our leases, we believe that the highest achievable annual utilization for most of our equipment is approximately 65%. However, many factors can affect this utilization, including the term of our leases, the shipping time required to return equipment to one of our facilities, the time required to inspect, test and repair equipment after return from a lease and the demand for the equipment.

Historically, the majority of the inspection, testing and repair have been done in our Huntsville, Texas or Calgary, Alberta facilities. In recent years, however, we have added inspection and testing capabilities to our facilities in Ufa, Bashkortostan, Russia and Singapore. With the establishment of our branch operations in Colombia and Peru, we added inspection, test and repair capabilities in those countries. We believe that by expanding these capabilities we have been able to more effectively utilize our equipment and reduce costs associated with these operations, although it is not possible to quantify the effect of any such improvement. The incremental cost for these additional facilities was not material.

Lease Pool Equipment Sales. On occasion, we sell used equipment from our lease pool, normally in response to specific customer demand or to declining demand for rental of specific equipment. Used equipment sold from our lease pool can have a wide range of gross margins depending upon the amount of depreciation that has been recorded on the item. When used equipment is sold from our lease pool, the net book value plus any cost associated with the sale is recorded to cost of goods sold. Sales of our lease pool equipment typically occur as opportunities arise and do not have a significant seasonal aspect. Sales of lease pool equipment amounted to approximately $3.3 million, $3.0 million and $3.5 million in each of the three fiscal years ended January 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, respectively. We typically do not seek to sell our lease pool equipment. However, we will evaluate any opportunities for the sale of equipment from our lease pool, and based upon our evaluation, may sell additional equipment. Such sales of lease pool equipment could be material.

Other Equipment Sales. The Other equipment sales included in our Equipment Leasing segment fall into two broad categories:

Sales of new seismic equipment. On occasion, we will sell new seismic equipment in response to a specific demand from a customer. These sales are made in cooperation with our suppliers of lease pool equipment.

Sales of hydrographic and oceanographic equipment. SAP sells equipment, consumables, systems integration, engineering hardware and software maintenance support services to the seismic, hydrographic,

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oceanographic, environmental and defense industries throughout Southeast Asia and Australia. SAP is a manufacturer s representative for an array of equipment lines.

Seamap Equipment Sales. Seamap designs, manufactures and sells a broad range of proprietary products for the seismic, hydrographic and offshore industries. Seamap s primary products include (i) the GunLink seismic source acquisition and control systems, which are designed to provide operators of marine seismic surveys more precise control of energy sources, and (ii) the BuoyLink RGPS tracking system used to provide precise positioning of seismic sources and streamers. Seamap s design operations are located in the United Kingdom and in Singapore and its manufacturing facilities are located in Singapore.

Key Supplier Agreements

The Sercel Lease Agreement

In September 2009, we entered into a new exclusive equipment lease agreement with Sercel (the Exclusive Equipment Lease Agreement), which replaced an agreement that expired in December 2008. Under the new agreement, we are, with some exceptions, the exclusive worldwide authorized lessor for Sercel s DSU3 428XL three component digital sensors and the exclusive authorized lessor for Sercel s downhole seismic tools in North and South America through December 2011.

Under the agreement, we agreed not to offer financing leases or leases with terms greater than one year related to the Exclusive Products (as defined in the agreement) without Sercel s prior consent. Sercel agreed to refer any inquires for short-term rentals of the Exclusive Products for use within the Exclusive Territory (as defined in the agreement) to us and to not recommend any competitor of ours as a source of such rentals. Sercel and we agreed to cooperate in the promotion and marketing of the Exclusive Products.

The agreement provides that Sercel grant us specified pricing for the purchase of the Exclusive Products and certain other products. In return, we agreed to purchase a total of 9,000 stations, or 27,000 channels, of DSU3 428XL three component digital sensors and 300 levels of downhole tools by December 31, 2011. As of January 31, 2010 we had purchased 2,000 stations of DSU3 428XL and approximately 175 levels of downhole tools pursuant to this agreement. See Part II Item 7 Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations for more information regarding our plans to meet these purchase obligations.

Other Agreements

SAP has a number of manufacturer s representation agreements for major product lines, including: acoustic positioning systems, data acquisition systems, geophones, hydrophones, connectors, cables, test equipment, GPS systems, heave compensators and attitude sensors, hydrographic data acquisition systems, magnetometers, tide gauges and current meters, radio positioning equipment, side-scan sonar and sub-bottom profiling systems, underwater communications and location devices, echo sounders and transducers.

Certain software utilized by Seamap s GunLink products was developed by Tanglesolve Instrumentation, Ltd. (Tanglesolve) under a cooperation agreement with Seamap. Under this agreement, Tanglesolve received a royalty payment from the sale of each GunLink product. In December 2007, Seamap acquired all of the capital stock of Tanglesolve. At the time, Tanglesolve s only material assets were the cooperation agreement and the intellectual property related to the GunLink software. In connection with this transaction, Seamap entered into a new cooperation agreement with the former shareholders of Tanglesolve whereby they provide certain on-going support services. In December 2009, the cooperation agreement was extended through December 2011 by mutual consent, as provided for in the agreement.

Customers, Sales, Backlog and Marketing

Our lease customers generally are seismic data acquisition contractors. We typically have a small number of lease customers, the composition of which changes yearly as leases are negotiated and concluded and equipment needs vary. As of January 31, 2010, we had approximately 32 lease customers with 58 active leases of various lengths, but typically for less than a year.

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We do not maintain a backlog of orders relating to our Equipment Leasing segment. As of January 31, 2010, our Seamap segment had a backlog of orders amounting to approximately $9.3 million, compared to $11.2 million as of January 31, 2009. We expect all of these orders to be fulfilled during our fiscal year ending January 31, 2011.

We participate in both domestic and international trade shows and expositions to inform the industry of our products and services and we advertise in major geophysical trade journals.

A summary of our revenues from customers by geographic region is as follows (in thousands):

	Years Ended January 31,		
	2010	**2009**	**2008**
United States	$ 15,184	$ 14,850	$ 13,826
UK / Europe	14,358	20,502	27,892
Canada	3,608	6,498	6,820
South America	4,545	3,313	4,153
Asia/South Pacific	12,447	10,778	9,431
Eurasia(1)	1,637	6,156	10,180
Other(2)	3,393	4,715	4,119
Total Non-United States	39,988	51,962	62,595
Total	$ 55,172	$ 66,812	$ 76,421

(1) Comprised of Eastern Europe, the Russian Federation and the CIS

(2) Includes Africa and the Middle East

The net book value of our long-lived assets in our various geographic locations is as follows (in thousands):

	As of January 31,		
Location of Property and Equipment	**2010**	**2009**	**2008**
United States	$ 40,448	$ 45,942	$ 19,602
Canada	7,056	13,857	27,108
Australia	4,360	1,626	1,861
Russia	3,906	1,920	3,399
South America	10,052		
Singapore	433	543	634
United Kingdom	227	363	575
Total Non-United States	26,034	18,309	33,577
Total	$ 66,482	$ 64,251	$ 53,179

For information regarding the risks associated with our foreign operations, see Item 1A- Risk Factors.

For fiscal 2010, three customers (The Polarcus Group of Companies, CGV and Global Geophysical Services) represented approximately 14%, 11% and 10%, respectively, of our consolidated revenues. In fiscal 2009 and 2008, one customer, CGV, accounted for approximately 23% and 21%, respectively of our consolidated revenues. The loss of any of these customers could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations. No other customer accounted for 10% or more of our revenues during these periods.

Competition

Our major competitors are the major seismic equipment manufacturers who sell equipment on financed terms and seismic contractors who might have excess equipment available for lease from time to time. We face lesser competition from several companies that engage in seismic equipment leasing, but competition has historically been fragmented and our competitors have not had as extensive a seismic equipment lease pool nor as wide

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geographic presence as we do. We compete for seismic equipment leases on the basis of (i) price and delivery, (ii) variety and availability of both peripheral seismic equipment and complete data acquisition systems and (iii) length of lease term. We believe that our infrastructure and broad geographic presence also provide a major competitive advantage by contributing to our operational efficiencies.

We compete in the used equipment sales market with a broad range of seismic equipment owners, including seismic data acquisition contractors, who use and eventually dispose of seismic equipment, many of whom have substantially greater financial resources than our own.

Suppliers

We have several suppliers of seismic equipment for our lease pool. We acquire the majority of our seismic lease pool equipment from, Sercel. However, we also acquire lease pool equipment from a number of other suppliers including ION, Bauer Compressors, Inc. and OYO Geospace Corporation. Management believes that our current relationships with our suppliers are satisfactory. For the years ended January 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, approximately 32%, 42% and 33%, respectively of our revenues were generated from the rental of products we acquired from Sercel. For additional information regarding the risk associated with our suppliers, see Item 1A- Risk Factors.

Employees

As of January 31, 2010, we employed 116 people full-time, none of whom are represented by a union or covered by a collective bargaining agreement. We consider our employee relations to be satisfactory.

Intellectual Property

The products designed, manufactured and sold by our Seamap segment utilize significant intellectual property that we have developed or have licensed from others. Our internally developed intellectual property consists of product designs and trade secrets. We currently have no patents covering any of this intellectual property.

In connection with the acquisition of AES in March 2010 we acquired intellectual property relating to the design and manufacture of heli-pickers. This intellectual property includes United States, Canadian, Australian and United Kingdom patents.

For additional information regarding the risks associated with our intellectual property, see Item 1A- Risk Factors.

Environmental Regulation

We are subject to stringent governmental laws and regulations pertaining to protection of the environment and the manner in which chemicals and materials used in our manufacturing processes are handled and wastes generated from such operations are disposed. We have established proactive environmental policies for the management of these chemicals and materials as well as the handling and recycling or disposal of wastes resulting from our operations. Compliance with these laws and regulations may require the acquisition of permits for regulated activities, capital expenditures to limit or prevent emissions and discharges, and special precautions for disposal of certain wastes. Failure to comply with these laws and regulations may result in the assessment of administrative, civil and criminal penalties and the issuance of injunctive relief. Spills or releases of chemicals, materials and wastes at our facilities or at offsite locations where they are transported for recycling or disposal could subject us to environmental liability, which may be strict, joint and several, for the costs of cleaning up chemicals, materials and wastes released into the environment and for damages to natural resources, and it is not uncommon for neighboring landowners and other third parties to file claims for personal injury and property damage allegedly caused by such spills or releases. As a result of

such actions, we could be required to remove previously disposed wastes, remediate environmental contamination, and undertake measures to prevent future contamination. The trend in environmental regulation has been to place more restrictions and limitations on activities that may affect the environment and thus any changes in environmental laws and regulations that result in more stringent and costly waste handling, storage, transport, disposal or cleanup requirements could have a material adverse effect on our operations and financial

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position. For instance, the adoption of laws or implementing regulations with regard to climate change that have the effect of lowering the demand for carbon-based fuels or with regard to hydraulic fracturing that have the effect of decreasing the performance of exploratory activities by energy companies could have a material adverse effect on our business. While we believe that we are in substantial compliance with current applicable environmental laws and regulations and that continued compliance with existing requirements will not have a material adverse impact on us, we cannot give any assurance that this trend will continue in the future. For additional information regarding the risk associated with environmental matters, see Item 1A Risk Factors.

Website Access to Our Periodic SEC Reports

Our internet address is http://www.mitchamindustries.com. We file and furnish Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to these reports, with the SEC, which are available free of charge through our website as soon as reasonably practicable after the report is filed with or furnished to the SEC. Materials we file with the SEC may be read and copied at the SEC s Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20549. Information on the operation of the Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC also maintains an internet website at http://www.sec.gov that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding our company that we file and furnish electronically with the SEC.

We may from time to time provide important disclosures to investors by posting them in the investor relations section of our website, as allowed by SEC rules. Information on our website is not incorporated by reference into this Form 10-K and you should not consider information on our website as part of this Form 10-K.

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

The risks described below could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations and the actual outcome of matters as to which forward-looking statements are made in this Form 10-K. The risk factors described below are not the only risks we face. Our business, financial condition and results of operations may also be affected by additional factors that are not currently known to us or that we currently consider immaterial or that are not specific to us, such as general economic conditions.

You should refer to the explanation of the qualifications and limitations on forward-looking statements included under Cautionary Statements Abut Forward-Looking Statements of this Form 10-K. All forward-looking statements made by us are qualified by the risk factors described below.

If the current, weak economic conditions continue for an extended period of time or commodity prices become depressed or decline, our results of operations could be adversely affected.

Historically, the demand for our products and services has been sensitive to the level of exploration spending by oil and gas companies. Commencing in late 2008, prices for oil and natural gas declined significantly and did not recover until relatively recently. During the period of depressed commodity prices, many oil and gas exploration and production companies significantly reduced their levels of capital spending, including amounts dedicated to the leasing or purchasing our seismic equipment. A return of depressed commodity prices, or a decline in existing commodity prices, could adversely affect demand for the services and equipment we provide, and therefore adversely affect our revenue and profitability. Further, perceptions of a long-term decrease in commodity prices by oil and gas companies could similarly reduce or defer major expenditures given the long-term nature of many large-scale development projects. Lower levels of activity result in a corresponding decline in the demand for our products and services, which could have a material adverse effect on our revenue and profitability. Additionally, these factors may adversely impact our statement of financial position if they are determined to cause an impairment of our goodwill or

other intangible assets or of our other long-lived assets.

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Demand for seismic data is not assured.

Demand for our services depends on the level of spending by oil and gas companies for exploration, production and development activities, as well as on the number of crews conducting land, transition zone and marine seismic data acquisition worldwide. The levels of such spending are influenced by:

- oil and gas prices and industry expectations of future price levels;
- the cost of exploring for, producing and delivering oil and gas;
- the availability of current geophysical data;
- the ability of oil and gas companies to generate funds or otherwise obtain capital for exploration operations;
- the granting of leases or exploration concessions and the expiration of such rights;
- domestic and foreign tax policies;
- merger and divestiture activity among oil and gas producers;
- the discovery rate of new oil and gas reserves; and
- local and international political and economic conditions.

The cyclical nature of the oil and gas industry can have a significant effect on our revenues and profitability. Historically, oil and natural gas prices, as well as the level of exploration and developmental activity, have fluctuated significantly. These fluctuations have in the past, and may in the future, adversely affect our business. We are unable to predict future oil and natural gas prices or the level of oil and gas industry activity. A prolonged low level of activity in the oil and gas industry will likely depress development activity, adversely affecting the demand for our products and services and our financial condition and results of operations.

Our revenues are subject to fluctuations that are beyond our control, which could materially adversely affect our results of operations in a given financial period.

Projects awarded to and scheduled by our customers can be delayed or cancelled due to factors that are outside of their control, which can affect the demand for our products and services. These factors include budgetary or other financial issues of the oil and gas exploration companies, adverse weather conditions, difficulties in obtaining permits or other regulatory issues, the availability of other equipment required for a particular project, political unrest or security concerns in certain foreign locations, as well as a variety of other factors.

A limited number of customers account for a significant portion of our revenues, and the loss of one of these customers could harm our results of operations.

We typically lease and sell significant amounts of seismic equipment to a relatively small number of customers, the composition of which changes from year to year as leases are initiated and concluded and as customers equipment needs vary. Therefore, at any one time, a large portion of our revenues may be derived from a limited number of customers. In the fiscal years ended January 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, our single largest customer accounted for approximately 14%, 23% and 21%, respectively, of our consolidated revenues. Our five largest customers accounted for approximately 50% of our consolidated revenues in the fiscal year ended January 31, 2010. There has recently

been considerable consolidation among certain of our customers and this trend may continue. This consolidation could result in the loss of our customers and could result in a decrease in the demand for our equipment.

The financial soundness of our customers could materially affect our business and operating results.

As a result of the disruptions in the financial markets and other macro-economic challenges that continue to affect the economy of the United States and other parts of the world, our customers may experience cash flow concerns. As a result, if customers operating and financial performance deteriorates, or if they are unable to make scheduled payments or obtain credit, customers may not be able to pay, or may delay payment of, accounts

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receivable owed to us. Any inability of current and/or potential customers to pay us for services may adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

As of January 31, 2010, we had approximately $22.0 million of customer accounts and contracts receivable, of which approximately $2.9 million was over 90 days past due. For the years ended January 31, 2010 and 2009, we had charges of $1.4 million and $2.9 million, respectively, to our provision for doubtful accounts. Significant payment defaults by our customers in excess of the allowance would have a material adverse effect on our financial position and results of operations.

We derive significant revenues from foreign sales, which pose additional risks to our operations.

Many of our foreign operations are conducted in currencies other than U.S. dollars. Those currencies include the Canadian dollar, the Australian dollar, the Singapore dollar, the Russian ruble and the British pound sterling. These internationally-sourced revenues are subject to the risk of taxation policies, expropriation, political turmoil, civil disturbances, armed hostilities, and other geopolitical hazards as well as foreign currency exchange controls (in which payment could not be made in U.S. dollars) and fluctuations. For example, for accounting purposes, balance sheet accounts of our operating subsidiaries are translated at the current exchange rate as of the end of the accounting period. Statement of operations items are translated at average currency exchange rates. The resulting translation adjustment is recorded as a separate component of comprehensive income within shareholders equity. This translation adjustment has in the past been, and may in the future be, material because of the significant amount of assets held by our international subsidiaries and the fluctuations in the foreign exchange rates.

We may not be able to obtain funding or obtain funding on acceptable terms because of the deterioration of the credit and capital markets, which may hinder or prevent us from meeting our future capital needs.

Global financial markets and economic conditions have been, and continue to be, disrupted and volatile. The debt and equity capital markets have been exceedingly distressed. These issues, along with significant write-offs in the financial services sector, the re-pricing of credit risk and the current weak economic conditions have made, and will likely continue to make, it difficult to obtain funding in the capital markets. In particular, the cost of raising money in the debt and equity capital markets has increased substantially while the availability of funds from those markets generally has diminished significantly. Also, as a result of concerns about the stability of financial markets generally and the solvency of counterparties specifically, the cost of obtaining money from the credit markets generally has increased as many lenders and institutional investors have increased interest rates, enacted tighter lending standards, refused to refinance existing debt at maturity at all or on terms similar to our current debt and reduced and, in some cases, ceased to provide any new funding.

Due to these factors, we cannot be certain that funding will be available if needed and to the extent required, on acceptable terms. If funding is not available when needed, or is available only on unfavorable terms, we may be unable to grow our existing business, complete acquisitions or otherwise take advantage of business opportunities or respond to competitive pressures, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Our operations and financial condition will be materially adversely affected if we are unable to continually obtain additional lease contracts.

Our seismic equipment leases typically have a term of two to six months and provide gross revenues that recover only a portion of our capital investment on the initial lease. Our ability to generate lease revenues and profits is dependent on obtaining additional lease contracts after the termination of an original lease. However, lease customers are under no obligation to, and frequently do not, continue to lease seismic equipment after the expiration of a lease. Although

we have been successful in obtaining additional lease contracts with other customers after the termination of the original leases, we cannot assure you that we will continue to do so. Our failure to obtain additional leases or extensions beyond the initial lease term would have a material adverse effect on our operations and financial condition.

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Our failure to attract and retain key personnel could adversely affect our operations.

Our success is dependent on, among other things, the services of certain key personnel, including specifically Billy F. Mitcham, Jr., our President and Chief Executive Officer. The loss of the services of Mr. Mitcham or other personnel could have a material adverse effect on our operations.

Our long-lived assets may be subject to impairment due to the current financial crisis.

We periodically review our long-lived assets, including goodwill, other intangible assets and our lease pool of equipment, for impairment. If we expect significant sustained decreases in oil and natural gas prices in the future, we may be required to write down the value of these assets if the future cash flows anticipated to be generated from the related the assets falls below net book value. Declines in oil and natural gas prices, if sustained, could result in future impairments. If we are forced to write down the value of our long-lived assets, these noncash asset impairments could negatively affect our results of operations in the period in which they are recorded. See the discussion included in Item 7 Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Critical Accounting Policies Long-Lived Assets.

Our seismic lease pool is subject to technological obsolescence.

We have a substantial capital investment in seismic data acquisition equipment. The development by manufacturers of seismic equipment of newer technology systems or component parts that have significant competitive advantages over seismic systems and component parts now in use could have an adverse effect on our ability to profitably lease and sell our existing seismic equipment. Significant improvements in technology may also require us to recognize an asset impairment charge to our lease pool investment and to correspondingly invest significant sums to upgrade or replace our existing lease pool with newer-technology equipment demanded by our customers, which could affect our ability to compete as well as have a material adverse effect on our financial condition.

Seasonal conditions cause fluctuations in our operating results.

The first and fourth quarters of our fiscal year have historically accounted for a greater portion of our lease revenues than do our second and third quarters. This seasonality in leasing revenues is primarily due to the increased seismic survey activity in Canada and Russia from January through March or April. This seasonal pattern may cause our results of operations to vary significantly from quarter to quarter. Accordingly, period-to-period comparisons are not necessarily meaningful and should not be relied on as indicative of future results.

We face competition in our seismic equipment leasing activities.

We have several competitors engaged in seismic equipment leasing and sales, including seismic equipment manufacturers and data acquisition contractors that use seismic equipment, many of which have substantially greater financial resources than our own. There are also several smaller competitors that, in the aggregate, generate significant revenues from the sale of seismic survey equipment. Pressures from existing or new competitors could adversely affect our business operations.

We rely on a small number of suppliers and disruption in vendor supplies could adversely affect our results of operations.

We purchase the majority of our seismic equipment for our lease pool from a small number of suppliers. Should our relationships with our suppliers deteriorate, we may have difficulty in obtaining new technology required by our customers and maintaining our existing equipment in accordance with manufacturers specifications. In addition, we

may, from time to time, experience supply or quality control problems with suppliers, and these problems could significantly affect our ability to meet our lease commitments. Reliance on certain suppliers, as well as industry supply conditions, generally involve several risks, including the possibility of a shortage or a lack of availability of key products and increases in product costs and reduced control over delivery schedules; any of these events could adversely affect our future results of operations.

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Equipment in our lease pool may be subject to the intellectual property claims of others that could adversely affect our ability to generate revenue from the lease of the equipment.

Certain of the equipment in our lease pool is proprietary to us. The equipment we acquired with the acquisition of AES (See Item 1 Business) includes heli-pickers and associated equipment that is manufactured by AES and is subject to various patents (See Item 1 Business Intellectual Property). We also have some equipment in our lease pool that is manufactured by our Seamap segment, which is subject to intellectual property rights and protection as discussed below. We may be subject to infringement claims and other intellectual property disputes as competition in the marketplace continues to intensify. In the future, we may be subject to litigation and may be required to defend against claimed infringements of the rights of others or to determine the scope and validity of the proprietary rights of others. Any such litigation could be costly and divert management s attention from operations. In addition, adverse determinations in such litigation could, among other things:

result in the loss of our proprietary rights to use the technology;

subject us to significant liabilities;

require us to seek licenses from third parties; and

prevent us from leasing or selling our products that incorporate the technology.

Additionally, the equipment that we acquire from other suppliers may be subject to the intellectual property infringement claims from third parties. We generally are indemnified by our suppliers against any claims that may be brought against us by third parties related to equipment they sold to us. However, such claims could affect our ability to acquire additional such products or to lease them in the future. The loss of this future revenue could adversely affect our business and would not generally be covered by the indemnities from our suppliers.

The operations of Seamap are subject to special risks that could have a material adverse effect on our operations.

The design and manufacturing operations of our Seamap segment are subject to risks not associated with our equipment leasing business. These risks include the following:

Risks Associated with Intellectual Property. We rely on a combination of copyright, trademark and trade secret laws, and restrictions on disclosure to protect our intellectual property. We also enter into confidentiality or license agreements with our employees, consultants and corporate partners and control access to and distribution of our design information, documentation and other proprietary information. These intellectual property protection measures may not be sufficient to prevent wrongful misappropriation of our technology. In addition, these measures will not prevent competitors from independently developing technologies that are substantially equivalent or superior to our technology. The laws of many foreign countries may not protect intellectual property rights to the same extent as the laws of the United States. Failure to protect proprietary information could result in, among other things, loss of competitive advantage, loss of customer orders and decreased revenues. Monitoring the unauthorized use of our products is difficult and we cannot be certain that the steps we have taken will prevent unauthorized use of our technology, particularly in foreign countries where the laws may not protect our proprietary rights as fully as in the United States. If competitors are able to use our technology, our ability to compete effectively could be impaired.

We may be subject to infringement claims and other intellectual property disputes as competition in the marketplace continues to intensify. In the future, we may be subject to litigation and may be required to defend against claimed infringements of the rights of others or to determine the scope and validity of the proprietary rights of others. Any such litigation could be costly and divert management s attention from operations. In addition, adverse determinations

in such litigation could, among other things:

result in the loss of our proprietary rights to use the technology;

subject us to significant liabilities;

require us to seek licenses from third parties;

require us to redesign the products that use the technology; and

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prevent us from manufacturing or selling our products that incorporate the technology.

If we are forced to take any of the foregoing actions, our business may be seriously harmed. Any litigation to protect our intellectual property or to defend ourselves against the claims of others could result in substantial costs and diversion of resources and may not ultimately be successful.

Risks Related to Product Performance. The production of new products with high technology content involves occasional problems while the technology and manufacturing methods mature. If significant reliability or quality problems develop, including those due to faulty components, a number of negative effects on our business could result, including:

costs associated with reworking the manufacturing processes;

high service and warranty expenses;

high inventory obsolescence expense;

high levels of product returns;

delays in collecting accounts receivable;

reduced orders from existing customers; and

declining interest from potential customers.

Although we maintain accruals for product warranties, actual costs could exceed these amounts. From time to time, there may be interruptions or delays in the activation of products at a customer s site. These interruptions or delays may result from product performance problems or from aspects of the installation and activation activities, some of which are outside our control. If we experience significant interruptions or delays that cannot be promptly resolved, confidence in our products could be undermined, which could have a material adverse effect on our operations.

Risks Related to Raw Materials. We depend on a limited number of suppliers for components of our products, as well as for equipment used to design and test our products. Certain components used in our products may be available from a sole source or limited number of vendors. If these suppliers were to limit or reduce the sale of such components to us, or if these suppliers were to experience financial difficulties or other problems that prevented them from supplying us with the necessary components, these events could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. These sole source and other suppliers are each subject to quality and performance issues, materials shortages, excess demand, reduction in capacity and other factors that may disrupt the flow of goods to us; thereby adversely affecting our business and customer relationships. Some of the sole source and limited source vendors are companies who, from time to time, may allocate parts to equipment manufacturers due to market demand for components and equipment. We have no guaranteed supply arrangements with our suppliers and there can be no assurance that our suppliers will continue to meet our requirements. Many of our competitors are much larger and may be able to obtain priority allocations from these shared vendors, thereby limiting or making our sources of supply unreliable for these components. If our supply arrangements are interrupted, we cannot assure you that we would be able to find another supplier on a timely or satisfactory basis. Any delay in component availability for any of our products could result in delays in deployment of these products and in our ability to recognize revenues.

If we are unable to obtain a sufficient supply of components from alternative sources, reduced supplies and higher prices of components will significantly limit our ability to meet scheduled product deliveries to customers. A delay in receiving certain components or the inability to receive certain components could harm our customer relationships and our results of operations.

Failures of components affect the reliability and performance of our products, can reduce customer confidence in our products, and may adversely affect our financial performance. From time to time, we may experience delays in receipt of components and may receive components that do not perform according to their specifications. Any future difficulty in obtaining sufficient and timely delivery of components could result in delays or reductions in product shipments that could harm our business. In addition, a consolidation among suppliers of these components

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or adverse developments in their businesses that affect their ability to meet our supply demands could adversely impact the availability of components that we depend on. Delayed deliveries from these sources could adversely affect our business.

We are subject to a variety of environmental laws and regulations that could increase our costs of compliance and impose significant liabilities.

We are subject to stringent governmental laws and regulations relating to protection of the environment and the handling of chemicals and materials used in our manufacturing processes as well as the recycling and disposal of wastes generated by those processes. These laws and regulations may impose joint and several strict liability and failure to comply with such laws and regulations could result in the assessment of administrative, civil and criminal penalties, imposition of remedial obligations, and issuance of orders enjoining some or all of our operations. These laws and regulations could require us to acquire permits to conduct regulated activities install and maintain costly equipment and pollution control technologies, or to incur other significant environmental-related expenses. Public interest in the protection of the environment has increased dramatically in recent years. We anticipate that the trend of more expansive and stricter environmental laws and regulations will continue, the occurrence of which may require us to increase our capital expenditures or could result in increased operating expenses.

Climate change laws and regulations restricting emissions of greenhouse gases could result in reduced demand for oil and natural gas, thereby adversely affecting our business, while the physical effects of climate change could disrupt our manufacturing of seismic equipment and cause us to incur significant costs in preparing for or responding to those effects.

On December 15, 2009, the EPA published its findings that emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases present an endangerment to public health and the environment because emissions of such gases are, according to the EPA, contributing to warming of the earth s atmosphere and other climatic changes. These findings allow the EPA to adoption and implement regulations that would restrict emissions of greenhouse gases under existing provisions of the federal Clean Air Act. Accordingly, the EPA had proposed regulations that would require a reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases from motor vehicles and could trigger permit review for greenhouse gas emissions from certain stationary sources. In addition, on October 30, 2009, the EPA published a final rule requiring the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from specified large greenhouse gas emission sources in the United States beginning in 2011 for emissions occurring in 2010. Only very recently, on March 23, 2010, the EPA announced a proposed rulemaking that would expand its final rule on reporting of greenhouse gas emissions to include owners and operators of onshore oil and natural gas production. If the proposed rule is finalized in its current form, monitoring of those newly covered sources would commence on January 1, 2011. Also, on June 26, 2009, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, or ACESA, which would establish an economy-wide cap-and-trade program to reduce U.S. emissions of greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide and methane that may contribute to warming of the Earth s atmosphere and other climatic changes. Under this legislation, the EPA would issue a capped and steadily declining number of tradable emissions allowances to certain major sources of greenhouse gas emissions so that such sources could continue to emit greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. These allowances would be expected to escalate significantly in cost over time. The net effect of ACESA will be to impose increasing costs on the combustion of carbon-based fuels such as oil, refined petroleum products and natural gas. The U.S. Senate has begun work on its own legislation for restricting domestic greenhouse gas emissions and President Obama has indicated his support of legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through an emission allowance system. The adoption and implementation of any laws and regulations imposing reporting obligations on, or limiting emissions of greenhouse gases from, oil and gas exploration and production activities could have an adverse effect on the demand for our seismic equipment and associated services. Finally, it should be noted that some scientists have concluded that increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the Earth s atmosphere may produce climate changes that have significant physical effects, such as increased frequency and severity of storms, floods and

other climatic events; if any such effects were to occur, they could adversely affect or delay our manufacturing of seismic equipment and cause us to incur significant costs in preparing for or responding to those effects.

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Federal and state legislative and regulatory initiatives relating to hydraulic fracturing could result in additional operating restrictions or delays and adversely affect our business.

The federal Congress is currently considering two companions bills in the United States, known as the Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals Act, or FRAC Act, that would repeal an exemption in the federal Safe Drinking Water Act for the underground injection of hydraulic fracturing fluids near drinking water sources. Hydraulic fracturing is an important and commonly used process for the completion of natural gas, and to a lesser extent, oil wells in formations with low permeabilities, such as shale formations. If enacted, the FRAC Act could result in additional regulatory burdens such as permitting, construction, financial assurance, monitoring, recordkeeping, and plugging and abandonment requirements. The FRAC Act also proposes requiring the disclosure of chemical constituents used in the fracturing process to state or federal regulatory authorities, who would then make such information publicly available. The availability of this information could make it easier for third parties opposing the hydraulic fracturing process to initiate legal proceedings based on allegations that specific chemicals used in the fracturing process could adversely affect groundwater. In addition, various state and local governments are considering increased regulatory oversight of hydraulic fracturing through additional permit requirements, operational restrictions, and temporary or permanent bans on hydraulic fracturing in certain environmentally sensitive areas such as watersheds. The adoption of the FRAC Act or any other federal or state laws or regulations imposing reporting obligations on, or otherwise limiting, the hydraulic fracturing process could make it more difficult to complete natural gas wells in certain formations and adversely affect the demand for our seismic equipment and associated services. Moreover, the EPA announced only recently, on March 18, 2010, that it has allocated $1.9 million in 2010 and has requested funding in fiscal year 2011 for conducting a comprehensive research study on the potential adverse impacts that hydraulic fracturing may have on water quality and public health. Consequently, even if these bills are not adopted, the performance of the hydraulic fracturing study by the EPA could spur further action at a later date towards federal legislation and regulation of hydraulic fracturing activities.

Our stock price is subject to volatility.

Energy and energy service company stock prices, including our stock price, have been extremely volatile from time to time. Stock price volatility could adversely affect our business operations by, among other things, impeding our ability to attract and retain qualified personnel and to obtain additional financing.

We have significant operations outside of the United States that expose us to certain additional risks.

We operate in a number of foreign locations and have subsidiaries or branches in foreign countries, including Russia, Peru and Colombia. Our equipment is also often temporarily located in other foreign locations while under rent by our customers. These operations expose us to political and economic risks and uncertainties. Should current circumstances change, we could encounter difficulties in operating in some countries and may not be able to retrieve our equipment that is located within these counties. This could result in a material adverse effect on our financial positions and results of operations.

Because we have no plans to pay any dividends for the foreseeable future, investors must look solely to stock appreciation for a return on their investment in us.

We have not paid cash dividends on our common stock since our incorporation and do not anticipate paying any cash dividends in the foreseeable future. We currently intend to retain any future earnings to support our operations and growth. Any payment of cash dividends in the future will be dependent on the amount of funds legally available, our financial condition, capital requirements and other factors that our Board of directors may deem relevant. Accordingly, investors must rely on sales of their common stock after price appreciation, which may never occur, as the only way to realize any future gains on their investment.

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Provisions in our articles of incorporation and Texas law could discourage a takeover attempt, which may reduce or eliminate the likelihood of a change of control transaction and, therefore, the ability of our shareholders to sell their shares for a premium.

Provisions of our Articles of Incorporation and the Texas Business Corporation Act may tend to delay, defer or prevent a potential unsolicited offer or takeover attempt that is not approved by our Board of Directors but that our shareholders might consider to be in their best interest, including an attempt that might result in shareholders receiving a premium over the market price for their shares. Because our Board of Directors is authorized to issue preferred stock with preferences and rights as it determines, it may afford the holders of any series of preferred stock preferences, rights or voting powers superior to those of the holders of common stock. Although we have no shares of preferred stock outstanding and no present intention to issue any shares of our preferred stock, there can be no assurance that we will not do so in the future.

Item 1B. ***Unresolved Staff Comments***

None.

Item 2. ***Properties***

We occupy the following principal facilities that we believe are adequately utilized for our current operations:

Location	Type of Facility	Size (In Square Feet)	Owned or Leased	Segment Using Property
Huntsville, Texas	Office and warehouse	25,000 (on six acres)	Owned	Equipment Leasing and Seamap
Calgary, Alberta, Canada	Office and warehouse	33,500	Leased	Equipment Leasing
Salisbury, Australia	Office and warehouse	4,400	Leased	Equipment Leasing
Singapore	Office and warehouse	20,000	Leased	Equipment Leasing and Seamap
Shepton Mallet, United Kingdom	Office and warehouse	12,300	Leased	Seamap
Ufa, Bashkortostan, Russia	Office and warehouse	6,000	Leased	Equipment Leasing
Bogota, Colombia	Warehouse	3,600	Leased	Equipment Leasing

Item 3. ***Legal Proceedings***

From time to time, we are a party to legal proceedings arising in the ordinary course of business. We are not currently a party to any legal proceedings that we believe could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial condition.

Item 4. ***(Removed and Reserved)***

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PART II

Item 5. *Market for the Registrant s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities*

Market Information for Common Stock

Our common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol MIND. The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, the high and low sales prices of our common stock as reported on the Nasdaq Global Select Market.

	High	Low
Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 2009:		
First Quarter	$ 19.60	$ 16.19
Second Quarter	21.83	14.60
Third Quarter	15.01	4.75
Fourth Quarter	5.40	3.20
Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 2010:		
First Quarter	$ 4.64	$ 2.42
Second Quarter	6.42	4.40
Third Quarter	7.98	4.38
Fourth Quarter	7.99	6.92

As of April 5, 2010, there were approximately 6,000 beneficial holders of our common stock.

Dividend Policy

We have not paid any cash dividends on the common stock since our inception, and our Board of Directors does not contemplate the payment of cash dividends in the foreseeable future. It is the present policy of our Board of Directors to retain earnings, if any, for use in developing and expanding our business. In the future, our payment of dividends will also depend on the amount of funds available, our financial condition, capital requirements and such other factors as our Board of Directors may consider.

As of January 31, 2010, we had deposits in foreign banks equal to approximately $6.0 million. These funds may generally be transferred to our accounts in the United States without restriction. However, the transfer of these funds may result in withholding taxes payable to foreign taxing authorities. Any such withholding taxes generally may be credited against our federal income tax obligations in the United States. Additionally, the transfer of funds from our foreign subsidiaries to the United States may result in currently taxable income in the United States. These factors could limit our ability to pay cash dividends in the future.

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Performance Graph

This performance graph shall not be deemed to be soliciting material or to be filed with the SEC or subject to Section 18 of the Exchange Act, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any of our filings under the Securities Act.

The following graph compares our common stock s cumulative total shareholder return for the period beginning January 31, 2005 through January 31, 2010, to the cumulative total shareholder return on (i) the S&P s Smallcap 600 stock index and (ii) an index of peer companies we selected. The cumulative total return assumes that the value of an investment in our common stock and each index was $100 on January 31, 2005, and that all dividends were reinvested.

COMPARISON OF 5 YEAR CUMULATIVE TOTAL RETURN*
Among Mitcham Industries, Inc. The S&P Smallcap 600 Index
And A Peer Group

* $100 invested on 1/31/05 in stock or index, including reinvestment of dividends.
Fiscal year ending January 31.

	1/31/05	1/31/06	1/31/07	1/31/08	1/31/09	1/31/10
Mitcham Industries, Inc.	100.00	413.27	218.28	271.84	58.58	119.74
S&P Smallcap 600	100.00	119.40	129.44	120.27	76.09	105.74
Peer Group	100.00	163.94	253.10	286.00	69.65	143.17

The Peer Company Index consists of: Compagnie Generale de Geophysique-Veritas (NYSE: CGV), Dawson Geophysical Company (NASDAQ: DWSN), Ion Geophysical Corp. (NYSE: IO) and Omni Energy Services Corp. (NASDAQ: OMNI).

Purchases of Equity Securities by the Issuer and Affiliated Purchasers

Neither we nor any affiliated purchaser purchased any of our equity securities during the fourth quarter of the fiscal year ended January 31, 2010.

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Item 6. ***Selected Financial Data***

The selected consolidated financial information contained below is derived from our Consolidated Financial Statements and should be read in conjunction with Item 7 Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our audited consolidated financial statements including the footnotes thereto. Our historical results may not be indicative of the operating results to be expected in future periods.

	Years Ended January 31,				
	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
	(Amounts in thousands, except per share amounts)				
Statement of Income Data:					
Total revenues	$ 55,172	$ 66,812	$ 76,421	$ 48,910	$ 34,589
Operating income	871	11,478	16,445	6,555	7,452
Income from continuing operations	520	9,065	11,439	9,285	10,855
Income from continuing operations per common share basic	0.05	0.93	1.18	0.97	1.19
Income from continuing operations per common share diluted	0.05	0.89	1.11	0.93	1.10
Balance Sheet Data:					
Cash and short-term investments (including restricted cash)	6,735	6,032	13,884	12,582	18,988
Seismic equipment lease pool and property and equipment, net	66,482	64,251	53,179	35,432	19,924
Total assets	115,397	104,227	103,901	83,302	57,620
Long-term debt	15,735	5,950		1,500	3,000
Total liabilities	30,442	27,104	28,133	23,796	10,169
Total shareholders equity	84,955	77,123	75,768	59,506	47,451

See Item 7- Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations for a discussion of matters affecting the comparability of the above information.

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

Overview

We operate in two segments, Equipment Leasing and Seamap. Our equipment leasing operations are conducted from our Huntsville, Texas headquarters and from our locations in Calgary, Canada; Brisbane, Australia; Lima, Peru; Bogota, Colombia; and Ufa, Russia. This includes the operations of our MCL, SAP and MSE subsidiaries and our branches in Peru and Colombia. These branches were established late in fiscal 2010 and did not contribute material revenues in the year ended January 31, 2010. Seamap operates from its locations near Bristol, United Kingdom and in Singapore.

Management believes that the performance of our Equipment Leasing segment is indicated by revenues from equipment leasing and by the level of our investment in lease pool equipment. Management further believes that the performance of our Seamap segment is indicated by revenues from equipment sales and by gross profit from those sales. Management monitors EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA, both as defined in the following table, as key indicators of our overall performance.

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The following table presents certain operating information by operating segment:

	Years Ended January 31,		
	2010	2009	2008
	(In thousands)		
Revenues:			