



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 March 31, 2011

OR

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

Commission File Number 001-12488

**Powell Industries, Inc.**

*(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)*

**Delaware**

*(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)*

**8550 Mosley Drive,  
Houston, Texas**  
*(Address of principal executive offices)*

**88-0106100**

*(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)*

**77075-1180**

*(Zip Code)*

**Registrant's telephone number, including area code:**

**(713) 944-6900**

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

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

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

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

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

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

At April 29, 2011, there were 11,725,043 outstanding shares of the registrant's common stock, par value \$0.01 per share.

POWELL INDUSTRIES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

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**PART I — FINANCIAL INFORMATION****Item 1. Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements**

**POWELL INDUSTRIES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets**  
(In thousands, except share and per share data)

	<u>March 31,</u> <u>2011</u>	<u>September 30,</u> <u>2010</u>
	<u>(Unaudited)</u>	
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 122,056	\$ 115,353
Accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$1,508 and \$907, respectively	102,539	91,766
Costs and estimated earnings in excess of billings on uncompleted contracts	36,399	38,064
Inventories, net	39,365	38,244
Income taxes receivable	4,555	6,726
Deferred income taxes	4,164	3,087
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	8,114	8,951
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>317,192</b>	<b>302,191</b>
Property, plant and equipment, net	61,440	63,676
Goodwill	1,003	1,003
Intangible assets, net	25,744	26,132
Other assets	7,808	7,710
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 413,187</b>	<b>\$ 400,712</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		
Current Liabilities:		
Current maturities of long-term debt and capital lease obligations	\$ 1,446	\$ 1,683
Income taxes payable	1,316	1,500
Accounts payable	43,094	41,850
Accrued salaries, bonuses and commissions	14,329	25,064
Billings in excess of costs and estimated earnings on uncompleted contracts	46,941	31,009
Accrued product warranty	5,763	5,929
Other accrued expenses	5,886	7,711
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>118,775</b>	<b>114,746</b>
Long-term debt and capital lease obligations, net of current maturities	4,543	5,202
Deferred compensation	3,191	2,730
Other liabilities	884	731
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>127,393</b>	<b>123,409</b>
Commitments and Contingencies (Note J)		
Equity:		
Stockholders' Equity:		
Preferred stock, par value \$.01; 5,000,000 shares authorized; none issued	—	—
Common stock, par value \$.01; 30,000,000 shares authorized; 11,724,243 and 11,676,955 shares issued and outstanding, respectively	117	117
Additional paid-in capital	35,060	33,569
Retained earnings	249,900	244,969
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	717	(1,352)
<b>Total Stockholders' Equity</b>	<b>285,794</b>	<b>277,303</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$ 413,187</b>	<b>\$ 400,712</b>

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

**POWELL INDUSTRIES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations (Unaudited)**  
**(In thousands, except per share data)**

	Three Months Ended		Six Months Ended	
	March 31, 2011	March 31, 2010	March 31, 2011	March 31, 2010
Revenues	\$ 125,598	\$ 142,135	\$ 250,272	\$ 278,051
Cost of goods sold	99,955	105,602	198,764	203,701
Gross profit	25,643	36,533	51,508	74,350
Selling, general and administrative expenses	21,538	19,958	42,466	41,737
Amortization of intangible assets	1,254	1,199	2,421	2,061
Operating income	2,851	15,376	6,621	30,552
Other income	(1,229)	—	(1,229)	—
Interest expense	94	228	208	410
Interest income	(62)	(115)	(107)	(157)
Income before income taxes	4,048	15,263	7,749	30,299
Income tax provision	1,549	5,378	2,818	10,669
Net income	2,499	9,885	4,931	19,630
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest	—	(25)	—	(126)
Net income attributable to Powell Industries, Inc.	<u>\$ 2,499</u>	<u>\$ 9,860</u>	<u>\$ 4,931</u>	<u>\$ 19,504</u>
Earnings per share attributable to Powell Industries, Inc.:				
Basic	<u>\$ 0.21</u>	<u>\$ 0.86</u>	<u>\$ 0.42</u>	<u>\$ 1.70</u>
Diluted	<u>\$ 0.21</u>	<u>\$ 0.85</u>	<u>\$ 0.42</u>	<u>\$ 1.68</u>
Weighted average shares:				
Basic	<u>11,666</u>	<u>11,523</u>	<u>11,653</u>	<u>11,498</u>
Diluted	<u>11,799</u>	<u>11,659</u>	<u>11,787</u>	<u>11,639</u>

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

**POWELL INDUSTRIES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (Unaudited)**  
**(In thousands)**

	Six Months Ended	
	March 31, 2011	March 31, 2010
<b>Operating Activities:</b>		
Net income	\$ 4,931	\$ 19,630
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash used in operating activities:		
Depreciation	5,037	4,274
Amortization	2,456	2,095
Stock-based compensation	1,088	1,163
Bad debt expense	606	692
Deferred income taxes	(782)	(1,256)
Gain on sale of investment in joint venture in Kazakhstan	(1,229)	—
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	(10,324)	28,280
Costs and estimated earnings in excess of billings on uncompleted contracts	1,684	5,948
Inventories	(739)	12,151
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	3,176	7,156
Accounts payable and income taxes payable	656	(19,392)
Accrued liabilities	(12,927)	(7,283)
Billings in excess of costs and estimated earnings on uncompleted contracts	15,884	(6,140)
Other	(1,027)	(1,291)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>8,490</u>	<u>46,027</u>
<b>Investing Activities:</b>		
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	60	14
Purchases of property, plant and equipment	(2,667)	(1,460)
Proceeds from sale of investment in joint venture in Kazakhstan	1,229	—
Acquisition of Powell Canada	—	(21,828)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(1,378)</u>	<u>(23,274)</u>
<b>Financing Activities:</b>		
Borrowings on Canadian revolving line of credit	2,619	891
Payments on Canadian revolving line of credit	(2,627)	(1,215)
Payments on Canadian term loan	—	(123)
Payments on industrial development revenue bonds	(400)	(400)
Payments on deferred acquisition payable	—	(4,292)
Other	(189)	354
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(597)</u>	<u>(4,785)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	6,515	17,968
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	188	(1,767)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	115,353	97,403
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	<u>\$ 122,056</u>	<u>\$ 113,604</u>

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

**POWELL INDUSTRIES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

***Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)***

**A. OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

*Overview*

Powell Industries, Inc. (we, us, our, Powell or the Company) was incorporated in the state of Delaware in 2004 as a successor to a Nevada company incorporated in 1968. The Nevada corporation was the successor to a company founded by William E. Powell in 1947, which merged into the Company in 1977. Our major subsidiaries, all of which are wholly-owned, include: Powell Electrical Systems, Inc.; Transdyn, Inc.; Powell Industries International, Inc.; Switchgear & Instrumentation Limited (S&I) and Powell Canada Inc.

We develop, design, manufacture and service custom engineered-to-order equipment and systems for the management and control of electrical energy and other critical processes. Headquartered in Houston, Texas, we serve the transportation, environmental, energy, industrial and utility industries.

In December 2009, we acquired the business and certain assets of PowerComm Inc. and its subsidiaries (referred to herein as Powell Canada) for \$23.4 million, not including expenses. Powell Canada is headquartered in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and provides electrical and maintenance services. Powell Canada is also a manufacturer of switchgear and related products, primarily serving the oil and gas industry in western Canada. The operating results of Powell Canada are included in our Electrical Power Products business segment from the acquisition date. For further information on the Powell Canada acquisition, see Note C.

*Basis of Presentation*

These unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Powell and its wholly-owned subsidiaries. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

These unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared pursuant to the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Certain information and footnote disclosures, normally included in annual financial statements prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (U.S. GAAP), have been condensed or omitted pursuant to those rules and regulations. We believe that the disclosures made are adequate to make the information presented not misleading. In the opinion of management, all adjustments, consisting only of normal recurring adjustments, necessary to fairly state the financial position, results of operations and cash flows with respect to the interim consolidated financial statements have been included. The results of operations for the interim periods are not necessarily indicative of the results for the entire fiscal year. The year-end balance sheet data was derived from audited financial statements, but does not include all disclosures required by U.S. GAAP.

These unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and notes thereto of Powell and its subsidiaries included in Powell's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2010, which was filed with the SEC on December 8, 2010.

*Reclassifications*

Certain reclassifications have been made in prior year's financial statements to conform to the presentation used in the current year. These reclassifications have not resulted in any changes to previously reported net income for any periods.

*Use of Estimates*

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the condensed consolidated financial statements and accompanying footnotes. The most significant estimates used in our financial statements affect revenue and cost recognition for construction contracts, the allowance for doubtful accounts, provision for excess and obsolete inventory, goodwill and other intangible assets, self-insurance, warranty accruals, income taxes and estimates related to acquisition valuations. The amounts recorded for insurance claims, warranties, legal, income taxes and other contingent liabilities require judgments regarding the amount of expenses that will ultimately be incurred. We base our estimates

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on historical experience and on various other assumptions, as well as the specific circumstances surrounding these contingent liabilities, in evaluating the amount of liability that should be recorded. Estimates may change as new events occur, additional information becomes available or operating environments change. Actual results may differ from our estimates.

### *New Accounting Standards*

In December 2008, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued accounting guidance on employers' disclosures about postretirement benefit plan assets. The disclosures about plan assets required by this guidance shall be provided for fiscal years ending after December 15, 2009, and was adopted by us in the first quarter of fiscal year 2011. Adoption of this guidance did not have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In April 2009, the FASB issued accounting guidance regarding the accounting for assets acquired and liabilities assumed in a business combination due to contingencies. This guidance clarifies the initial and subsequent recognition, subsequent accounting and disclosure of assets and liabilities arising from contingencies in a business combination. This guidance requires that assets acquired and liabilities assumed in a business combination that arise from contingencies be recognized at fair value, if the acquisition-date fair value can be reasonably estimated. If the acquisition-date fair value of an asset or liability cannot be reasonably estimated, the asset or liability would be measured at the amount that would be recognized using the accounting guidance related to accounting for contingencies or the guidance for reasonably estimating losses. This accounting guidance became effective for us on October 1, 2010. The adoption of this guidance did not have an impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In January 2010, the FASB issued updated guidance to amend the disclosure requirements related to recurring and nonrecurring fair value measurements. This update requires new disclosures about significant transfers of assets and liabilities between Level 1 and Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy (including the reasons for these transfers) and the reasons for any transfers in or out of Level 3. This update also requires a reconciliation of recurring Level 3 measurements about purchases, sales, issuances and settlements on a gross basis. In addition to these new disclosure requirements, this update clarifies certain existing disclosure requirements. For example, this update clarifies that reporting entities are required to provide fair value measurement disclosures for each class of assets and liabilities, rather than each major category of assets or liabilities. This update also clarifies the requirement for entities to disclose information about both the valuation techniques and inputs used in estimating Level 2 and Level 3 fair value measurements. This update became effective for us with the interim and annual reporting period beginning after December 15, 2009, our fiscal year 2011, except for the requirement to provide the Level 3 activity of purchases, sales, issuances and settlements on a gross basis, which will become effective for us with the interim and annual reporting period beginning after December 15, 2010, our fiscal year 2012. We will not be required to provide the amended disclosures for any previous periods presented for comparative purposes. Other than requiring additional disclosures, adoption of this update for the provisions currently in effect for us did not have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In April 2010, the FASB issued accounting guidance for the milestone method of revenue recognition. This guidance allows entities to make a policy election to use the milestone method of revenue recognition and provides guidance on defining a milestone and the criteria that should be met for applying the milestone method. The scope of this guidance is limited to transactions involving milestones relating to research and development. The guidance includes enhanced disclosure requirements about each arrangement, individual milestones and related contingent consideration, information about substantive milestones and factors considered in the determination. This guidance is effective prospectively to milestones achieved in fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after June 15, 2010. Early application and retrospective application are permitted. We have evaluated this new guidance and have determined that it will not currently have a significant impact on the determination or reporting of our financial results.

### *Subsequent Events*

We evaluated subsequent events through the time of filing this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. No significant events occurred subsequent to the balance sheet or prior to the filing of this report that would have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements or results of operations.

## **B. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS**

We measure certain financial assets and liabilities at fair value. Fair value is defined as an "exit price" which represents the amount that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants as of the measurement date. As such, fair value is a market-based measurement that should be determined based on assumptions that market participants would use in valuing an asset or liability. The accounting guidance requires the use of valuation techniques to measure



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fair value that maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. As a basis for considering such assumptions and inputs, a fair value hierarchy has been established which identifies and prioritizes three levels of inputs to be used in measuring fair value.

The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are as follows:

Level 1 — Observable inputs such as quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2 — Inputs other than the quoted prices in active markets that are observable either directly or indirectly, including: quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar assets and liabilities in markets that are not active or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data.

Level 3 — Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market data and require the reporting entity to develop its own assumptions.

The following table summarizes the fair value of our assets and liabilities that were accounted for at fair value on a recurring basis as of March 31, 2011 (in thousands):

	Fair Value Measurements at March 31, 2011			Fair Value at March 31, 2011
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash equivalents	\$ 65,494	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 65,494
Total	<u>\$ 65,494</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 65,494</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Foreign currency forward contracts	\$ —	\$ 18	\$ —	\$ 18
Total	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 18</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 18</u>

The following table summarizes the fair value of our assets and liabilities that were accounted for at fair value on a recurring basis as of September 30, 2010 (in thousands):

	Fair Value Measurements at September 30, 2010			Fair Value at September 30, 2010
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash equivalents	\$ 64,014	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 64,014
Total	<u>\$ 64,014</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 64,014</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Foreign currency forward contracts	\$ —	\$ 47	\$ —	\$ 47
Total	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 47</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 47</u>

Cash equivalents, primarily funds held in money market instruments, are reported at their current carrying value which approximates fair value due to the short-term nature of these instruments and are included in cash and cash equivalents in our Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Foreign currency forward contracts are valued using an income approach which consists of a discounted cash flow model that takes into account the present value of future cash flows under the terms of the contracts using observable market spot and forward rates as of our reporting date, and are included in Level 2 inputs in the above table. We use these derivative instruments to mitigate non-functional currency transaction exposure on certain contracts with customers and vendors. We mitigate derivative credit risk by transacting with highly rated counterparties. We have evaluated the credit and non-performance risks associated with our derivative counterparties and believe them to be insignificant at March 31, 2011. All contracts are recorded at fair value and marked-to-market at the end of each reporting period, with unrealized gains and losses being included in accumulated other comprehensive income on our Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets for that period. See Note I for further discussion regarding our derivative instruments.

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### C. ACQUISITIONS

On December 15, 2009, we acquired the business and certain assets of PowerComm Inc. and its subsidiaries, Redhill Systems, Ltd., Nextron Corporation, PCG Technical Services Inc. and Concorde Metal Manufacturing Ltd (the business of which is referred to herein as Powell Canada). Powell Canada is headquartered in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and provides electrical and maintenance services in western Canada. Powell Canada is also a manufacturer of switchgear and related products, primarily serving the oil and gas industry in western Canada. This acquisition supports our strategy to expand our geographic presence into Canada, as well as increasing our service and maintenance capabilities.

We paid \$23.4 million, plus expenses of approximately \$2.4 million, for the acquisition from our existing cash and cash equivalents and assumed \$15.1 million of existing bank debt. See the table below for assets acquired and liabilities assumed. In December 2009, approximately \$2.4 million of the \$23.4 million purchase price was placed into an escrow account related to the purchase of PowerComm's 50% interest in the operations of a joint venture in Kazakhstan. This transaction closed in April 2010 and the escrow was released. The finalization of the net asset adjustment related to the Kazakhstan transaction and the calculation of the management fee agreement related to the operating results of the Kazakhstan joint venture from December 16, 2009, through March 31, 2010, as defined in the acquisition agreement, resulted in a refund to the Company of approximately \$472,000. This refund was received by the Company subsequent to September 30, 2010, and reduced the corresponding receivable.

Intangible assets recorded are approximately \$9.0 million and are being amortized over an initial weighted average life of approximately 8.4 years. Goodwill was initially recorded at approximately \$7.2 million and was not amortized. Goodwill represented the excess purchase price over the estimated fair value allocated to the net assets acquired. During fiscal 2010, our impairment analysis indicated that the goodwill related to the acquisition of Powell Canada was completely impaired, thus a loss on impairment of approximately \$7.5 million was recorded in fiscal 2010.

The purchase price allocation was as follows, based on the exchange rate as of December 15, 2009 (in thousands):

Accounts receivable	\$ 16,643
Inventories	4,180
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	3,401
Property, plant and equipment	7,863
Goodwill	7,180
Intangible assets	9,043
Accounts payable and other current liabilities	(7,649)
Capital lease obligations	(2,667)
Bank debt assumed	(15,072)
Total purchase price	<u>\$ 22,922</u>

Operating results of Powell Canada are included in our Electrical Power Products business segment in our Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations from December 15, 2009. Pro forma results, including the results of Powell Canada since the beginning of fiscal year 2009 would not be materially different than the actual results reported.

In the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2010, the Company made a strategic decision to exit the 50% owned joint venture in Kazakhstan. We did not record our share of revenue and expense or assets and liabilities as financial information was not available, and based on the fact that this information was not material to the consolidated financial position or results of operations of the Company. We received approximately \$1.2 million in the second quarter of fiscal 2011 resulting from the sale of our 50% investment in a joint venture in Kazakhstan, which is recorded in other income in our Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations.

In October 2010, we acquired certain assets related to a technology for real-time optical fiber-based thermal sensors that have application for monitoring of hot spots in electrical power equipment systems. There were no operations associated with this patent-pending technology acquired. This transaction has been recorded as an increase in intangible assets of approximately \$1.5 million at March 31, 2011.

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D. EARNINGS PER SHARE

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted earnings per share (in thousands, except per share data):

	Three Months Ended March 31,		Six Months Ended March 31,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
<i>Numerator:</i>				
Net income attributable to Powell Industries, Inc.	\$ 2,499	\$ 9,860	\$ 4,931	\$ 19,504
<i>Denominator:</i>				
Weighted average basic shares	11,666	11,523	11,653	11,498
Dilutive effect of stock options, restricted stock and restricted stock units	133	136	134	141
Weighted average diluted shares with assumed conversions	11,799	11,659	11,787	11,639
<i>Net earnings per share:</i>				
Basic	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.86	\$ 0.42	\$ 1.70
Diluted	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.85	\$ 0.42	\$ 1.68

All options were included in the computation of diluted earnings per share for the three and six months ended March 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively, as the options' exercise prices were less than the average market price of our common stock.

E. DETAIL OF SELECTED BALANCE SHEET ACCOUNTS

*Allowance for Doubtful Accounts*

Activity in our allowance for doubtful accounts receivable consisted of the following (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended March 31,		Six Months Ended March 31,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
Balance at beginning of period	\$ 1,188	\$ 2,580	\$ 907	\$ 1,607
Increase (decrease) to bad debt expense	318	(609)	606	692
Deductions for uncollectible accounts written off, net of recoveries	(4)	(27)	(3)	(397)
Increase (decrease) due to foreign currency translation	6	(14)	(2)	28
Balance at end of period	\$ 1,508	\$ 1,930	\$ 1,508	\$ 1,930

*Warranty Accrual*

Activity in our product warranty accrual consisted of the following (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended March 31,		Six Months Ended March 31,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
Balance at beginning of period	\$ 5,845	\$ 7,437	\$ 5,929	\$ 7,558
Warranty expense	452	559	863	1,350
Deductions for warranty charges	(628)	(835)	(1,209)	(1,747)
Increase (decrease) due to foreign currency translation	94	(107)	180	(107)
Balance at end of period	\$ 5,763	\$ 7,054	\$ 5,763	\$ 7,054

*Inventories*

The components of inventories are summarized below (in thousands):

	March 31, 2011	September 30, 2010
Raw materials, parts and subassemblies	\$ 39,372	\$ 40,325
Work-in-progress	7,014	4,646
Provision for excess and obsolete inventory	(7,021)	(6,727)
Total inventories	\$ 39,365	\$ 38,244

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### *Cost and Estimated Earnings on Uncompleted Contracts*

The components of costs and estimated earnings and related amounts billed on uncompleted contracts are summarized below (in thousands):

	March 31, 2011	September 30, 2010
Costs incurred on uncompleted contracts	\$ 485,730	\$ 482,149
Estimated earnings	143,249	138,836
	628,979	620,985
Less: Billings to date	639,521	613,930
Net (overbilled) underbilled position	<u>\$ (10,542)</u>	<u>\$ 7,055</u>

Included in the accompanying balance sheets under the following captions:

Costs and estimated earnings in excess of billings on uncompleted contracts — underbilled	\$ 36,399	\$ 38,064
Billings in excess of costs and estimated earnings on uncompleted contracts — overbilled	(46,941)	(31,009)
Net (overbilled) underbilled position	<u>\$ (10,542)</u>	<u>\$ 7,055</u>

### F. GOODWILL AND OTHER INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Changes in our goodwill and intangible assets balances for the six months ended March 31, 2011, consisted of the following (in thousands):

	Goodwill	Intangible Assets
Balance at September 30, 2010	\$ 1,003	\$ 26,132
Purchase of patent-pending technology	—	1,513
Amortization	—	(2,421)
Foreign currency translation adjustment	—	520
Other	—	—
Balance at March 31, 2011	<u>\$ 1,003</u>	<u>\$ 25,744</u>

All goodwill and intangible assets disclosed above are reported in our Electrical Power Products business segment.

Amortization of intangible assets recorded for the six months ended March 31, 2011 and 2010 was approximately \$2.4 million and \$2.1 million, respectively.

### G. COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Comprehensive income was as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended		Six Months Ended	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
Net income attributable to Powell Industries, Inc.	\$ 2,499	\$ 9,860	\$ 4,931	\$ 19,504
Unrealized gain (loss) on foreign currency translation, net of tax	1,712	(685)	2,072	81
Unrealized gain (loss) on derivative contracts, net of tax	(10)	44	(3)	(197)
Comprehensive income	<u>\$ 4,201</u>	<u>\$ 9,219</u>	<u>\$ 7,000</u>	<u>\$ 19,388</u>

### H. LONG-TERM DEBT

Long-term debt consisted of the following (in thousands):

	March 31, 2011	September 30, 2010
Industrial development revenue bonds	\$ 4,400	\$ 4,800
Capital lease obligations	1,589	2,085
Subtotal long-term debt and capital lease obligations	5,989	6,885
Less current portion	(1,446)	(1,683)
Total long-term debt and capital lease obligations	<u>\$ 4,543</u>	<u>\$ 5,202</u>

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### *US and UK Revolvers*

In December 2007 and 2008, we amended our existing credit agreement (Amended Credit Agreement) with a major domestic bank and certain other financial institutions. These amendments to our credit facility were made to expand our US borrowing capacity to provide additional working capital support for the Company. The Amended Credit Agreement provides for a 1) \$58.5 million revolving credit facility (US Revolver); 2) £4.0 million (pound sterling) (approximately \$6.4 million) revolving credit facility (UK Revolver) and 3) £6.0 million (approximately \$9.6 million) single advance term loan (UK Term Loan). The UK Term Loan was repaid in September 2009 and may not be reborrowed. Expenses associated with the issuance of the original credit agreement are classified as deferred loan costs, totaled \$576,000 and are being amortized as a non-cash charge to interest expense. Obligations are collateralized by the stock of certain of our subsidiaries.

The interest rate for amounts outstanding under the Amended Credit Agreement for the US Revolver is a floating rate based upon the higher of the Federal Funds Rate plus 0.5%, or the bank's prime rate. Once the applicable rate is determined, a margin ranging from negative 0.5% to 0.5%, as determined by our consolidated leverage ratio, is added to the applicable rate. The floating interest rate for amounts outstanding under the Amended Credit Agreement for the UK Revolver is a floating rate based upon the LIBOR plus a margin which can range from 1.25% to 2.25%, as determined by our consolidated leverage ratio as defined within the Amended Credit Agreement.

The US Revolver and UK Revolver provide for the issuance of letters of credit which reduce the amounts available under the respective revolvers. The amount available under the US Revolver was reduced by approximately \$11.6 million for our outstanding letters of credit at March 31, 2011. There were no letters of credit outstanding under the UK Revolver.

There were no borrowings under the US Revolver or the UK Revolver as of March 31, 2011. Amounts available under the US Revolver and the UK Revolver were approximately \$46.9 million and \$6.4 million, respectively, at March 31, 2011. The US Revolver and the UK Revolver expire on December 31, 2012.

### *Canadian Revolver*

On December 15, 2009, we entered into a credit agreement with a major international bank (the Canadian Facility) to finance the \$15.1 million debt assumed in the acquisition of Powell Canada, and to provide additional working capital support for our operations in Canada. The Canadian Facility provides for a \$20 million CAD (approximately \$20.6 million) revolving credit facility (the Canadian Revolver), subject to certain limitations including a limitation on borrowings based upon certain financial ratios, as defined in the credit agreement. Expenses associated with the Canadian Facility were approximately \$0.1 million and are classified as deferred loan costs in other assets and are being amortized as a non-cash charge to interest expense over two years.

The Canadian Revolver provides for the issuance of letters of credit which reduce the amounts which may be borrowed under the Canadian Revolver. As of March 31, 2011, there were no letters of credit outstanding under the Canadian Revolver.

There were no borrowings outstanding under the Canadian Revolver, and approximately \$20.6 million was available at March 31, 2011. The amount available under the Canadian Revolver was reduced to approximately \$15.5 million based upon the available borrowing base as defined in the Canadian Facility credit agreement. The Canadian Facility expires on February 29, 2012. The interest rate for amounts outstanding under the Canadian Revolver is a floating interest rate based upon either the Canadian Prime Rate, or the lender's US Bank Rate. Once the applicable rate is determined, a margin of 0.3755% to 1.125%, as determined by our consolidated leverage ratio, is added to the applicable rate.

The principal financial covenants are consistent with those in our US Revolver facility. As discussed above, the borrowings under the Canadian Revolver are subject to a borrowing base limitation. The Canadian Facility contains a "material adverse effect" clause. A material adverse effect is defined as a material change in the operations of Powell or Powell Canada in relation to our financial condition, property, business operations, expected net cash flows, liabilities or capitalization.

The Canadian Facility is secured by the assets of our Canadian operations and provides for customary events of default and carries cross-default provisions with our existing debt agreements. If an event of default (as defined in the Canadian Facility credit agreement) occurs and is continuing, on the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Canadian Facility credit agreement, amounts outstanding under the Canadian Facility may be accelerated and may become immediately due and payable. As of March 31, 2011, we were in compliance with all of the financial covenants of the Canadian Facility credit agreement.

[Table of Contents](#)*Industrial Development Revenue Bonds*

We borrowed \$8.0 million in October 2001 through a loan agreement funded with proceeds from tax-exempt industrial development revenue bonds (Bonds). These Bonds were issued by the Illinois Development Finance Authority and were used for the completion of our Northlake, Illinois facility. Pursuant to the Bond issuance, a reimbursement agreement between us and a major domestic bank required an issuance by the bank of an irrevocable direct-pay letter of credit (Bond LC) to the Bonds' trustee to guarantee payment of the Bonds' principal and interest when due. The Bond LC is subject to both early termination and extension provisions customary to such agreements, as well as various covenants, for which we are in compliance at March 31, 2011. While the Bonds mature in 2021, the reimbursement agreement requires annual redemptions of \$400,000 that commenced on October 25, 2002. A sinking fund is used for the redemption of the Bonds. At March 31, 2011, the balance in the restricted sinking fund was approximately \$234,000 and was recorded in cash and cash equivalents. The Bonds bear interest at a floating rate determined weekly by the Bonds' remarketing agent, which was the underwriter for the Bonds and is an affiliate of the bank. This interest rate was 0.46% per year on March 31, 2011.

**I. DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENTS AND HEDGING STRATEGIES**

We operate in various countries and have operations in the United Kingdom and Canada. These international operations expose us to market risk associated with foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations. We have entered into certain forward contracts to hedge the risk of certain foreign currency rate fluctuations. To the extent we choose to manage volatility associated with the net exposures, we enter into various financial transactions which we account for using the applicable accounting guidance for derivative instruments and hedging activities. Our objective is to hedge the variability in forecasted cash flow due to the foreign currency risk associated with certain long-term sales. As of March 31, 2011, we held only derivatives that were designated as cash flow hedges related to the U.S. Dollar/British Pound Sterling exchange rate and the Euro/British Pound Sterling exchange rate.

All derivatives are recognized on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets at their fair value and classified based on the instrument's maturity date. The total notional amount of outstanding derivatives as of March 31, 2011 was approximately \$1.0 million.

The following table presents the fair value of derivative instruments included within the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets as of March 31, 2011:

	Asset Derivatives		Liability Derivatives	
	Balance Sheet Location	Fair Value	Balance Sheet Location	Fair Value
(in thousands)				
Derivatives designated as hedging instruments:				
Foreign exchange forwards	Prepaid expenses and other current assets	\$ —	Other accrued expenses	\$ 18
Total derivatives		<u>\$ —</u>		<u>\$ 18</u>

The following table presents the fair value of derivative instruments included within the Condensed Consolidated Balances Sheets as of September 30, 2010:

	Asset Derivatives		Liability Derivatives	
	Balance Sheet Location	Fair Value	Balance Sheet Location	Fair Value
(in thousands)				
Derivatives designated as hedging instruments:				
Foreign exchange forwards	Prepaid expenses and other current assets	\$ —	Other accrued expenses	\$ 47
Total derivatives		<u>\$ —</u>		<u>\$ 47</u>

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The following table presents the amounts affecting the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations for the three and six month periods ended March 31, 2011:

	Amount of Gain (Loss) Recognized in Other Comprehensive Income on Derivatives		Location of Gain (Loss) Reclassified from Accumulated Other comprehensive Income into Income	Amount of Gain (Loss) Reclassified from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income into Income	
	Three Months Ended March 31, 2011 (in thousands)	Six Months Ended March 31, 2011		Three Months Ended March 31, 2011 (in thousands)	Six Months Ended March 31, 2011
<b>Derivatives designated:</b>					
Derivatives designated as cash flow hedges:					
Foreign exchange forwards	\$ (16)	\$ (5)	Revenues	\$ 22	\$ 42
<b>Total designated cash flow hedges</b>	<b>\$ (16)</b>	<b>\$ (5)</b>		<b>\$ 22</b>	<b>\$ 42</b>

The following table presents the amounts affecting the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations for the three and six month periods ended March 31, 2010:

	Amount of Gain (Loss) Recognized in Other Comprehensive Income on Derivatives <sup>1</sup>		Location of Gain (Loss) Reclassified from Accumulated Other comprehensive Income into Income	Amount of Gain (Loss) Reclassified from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income into Income <sup>1</sup>	
	Three Months Ended March 31, 2010 (in thousands)	Six Months Ended March 31, 2010		Three Months Ended March 31, 2010 (in thousands)	Six Months Ended March 31, 2010
<b>Derivatives designated:</b>					
Derivatives designated as cash flow hedges:					
Foreign exchange forwards	\$ 71	\$ 771	Revenues	\$ (328)	\$ (186)
<b>Total designated cash flow hedges</b>	<b>\$ 71</b>	<b>\$ 771</b>		<b>\$ (328)</b>	<b>\$ (186)</b>

<sup>1</sup> For the three and six month periods ended March 31, 2010, we recorded in revenues an immaterial amount of ineffectiveness from cash flow hedges. Refer to Note B for a description of how the above financial instruments are valued in accordance with the fair value measurement accounting guidance for the three and six month periods ended March 31, 2011.

*Cash Flow Hedges*

The purpose of our foreign currency hedging activities is to protect us from the risk that the eventual cash flows resulting from transactions that are denominated in currencies other than the U.S. Dollar will be adversely affected by changes in exchange rates. We are currently hedging our exposure to the reduction in value of forecasted foreign currency cash flows through foreign currency forward agreements through September 30, 2011, for transactions denominated in the British Pound Sterling.

All changes in the fair value of outstanding cash flow hedge derivatives, except the ineffective portion, are recorded in accumulated other comprehensive income, until net income is affected by the variability of cash flows of the hedged transaction, or until it is probable that the forecasted transaction will not occur. In most cases, amounts recorded in accumulated other comprehensive income will be released to net income some time after the maturity of the related derivative. The Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations' classification of effective hedge results is the same as that of the underlying exposure. Results of hedges of revenue and product costs are recorded in revenue and costs of sales, respectively, when the underlying hedged transaction affects net income. Results of hedges of selling and administrative expense, if any, are recorded together with those costs when the related expense is recorded. In addition, any ineffective portion of the changes in the fair value of the derivatives designated as cash flow hedges are reported in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations as the changes occur.

As of March 31, 2011, approximately \$16,000 of deferred net losses (net of tax) on outstanding derivatives recorded in accumulated other comprehensive income are expected to be reclassified to net income during the next twelve months as a result of underlying hedged transactions being recorded in net income. Actual amounts ultimately reclassified to net income are dependent on the exchange rates in effect when the derivative contracts that are currently outstanding mature. As of March 31, 2011, the maximum term over which we are hedging exposure to the variability of cash flows for our forecasted and recorded transactions is six months. For

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the three and six months ended March 31, 2011, we recorded in selling, general and administrative expense an immaterial amount of ineffectiveness from cash flow hedges.

### *Credit Risk*

We are exposed to credit-related losses in the event of non-performance by counterparties to hedging instruments. The ability of financial counterparties to perform under financial instruments has become less certain. We attempt to take into account the financial viability of counterparties in both valuing the instruments and determining their effectiveness as hedging instruments. If a counterparty was unable to perform, our ability to qualify for hedging certain transactions would be compromised and the realizable value of the financial instruments would be uncertain. As a result, our results of operations and cash flows would be impacted.

## J. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

### *Letters of Credit and Bonds*

Certain customers require us to post bank letter of credit guarantees or performance bonds issued by a surety. These guarantees and performance bonds assure that we will perform under the terms of our contract. In the event of default, the counterparty may demand payment from the bank under a letter of credit or performance by the surety under a performance bond. To date, there have been no significant expenses related to either for the periods reported. We were contingently liable for secured and unsecured letters of credit of \$11.6 million as of March 31, 2011. We also had performance and maintenance bonds totaling approximately \$210.0 million that were outstanding, with additional bonding capacity of approximately \$390.0 million available, at March 31, 2011.

We have a facility agreement (Facility Agreement) between S&I and a large international bank. This \$13.6 million Facility Agreement provides S&I the ability to enter into forward exchange contracts, currency options and performance bonds. At March 31, 2011, we had outstanding a total of approximately \$7.5 million of contingent obligations under this Facility Agreement.

The Facility Agreement provides for financial covenants, customary events of default and carries cross-default provisions with our Amended Credit Facility. If an event of default (as defined in the Facility Agreement) occurs and is continuing, on the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Facility Agreement, obligations outstanding under the Facility Agreement may be accelerated and may become or be declared immediately due and payable.

### *Litigation*

We are involved in various legal proceedings, claims and other disputes arising in the ordinary course of business which, in general, are subject to uncertainties and the outcomes are not predictable. We do not believe that the ultimate conclusion of these disputes could materially affect our financial position or results of operations.

## K. STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION

Refer to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2010 for a full description of our existing stock-based compensation plans.

### *Restricted Stock Units*

In October 2009 and October 2010, we granted approximately 34,700 and 35,000 restricted stock units (RSUs), respectively, with a fair value of \$38.36 and \$30.79 per unit, respectively, to certain officers and key employees. An additional 5,000 RSUs were granted in October 2010, with a fair value of \$32.12. The RSUs vest over a three-year period from their date of issuance. The fair value of the RSUs was based on the closing price of our common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Market (NASDAQ) on the grant dates. The actual amount of the RSUs earned will be based on the cumulative earnings per share as reported relative to established goals for the three-year performance cycle which began October 1 of the year granted, and ranges from 0% to 150% of the target RSUs granted. At March 31, 2011, there were approximately 105,000 RSUs outstanding. The RSUs do not have voting rights of common stock, and the shares of common stock underlying the RSUs are not considered issued and outstanding until actually issued.

During the first quarter of fiscal 2011, we granted approximately 15,000 RSUs with a fair value ranging from \$30.79 to \$32.12 to certain officers and key employees. The RSUs vest over a three-year period from their date of issuance. These RSUs are time-based, rather than performance-based, as those discussed above.



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During the six months ended March 31, 2011, we recorded compensation expense of approximately \$0.3 million related to the RSUs. We recorded compensation expense of approximately \$0.9 million related to the RSUs for the six months ended March 31, 2010.

### *Restricted Stock*

Under the 2006 Equity Compensation Plan (the 2006 Plan), any employee of the Company and its subsidiaries and consultants are eligible to participate in the plan and receive awards. Awards can take the form of options, stock appreciation rights, stock awards and performance unit awards.

In October 2010, approximately 11,000 shares of restricted stock were issued to the executive management of the Company at a price of \$30.79 per share under the 2006 Plan. The restricted stock grant vests 33% per year over a three-year period on each anniversary of the grant date. Compensation expense is recognized over the three-year vesting period based on the \$30.79 price per share on the grant date.

In October 2009, 10,000 shares of restricted stock were issued to our President and Chief Executive Officer at a price of \$37.67 per share under the 2006 Plan. The restricted stock grant vests 20% per year over a five-year period on each anniversary of the grant date. Compensation expense is recognized over the five-year vesting period based on the \$37.67 price per share on the grant date.

During the six months ended March 31, 2011, we recorded compensation expense of approximately \$0.6 million related to restricted stock grants. We recorded compensation expense of approximately \$0.4 million related to restricted stock grants for the six months ended March 31, 2010.

### *Stock Options*

Stock option activity for the six months ended March 31, 2011 was as follows:

	<u>Stock Options</u>	<u>Weighted Average Exercise Price</u>	<u>Remaining Weighted Average Contractual Term (Years)</u>	<u>Aggregate Intrinsic Value (in thousands)</u>
Outstanding at September 30, 2010	128,600	\$18.41		
Granted	—	—		
Exercised	(16,400)	18.44		
Forfeited / Cancelled	—	—		
Outstanding at March 31, 2011	<u>112,200</u>	\$18.41	1.46	\$2,065
Exercisable at March 31, 2011	<u>112,200</u>	\$18.41	1.46	\$2,065

## L. BUSINESS SEGMENTS

We manage our business through operating segments, which are comprised of two reportable business segments: Electrical Power Products and Process Control Systems. Electrical Power Products includes equipment and systems for the distribution and control of electrical energy. Process Control Systems consists principally of instrumentation, computer controls, communications and data management systems to control and manage critical processes.

The table below reflects certain information relating to our operations by business segment. All revenues represent sales from unaffiliated customers. The accounting policies of the business segments are the same as those described in the summary of significant accounting policies. Corporate expenses are allocated to the operating business segments primarily based on revenues. The corporate assets are mainly cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities.

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Detailed information regarding our business segments is shown below (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended March 31,		Six Months Ended March 31,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
<b>Revenues:</b>				
Electrical Power Products	\$ 119,063	\$ 133,401	\$ 236,206	\$ 261,530
Process Control Systems	6,535	8,734	14,066	16,521
Total	<u>\$ 125,598</u>	<u>\$ 142,135</u>	<u>\$ 250,272</u>	<u>\$ 278,051</u>
<b>Gross profit:</b>				
Electrical Power Products	\$ 23,923	\$ 33,661	\$ 48,215	\$ 68,027
Process Control Systems	1,720	2,872	3,293	6,323
Total	<u>\$ 25,643</u>	<u>\$ 36,533</u>	<u>\$ 51,508</u>	<u>\$ 74,350</u>
<b>Income before income taxes:</b>				
Electrical Power Products	\$ 4,194	\$ 14,320	\$ 8,279	\$ 28,168
Process Control Systems	(146)	943	(530)	2,131
Total	<u>\$ 4,048</u>	<u>\$ 15,263</u>	<u>\$ 7,749</u>	<u>\$ 30,299</u>

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

*The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with the accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements and related notes included elsewhere in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and with our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2010, which was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 8, 2010 and is available on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).*

**CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

We are including the following discussion to inform our existing and potential shareholders generally of some of the risks and uncertainties that can affect our Company and to take advantage of the "safe harbor" protection for forward-looking statements that applicable federal securities law affords.

From time to time, our management or persons acting on our behalf make forward-looking statements to inform existing and potential shareholders about our Company. These statements may include projections and estimates concerning the timing and success of specific projects and our future backlog, revenues, income and capital spending. Forward-looking statements are generally accompanied by words such as "estimate," "project," "predict," "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "plan," "goal" or other words that convey the uncertainty of future events or outcomes. In addition, sometimes we will specifically describe a statement as being a forward-looking statement and refer to this cautionary statement.

In addition, various statements in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, including those that express a belief, expectation or intention, as well as those that are not statements of historical fact, are forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this report; we disclaim any obligation to update these statements unless required by securities law, and we caution you not to rely on them unduly. We have based these forward-looking statements on our current expectations and assumptions about future events. While our management considers these expectations and assumptions to be reasonable, they are inherently subject to significant business, economic, competitive, regulatory and other risks, contingencies and uncertainties, most of which are difficult to predict and many of which are beyond our control. These risks, contingencies and uncertainties relate to, among other matters, the following:

- The current economic uncertainty and financial market conditions have negatively impacted and may continue to impact our customer base, suppliers and backlogs.
- Our operations could be adversely impacted by the Macondo well incident, the continuing effects from the U.S. government moratorium on offshore deepwater drilling projects and related new regulations.
- Our industry is highly competitive.
- International and political events may adversely affect our operations.
- Fluctuations in the price and supply of raw materials used to manufacture our products may reduce our profits.
- Our volume of fixed-price contracts and the use of percentage-of-completion accounting could result in volatility in our results of operations.
- Our acquisition strategy involves a number of risks.
- Our backlog is subject to unexpected adjustments and cancellations and, therefore, may not be a reliable indicator of our future earnings.
- Our operating results may vary significantly from quarter to quarter.
- We may be unsuccessful at generating profitable internal growth.
- The departure of key personnel could disrupt our business.
- Our business requires skilled labor, and we may be unable to attract and retain qualified employees.

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- Actual and potential claims, lawsuits and proceedings could ultimately reduce our profitability and liquidity and weaken our financial condition.
- We carry insurance against many potential liabilities, however our management of risk may leave us exposed to unidentified, uninsured or unanticipated risks.
- We may incur additional healthcare costs arising from federal healthcare reform legislation.
- Technological innovations by competitors may make existing products and production methods obsolete.
- Catastrophic events could disrupt our business.

We believe the items we have outlined above are important factors that could cause estimates included in our financial statements to differ materially from actual results and those expressed in a forward-looking statement made in this report or elsewhere by us or on our behalf. We have discussed many of these factors in more detail in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2010. These factors are not necessarily all of the factors that could affect us. Unpredictable or unanticipated factors we have not discussed in this report could also have material adverse effects on actual results of matters that are the subject of our forward-looking statements. We do not intend to update our description of important factors each time a potential important factor arises, except as required by applicable securities laws and regulations. We advise our shareholders that they should (1) be aware that factors not referred to above could affect the accuracy of our forward-looking statements and (2) use caution when considering our forward-looking statements.

### **Overview**

We develop, design, manufacture and service custom engineered-to-order equipment and systems for the management and control of electrical energy and other critical processes. Headquartered in Houston, Texas, we serve the transportation, environmental, energy, industrial and utility industries. Our business operations are consolidated into two business segments: Electrical Power Products and Process Control Systems. Financial information related to these business segments is included in Note L of Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements. Revenues and costs are primarily related to engineered-to-order equipment and systems which precludes us from providing detailed price and volume information.

The markets that Powell participates in are capital-intensive and cyclical in nature. Cyclicity is driven by customer demand, global economic markets and potential environmental or regulatory impacts which affect the manner in which our customers proceed with capital projects. Our customers have been assessing the short-term demand for oil and electrical energy, the overall banking environment, the outlook for offshore drilling and related regulatory actions and the drive towards environmental controls over the type and way energy is produced and utilized. These factors over the last two years have contributed to decisions by customers to delay or to change where they place new capital projects, which has driven our backlog of orders to \$282.3 million entering fiscal 2011, down \$83.5 million from the beginning of fiscal 2010. The orders that comprise our current backlog were taken in a much more competitive environment than the previous year's backlog. This increased competition, along with higher commodity prices, will place downward pressure on gross profit compared to last fiscal year as we work to fulfill these orders in fiscal 2011.

In December 2009, we acquired the business and certain assets of PowerComm Inc. and its subsidiaries (referred to herein as Powell Canada) for \$23.4 million, excluding debt assumed of \$15.1 million and not including expenses. Powell Canada is headquartered in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and provides electrical and maintenance services. Powell Canada is also a manufacturer of switchgear and related products, primarily serving the oil and gas industry in western Canada. The operating results of Powell Canada are included in our Electrical Power Products business segment from the acquisition date.

### **Results of Operations**

#### *Revenue and Gross Profit*

Consolidated revenues decreased \$16.5 million to \$125.6 million in the second quarter of fiscal 2011 compared to \$142.1 million in the second quarter of fiscal 2010. For the second quarter of fiscal 2011, domestic revenues decreased by 19.1% to \$82.7 million compared to the second quarter of 2010 as a result of reduced backlog discussed above. Total international revenues increased to \$42.9 million in the second quarter of 2011 compared to \$39.9 million in the second quarter of 2010, primarily resulting from the operations of Powell Canada. Gross profit for the second quarter of fiscal 2011, as compared to the second quarter of fiscal 2010,

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decreased by approximately \$10.9 million, to \$25.6 million, as a result of the reduction in volume and pressure on margins, as discussed above. These two factors also contributed to the decrease in gross profit as a percentage of revenues decreasing to 20.4% in the second quarter of fiscal 2011, compared to 25.7% in the second quarter of fiscal 2010. We anticipate that gross margin levels will continue to be depressed over the balance of fiscal 2011 given the overall mix of jobs currently in our backlog.

For the six months ended March 31, 2011, consolidated revenues decreased \$27.8 million to \$250.3 million compared to \$278.1 million for the six months ended March 31, 2010. Revenues decreased as a result of reduced backlog discussed above. For the first six months of fiscal 2011, domestic revenues decreased by 20.7% to \$165.5 million compared to the first six months of fiscal 2010. Total international revenues increased to \$84.8 million in the first six months of 2011 compared to \$69.3 million in the first six months of fiscal 2010. Powell Canada contributed approximately \$16.9 million of this increase in international revenues during the first six months of fiscal 2011. Gross profit for the first six months of fiscal 2011, as compared to the first six months of fiscal 2010, decreased by approximately \$22.8 million, to \$51.5 million, as a result of the reduction in volume and pressure on margins, as discussed above. These factors also contributed to the decrease in gross profit as a percentage of revenues to 20.6% for the first six months of fiscal 2011, compared to 26.7% for the first six months of fiscal 2010.

### *Electrical Power Products*

Our Electrical Power Products business segment recorded revenues of \$119.1 million in the second quarter of fiscal 2011, compared to \$133.4 million for the second quarter of fiscal 2010. In the second quarter of 2011, revenues from public and private utilities were approximately \$31.3 million, compared to \$47.5 million in the second quarter of fiscal 2010. Revenues from industrial and commercial customers totaled \$80.9 million in the second quarter of 2011, an increase of \$4.1 million compared to the second quarter of fiscal 2010. Municipal and transit projects generated revenues of \$6.9 million in the second quarter of fiscal 2011 compared to \$9.1 million in the second quarter of fiscal 2010.

Business segment gross profit, as a percentage of revenues, was 20.1% in the second quarter of fiscal 2011, compared to 25.2% in the second quarter of fiscal 2010. This decrease in gross profit as a percentage of revenues resulted primarily from the reduction in volume and pressure on margins, as discussed above. Gross profit in fiscal 2010 benefitted from the favorable execution of large projects, as well as cancellation fees and the successful negotiation of change orders on projects which were substantially completed in prior periods.

For the six months ended March 31, 2011, our Electrical Power Products segment recorded revenues of \$236.2 million, compared to \$261.5 million for the six months ended March 31, 2010. In the first six months of fiscal 2011, revenues from public and private utilities were approximately \$64.5 million, compared to \$82.1 million in the first six months of fiscal 2010. Revenues from commercial and industrial customers totaled \$158.3 million in the first six months of fiscal 2011, a decrease of \$2.6 million compared to the first six months of fiscal 2010. Municipal and transit projects generated revenues of \$13.4 million in the first six months of fiscal 2011, compared to \$18.5 million in the first six months of fiscal 2010.

For the six months ended March 31, 2011, gross profit from the Electrical Power Products business segment, as a percentage of revenues, was 20.4%, compared to 26.0% for the six months ended March 31, 2010. This decrease in gross profit as a percentage of revenues resulted primarily from the reduction in volume and pressure on margins, as discussed above. The gross profit in 2010 benefitted from strong market demand when the projects were negotiated, reduced costs on project completion from operational efficiencies, a reduced work force, cancellation fees for orders that were cancelled from our backlog and the successful negotiation of change orders for which the costs were previously recognized.

### *Process Control Systems*

Our Process Control Systems business segment recorded revenues of \$6.5 million in the second quarter of fiscal 2011, a decrease from \$8.7 million in the second quarter of fiscal 2010. Business segment gross profit, as a percentage of revenues, decreased to 26.3% in the second quarter of fiscal 2011 compared to 32.9% in the second quarter of fiscal 2010. This decrease resulted from a less favorable mix of jobs compared to the second quarter of fiscal 2010.

For the six months ended March 31, 2011, our Process Control Systems business segment recorded revenues of \$14.1 million, a decrease from \$16.5 million for the six months ended March 31, 2010. Business segment gross profit decreased as a percentage of revenues to 23.4% for the first six months of fiscal 2011, compared to 38.3% for the first six months of fiscal 2010. This decrease in gross profit as a percentage of revenues is related to the mix of jobs currently in the backlog.

For additional information related to our business segments, see Note L of Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

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### *Consolidated Selling, General and Administrative Expenses*

Consolidated selling, general and administrative expenses increased to 17.1% of revenues in the second quarter of fiscal 2011 compared to 14.0% of revenues in the second quarter of fiscal 2010. Selling, general and administrative expenses were \$21.5 million for the second quarter of fiscal 2011, compared to \$20.0 million for the second quarter of fiscal 2010. This increase is primarily due to a \$0.6 million credit bad debt expense in fiscal 2010 as a result of collections for previously reserved accounts, along with an increase in depreciation expense. Selling, general and administrative expenses increased as a percentage of revenues as a result of our decline in revenues, along with the fact that portions of our sales and administrative support infrastructure is necessary to support our customers, invest in information systems, continue research and development and pursue project opportunities.

For the six months ended March 31, 2011, consolidated selling, general and administrative expenses increased to 17.0% of revenues, compared to 15.0% of revenues for the six months ended March 31, 2010. Selling, general and administrative expenses were \$42.5 million for the first six months of fiscal 2011, compared to \$41.7 million for the first six months of fiscal 2010. This increase is primarily related to the acquisition of Powell Canada, increases in commission expense and depreciation expense, partially offset by a decrease in acquisition related expenses in fiscal 2010. Selling, general and administrative expenses increased as a percentage of revenues as a result of our decline in revenues, along with the fact that portions of our sales and administrative support infrastructure is necessary to support our customers, invest in information systems, continue research and development and pursue project opportunities.

### *Other Income*

Other income consists of a \$1.2 million gain recorded in the second quarter of fiscal 2011 resulting from cash received from the sale of our 50% equity investment in Kazakhstan.

### *Interest Expense and Income*

Interest expense was approximately \$94,000 and \$208,000 for the three and six months ended March 31, 2011, respectively, a decrease of approximately \$134,000 and \$202,000 compared to the three and six months ended March 31, 2010, respectively. The decrease in interest expense was primarily due to lower amounts outstanding under our credit facilities during the first half of fiscal 2011.

Interest income was approximately \$62,000 and \$107,000 for the three and six months ended March 31, 2011, respectively, compared to approximately \$115,000 and \$157,000 for the three and six months ended March 31, 2010, respectively.

### *Provision for Income Taxes*

Our provision for income taxes reflects an effective tax rate on earnings before income taxes of 38.3% in the second quarter of fiscal 2011, compared to 35.2% in the second quarter of fiscal 2010. For the first six months of fiscal 2011, our effective tax rate was 36.4%, compared to 35.2% for the first six months of fiscal 2010. The effective tax rates for both the second quarter of fiscal 2011 and the first six months of fiscal 2011 have been negatively impacted by our inability to record the tax benefit related to pre-tax losses in Canada, offset by favorable changes in the tax rate for the domestic production activities deduction and the research and development credit in the United States.

### *Net Income Attributable to Powell Industries, Inc.*

In the second quarter of fiscal 2011, we generated net income of \$2.5 million, or \$0.21 per diluted share, compared to \$9.9 million, or \$0.85 per diluted share, in the second quarter of fiscal 2010. For the six months ended March 31, 2011, we recorded net income of \$4.9 million, or \$0.42 per diluted share, compared to \$19.5 million, or \$1.68 per diluted share, for the six months ended March 31, 2010. Net income for the second quarter of fiscal 2011 was favorably impacted by approximately \$1.2 million related to the settlement of outstanding obligations related to our strategic decision to exit from our previous 50% owned joint venture in Kazakhstan.

### *Backlog*

The order backlog at March 31, 2011, was \$436.6 million, compared to \$282.3 million at September 30, 2010, and \$313.0 million at the end of the second quarter of fiscal 2010. New orders placed during the second quarter of fiscal 2011 totaled \$216.8 million

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compared to \$112.6 million in the second quarter of fiscal 2010. Backlog has increased primarily due to an increase in activity in oil and gas production and petrochemical projects.

### **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

Cash and cash equivalents increased to approximately \$122.1 million at March 31, 2011, primarily as a result of cash flow provided by operations of approximately \$8.5 million during the first six months of fiscal 2011. Approximately \$8.5 million of cash flow from operations resulted from net income and steps taken to manage our working capital. As of March 31, 2011, current assets exceeded current liabilities by 2.7 times and our debt to total capitalization was 2.1%.

At March 31, 2011, we had cash and cash equivalents of approximately \$122.1 million, compared to approximately \$115.4 million at September 30, 2010. We have a \$58.5 million revolving credit facility in the U.S. and an additional \$6.0 million revolving credit facility in the United Kingdom, both of which expire in December 2012. As of March 31, 2011, there were no amounts borrowed under these lines of credit. We also have a \$20.0 million revolving credit facility, which is subject to certain limitations as defined in the credit agreement, in Canada. At March 31, 2011, there was no balance outstanding under the Canadian revolving credit facility. Total long-term debt and capital lease obligations, including current maturities, totaled \$6.0 million at March 31, 2011, compared \$6.9 million at September 30, 2010. Letters of credit outstanding were \$11.6 million at March 31, 2011, compared to \$15.2 million at September 30, 2010, which reduce our availability under our credit facilities. Amounts available under the U.S. revolving credit facility and the revolving credit facility in the United Kingdom were approximately \$46.9 million and \$6.4 million, respectively, at March 31, 2011. Amounts available under the Canadian revolving credit facility were approximately \$15.5 million at March 31, 2011. For further information regarding our debt, see Notes H and J of Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

We believe that cash and cash equivalents, projected cash flows from operations and borrowing capacity under our existing bank revolvers should be sufficient to finance anticipated operations activities, capital improvements and debt repayments for the foreseeable future. During this period of market uncertainty, we will continue to monitor the factors that drive our markets. We will strive to maintain our leadership and competitive advantage in the markets we serve while aligning our cost structures with market conditions.

### **Operating Activities**

Cash provided by operating activities was approximately \$8.5 million during the first six months of fiscal 2011 and approximately \$46.0 million during the first six months of fiscal 2010. Cash flow from operations is primarily influenced by demand for our products and services and is impacted as our progress payment terms with our customers are matched with the payment terms with our suppliers. Cash flow from operations decreased during the first six months of fiscal 2011 compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily due to the reduction in income from operations.

### **Investing Activities**

Investments in property, plant and equipment during the first six months of fiscal 2011 totaled approximately \$1.4 million, compared to \$23.3 million during the first six months of fiscal 2010. During the first six months of fiscal 2011, we received cash of approximately \$1.2 million from the sale of our 50% equity investment in Kazakhstan. During the first six months of fiscal 2010, we acquired Powell Canada for approximately \$21.8 million.

### **Financing Activities**

Net cash used in financing activities was approximately \$0.6 million for the first six months of fiscal 2011 and approximately \$4.8 million for the first six months of fiscal 2010. During the first six months of fiscal 2010, we repaid the outstanding balance of the deferred acquisition payable to General Electric Company of \$4.3 million.

### **New Accounting Standards**

See Note A to our condensed consolidated financial statements included in this report for information on new accounting standards.

### **Critical Accounting Policies**

The discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations are based on our condensed consolidated financial

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statements, which have been prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP. The preparation of these condensed consolidated financial statements requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities known to exist at the date of the condensed consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. We evaluate our estimates on an ongoing basis, based on historical experience and on various other assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. There can be no assurance that actual results will not differ from those estimates.

There have been no material changes to our critical accounting policies as disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2010.

### **Outlook**

The markets that Powell participates in are capital-intensive and cyclical in nature. Cyclicality is driven by customer demand, global economic markets and potential environmental or regulatory impacts which affect the manner in which our customers proceed with capital projects. Our customers have been assessing the short-term demand for oil and electrical energy, the overall banking environment, the outlook for offshore drilling and related regulatory actions and the drive towards environmental controls over the type and way energy is produced and utilized. These factors over the last two years have contributed to decisions by customers to delay or to change where they place new capital projects, which has driven our backlog of orders to \$282.3 million entering fiscal 2011, down \$83.5 million from the beginning of fiscal 2010. The orders that comprise our current backlog were taken in a much more competitive environment than the previous year's backlog. This increased competition, along with higher commodity prices, has placed downward pressure on gross profit compared to last fiscal year as we work to fulfill these orders in fiscal 2011.

Growth in demand for energy is expected to continue over the long term. New infrastructure investments will be needed to ensure the available supply of petroleum products. New power generation and distribution infrastructure will also be needed to meet the growing demand for electrical energy. New power generation plants will also be needed to replace the aging facilities across the United States, as those plants reach the end of their life cycle. A heightened concern for environmental damage, together with the uncertainty of gasoline prices, has expanded the popularity of urban transit systems, which should drive demand for investment in transit infrastructure, contingent upon available financing. Opportunities for future projects continue; however, the timing and pricing of many of these projects is difficult to predict. The demand for our products and services should continue to increase as investments in large capital-intensive infrastructure projects begin to receive funding and support. The increase in our backlog to \$436.6 million at March 31, 2011 resulted from several large projects awarded related to petrochemical and offshore oil and gas production which will help solidify our backlog going into fiscal 2012.

### **Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk**

We are exposed to certain market risks arising from transactions we have entered into in the normal course of business. These risks primarily relate to fluctuations in interest rates, foreign exchange rates and commodity prices.

#### **Interest Rate Risk**

We are subject to market risk resulting from changes in interest rates related to our floating rate bank credit facility. A hypothetical 100 basis point increase in variable interest rates would not result in a material impact to our financial statements. While we do not currently have any derivative contracts to hedge our exposure to interest rate risk, we have in the past and may in the future enter into such contracts. During each of the past three years, we have not experienced a significant effect on our business due to changes in interest rates.

#### **Foreign Currency Transaction Risk**

We have operations that expose us to currency risk in the British Pound Sterling, the Canadian Dollar and to a lesser extent the Euro. Amounts invested in our foreign operations are translated into U.S. Dollars at the exchange rates in effect at the balance sheet date. The resulting translation adjustments are recorded as accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), a component of stockholders' equity in our consolidated balance sheets. We believe the exposure to the effects that fluctuating foreign currencies have on our consolidated results of operations is limited because the foreign operations primarily invoice customers and collect obligations in their respective currencies or U.S. Dollars. Our international operations are financed utilizing local credit facilities denominated in local currencies. Additionally, expenses associated with these transactions are generally contracted and paid for in the same local currencies. A 10% unfavorable change in the U.S. Dollar exchange rate, relative to other functional currencies in which we operate,



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would not materially impact our consolidated balance sheet at March 31, 2011.

During fiscal 2010 and the first half of fiscal 2011, we entered into nine foreign currency forward contracts to manage the volatility of future cash flows on certain long-term contracts that are denominated in the British Pound Sterling. The contracts are designated as cash flow hedges for accounting purposes. The changes in fair value related to the effective portion of the hedges are recognized as a component of accumulated other comprehensive income on our Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets. At March 31, 2011, we recorded a net liability of approximately \$17,900 on our Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets related to these transactions.

### **Commodity Price Risk**

We are subject to market risk from fluctuating market prices of certain raw materials. While such materials are typically available from numerous suppliers, commodity raw materials are subject to price fluctuations. We attempt to pass along such commodity price increases to our customers on a contract-by-contract basis to avoid a negative effect on profit margin. While we may do so in the future, we have not currently entered into any derivative contracts to hedge our exposure to commodity risk. We continue to experience price volatility with some of our key raw materials and components. Fixed price contracts may limit our ability to pass cost increases to our customers, thus negatively impacting our earnings. Fluctuations in commodity prices may have a material impact on our future earnings and cash flows.

### **Market Risk**

We are also exposed to general market and other risk and its potential impact on accounts receivable or costs and estimated earnings in excess of billings on uncompleted contracts. The amounts recorded may be at risk if our customers' ability to pay these obligations is negatively impacted by economic conditions. Our customers and their industries are typically engineering procurement and construction firms, oil and gas producers, oil and gas pipelines, refineries, petrochemical plants, electrical power generators, public and private utilities, co-generation facilities, mining/metals operations, pulp and paper plants, transportation authorities, governmental agencies and other large industrial customers. We maintain ongoing discussions with customers regarding contract status with respect to payment status, change orders and billing terms in an effort to monitor collections of amounts billed.

## **Item 4. Controls and Procedures**

### **Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

We have established and maintain a system of disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed in our reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the rules and forms of the Commission and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Financial Officer (CFO), as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosures.

Management, with the participation of our CEO and CFO, has evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended) as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based on such evaluation, our CEO and CFO have each concluded that as of the end of the period, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed by us in reports that we file or submit under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, 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 our management, including the CEO and CFO, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosures.

### **Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

There has been no change in our internal control over financial reporting during the six months ended March 31, 2011, that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

### **Design and Operation of Control Systems**

Our management, including the CEO and CFO, does not expect that our disclosure controls and procedures or our internal control over financial reporting will prevent or detect all errors and all fraud. A control system, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the control system's objectives will be met. The design of a control system

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must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints, and the benefits of controls must be considered relative to their costs. Further, because of the inherent limitations in all control systems, no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that misstatements due to error or fraud will not occur or that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, within the Company have been detected. These inherent limitations include the realities that judgments in decision-making can be faulty and breakdowns can occur because of simple errors or mistakes. Controls can be circumvented by the individual acts of some persons, by collusion of two or more people or by management override of the controls. The design of any system of controls is based in part on certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events, and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all potential future conditions. Over time, controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or personnel, or deterioration in the degree of compliance with policies or procedures. Because of the inherent limitations in a cost-effective control system, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected.

## **PART II — OTHER INFORMATION**

### **Item 1. Legal Proceedings**

We are involved in various legal proceedings, claims and other disputes arising in the ordinary course of business which, in general, are subject to uncertainties and the outcomes are not predictable. We do not believe that the ultimate conclusion of these disputes could materially affect our financial position or results of operations.

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

There are no material changes from the risk factors previously disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2010.

### **Item 5. Other Information**

At the annual meeting of stockholders of the Company held on February 23, 2011, Eugene L. Butler, Christopher E. Cragg and Bonnie V. Hancock were re-elected as directors of the Company with terms ending in 2014. The other directors continuing in office after the meeting are Joseph L. Becherer, James F. Clark, Patrick L. McDonald, Thomas W. Powell, Stephen W. Seale, Jr. and Robert C. Tranchon. As to each nominee for director, the number of votes cast for, against or withheld, as well as the number of abstentions and broker non-votes, were as follows:

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Votes Cast For</u>	<u>Votes Cast Against</u>	<u>Votes Withheld</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>	<u>Non-Votes</u>
Eugene L. Butler	8,513,266	—	1,061,828	—	—
Christopher E. Cragg	9,184,252	—	390,842	—	—
Bonnie V. Hancock	9,325,901	—	249,193	—	—

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### **Item 6. Exhibits**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description of Exhibits</u>
3.1	— Certificate of Incorporation of Powell Industries, Inc. filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware on February 11, 2004 (filed as Exhibit 3.1 to our Form 8-A/A filed November 1, 2004, and incorporated herein by reference).
3.2	— By-laws of Powell Industries, Inc. (filed as Exhibit 3.2 to our Form 8-A/A filed November 1, 2004, and incorporated herein by reference).
*31.1	— Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a).
*31.2	— Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a).
*32.1	— Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
*32.2	— Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

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\* Filed herewith

**SIGNATURES**

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

POWELL INDUSTRIES, INC.  
(Registrant)

May 4, 2011  
Date

By: /s/ Patrick L. McDonald  
Patrick L. McDonald  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
(Principal Executive Officer)

May 4, 2011  
Date

By: /s/ Don R. Madison  
Don R. Madison  
Executive Vice President  
Chief Financial and Administrative Officer  
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

**EXHIBIT INDEX**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Exhibit Title</b>
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3.2	— By-laws of Powell Industries, Inc. (filed as Exhibit 3.2 to our Form 8-A/A filed November 1, 2004, and incorporated herein by reference).
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*32.2	— Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

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\* Filed herewith

## CERTIFICATION

I, Patrick L. McDonald, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of Powell Industries, Inc.;
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.

/s/ Patrick L. McDonald

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Patrick L. McDonald  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: May 4, 2011

## CERTIFICATION

I, Don R. Madison, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of Powell Industries, Inc.;
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.

/s/ Don R. Madison

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Don R. Madison  
Executive Vice President  
Chief Financial and Administrative Officer  
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

Date: May 4, 2011

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

In connection with this Quarterly Report (the "Report") on Form 10-Q of Powell Industries, Inc. (the "Company") for the quarter ended March 31, 2011, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof, I, Patrick L. McDonald, Chief Executive Officer of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

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

/s/ Patrick L. McDonald

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick L. McDonald

President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: May 4, 2011



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

In connection with this Quarterly Report (the "Report") on Form 10-Q of Powell Industries, Inc. (the "Company") for the quarter ended March 31, 2011, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof, I, Don R. Madison, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

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

/s/ Don R. Madison

\_\_\_\_\_  
Don R. Madison

Executive Vice President

Chief Financial and Administrative Officer

Date: May 4, 2011