

MCF CORP  
Form 10-K  
February 15, 2005

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, DC 20549**

**FORM 10-K**

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

**For the Fiscal Year ended December 31, 2004**

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

**For the Transition Period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_**

**Commission File Number 001-15831**

**MCF CORPORATION**

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

**Delaware**

(State or Other Jurisdiction of

Incorporation or Organization)

**11-2936371**

(I.R.S. Employer

Identification No.)

**600 California Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**San Francisco, CA**

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

**94108**

(Zip Code)

**(415) 248-5600**

(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

**Securities Registered Pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:**

**Common Stock, \$0.0001 per share**

**Securities Registered Pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:**

**None**

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an accelerated filer (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 12b-2). Yes ☒ No ☐

The aggregate market value of the 56,052,596 shares of common stock of the Registrant issued and outstanding as of June 30, 2004, the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter, excluding 3,696,942 shares of common stock held by affiliates of the Registrant was \$122,194,659. This amount is based on the closing price of the common stock on the American Stock Exchange of \$2.18 per share on June 30, 2004.

The number of shares of Registrant's common stock outstanding as of February 14, 2005 was 70,044,522.

#### **DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

Part III of this Form 10-K incorporates by reference certain portions of the Registrant's proxy statement for its 2005 annual meeting of stockholders to be filed with the Commission not later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this report.

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*This Form 10-K and the information incorporated by reference in this Form 10-K include forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Some of the forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking words such as believes, expects, may, will, should, seeks, approximately, intends, plans, anticipates or the negative of those words or other comparable terminology. Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties. You should be aware that a number of important factors could cause our actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements. We will not necessarily update the information presented or incorporated by reference in this Form 10-K if any of these forward-looking statements turn out to be inaccurate. Risks affecting our business are described throughout this Form 10-K and especially in the section Risk Factors. This entire Form 10-K, including the consolidated financial statements and the notes and any other documents incorporated by reference into this Form 10-K should be read for a complete understanding of our business and the risks associated with that business.*

## **PART I**

### **ITEM 1.**

#### **BUSINESS**

##### **General**

MCF Corporation is a financial services holding company that provides capital markets services, including institutional sales and trading, research and investment banking, as well as asset management, wealth management and corporate and venture services through our operating subsidiaries, Merriman Curhan Ford & Co., MCF Asset Management, LLC and MCF Wealth Management, LLC.

Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. is a securities broker-dealer and investment bank focused on fast growing companies and institutional investors. Our mission is to become a leader in the researching, advising, financing and trading of fast growing companies. We provide investment research, brokerage and trading services primarily to institutions, as well as advisory and investment banking services to corporate clients. We are focused on providing a full range of specialized and integrated services, including:

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##### **Research**

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##### **Sales and Trading**

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##### **Specialized Execution**

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##### **Market Making**

Equity Capital Markets

Corporate and Venture Services

Corporate Finance

Restructurings

Mergers and Acquisitions

Capital Markets Advisories

Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission as a broker-dealer and is a member of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. and Securities Investors Protection Corporation.

MCF Asset Management, LLC and MCF Wealth Management, LLC are two recently formed businesses intended to produce a fee-based, recurring revenue stream to complement the cyclical nature of our investment banking and institutional sales and trading revenue businesses. We plan to acquire existing asset management and wealth management businesses, partner with high quality asset managers, and form and grow our own product and service offerings.

Our overall aim is to fill the void in investment banking services for fast growing companies by offering research, brokerage, investment banking, advisory and corporate services for our institutional and corporate clients. By the end of the 1990's, many of the investment banking firms that previously served fast growing companies were acquired by large commercial banks and subsequently refocused to serve larger clients and larger transactions. We are filling the gap created by the refocusing and/or disappearance of such firms by originating differentiated, contrarian research for our institutional investor clients and providing specialized services for our fast growing

corporate clients. The market sectors for our research focus include technology, consumer, healthcare and life technology. Within these sectors, the specific industries covered include industrial technologies, next generation energy, enterprise software, internet applications and services, data communications, wireless technologies, gaming, semi-conductor capital equipment, retail and apparel, restaurants and consumer, biotechnology/therapeutics, medical devices, financial services, and special situations.

Prior to 2002, we were focused on developing a telecommunications bandwidth brokerage company which was an entirely different business from our current business model. During 2002, we terminated our efforts toward building the bandwidth brokerage business model.

### **Customer Base**

The customer base of our brokerage business is primarily institutional, including mutual funds and hedge funds, as well as smaller, private investment firms and certain high net worth individuals. We grew our business during 2004 by adding new institutional customers that use our research and sales and trading services. During 2004, we transacted brokerage business with approximately 600 institutional customers, up from 360 in 2003, and the number of active institutional accounts increased sequentially each quarter during the year. During 2004, one brokerage customer accounted for 10% of our revenue. We believe the number of active institutional accounts will continue to grow in 2005 based upon the hiring of additional sales and trading professionals and the expansion of our research coverage.

The customer base of our investment banking business consists of both private and publicly traded growth-oriented companies in selected growth sectors. We estimate that there are over 5,000 publicly traded companies with market capitalizations under \$1 billion. Many of the investment banks that previously served these clients have either been acquired by larger institutions and are focusing primarily on larger clients, or have disappeared altogether. During 2004, no single investment banking customer accounted for more than 10% of our revenue.

### **Capital Markets**

We have derived the majority of our revenue from our capital markets activities. Our capital markets activities include institutional sales and trading, research and investment banking.

### ***Institutional Sales and Trading***

Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. focuses on providing research and sales and trading services to institutional investors in the United States. We execute securities transactions for institutional investors such as money managers, mutual funds, hedge funds, insurance companies, and pension and profit-sharing plans. Institutional investors normally purchase and sell securities in large quantities, which require the marketing and trading expertise that we provide.

We provide integrated research and trading solutions to try and help our clients invest profitably, make money, grow their portfolios and ultimately their businesses. We understand the importance of building strategic relationships with our clients who we believe look to us for the professional resources and relevant expertise to provide answers for their specific situations. We believe it is important for us to be involved with public companies early in their corporate life cycles and with private companies as they begin to reach their later stages prior to going public. We strive to provide unique investment opportunities in fast growing companies and to help our clients execute trades rapidly, efficiently and accurately.

Our sales professionals focus on communicating investment ideas and executing transactions on behalf of our investor clients in securities of companies from sectors followed by our analysts. By actively trading in these securities, we endeavor to couple the capital market information flow with the fundamental information flow provided by our

analysts to get our clients favorable execution of investment strategies. Sales professionals work closely with our research analysts to provide up-to-date information to our institutional clients. We are active with our clients and plan to be involved with our clients over the long term.

Our trading professionals facilitate trading in equity securities. We make markets in NASDAQ and other securities, trade listed securities and service the trading desks of institutions in the United States. Our trading professionals have direct access to the major stock exchanges, including the New York Stock Exchange and the American Stock Exchange. We make markets in approximately 175 securities and are presently authorized to make markets in an additional 25 over-the-counter securities.

## ***Research***

A key part of our strategy is to support our businesses with specialized and in-depth research. Our analysts cover a universe of over 130 companies in our focus industry sectors. We leverage the ideas generated by our research teams, using them to attract institutional brokerage clients.

Supported by the firm's capital markets and trading capabilities, our analysts deliver timely recommendations to clients on innovative investment opportunities. In an effort to make money for our investor clients, our analysts are driven to find undiscovered opportunities in companies that are not widely held and that we believe are undervalued. Given the contrarian nature of many of our research ideas, we, as a firm, specialize in serving sophisticated, aggressive institutional investors.

Our research focuses on bottom-up, fundamental analysis of fast growing companies in selected growth sectors. Our analysts' expertise in these categories of companies, along with their intensive industry knowledge and contacts, provides us with the ability to deliver what we believe is timely, accurate, and value-added information to our clients.

Our objective is to build long lasting relationships with our clients by providing investment recommendations that directly equate to enhanced performance of their portfolios. Further, given our boutique approach and focus on quality service, we believe our analysts are in a unique position to maintain close, ongoing communication with both our corporate and institutional clients. The industry sectors covered by our research analysts include:

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Biotechnology and Therapeutics

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Computer Hardware and Networking

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Data Communications and Networking

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Enterprise Data Equipment

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Enterprise Software

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Gaming

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Industrial Technologies

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Internet Applications and Services

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Medical Devices

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Next Generation Energy

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Restaurants and Consumer

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Retail and Apparel

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Semiconductor Assembly and Test Outsourcing

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Special Situations

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Wireless Technology

We believe these sectors represent some of the fastest-growing and most dynamically evolving industry and company opportunities in the market. We also believe that within these industry sectors there will be increasing demand for the products and services we offer and that this in turn will provide diversification opportunities for our business.

After initiating coverage on a company, our analysts seek to effectively communicate new developments to our sales force, trading department and institutional investors. We produce full-length research reports, notes and earnings estimates on the companies we cover. We also produce comprehensive industry sector reports. In addition, our analysts distribute written updates on these issuers both internally and to our clients through the use of daily morning meeting notes, real-time electronic mail and other forms of immediate communication. Our clients can also receive

analyst comments through electronic media, and our sales force receives intra-day updates at meetings and through regular announcements of developments. All of the above is also available through a password protected searchable database of our daily and historical research archives, found on our Website at [www.merrimanco.com/research](http://www.merrimanco.com/research).

### ***Investment Banking***

Our focus is to provide fast growing companies with the capital necessary to drive them to the next level of growth. This capital is generally used for new product development, sales expansion, strategic acquisitions, or for working capital purposes.

Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. provides a full range of investment banking services. We combine our capital markets experience with a focus on client service, providing what we believe is sound financial and strategic advice. We are typically focused on fast growing companies, helping to finance and advise them at the appropriate point in their business cycles. Additionally, we draw upon our contacts throughout the financial and corporate world, expanding the options available for our corporate clients.

We offer a variety of financing structures to meet the individual needs of our clients. Our team tailors each transaction to meet the specific needs of our clients at a specific point in their growth cycle. Our commitment to long-term relationships and our ability to meet the needs of a diverse range of clients has made us a reliable source of investment banking and advisory services for small-capitalization companies. We provide the following services to our investment banking clients:

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Capital Markets Advisory

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Mergers and Acquisitions

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Public Equity, Private Equity, and Mezzanine Financing

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Restructurings

### ***Corporate Services***

Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. offers brokerage services to corporations including corporate cash management, stock repurchase programs, corporate retirement plans, and deferred compensation plans. We also serve the needs of venture capital investors and company executives with restricted stock transactions pursuant to Rules 144, 145 and 701 of the Securities Act of 1933, cashless exercise of options, hedging and diversification strategies, and liquidity strategies. We are presently working with over 50 companies on a corporate services and advisory basis.

### **Institutional Cash Distributors**

Institutional Cash Distributors, or ICD, is a broker of money market funds serving the short-term investing needs of corporate finance departments at companies throughout the United States. Companies using ICD's services receive access to over 40 fund families through ICD's one-stop process that includes one application, one wire and one statement that consolidates reporting regardless of the number of funds utilized. As of December 31, 2004, ICD clients have invested nearly \$4 billion in money market funds from which ICD earns brokerage fees. ICD is a division of Merriman Curhan Ford & Co.

### **Asset Management**

The mission of our asset management business is to extend our position as the trusted financial advisor and investment banker to both companies and entrepreneurs to include trusted financial advisor for managing corporate assets and individual wealth. The strategy of our asset management business is to build a fee-based, recurring revenue stream to complement the cyclical nature of our investment banking and institutional sales and trading revenue businesses. We plan to acquire existing asset management and wealth management businesses, partner with high quality asset managers, and form and grow our own product and service offerings.

In the daily course of our capital markets business, we execute transactions on behalf of both our institutional investor customers, as well as our corporate customers and their management teams. Typical transactions include primary securities issuance, secondary sales and company sales. As a result of executing these transactions we often help our corporate customers raise cash. We also often create liquidity for the entrepreneurs and executives who founded and run these companies. We plan to create entities to focus on managing these cash assets on behalf of both our corporate customers and individuals. For our corporate customers our focus will be on managing short term fixed income or cash accounts. We plan to offer actively managed cash accounts in addition to brokering money market mutual funds.

For the founders and executives of our corporate clients we create liquidity through open market sales, private placements and underwritings. We offer personalized financial planning and wealth management to these clients through our MCF Wealth Management, LLC subsidiary. In January 2005, we announced the signing of a definitive purchase agreement to acquire Catalyst Financial Planning & Investment Management, Inc. Catalyst is a Registered Investment Advisor, or RIA, registered with the SEC. Catalyst provides advice to clients that have invested approximately \$115 million of assets. Catalyst's clients include individuals, trusts, and charitable foundations. Catalyst typically charges a flat percentage of assets fee for rendering this advice. Until our acquisition, Catalyst has operated as an independent firm and plans to continue to grow its client and asset base through its own referral network. We plan to introduce new potential clients to Catalyst from our corporate and venture services group as well as our investment banking department. In addition, we plan to evaluate the acquisition of other independent, fee-based financial planning and RIA firms to offer a broad array of wealth management advisory choices for potential clients.

In addition to offering wealth management services, we plan to offer the founders and executives of our corporate clients, as well as other wealthy individual clients access to alternative investment strategies. The 1990's were a decade of broad stock market appreciation. Individual investors were handsomely rewarded for buying exposure to the stock market by investing in either long only mutual funds, market indices or individual stocks. So far this decade, equity returns have not been as strong or as consistent as throughout the 1990's. As a result, interest in alternative investment strategies, i.e. alternatives to long equity exposure such as market neutral, convertible arbitrage, currency arbitrage and real estate, have grown in popularity. Investing in alternative investment strategies will ideally produce absolute returns that are not correlated with broad stock market indices and represent a diversification of risk for investors. We believe that it will remain difficult to generate consistent positive investment returns solely through long exposure to equity markets. More importantly we believe wealthy individuals have reached that same conclusion and will continue to shift more of their investment dollars into alternative asset class strategies. According to the World Wealth Report 2004 published by Merrill Lynch and CapGemini, global high net worth individual wealth totaled approximately \$28.8 trillion globally and was forecast to grow to \$40.7 trillion globally by 2008. Only 13% of that \$28.8 trillion in wealth was allocated to alternative investment strategies. Each one percent shift in asset allocation towards alternative investments represents approximately \$300 billion of inflows to alternative asset managers. It is our intent to help our clients in their risk versus asset diversification by offering access to alternative investment strategies. We plan to evaluate opportunities to acquire and partner with managers of alternative asset investments, as well as establish our own alternative investment products.

### **Accounting, Administration and Operations**

Our accounting, administration and operations personnel are responsible for financial controls, internal and external financial reporting, human resources and personnel services, office operations, information technology and telecommunications systems, the processing of securities transactions, and corporate communications. With the exception of payroll processing, which is performed by an outside service bureau, and customer account processing, which is performed by our clearing broker, most data processing functions are performed internally. We believe that future growth will require implementation of new and enhanced communications and information systems and training of our personnel to operate such systems.

## **Compliance, Legal, Risk Management and Internal Audit**

Our compliance, legal and risk management personnel (together with other appropriate personnel) are responsible for our compliance with the legal and regulatory requirements of our investment banking and broker-dealer and asset management businesses and our exposure to market, credit, operations, liquidity, compliance, legal and reputational risk. In addition, our compliance personnel test and audit for compliance with our internal policies and procedures. Our general counsel also provides legal service throughout our company, including advice on managing legal risk. The supervisory personnel in these areas have direct access to senior management and to the Audit Committee of our Board of Directors to ensure their independence in performing these functions. In addition to our internal compliance, legal, and risk management personnel, we retain outside consultants and attorneys for their particular functional expertise.

## Competition

We are engaged in the highly competitive financial services and investment industries. We compete directly with large Wall Street securities firms, securities subsidiaries of major commercial bank holding companies, U.S. subsidiaries of large foreign institutions, major regional firms, smaller niche players, and those offering competitive services via the Internet.

In addition to competing for customers and investments, we compete with other companies in the financial services and investment industries to attract and retain experienced and productive investment professionals. See Management's Discussion and Analysis - Risk Factors. Our business is dependent on the services of skilled professionals and Our business may suffer if we lose the services...

Many competitors have greater personnel and financial resources than we do. Larger competitors are able to advertise their products and services on a national or regional basis and may have a greater number and variety of distribution outlets for their products, including retail distribution. Discount and Internet brokerage firms market their services through aggressive pricing and promotional efforts. In addition, some competitors have much more extensive investment banking activities than we do and therefore, may possess a relative advantage with regard to access to deal flow and capital.

Recent rapid advancements in computing and communications technology, particularly the Internet, are substantially changing the means by which financial services and information are delivered. These changes are providing consumers with more direct access to a wide variety of financial and investment services, including market information and on-line trading and account information. Advances in technology also create demand for more sophisticated levels of client services. We are committed to using technological advancements to provide a high level of client service to our target markets. Provision of these services may entail considerable cost without an offsetting source of revenue.

For a further discussion of the competitive factors affecting our business, see Management's Discussion and Analysis - Risk Factors - The markets for securities brokerage and investment banking services are highly competitive.

## Risk Management

In conducting our business, we are exposed to a range of risks including:

*Market risk* is the risk to our earnings or capital resulting from adverse changes in the values of assets resulting from movement in equity prices or market interest rates.

*Credit risk* is the risk of loss due to an individual customer's or institutional counterparty's unwillingness or inability to fulfill its obligations.

*Operations risk* is the risk of loss resulting from systems failure, inadequate controls, human error, fraud or unforeseen catastrophes.

*Liquidity risk* is the potential that we would be unable to meet our obligations as they come due because of an inability to liquidate assets or obtain funding. Liquidity risk also includes the risk of having to sell assets at a loss to generate liquid funds, which is a function of the relative liquidity (market depth) of the asset(s) and general market conditions.

*Compliance risk* is the risk of loss, including fines, penalties and suspension or revocation of licenses by self-regulatory organizations, or from failing to comply with federal, state or local laws pertaining to financial services activities.

*Legal risk* is the risk that arises from the potential that unenforceable contract disputes, lawsuits, adverse judgments, or adverse governmental or regulatory proceedings that can disrupt or otherwise negatively affect our operations or condition.

*Reputational risk* is the potential that negative publicity regarding our practices whether factually correct or not will cause a decline in our customer base, costly litigation, or revenue reductions.

We have a risk management program that sets forth various risk management policies, provides for a risk management committee and assigns risk management responsibilities. The program is designed to focus on the following:

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Identifying, assessing and reporting on corporate risk exposures and trends;

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Establishing and revising as necessary policies, procedures and risk limits;

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Monitoring and reporting on adherence with risk policies and limits;

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Developing and applying new measurement methods to the risk process as appropriate; and

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Approving new product developments or business initiatives.

We cannot provide assurance that our risk management program or our internal controls will prevent or mitigate losses attributable to the risks to which we are exposed.

For a further discussion of the risks affecting our business, see Management's Discussion and Analysis - Risk Factors.

## **Regulation**

As a result of federal and state registration and self-regulatory organization, or SRO, memberships, we are subject to overlapping schemes of regulation that cover all aspects of our securities business. Such regulations cover matters including capital requirements, uses and safe-keeping of clients' funds, conduct of directors, officers and employees, record-keeping and reporting requirements, supervisory and organizational procedures intended to assure compliance with securities laws and to prevent improper trading on material nonpublic information, employee-related matters, including qualification and licensing of supervisory and sales personnel, limitations on extensions of credit in securities transactions, requirements for the registration, underwriting, sale and distribution of securities, and rules of the SROs designed to promote high standards of commercial honor and just and equitable principles of trade. A particular focus of the applicable regulations concerns the relationship between broker-dealers and their customers. As

a result, many aspects of the broker-dealer customer relationship are subject to regulation including, in some instances, suitability determinations as to certain customer transactions, limitations on the amounts that may be charged to customers, timing of proprietary trading in relation to customers' trades and disclosures to customers.

As a broker-dealer registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, and as a member firm of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc., or NASD, we are subject to the net capital requirements of the SEC and the NASD. These capital requirements specify minimum levels of capital, computed in accordance with regulatory requirements that each firm is required to maintain and also limit the amount of leverage that each firm is able to obtain in its respective business.

Net capital is essentially defined as net worth (assets minus liabilities, as determined under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States), plus qualifying subordinated borrowings, less the value of all of a broker-dealer's assets that are not readily convertible into cash (such as furniture, prepaid expenses and unsecured receivables), and further reduced by certain percentages (commonly called "haircuts") of the market value of a broker-dealer's positions in securities and other financial instruments. The amount of net capital in excess of the regulatory minimum is referred to as "excess net capital."

The SEC's capital rules also (i) require that broker-dealers notify it, in writing, two business days prior to making withdrawals or other distributions of equity capital or lending money to certain related persons if those withdrawals would exceed, in any 30-day period, 30% of the broker-dealer's excess net capital, and that they provide such notice within two business days after any such withdrawal or loan that would exceed, in any 30-day period, 20% of the broker-dealer's excess net capital, (ii) prohibit a broker-dealer from withdrawing or otherwise distributing equity capital or making related party loans if, after such distribution or loan, the broker-dealer would have net capital of less than \$300,000 or if the aggregate indebtedness of the broker-dealer's consolidated entities would exceed 1,000% of the broker-dealer's net capital in certain other circumstances, and (iii) provide that the SEC may, by order, prohibit withdrawals of capital from a broker-dealer for a period of up to 20 business days, if the withdrawals would exceed, in any 30-day period, 30% of the broker-dealer's excess net capital and if the SEC believes such withdrawals would be detrimental to the financial integrity of the firm or would unduly jeopardize the broker-dealer's ability to pay its customer claims or other liabilities.

Compliance with regulatory net capital requirements could limit those operations that require the intensive use of capital, such as underwriting and trading activities, and also could restrict our ability to withdraw capital from our broker-dealer, which in turn could limit our ability to pay interest, repay debt and redeem or repurchase shares of our outstanding capital stock.

We believe that at all times we have been in compliance with the applicable minimum net capital rules of the SEC and the NASD.

The failure of a U.S. broker-dealer to maintain its minimum required net capital would require it to cease executing customer transactions until it came back into compliance, and could cause it to lose its NASD membership, its registration with the SEC or require its liquidation. Further, the decline in a broker-dealer's net capital below certain early warning levels, even though above minimum net capital requirements, could cause material adverse consequences to the broker-dealer.

We are also subject to Risk Assessment Rules imposed by the SEC which require, among other things, that certain broker-dealers maintain and preserve certain information, describe risk management policies and procedures and report on the financial condition of certain affiliates whose financial and securities activities are reasonably likely to have a material impact on the financial and operational condition of the broker-dealers. Certain Material Associated Persons (as defined in the Risk Assessment Rules) of the broker-dealers and the activities conducted by such Material Associated Persons may also be subject to regulation by the SEC. In addition, the possibility exists that, on the basis of the information it obtains under the Risk Assessment Rules, the SEC could seek authority over our unregulated subsidiary either directly or through its existing authority over our regulated subsidiary.

In the event of non-compliance by us or one of our subsidiaries with an applicable regulation, governmental regulators and one or more of the SROs may institute administrative or judicial proceedings that may result in censure, fine, civil penalties (including treble damages in the case of insider trading violations), the issuance of cease-and-desist orders, the deregistration or suspension of the non-compliant broker-dealer, the suspension or disqualification of officers or employees or other adverse consequences. The imposition of any such penalties or orders on us or our personnel could have a material adverse effect on our operating results and financial condition.

Additional legislation and regulations, including those relating to the activities of our broker-dealer, changes in rules promulgated by the SEC, NASD or other United States, state or foreign governmental regulatory authorities and SROs or changes in the interpretation or enforcement of existing laws and rules may adversely affect our manner of operation and our profitability. Our businesses may be materially affected not only by regulations applicable to us as a financial market intermediary, but also by regulations of general application.

## **Employees**

MCF Corporation and its subsidiaries employed 116 persons as of December 31, 2004.

### **Geographic Area**

The Company is domiciled in the United States and all of our revenue is attributed to United States and Canadian customers. All of the Company's long-lived assets are located in the United States.

### **Available Information**

Our website address is [www.merrimanco.com](http://www.merrimanco.com). You may obtain free electronic copies of our reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and all amendments to those reports on the Company Info portion of our website, under the heading "Investor Relations" and then SEC Filings. These reports are available on our website as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file them with the Securities and Exchange Commission. We are providing the address to our Internet site solely for the information of investors. We do not intend the address to be an active link or to otherwise incorporate the contents of the website into this report.

**ITEM 2.**

**PROPERTIES**

As of December 31, 2004, all of our properties are leased. Our principal executive offices are located in San Francisco, California. We lease four offices to support our various investment banking and broker-dealer related activities. These offices are located in New York, Boston, Los Angeles and Portland. We believe the facilities we are now using are adequate and suitable for business requirements.

**ITEM 3.**

**LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

**Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. v. The Seidler Companies, Inc. NASD Arbitration**

During 2004, our broker-dealer subsidiary hired a research analyst. Prior to employment with Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. the analyst was employed by The Seidler Companies, Inc., or Seidler, in a similar capacity. The analyst was employed under an employment contract that included terms which general counsel and outside counsel believe unlawfully restrict the analyst's employment activities.

In March 2004, we acted as co-agents for a small private placement for a client. The client was introduced to one of our investment banking managing directors. At the time of introduction, Seidler had been trying to win the investment banking business, but had failed to obtain a signed engagement letter with the client. We subsequently received a signed engagement letter from the client that named Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. as co-placement agent. The investment banking transaction was completed.

Thereafter, in March 2004 we received a cease and desist letter from attorneys representing Seidler. Seidler claims that our analyst used proprietary information in violation of his employment agreement when introducing Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. to the client. Seidler further claims that we used unfair business tactics to win the business. In response to the claims, Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. and our analyst filed a claim in arbitration with the NASD in June 2004. It is our belief that as members of the NASD, Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. and Seidler must resolve their disputes before the NASD arbitration board. We allege unfair business practice and seek a declaration that our analyst's prior employment contract is unenforceable.

On July 16, 2004, we were served with a complaint from Seidler filed in the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Plaintiffs are seeking unspecified damages. We have successfully moved to stay the legal action. The matter is in the preliminary stages of arbitration, however, based upon the facts as we know them to date, we do not believe that the outcome will have a material effect on the Company.

**Glen, Lukrich, Reichard v. MCF Corporation**

A former member of the board of directors from April 1999 to February 2000, a former independent contractor who performed the corporate controller function from December 1998 to May 2000 and a former chief executive and member of the board of directors from May 1999 to October 2000 are named plaintiffs in a complaint filed in the Superior Court of California, City and County of San Francisco on April 8, 2004 seeking unspecified damages.

The plaintiffs allege that stock option agreements given to them in May of 1999 are still valid and exercisable. The Company rejected the plaintiffs' requests to exercise their stock option grants on the basis that they expired several years ago after the plaintiffs completed their services to the Company. In November 2004, the Company and the plaintiffs signed a binding settlement agreement providing for the issuance to plaintiffs of 130,000 shares of MCF Corporation common stock.

Additionally, from time to time, we are involved in ordinary routine litigation incidental to our business.

**ITEM 4.**

**SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF STOCKHOLDERS**

No matters were submitted to a vote of stockholders during the fourth quarter of 2004.

**PART II****ITEM 5.****MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON STOCK AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS**

Our common stock trades on the American Stock Exchange under the symbol MEM. The following table sets forth the range of the high and low sales prices per share of our common stock for the fiscal quarters indicated.

|                | <b>High</b> | <b>Low</b> |
|----------------|-------------|------------|
| <b>2004</b>    |             |            |
| Fourth Quarter | \$ 2.05     | \$ 1.10    |
| Third Quarter  | 2.22        | 1.24       |
| Second Quarter | 2.85        | 1.90       |
| First Quarter  | 3.10        | 0.88       |
| <b>2003</b>    |             |            |
| Fourth Quarter | \$ 1.19     | \$ 0.71    |
| Third Quarter  | 1.25        | 0.13       |
| Second Quarter | 0.69        | 0.20       |
| First Quarter  | 0.30        | 0.14       |

The closing sale price for our common stock on February 14, 2005 was \$1.85. The market price of our common stock has fluctuated significantly and may be subject to significant fluctuations in the future. See Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

According to the records of our transfer agent, we had approximately 307 stockholders of record as of February 14, 2005. Because many shares are held by brokers and other institutions on behalf of stockholders, we are unable to estimate the total number of beneficial stockholders represented by these record holders.

Our policy is to reinvest earnings in order to fund future growth. Therefore, we have not paid and currently do not plan to declare dividends on our common stock.

## **Recent Sale of Unregistered Securities**

On August 10, 2004, MCF Corporation entered into a strategic alliance with London Merchant Securities plc, or LMS. In conjunction with this alliance, LMS made a private investment of \$6.0 million in MCF Corporation. The Company issued 4,615,385 shares of common stock to LMS at \$1.30 per share. LMS also received warrants to purchase an additional 1,384,616 shares of common stock at a price of \$1.48 per share. All of the securities described in this paragraph: (i) were issued to private investors without the involvement of underwriters; (ii) were issued in reliance on the exemption from registration requirements contained in Section 4(2) of the Securities Act of 1933 and carried certain registration rights; (iii) and were included, together with certain other securities of the Company, in the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (file number 333-118708) declared effective on October 5, 2004.

**ITEM 6.****SELECTED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA**

The following selected consolidated financial data should be read in conjunction with Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and the consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto included in Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.

|                                            | <b>As of and for the year ended December 31,</b> |               |                 |                 |               |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
|                                            | <b>2004</b>                                      | <b>2003</b>   | <b>2002</b>     | <b>2001</b>     | <b>2000</b>   |
| <b>Statement of operations data:</b>       |                                                  |               |                 |                 |               |
| Revenue                                    | \$ 38,368,310                                    | \$ 18,306,011 | \$ 6,469,494    | \$ 205,502      | \$ 91,223     |
| Operating expenses                         | 36,194,924                                       | 16,832,676    | 8,343,247       | 28,095,500      | 42,192,065    |
| Operating income (loss)                    | 2,173,386                                        | 1,473,335     | (1,873,753 )    | (27,889,998 )   | (42,100,842 ) |
| Income (loss) from continuing operations   | 1,874,286                                        | 2,971,263     | (3,141,799 )    | (29,299,485 )   | (44,728,894 ) |
| Net income (loss)                          | 1,874,286                                        | 2,971,263     | (3,404,642 )    | (30,072,176 )   | (44,728,894 ) |
| Diluted net income (loss) per common share | \$ 0.02                                          | \$ 0.06       | \$ (0.18 )      | \$ (1.66 )      | \$ (2.69 )    |
| <b>Financial condition data:</b>           |                                                  |               |                 |                 |               |
| Cash and cash equivalents                  | \$ 17,459,113                                    | \$ 6,142,958  | \$ 1,402,627    | \$ 4,358,091    | \$ 2,115,152  |
| Marketable securities owned                | 2,342,225                                        | 608,665       | 764,421         |                 | 12,124,635    |
| Total assets                               | 25,007,824                                       | 9,703,946     | 3,769,127       | 7,506,781       | 16,263,816    |
| Notes payable, net                         | 1,487,728                                        | 1,927,982     | 8,455,085       | 8,141,704       |               |
| Stockholders equity (deficit)              | \$ 16,733,850                                    | \$ 5,261,210  | \$ (5,529,354 ) | \$ (3,441,733 ) | \$ 13,662,946 |

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**ITEM 7.**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The following discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with Selected Consolidated Financial Data and our consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included elsewhere in the Annual Report on Form 10-K.

**Introduction**

MCF Corporation is a financial services holding company that provides capital markets services, including institutional sales and trading, research and investment banking, as well as asset management, wealth management and corporate and venture services through our operating subsidiaries, Merriman Curhan Ford & Co., MCF Asset Management, LLC and MCF Wealth Management, LLC.

Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. is a securities broker-dealer and investment bank focused on fast growing companies and institutional investors. Our mission is to become a leader in the researching, advising, financing and trading of fast growing companies. We provide investment research, brokerage and trading services primarily to institutions, as well as advisory and investment banking services to corporate clients. We are focused on providing a full range of specialized and integrated services, including:

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Research

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Sales and Trading

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Specialized Execution

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Market Making

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Equity Capital Markets

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Corporate and Venture Services

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Corporate Finance

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Restructurings

.

Mergers and Acquisitions

.

Capital Markets Advisories

Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission as a broker-dealer and is a member of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. and Securities Investors Protection Corporation.

MCF Asset Management, LLC and MCF Wealth Management, LLC are two recently formed businesses intended to produce a fee-based, recurring revenue stream to complement the cyclical nature of our investment banking and institutional sales and trading revenue businesses. We plan to acquire existing asset management and wealth management businesses, partner with high quality asset managers, and form and grow our own product and service offerings.

Our overall aim is to fill the void in investment banking services for fast growing companies by offering research, brokerage, investment banking, advisory and corporate services for our institutional and corporate clients. By the end of the 1990's, many of the investment banking firms that previously served fast growing companies were acquired by large commercial banks and subsequently refocused to serve larger clients and larger transactions. We are filling the gap created by the refocusing and/or disappearance of such firms by originating differentiated, contrarian research for our institutional investor clients and providing specialized services for our fast growing corporate clients. The market sectors for our research focus include technology, consumer, healthcare and life technology. Within these sectors, the specific industries covered include industrial technologies, next generation energy, enterprise software, internet applications and services, data communications, wireless technologies, gaming, semi-conductor capital equipment, retail and apparel, restaurants and consumer, biotechnology/therapeutics, medical devices, financial services, and special situations.

Our activities include the following:

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Trading Commissions and Principal Transactions - We facilitate customer transactions with institutional investors and take proprietary positions through market making in, and trading of, equity securities.

.

Investment Banking - We provide a broad range of investment banking services to emerging growth corporations.

## **Executive Overview**

Our company has grown rapidly since we launched Merriman Curhan Ford & Co., our investment bank and broker-dealer business, at the beginning of 2002. Our revenue, operating expenses and headcount have increased sequentially since 2002 and our company has been profitable for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003. We are increasingly being recognized in the market place as a full service institutional investment bank and broker-dealer focused on fast growing companies. During 2004, we were co-manager on ten registered equity underwriting transactions that raised over \$500 million for our clients, up from one in 2003 and none in 2002. Also during 2004, we raised over \$175 million for corporate clients in private placements of equity and debt instruments, up from \$96 million in 2003 and \$3 million in 2002.

Our plan is to continue to grow the investment banking and broker-dealer business while we extend our position as trusted financial advisor to both companies and entrepreneurs to trusted financial advisor with respect to managing corporate assets and individual wealth. During 2004 we created MCF Asset Management, LLC and during early 2005 we created MCF Wealth Management, LLC. We intend to have these businesses produce fee-based, recurring revenue streams to complement the cyclical nature of the firm's existing business. We plan to acquire existing asset management and wealth management businesses, partner with high quality asset managers, and form and grow our own product and service offerings. Prior to 2002, we were focused on developing a telecommunications bandwidth brokerage company which was an entirely different business from our current business model. During 2002, we terminated our efforts toward building the bandwidth brokerage business model.

Though our operating results have reflected significant revenue growth and we were profitable during 2003 and 2004, our business, by its nature, does not produce predictable earnings. Our results in any given period can be materially affected by conditions in global financial markets and economic conditions generally.

## **Business Environment**

The business environment for 2004 was unusual in many aspects. It was a year that was marked by a series of rate hikes by the Federal Reserve that did not seem to affect the market for longer-dated government debt. In addition, even as short term rates methodically rose, the equity markets were able to shrug off the impact of the hikes. Against this backdrop, smaller company stocks outperformed. During the past two years, small company stocks as measured by the Russell 2000 index outperformed the big cap S&P 500 benchmark by more than 1,000 basis points annualized. 2004 was also a big year for commodities almost across all sectors. Some analysts attribute the strength to a strong global rebound while many cite the increased speculation in this asset class by hedge fund managers. The action in commodities made the stability in long term US interest rates all the more remarkable.

The geopolitical situation in the Middle East also was a significant factor in the business environment for the financial services industry. At the end of 2004, the promise of elections in Iraq and among the PLO held out hope for further steps toward stability in that vital region. In the United States, the conclusion of the election cycle made the political landscape in the US much more certain in 2004. With so many unusual events taking place in 2004 it was surprising that stock market volatility fell to historically low levels. Amid a good economy and still accommodative interest rate environment, the windows to the capital markets remained open for most companies. Those who needed to raise capital in equity and debt markets were usually successful in 2004. Dividends also made the headlines in 2004 as Microsoft paid a \$3 special dividend that amounted to a \$32 billion liquidity infusion. Share buybacks also helped maintain the favorable supply/demand fundamentals for stocks.

Our securities broker-dealer and investment banking activities are linked to the capital markets. In addition, our business activities are focused in the technology, consumer, healthcare and life technology sectors. By their nature, our business activities are highly competitive and are not only subject to general market conditions, volatile trading

markets and fluctuations in the volume of market activity, but also to the conditions affecting the companies and markets in our areas of focus.

Fluctuations in revenue also occur due to the overall level of market activity, which, among other things, affects the flow of investment dollars and the size, number and timing of investment banking transactions. In addition, a downturn in the level of market activity can lead to a decrease in brokerage commissions. Therefore, revenue in any particular period may vary significantly from year to year.

The financial services industry continues to be affected by an intensifying competitive environment. There has been an increase in the number and size of companies competing for a similar customer base; some of such competitors have greater capital resources and additional associated services with which to pursue these activities.

## Results of Operations

The following table sets forth a summary of financial highlights for the three years ended December 31, 2004:

|                                                        | 2004          | 2003          | 2002            |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Total revenue                                          | \$ 38,368,310 | \$ 18,306,011 | \$ 6,469,494    |
| Total operating expenses                               | 36,194,924    | 16,832,676    | 8,291,735       |
| Operating income (loss)                                | 2,173,386     | 1,473,335     | (1,822,241 )    |
| Net income (loss)                                      | 1,874,286     | 2,971,263     | (3,404,642 )    |
| EBITDA                                                 | 3,797,695     | 2,088,346     | (1,096,708 )    |
| Add:                                                   |               |               |                 |
| Gain on retirement of convertible note payable         |               | 3,088,230     |                 |
| Less:                                                  |               |               |                 |
| Interest expense                                       | (50,654 )     | (263,156 )    | (983,261 )      |
| Income tax expense                                     | (249,744 )    | (74,884 )     |                 |
| Depreciation and amortization                          | (162,318 )    | (77,918 )     | (394,188 )      |
| Common stock issued for services                       | (215,800 )    | (121,449 )    | (378,822 )      |
| Amortization of stock-based compensation               | (1,125,760 )  | (376,161 )    | (170,021 )      |
| Amortization of discounts on convertible notes payable | (95,793 )     | (702,412 )    | (313,381 )      |
| Amortization of debt issuance costs                    | (23,340 )     | (589,333 )    | (68,261 )       |
| Net income (loss)                                      | \$ 1,874,286  | \$ 2,971,263  | \$ (3,404,642 ) |

EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization) is a key metric we use in evaluating our financial performance. EBITDA is considered a non-GAAP financial measure as defined by Regulation G promulgated by the SEC pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.. We consider EBITDA an important measure of our ability to generate cash flows to service debt, fund capital expenditures and fund other corporate investing and financing activities. EBITDA eliminates the non-cash effect of tangible asset depreciation and intangible asset amortization. EBITDA should be considered in addition to, rather than as a substitute for, pre-tax income, net income and cash flows from operating activities.

Our revenue has increased by 183% from 2002 to 2003 and by 110% from 2003 to 2004, reflecting the overall growth of our investment banking and broker-dealer activities. This revenue growth was accompanied by growth in EBITDA and our maintaining overall profitability in 2003 and 2004. Currently, we strive to maximize revenue as opposed to maximize profits as we increase our market share.

***Commissions and Principal Transactions Revenue***

Our broker-dealer activity includes the following:

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Agency Commissions - Agency commissions include revenue resulting from executing stock trades for exchange-listed securities, over-the-counter securities and other transactions as agent.

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Principal Transactions - Principal transactions consist of a portion of dealer spreads attributed to our securities trading activities as principal in NASDAQ-listed and other securities, and include transactions derived from our activities as a market-maker. Additionally, principal transactions include gains and losses resulting from market price fluctuations that occur while holding positions in our trading security inventory.

The following table sets forth our revenue and several operating metrics which we utilize in measuring and evaluating performance and the results of our trading activity operations:

|                                                                        | 2004          | 2003         | 2002         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Revenue:</b>                                                        |               |              |              |
| Commissions                                                            | \$ 21,826,628 | \$ 9,547,061 | \$ 5,658,187 |
| Principal transactions:                                                |               |              |              |
| Customer principal transactions, proprietary trading and market making | \$ 1,758,119  | \$ 1,173,813 | \$ 462,804   |
| Investment portfolio                                                   | 1,030,001     | 177,073      | 4,769        |
| Total principal transactions revenue                                   | \$ 2,788,120  | \$ 1,350,886 | \$ 467,573   |
| <b>Transaction Volumes:</b>                                            |               |              |              |
| Number of shares traded                                                | 919,112,079   | 370,845,147  | 303,884,076  |
| Number of active clients                                               | 599           | 367          | 185          |

Agency commissions amounted to \$21,827,000, or 57%, of our revenue during 2004, representing a 129% increase over \$9,547,000 recognized during 2003. The higher agency commissions were primarily attributed to the hiring of additional sales and research professionals and an increase in the number of active client accounts during 2004 as compared to 2003. During 2004, one brokerage customer accounted for 10% of our revenue, while no single brokerage customer accounted for more than 10% of our revenue during 2003.

Principal transactions revenue, including market making and proprietary trading for our own account, amounted to \$2,788,000, or 7%, of our revenue during 2004, representing a 106% increase compared to \$1,351,000 recognized during 2003. We increased our market making and proprietary trading activities during 2004. Additionally, our investment portfolio, which primarily consists of stock warrants and restricted common stock that we earn in connection with our investment banking activity, increased in value during 2004.

### ***Investment Banking Revenue***

Our investment banking activity includes the following:

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Capital Raising - Capital raising includes private placements of equity and debt instruments and underwritten public offerings.

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Financial Advisory. Financial advisory includes advisory assignments with respect to mergers and acquisitions, divestitures, restructurings and spin-offs.

The following table sets forth our revenue and transaction volumes from our investment banking activities during the three years ended December 31, 2004:

|                 | 2004          | 2003         | 2002       |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|------------|
| <b>Revenue:</b> |               |              |            |
| Capital raising | \$ 11,845,148 | \$ 6,657,836 | \$ 141,250 |

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|                                  |    |            |    |           |    |         |
|----------------------------------|----|------------|----|-----------|----|---------|
| Financial advisory               |    | 1,883,408  |    | 720,972   |    | 172,717 |
| Total investment banking revenue | \$ | 13,728,556 | \$ | 7,378,808 | \$ | 313,967 |

**Transaction Volumes:**

Public offerings:

|                        |             |             |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Capital underwritten   | 507,952,000 | 152,168,000 |
| Number of transactions | 10          | 1           |

Private placements:

|                        |             |            |           |
|------------------------|-------------|------------|-----------|
| Capital raised         | 176,822,000 | 96,082,000 | 2,575,000 |
| Number of transactions | 13          | 12         | 2         |

Financial advisory:

|                        |            |           |
|------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Transaction amounts    | 32,800,000 | 4,750,000 |
| Number of transactions | 2          | 1         |

Our investment banking revenue amounted to \$13,729,000, or 36% of our revenue during 2004, representing a 86% increase compared to \$7,379,000 recognized in 2003. The increase in our investment banking revenue during 2004 can be attributed to the hiring of experienced investment bankers during 2003 and 2004, the increased awareness of our brand in the market place and an accommodative business environment during 2004. During 2003 and 2004, we increased our investment banking headcount from 3 to 15.

### ***Compensation and Benefits Expenses***

Compensation and benefits expense represents the majority of our operating expenses and includes base salaries and discretionary bonuses, as well as incentive compensation paid to sales and trading, and investment banking professionals. Incentive compensation varies primarily based on revenue production. Discretionary bonuses paid to research analysts also vary with commission revenue production but includes other qualitative factors as well. Salaries, payroll taxes and employee benefits are relatively fixed in nature.

The following table sets forth the major components of our compensation and benefits for the three years ended December 31, 2004:

|                                                  | <b>2004</b>   | <b>2003</b>   | <b>2002</b>  |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Incentive compensation and discretionary bonuses | \$ 17,694,420 | \$ 7,316,958  | \$ 2,706,045 |
| Salaries and wages                               | 5,801,390     | 2,728,519     | 1,789,688    |
| Stock-based compensation                         | 1,115,909     | 362,280       | 170,023      |
| Payroll taxes, benefits and other                | 2,153,546     | 1,275,110     | 511,530      |
| Total compensation and benefits                  | \$ 26,765,265 | \$ 11,682,867 | \$ 5,177,286 |

The increase in compensation and benefits expense of \$15,082,000, or 129%, from 2003 to 2004 and \$6,506,000, or 126%, from 2002 to 2003 was due primarily to higher incentive compensation which is directly correlated to revenue production. Additionally, we have grown our headcount at a brisk but measured pace since we started Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. at the beginning of 2002. Our headcount has increased from 14 at January 1, 2002 to 41 at December 31, 2002 to 80 at December 31, 2003 to 116 at December 31, 2004. The increase in stock-based compensation during 2004 reflects our decision to grant restricted stock to new and existing employees beginning in the second half of 2003. Prior to 2003, we only granted stock options to employees which are accounted for under the intrinsic value method.

The amount of compensation and benefits that we incur during a given period is largely dependent upon the level of revenue recognized during that period, since most of our employees are paid based on a percentage of the revenue attributed to their efforts. We anticipate compensation and benefits for 2005 will increase sequentially over 2004 due primarily to our forecast for higher revenue in 2005.

### ***Other Operating Expenses***

Brokerage and clearing fees include trade processing expenses that we pay to our clearing broker and execution fees that we pay to floor brokers and electronic communication networks. Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. is a fully-disclosed broker-dealer, which has engaged a third party clearing broker to perform all of the clearance functions. The clearing broker-dealer processes and settles the customer transactions for Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. and maintains the detailed customer records. Additionally, security trades are executed by third-party broker-dealers and electronic trading systems. These expenses are almost entirely variable with commission revenue and the volume of brokerage transactions. The increase of \$782,000, or 49% from 2003 to 2004 and \$615,000, or 62% from 2002 to 2003 is in line with the increases in agency commissions and principal transactions. We anticipate brokerage and clearing fees for 2005 will increase sequentially over 2004 as we are forecasting a higher level of brokerage transactions for 2005.

Professional services expense includes legal fees, accounting fees, expenses related to investment banking transactions, consulting fees and recruiting fees. Many of these expenses, such as legal and accounting fees, are to a large extent fixed in nature. The increase of \$613,000 or 89%, from 2003 to 2004 was primarily attributed to increased accounting and audit costs, legal expense in connection with pending litigation involving the Company, and consulting fees in connection with our compliance with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. The increase of \$121,000, or 21%, from 2002 to 2003 was primarily attributed to consulting costs incurred related to our compliance department and the filing of registration statements with the Securities and Exchange Commission. We anticipate professional services expense for 2005 will increase sequentially as compared to 2004.

Occupancy and equipment includes rental costs for our facilities and equipment, as well as equipment, software and leasehold improvement expenses. These expenses are largely fixed in nature. The increase of \$577,000, or 151%, from 2003 to 2004 and \$145,000, or 61%, from 2002 to 2003 resulted mostly from expansion of our offices and computer equipment purchases resulting from the hiring of additional institutional brokerage and investment banking professionals. During 2004, we moved into larger office spaces in San Francisco, New York, Boston, Los Angeles and Portland. We anticipate occupancy and equipment expense for 2005 will increase sequentially over 2004.

Communications and technology expense includes voice, data and Internet service fees, and data processing costs. While variable in nature, these do not tend to vary with revenue. The increase of \$576,000, or 70%, from 2003 to 2004 and \$462,000, or 126%, from 2002 to 2003 was due to higher telephone and data service fees incurred in our brokerage operations. The higher telephone and data service charges are the result of increased headcount and the expansion of our offices. We anticipate communications and technology expense for 2005 will increase sequentially over 2004.

Depreciation and amortization expense primarily relate to the depreciation of our computer equipment and leasehold improvements. Depreciation and amortization is mostly fixed in nature. The increase of \$84,000, or 108%, from 2003 to 2004 was due to increased capital expenditures to facilitate our growth and expansion. The decrease of approximately \$316,000, or 80%, from 2002 to 2003 was due primarily to the disposal of equipment and fixtures not utilized during the fourth quarter of 2002. We anticipate depreciation and amortization expense for 2005 will increase sequentially over 2004.

Other operating expense includes professional liability and property insurance, travel and entertainment, printing and copying, business licenses and taxes, office supplies and other miscellaneous office expenses. The increase of approximately \$1,647,000, or 105%, from 2003 to 2004 was attributed to expenses associated with our first investor conference, higher travel expenses, business development costs, and recruiting expenses. We anticipate other operating expense for 2005 will increase sequentially over 2004.

#### ***Gain on Retirement of Convertible Note Payable***

In April 2003, we exercised our right to cancel the convertible promissory note held by Forsythe with the principal sum of \$5,949,042. The fair value of the consideration provided to Forsythe was less than the carrying amount of the convertible note payable. The difference between the fair value of the consideration provided to Forsythe and the carrying amount of the note payable was recorded as a gain in condensed consolidated statements of operations.

#### ***Interest Expense***

Interest expense for 2004 included \$51,000 for interest expense and \$119,000 for amortization of discounts and debt issuance costs, while the 2003 amount included \$263,000 for interest expense and \$1,292,000 for amortization of discounts and debt issuance costs. The decline in interest expense resulted from the conversion of long-term debt to common stock in January 2004. The higher amortization of discounts and debt issuance costs in 2003 was due to the accelerated amortization that occurred as the notes payable were retired or converted to equity instruments during 2003.

### ***Income Tax Expense***

The 2004 and 2003 income tax expense reflected taxes calculated for federal and state tax purposes. Realization of our deferred tax assets depends upon us generating sufficient taxable income in future years from the reversal of temporary differences and from net operating loss carryforwards. Due to the uncertainty of the timing and amount of such realization, we concluded that a full valuation allowance of \$31,295,000 was required as of December 31, 2004. No provision for income taxes was recorded in 2002 as we incurred a net operating loss during the year and provided a full valuation allowance against our deferred tax assets.

### ***Loss from Discontinued Operations***

The results of our continuing operations for 2002 exclude the revenue and expenses attributed to RMG Partners Corporation. In 2001, the Company formed RMG Partners Corporation, or RMG, as a wholly owned subsidiary to provide risk management solutions through the use of derivative trading strategies. An affiliate of the principals of

RMG, BL Partners, LLC, had the right to purchase the Company's interest in RMG for \$300,000. In April 2002, BL Partners, LLC exercised its right to purchase RMG in accordance with the terms of the agreement. Loss from discontinued operations in 2002 was comprised of revenue and expenses in the amount of \$730,000 and \$993,000, respectively.

### **Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates**

The consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, which require us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses, and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. On an on-going basis, we evaluate our estimates, including those related to the valuation of securities owned and deferred tax assets. We base our estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results could differ from those estimates. We believe the following critical accounting policies affect our more significant judgments and estimates used in the preparation of our consolidated financial statements.

#### ***Valuation of Securities Owned***

Securities owned that are not readily marketable are carried at fair value, with the accompanying gains and losses reflected in our results of operations. The fair value of securities, for which a quoted market or dealer price is not available, is based on management's estimates. Among the factors considered by management in determining the fair value of securities are the cost of the securities, terms and liquidity, developments since the acquisition of the securities, the sales price of recently issued securities, the financial condition and operating results of the issuer, earnings trends and consistency of operating cash flows, the long-term business potential of the issuer, the quoted market price of securities with similar quality and yield that are publicly traded, and other factors generally pertinent to the valuation of securities. The fair value of these securities is subject to a high degree of volatility and may be susceptible to significant fluctuation in the near term. Where available, we use prices from independent sources such as listed market prices or dealer quotations.

#### ***Revenue Recognition***

We recognize brokerage revenue once the trade is consummated and the earnings process is complete. Investment banking revenue consists of fees earned from private placements, mergers and acquisitions, management fees for underwritten offerings, financial restructurings and other advisory services provided to clients. Investment banking fees are recorded as revenue when the related service has been rendered, the client is contractually obligated to pay, and its collection is probable. Certain fees received in advance of services rendered are recognized as revenue over the service period. Transaction-related expenses to date have been expensed as incurred. As co-manager for registered equity underwriting transactions, we must estimate the transaction related expenses incurred by the lead manager in

order to recognize revenue. Transaction related expenses are deducted from the underwriting fee and therefore reduces the revenue that we will recognize as co-manager. Such amounts are adjusted to reflect actual expenses in the period in which we receive the final settlement, typically 90 days following the closing of the transaction.

***Stock-Based Compensation***

As part of our compensation of employees, we may use stock-based compensation, including stock options, restricted stock and other stock-based awards. Compensation related to restricted stock and other stock-based awards is amortized over the vesting period of the award, which is generally three to four years, and is included in our results of operations as compensation. Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States allow alternative methods of accounting for stock options, including an intrinsic value method and a fair value method. The intrinsic value method is intended to reflect the impact of stock options on stockholders based on the appreciation in the stock option over time, generally driven by financial performance. The fair value method requires an estimate of the value of stock options to be recognized as compensation over the vesting period of the awards. Currently, we use the intrinsic value method and do not recognize the impact of these awards as compensation expense. Accordingly, we provide disclosure of the impact of the estimated fair value of the stock options on our compensation and reported income in the notes to the consolidated financial statements. In determining the estimated fair value of stock options, we use the Black-Scholes option-pricing model, which requires judgment regarding certain assumptions, including the expected life of the options granted, dividend yields and stock volatility.

### ***Deferred Tax Valuation Allowance***

We account for income taxes in accordance with the provision of SFAS No. 109, *Accounting for Income Taxes*, which requires the recognition of deferred tax assets and liabilities at tax rates expected to be in effect when these balances reverse. Future tax benefits attributable to temporary differences are recognized to the extent that the realization of such benefits is more likely than not. We have concluded that it is more likely than not that our deferred tax assets as of December 31, 2004 and 2003 will not be realized based on the scheduling of deferred tax liabilities and projected taxable income. The amount of the deferred tax assets actually realized, however, could vary if there are differences in the timing or amount of future reversals of existing deferred tax liabilities or changes in the actual amounts of future taxable income. Should we determine that we will be able to realize all or part of the deferred tax asset in the future, an adjustment to the deferred tax asset will be recorded in the period such determination is made.

### **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

Historically, we have satisfied our liquidity and regulatory capital needs through the issuance of equity and debt securities. During 2004, we increased our liquidity by raising \$6,000,000 from the issuance of common stock and from the cash flow provided by our operations. As of December 31, 2004, we had long-term notes payable of \$1,488,000, net of certain discounts.

Our principal assets consist of cash and cash equivalents, marketable securities held for trading purposes, restricted cash, receivables and equipment and fixtures. As of December 31, 2004, liquid assets consisted primarily of cash and cash equivalents of \$17,459,000 and marketable securities of \$2,342,000, for a total of \$19,801,000.

Merriman Curhan Ford & Co., as a broker-dealer, is subject to Rule 15c3-1 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, which specifies uniform minimum net capital requirements, as defined, for their registrants. As of December 31, 2004, Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. had regulatory net capital, as defined, of \$11,639,000, which exceeded the amount required by \$11,157,000.

Cash and cash equivalents increased by \$11,316,000 during 2004. For 2004, cash provided by financing activities was \$7,453,000 and cash provided by operating activities was \$4,408,000, primarily attributed to our net income adjusted for certain non-cash expenses, as well as increases and decreases in operating assets and liabilities. Non-cash expenses included depreciation and amortization, stock based compensation and amortization of discounts on convertible notes payable. Cash used in investing activities in 2004 was \$545,000, reflecting the purchase of equipment and fixtures.

We believe that our existing cash balances and investments will be sufficient to meet our liquidity and capital spending requirements, both for the next twelve months as well as for the long-term. However, we may require additional capital investment to fund our working capital if we incur future operating losses. We cannot be certain that additional debt or equity financing will be available when required or, if available, that we can secure it on terms satisfactory to us.

The following is a table summarizing our significant commitments as of December 31, 2004, consisting of debt payments related to convertible and non-convertible notes payable and future minimum lease payments under all non-cancelable operating leases with initial or remaining terms in excess of one year.

|                   |                      | <b>Operating</b> | <b>Capital</b> |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------|
|                   | <b>Notes Payable</b> | <b>Leases</b>    | <b>Leases</b>  |
| 2005              | \$ 1,141,775         | \$ 801,500       | \$ 195,480     |
| 2006              | 106,775              | 896,036          | 194,321        |
| 2007              | 106,775              | 770,249          | 115,487        |
| 2008              | 243,990              | 614,520          |                |
| 2009              |                      | 549,310          |                |
| Thereafter        |                      | 1,123,895        |                |
| Total commitments | \$ 1,599,315         | \$ 4,755,510     | \$ 505,288     |

## **Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements**

We were not a party to any off-balance sheet arrangements during the three years ended December 31, 2004. In particular, we do not have any interest in so-called limited purpose entities, which include special purpose entities and structured finance entities.

## **Newly Issued Accounting Standards**

On December 16, 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, or FASB, issued Statement of Financial accounting Standards No.123 (revised 2004), or SFAS 123(R), Share-Based Payment, which is a revision of SFAS 123. SFAS 123(R) supersedes APB 25 and amends SFAS 95, Statement of Cash Flows. The approach to accounting for share-based payments in SFAS 123(R) is similar to the approach described in SFAS 123. However, SFAS 123(R) requires all share-based payments to employees, including grants of employee stock options, to be recognized in the financial statements based on their fair values. Pro forma disclosure is no longer an alternative to financial statement recognition for years prior to January 1, 2003. SFAS 123(R) is effective for public companies at the beginning of the first interim or annual period beginning after June 15, 2005.

SFAS 123(R) permits public companies to account for share-based payments using one of two methods: modified-prospective method or modified-retrospective method. Under the modified-prospective method, compensation cost is recognized beginning with the effective date (a) for all share-based payments granted after the effective date and (b) for all awards granted to employees prior to the effective date of SFAS 123(R) that remain unvested on the effective date. Under the modified-retrospective method, which includes the requirements of the modified prospective method described above, companies are permitted to restate, based on the amounts previously recognized under SFAS 123 for purposes of pro forma disclosures either (a) all prior periods presented or (b) prior interim periods of the year of adoption. We plan to adopt SFAS 123(R) no later than July 1, 2005, but have not yet determined what method we will use.

In January 2003, the FASB issued FASB Interpretation No. 46, or FIN 46, Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities, an Interpretation of Accounting Research Bulletin No. 51. FIN 46 requires certain variable interest entities to be consolidated by the primary beneficiary of the entity if the equity investors in the entity do not have the characteristics of a controlling financial interest or do not have sufficient equity at risk for the entity to finance its activities without additional subordinated financial support from other parties. FIN 46 is effective for all new variable interest entities created or acquired after January 31, 2003. For variable interest entities created or acquired prior to February 1, 2003, the provisions of FIN 46 must be applied for the first interim or annual period beginning after December 15, 2003. The adoption of this standard did not have a material impact on our financial position or results of operations.



**Quarterly Financial Data**

The table below sets forth the operating results represented by certain items in our statements of operations for each of the eight quarters in the period ended December 31, 2004. This information is unaudited, but in our opinion reflects all adjustments (consisting only of normal recurring adjustments) that we consider necessary for a fair presentation of such information in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The results for any quarter are not necessarily indicative of results for any future period.

| <b>2004</b>                                      |               |              |              |               |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
|                                                  | <b>1st</b>    | <b>2nd</b>   | <b>3rd</b>   | <b>4th</b>    |
| Revenue                                          | \$ 11,222,276 | \$ 9,010,718 | \$ 6,303,347 | \$ 11,831,969 |
| Operating expenses                               | 9,532,753     | 8,458,330    | 7,761,801    | 10,442,040    |
| Operating income (loss)                          | 1,689,523     | 552,388      | (1,458,454 ) | 1,389,929     |
| Net income (loss)                                | 1,244,421     | 492,665      | (1,028,847 ) | 1,166,047     |
| Basic net income (loss)<br>per<br>common share   | \$ 0.02       | \$ 0.01      | \$ (0.02 )   | \$ 0.02       |
| Diluted net income (loss)<br>per<br>common share | \$ 0.02       | \$ 0.01      | \$ (0.02 )   | \$ 0.01       |

| <b>2003</b>                                      |              |              |              |              |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                                                  | <b>1st</b>   | <b>2nd</b>   | <b>3rd</b>   | <b>4th</b>   |
| Revenue                                          | \$ 1,867,056 | \$ 2,579,806 | \$ 7,772,321 | \$ 6,086,828 |
| Operating expenses                               | 2,485,581    | 2,833,530    | 6,270,683    | 5,242,882    |
| Operating income (loss)                          | (618,525 )   | (253,724 )   | 1,501,638    | 843,946      |
| Net income (loss)                                | (826,495 )   | 1,758,149    | 1,386,881    | 652,728      |
| Basic net income (loss)<br>per<br>common share   | (0.04 )      | 0.05         | 0.05         | 0.01         |
| Diluted net income (loss)<br>per<br>common share | \$ (0.04 )   | \$ 0.04      | \$ 0.02      | \$ 0.01      |

**Risk Factors**

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. In addition to the other information contained in this annual report, including reports we incorporate by reference, you should consider the following factors before investing in our securities.

*It is difficult to evaluate our business and prospects because we have a limited operating history.*

We began actively engaging in providing securities brokerage and investment banking services in January 2002. This was an entirely new business for us, and was a complete break with our previous business, the bandwidth brokerage business. Accordingly, we have a limited operating history on which to base an evaluation of our business and prospects. Our prospects must be considered in light of the risks, expenses and difficulties frequently encountered by

fast growing companies in their early stage of development. We cannot assure you that we will be successful in addressing these risks and our failure to do so could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

***We may not be able to maintain a positive cash flow and profitability.***

Our ability to maintain a positive cash flow and profitability depends on our ability to generate and maintain greater revenue while incurring reasonable expenses. This, in turn, depends, among other things, on the development of our securities brokerage and investment banking business, and we may be unable to maintain profitability if we fail to do any of the following:

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establish, maintain and increase our client base;
- .  
manage the quality of our services;
- .  
compete effectively with existing and potential competitors;
- .  
further develop our business activities;
- .  
manage expanding operations; and
- .  
attract and retain qualified personnel.

We cannot be certain that we will be able to sustain or increase a positive cash flow and profitability on a quarterly or annual basis in the future. Our inability to maintain profitability or positive cash flow could result in disappointing financial results, impede implementation of our growth strategy or cause the market price of our common stock to decrease. Accordingly, we cannot assure you that we will be able to generate the cash flow and profits necessary to sustain our business expectations, which makes our ability to successfully implement our business plan uncertain.

Because we are a developing company, the factors upon which we are able to base our estimates as to the gross revenue and the number of participating clients that will be required for us to maintain a positive cash flow and any additional financing that may be needed for this purpose are unpredictable. For these and other reasons, we cannot assure you that we will not require higher gross revenue, and an increased number of clients, securities brokerage and investment banking transactions, and/or more time in order for us to complete the development of our business that we believe we need to be able to cover our operating expenses, or obtain the funds necessary to finance this development. It is more likely than not that our estimates will prove to be inaccurate because actual events more often than not differ from anticipated events. Furthermore, in the event that financing is needed in addition to the amount that is required for this development, we cannot assure you that such financing will be available on acceptable terms, if at all.

***The markets for securities brokerage and investment banking services are highly competitive. If we are not able to compete successfully against current and future competitors, our business and results of operations will be adversely affected.***

We are engaged in the highly competitive financial services and investment industries. We compete with large Wall Street securities firms, securities subsidiaries of major commercial bank holding companies, U.S. subsidiaries of large foreign institutions, major regional firms, smaller niche players, and those offering competitive services via the Internet. Many competitors have greater personnel and financial resources than we do. Larger competitors are able to advertise their products and services on a national or regional basis and may have a greater number and variety of distribution outlets for their products, including retail distribution. Discount and Internet brokerage firms market their services through aggressive pricing and promotional efforts. In addition, some competitors have much more extensive investment banking activities than we do and therefore, may possess a relative advantage with regard to access to deal flow and capital.

Increased pressure created by any current or future competitors, or by our competitors collectively, could materially and adversely affect our business and results of operations. Increased competition may result in reduced revenue and loss of market share. Further, as a strategic response to changes in the competitive environment, we may from time to time make certain pricing, service or marketing decisions or acquisitions that also could materially and adversely affect our business and results of operations. We cannot assure you that we will be able to compete successfully against current and future competitors. In addition, new technologies and the expansion of existing technologies may increase the competitive pressures on us.

***We may experience reduced revenue due to declining market volume, securities prices and liquidity, which can also cause counterparties to fail to perform.***

Our revenue may decrease in the event of a decline in the market volume of securities transactions, prices or liquidity. Declines in the volume of securities transactions and in market liquidity generally result in lower revenue from trading activities and commissions. Lower price levels of securities may also result in a reduction in our revenue from corporate finance fees, as well as losses from declines in the market value of securities held by us in trading. Sudden sharp declines in market values of securities can result in illiquid markets and the failure of counterparties to perform their obligations, as well as increases in claims and litigation, including arbitration claims from customers. In such markets, we may incur reduced revenue or losses in our principal trading, market-making, investment banking, and advisory services activities.

***We may experience significant losses if the value of our marketable security positions deteriorates.***

We conduct securities trading, market-making and investment activities for our own account, which subjects our capital to significant risks. These risks include market, credit, counterparty and liquidity risks, which could result in losses for us. These activities often involve the purchase, sale or short sale of securities as principal in markets that may be characterized as relatively illiquid or that may be particularly susceptible to rapid fluctuations in liquidity and price.

***We may experience significant fluctuations in our quarterly operating results due to the nature of our business and therefore may fail to meet profitability expectations.***

Our revenue and operating results may fluctuate from quarter to quarter and from year to year due to a combination of factors, including:

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the level of institutional brokerage transactions and the level of commissions we receive from those transactions;

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the valuations of our principal investments;

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the number of capital markets transactions completed by our clients, and the level of fees we receive from those transactions; and

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variations in expenditures for personnel, consulting and legal expenses, and expenses of establishing new business units, including marketing and technology expenses.

We record revenue from a capital markets advisory transaction only when we have rendered the services, the client is contractually obligated to pay and collection is probable; generally, most of the fee is earned only upon the closing of a transaction. Accordingly, the timing of our recognition of revenue from a significant transaction can materially affect our quarterly operating results.

***We have registered one of our subsidiaries as a securities broker-dealer and, as such, are subject to substantial regulations. If we fail to comply with these regulations, our business will be adversely affected.***

Because we have registered Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, and the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc., or NASD, as a securities broker-dealer, we are subject to extensive regulation under federal and state laws, as well as self-regulatory organizations. The principal purpose of regulation and discipline of broker-dealers is the protection of customers and the securities markets rather than protection of creditors and stockholders of broker-dealers. The Securities and Exchange Commission is the federal agency charged with administration of the federal securities laws. Much of the regulation of broker-dealers, however, has been delegated to self-regulatory organizations, such as the NASD and national securities exchanges. The NASD

is our primary self-regulatory organization. These self-regulatory organizations adopt rules, which are subject to SEC approval, that govern the industry and conduct periodic examinations of member broker-dealers. Broker-dealers are also subject to regulation by state securities commissions in the states in which they are registered. The regulations to which broker-dealers are subject cover all aspects of the securities business, including net capital requirements, sales methods, trading practices among broker-dealers, capital structure of securities firms, record keeping and the conduct of directors, officers and employees. The SEC and the self-regulatory bodies may conduct administrative proceedings, which can result in censure, fine, suspension or expulsion of a broker-dealer, its officers or employees. If we fail to comply with these rules and regulations, our business may be materially and adversely affected.

The regulatory environment in which we operate is also subject to change. Our business may be adversely affected as a result of new or revised legislation or regulations imposed by the SEC, other United States or foreign governmental regulatory authorities or the NASD. We also may be adversely affected by changes in the interpretation or enforcement of existing laws and rules by these governmental authorities and the NASD.

***Our business may suffer if we lose the services of our executive officers or operating personnel.***

We depend on the continued services and performance of D. Jonathan Merriman, our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, for our future success. We currently have an employment agreement with Mr. Merriman, which ends on January 1, 2007, but can be terminated by either party on 60 days' notice. The agreement contains provisions that obligate us to make certain payments to Mr. Merriman and substantially reduce vesting periods of options granted to him if we should terminate him without cause or certain events resulting in a change of control of our Board were to occur.

In addition to Mr. Merriman, we are currently managed by a small number of key management and operating personnel. We do not maintain key man insurance on any employee. Our future success depends, in part, on the continued service of our key executive, management and technical personnel, and our ability to attract highly skilled employees. Our business could be harmed if any key officer or employee were unable or unwilling to continue in his or her current position. From time to time we have experienced, and we expect to continue to experience, difficulty

in hiring and retaining highly skilled employees. Competition for employees in our industry is significant. If we are unable to retain our key employees or attract, integrate or retain other highly qualified employees in the future, such failure may have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

***Our business is dependent on the services of skilled professionals, and may suffer if we can not recruit or retain such skilled professionals.***

During the year ended December 31, 2004, one sales professional accounted for 15% of our revenue. We have a number of revenue producers employed by our securities brokerage and investment banking subsidiary. We do not have employment contracts with these employees. The loss of one or more of these employees could adversely affect our business and results of operations.

***Our compensation structure may negatively impact our financial condition if we are not able to effectively manage our expenses and cash flows.***

We are able to recruit and retain investment banking, research and sales and trading professionals, in part because our business model provides that we pay our revenue producing employees a percentage of their earned revenue. Compensation and benefits is our largest expenditure and this variable compensation component represents a significant proportion of this expense. Compensation for our employees is derived as a percentage of our revenue regardless of the profitability of the Company. Therefore, we may continue to pay individual revenue producers a significant amount of cash compensation as the overall business experiences negative cash flows and/or net losses. We may not be able to recruit or retain revenue producing employees if we modify or eliminate the variable compensation component from our business model.

***We may be dependent on a limited number of customers for a significant portion of our revenue.***

During the year ended December 31, 2004, one customer accounted for 10% of our revenue. We cannot assure you that we will not become dependent on one customer, or on a small number of customers, for a large percentage of our revenue in the future. If we do become dependent on a single customer or small group of customers, the loss of one or more large customers could materially adversely affect our business and results of operations.

***We may suffer losses through our investments in securities purchased in secondary market transactions or private placements.***

Occasionally, our company, its officers and/or employees may make principal investments in securities through secondary market transactions or through direct investment in companies through private placements. In many cases, employees and officers with investment discretion on behalf of our company decide whether to invest in our company's account or their personal account. It is possible that gains from investing will accrue to these individuals because investments were made in their personal accounts, and our company will not realize gains because it did not make an investment. Conversely, it is possible that losses from investing will accrue to our company, while these individuals do not experience losses in their personal accounts because the individuals did not make investments in their personal accounts.

***We may be unable to effectively manage rapid growth that we may experience, which could place a continuous strain on our resources and, accordingly, adversely affect our business.***

We plan to expand our operations. Our growth, if it occurs, will impose significant demands on our management, financial, technical and other resources. We must adapt to changing business conditions and improve existing systems or implement new systems for our financial and management controls, reporting systems and procedures and expand, train and manage a growing employee base in order to manage our future growth. We may not be able to implement improvements to our internal reporting systems in an efficient and timely manner and may discover deficiencies in existing systems and controls. We believe that future growth will require implementation of new and enhanced communications and information systems and training of our personnel to operate such systems. Furthermore, we may acquire existing companies or enter into strategic alliances with third parties, in order to achieve rapid growth. For us to succeed, we must make our existing business and systems work effectively with those of any strategic partners without undue expense, management distraction or other disruptions to our business. We may be unable to implement our business plan if we fail to manage any of the above growth challenges successfully. Our financial results may suffer and we could be materially and adversely affected if that occurs.

***Our business and operations would suffer in the event of system failures.***

Our success, in particular our ability to successfully facilitate securities brokerage transactions and provide high-quality customer service, largely depends on the efficient and uninterrupted operation of our computer and communications systems. Our systems and operations are vulnerable to damage or interruption from fire, flood, power loss, telecommunication failures, break-ins, earthquake and similar events. Despite the implementation of network security measures, redundant network systems and a disaster recovery plan, our servers are vulnerable to computer viruses, physical or electronic break-ins and similar disruptions, which could lead to interruptions, delays, loss of data or the inability to accept and fulfill customer orders. Additionally, computer viruses may cause our systems to incur delays or other service interruptions, which may cause us to incur additional operating expenses to correct problems we may experience. Any of the foregoing problems could materially adversely affect our business or future results of operations.

***We are highly dependent on proprietary and third-party systems; therefore, system failures could significantly disrupt our business.***

Our business is highly dependent on communications and information systems, including systems provided by our clearing brokers. Any failure or interruption of our systems, the systems of our clearing broker or third party trading systems could cause delays or other problems in our securities trading activities, which could have a material adverse effect on our operating results.

In addition, our clearing brokers provide our principal disaster recovery system. We cannot assure you that we or our clearing brokers will not suffer any systems failure or interruption, including one caused by an earthquake, fire, other natural disaster, power or telecommunications failure, act of God, act of war or otherwise, or that our or our clearing brokers' back-up procedures and capabilities in the event of any such failure or interruption will be adequate.

***Our common stock price may be volatile, which could adversely affect the value of your shares.***

The market price of our common stock has in the past been, and may in the future continue to be, volatile. A variety of events may cause the market price of our common stock to fluctuate significantly, including:

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variations in quarterly operating results;

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our announcements of significant contracts, milestones, acquisitions;

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our relationships with other companies;

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our ability to obtain needed capital commitments;

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additions or departures of key personnel;

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sales of common stock, conversion of securities convertible into common stock, exercise of options and warrants to purchase common stock or termination of stock transfer restrictions;

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general economic conditions, including conditions in the securities brokerage and investment banking markets;

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changes in financial estimates by securities analysts; and

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fluctuation in stock market price and volume.

Many of these factors are beyond our control. Any one of the factors noted herein could have an adverse effect on the value of our common stock.

In addition, the stock market in recent years has experienced significant price and volume fluctuations that have particularly affected the market prices of equity securities of many companies and that often have been unrelated to the operating performance of such companies. These market fluctuations have adversely impacted the price of our common stock in the past and may do so in the future.



***We could be sued in a securities class action lawsuit.***

In the past, following periods of volatility in the market price of a company's securities, securities class action litigation often has been instituted against that company. Such litigation is expensive and diverts management's attention and resources. We can not assure you that we will not be subject to such litigation. If we are subject to such litigation, even if we ultimately prevail, our business and financial condition may be adversely affected.

***Your ability to sell your shares may be restricted because there is a limited trading market for our common stock.***

Although our common stock is currently traded on the American Stock Exchange, a trading market in our stock has been sporadic. Accordingly, you may not be able to sell your shares when you want or at the price you want.

***Anti-takeover provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law could discourage a merger or other type of corporate reorganization or a change in control even if it could be favorable to the interests of our stockholders.***

The Delaware General Corporation Law contains provisions that may enable our management to retain control and resist our takeover. These provisions generally prevent us from engaging in a broad range of business combinations with an owner of 15% or more of our outstanding voting stock for a period of three years from the date that such person acquires his or her stock. Accordingly, these provisions could discourage or make more difficult a change in control or a merger or other type of corporate reorganization even if it could be favorable to the interests of our stockholders.

***Because our Board of Directors can issue common stock without stockholder approval, you could experience substantial dilution.***

Our Board of Directors has the authority to issue up to 300,000,000 shares of common stock and to issue options and warrants to purchase shares of our common stock without stockholder approval in certain circumstances. Future issuance of additional shares of our common stock could be at values substantially below the price at which you may purchase our stock and, therefore, could represent substantial dilution. In addition, our Board of Directors could issue large blocks of our common stock to fend off unwanted tender offers or hostile takeovers without further stockholder approval.

***Our ability to issue additional preferred stock may adversely affect your rights as a common stockholder and could be used as an anti take-over device.***

Our Articles of Incorporation authorize our Board of Directors to issue up to an additional 37,293,000 shares of preferred stock, without approval from our stockholders. If you hold our common stock, this means that our Board of Directors has the right, without your approval as a common stockholder, to fix the relative rights and preferences of the preferred stock. This would affect your rights as a common stockholder regarding, among other things, dividends and liquidation. We could also use the preferred stock to deter or delay a change in control of our Company that may be opposed by our management even if the transaction might be favorable to you as a common stockholder.

***Our officers and directors exercise significant control over our affairs, which could result in their taking actions of which other stockholders do not approve.***

Our executive officers and directors, and entities affiliated with them, currently control approximately 23% of our outstanding common stock including exercise of their options and warrants. These stockholders, if they act together, will be able to exercise substantial influence over all matters requiring approval by our stockholders, including the election of directors and approval of significant corporate transactions. This concentration of ownership may also have the effect of delaying or preventing a change in control of us and might affect the market price of our common stock.

***Any exercise of outstanding options and warrants will dilute then-existing stockholders' percentage of ownership of our common stock.***

We have a significant number of outstanding options and warrants. During 2004, shares issuable upon the exercise of these options and warrants, at prices ranging currently from approximately \$0.18 to \$1.82 per share, represent approximately 21% of our total outstanding stock on a fully diluted basis using the treasury stock method.

The exercise of the outstanding options and warrants would dilute the then-existing stockholders' percentage ownership of our common stock. Any sales resulting from the exercise of options and warrants in the public market could adversely affect prevailing market prices for our common stock. Moreover, our ability to obtain additional equity capital could be adversely affected since the holders of outstanding options and warrants may exercise them at a time when we would also wish to enter the market to obtain capital on terms more favorable than those provided by such options and warrants. We lack control over the timing of any exercise or the number of shares issued or sold if exercises occur.

## **ITEM 7A.**

### **QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK**

The following discussion about market risk disclosures involves forward-looking statements. Actual results could differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. We may be exposed to market risks related to changes in equity prices, interest rates and foreign currency exchange rates. We do not use derivative financial instruments for speculative, trading or any other purpose.

#### ***Equity Price Risk***

The potential for changes in the market value of our trading positions is referred to as market risk. Our trading positions result from proprietary trading activities. These trading positions in individual equities and equity indices may be either long or short at any given time. Equity price risks result from exposures to changes in prices and volatilities of individual equities and equity indices. We seek to manage this risk exposure through diversification and limiting the size of individual positions within the portfolio. The effect on earnings and cash flows of an immediate 10% increase or decrease in equity prices generally is not ascertainable and could be positive or negative, depending on the positions we hold at the time. We do not establish hedges in related securities or derivatives. From time to time, we also hold equity securities received as compensation for our services in investment banking transactions. These equity positions are always long. However, as the prices of individual equity securities do not necessarily move in tandem with the direction of the general equity market, the effect on earnings and cash flows of an immediate 10% increase or decrease in equity prices generally is not ascertainable.

#### ***Interest Rate Risk***

Our exposure to market risk resulting from changes in interest rates relates primarily to our investment portfolio and long term debt obligations. Our interest income and cash flows may be impacted by changes in the general level of

U.S. interest rates. We do not hedge this exposure because we believe that we are not subject to any material market risk exposure due to the short-term nature of our investments. We would not expect an immediate 10% increase or decrease in current interest rates to have a material effect on the fair market value of our investment portfolio.

Our long term debt obligations bear interest at a fixed rate. Accordingly, an immediate 10% increase or decrease in current interest rates would not have an impact on our interest expense or cash flows. The fair market value of our long term fixed interest rate debt is subject to interest rate risk. Generally, the fair market value of fixed interest rate debt will increase as interest rates fall and decrease as interest rates rise. We would not expect an immediate 10% increase or decrease in current interest rates to have a material impact on the fair market value of our long term debt obligations.

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

We do not have any foreign currency denominated assets or liabilities or purchase commitments and have not entered into any foreign currency contracts. Accordingly, we are not exposed to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates.

**ITEM 8.**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA**

The following financial statements are included in this report:

- .
- Report of Ernst & Young LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm
- .
- Consolidated Statements of Operations
- .
- Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition
- .
- Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity (Deficit)
- .
- Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows
- .
- Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Schedules other than those listed above are omitted because of the absence of conditions under which they are required or because the required information is presented in the financial statements or notes thereto.

**Report of Ernst & Young LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

The Board of Directors and Stockholders of

MCF Corporation and subsidiaries

We have audited the accompanying consolidated statements of financial condition of MCF Corporation and subsidiaries (the Company) as of December 31, 2004 and 2003, and the related consolidated statements of operations, stockholders' equity (deficit), and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2004. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial condition of MCF Corporation and subsidiaries at December 31, 2004 and 2003, and the consolidated results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2004, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2004, based on criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated February 11, 2005, expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ ERNST & YOUNG LLP

San Francisco, California

February 11, 2005

**MCF CORPORATION****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS**

|                                                              | <b>Year ended December 31,</b> |              |                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
|                                                              | <b>2004</b>                    | <b>2003</b>  | <b>2002</b>     |
| Revenue:                                                     |                                |              |                 |
| Commissions                                                  | \$ 21,826,628                  | \$ 9,547,061 | \$ 5,658,187    |
| Principal transactions                                       | 2,788,120                      | 1,350,886    | 467,573         |
| Investment banking                                           | 13,728,556                     | 7,378,808    | 313,967         |
| Other                                                        | 25,006                         | 29,256       | 29,767          |
| Total revenue                                                | 38,368,310                     | 18,306,011   | 6,469,494       |
| Operating expenses:                                          |                                |              |                 |
| Compensation and benefits                                    | 26,765,265                     | 11,682,867   | 5,177,286       |
| Brokerage and clearing fees                                  | 2,383,831                      | 1,602,200    | 987,051         |
| Professional services                                        | 1,299,540                      | 686,190      | 565,240         |
| Occupancy and equipment                                      | 960,849                        | 383,457      | 238,876         |
| Communications and technology                                | 1,404,702                      | 828,512      | 367,357         |
| Depreciation and amortization                                | 162,318                        | 77,918       | 394,188         |
| Other                                                        | 3,218,419                      | 1,571,532    | 561,737         |
| Total operating expenses                                     | 36,194,924                     | 16,832,676   | 8,291,735       |
| Operating income (loss)                                      | 2,173,386                      | 1,473,335    | (1,822,241 )    |
| Gain on retirement of convertible note payable               |                                | 3,088,230    |                 |
| Interest income                                              | 120,431                        | 39,483       | 45,345          |
| Interest expense                                             | (169,787 )                     | (1,554,901 ) | (1,364,903 )    |
| Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes | 2,124,030                      | 3,046,147    | (3,141,799 )    |
| Income tax expense                                           | (249,744 )                     | (74,884 )    |                 |
| Income (loss) from continuing operations                     | 1,874,286                      | 2,971,263    | (3,141,799 )    |
| Loss from discontinued operations                            |                                |              | (262,843 )      |
| Net income (loss)                                            | \$ 1,874,286                   | \$ 2,971,263 | \$ (3,404,642 ) |
| Basic net income (loss) per share:                           |                                |              |                 |
| Income (loss) from continuing operations                     | \$ 0.03                        | \$ 0.07      | \$ (0.17 )      |
| Loss from discontinued operations                            |                                |              | (0.01 )         |
| Net income (loss)                                            | \$ 0.03                        | \$ 0.07      | \$ (0.18 )      |
| Diluted net income (loss) per share:                         |                                |              |                 |
| Income (loss) from continuing operations                     | \$ 0.02                        | \$ 0.06      | \$ (0.17 )      |

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|                                           |    |            |            |            |
|-------------------------------------------|----|------------|------------|------------|
| Loss from discontinued operations         |    |            |            | (0.01 )    |
| Net income (loss)                         | \$ | 0.02       | \$         | 0.06       |
|                                           |    |            | \$         | (0.18 )    |
| Weighted average number of common shares: |    |            |            |            |
| Basic                                     |    | 58,578,048 | 32,501,831 | 20,303,927 |
| Diluted                                   |    | 78,175,121 | 45,430,392 | 20,303,927 |

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

**MCF CORPORATION****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION**

|                                                 | <b>December 31,</b> |              |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
|                                                 | <b>2004</b>         | <b>2003</b>  |
| <b>ASSETS</b>                                   |                     |              |
| Cash and cash equivalents                       | \$ 17,459,113       | \$ 6,142,958 |
| Securities owned:                               |                     |              |
| Marketable, at fair value                       | 2,342,225           | 608,665      |
| Not readily marketable, at estimated fair value | 259,340             | 637,533      |
| Restricted cash                                 | 625,000             | 500,000      |
| Due from clearing broker                        | 787,862             | 775,697      |
| Accounts receivable, net                        | 1,579,393           | 498,236      |
| Equipment and fixtures, net                     | 1,032,797           | 192,421      |
| Debt issuance costs                             |                     | 23,340       |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets               | 922,094             | 325,096      |
| Total assets                                    | \$ 25,007,824       | \$ 9,703,946 |

**LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |            |            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Accounts payable                                                                                                                                                                                                 | \$ 431,656 | \$ 179,620 |
| Commissions payable                                                                                                                                                                                              | 2,840,239  | 1,006,192  |
| Accrued liabilities                                                                                                                                                                                              | 2,962,660  | 1,149,321  |
| Due to clearing and other brokers                                                                                                                                                                                | 99,205     | 154,995    |
| Securities sold, not yet purchased                                                                                                                                                                               |            | 225        |
| Capital lease obligation                                                                                                                                                                                         | 452,486    | 24,401     |
| Convertible notes payable, net                                                                                                                                                                                   | 166,404    | 520,612    |
| Notes payable                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 1,321,324  | 1,407,370  |
| Total liabilities                                                                                                                                                                                                | 8,273,974  | 4,442,736  |
| Commitments and contingencies                                                                                                                                                                                    |            |            |
| Stockholders' equity:                                                                                                                                                                                            |            |            |
| Preferred stock, Series A - \$0.0001 par value; 2,000,000 shares authorized; 0 and 657,201 shares issued and outstanding as of December 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively; aggregate liquidation preference of \$0 |            | 66         |

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Preferred stock, Series B - \$0.0001 par value; 12,500,000 shares authorized; 8,750,000 shares issued and 0 shares outstanding as of December 31, 2004 and 2003; aggregate liquidation preference of \$0

Preferred stock, Series C - \$0.0001 par value; 14,200,000 shares authorized; 11,800,000 shares issued and 0 shares outstanding as of December 31, 2004 and 2003; aggregate liquidation preference of \$0

Common stock, \$0.0001 par value; 300,000,000 shares authorized; 68,648,627 and 55,951,675 shares issued and 68,648,627 and 55,871,675 shares outstanding as of December 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively

|                                            |               |               |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                            | 6,865         | 5,595         |
| Treasury stock                             |               | (363,653 )    |
| Additional paid-in capital                 | 108,558,892   | 95,870,000    |
| Deferred compensation                      | (3,163,876 )  | (1,244,490 )  |
| Accumulated deficit                        | (88,668,031 ) | (89,006,308 ) |
| Total stockholders' equity                 | 16,733,850    | 5,261,210     |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity | \$ 25,077,824 | \$ 9,703,946  |

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

**MCF CORPORATION****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY (DEFICIT)**

| Preferred Stock |          | Common Stock |          | Treasury Stock |               | Additional         | Deferred     | Accumulated                      |
|-----------------|----------|--------------|----------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Shares          | Amount   | Shares       | Amount   | Shares         | Amount        | Paid-in<br>Capital | Compensation | Deficit                          |
| 2,000,000       | \$ 200   | 19,028,204   | \$ 1,903 | (80,000 )      | \$ (363,653 ) | \$ 84,650,458      | \$           | \$ (87,730,641 )<br>(3,404,642 ) |
|                 |          | 3,073,375    | 307      |                |               | 1,146,693          |              |                                  |
|                 |          |              |          |                |               | 39,814             |              |                                  |
| (1,500,001 )    | (150 )   | 1,500,001    | 150      |                |               |                    |              |                                  |
|                 |          |              |          |                |               | 189,486            |              | (189,486 )                       |
|                 |          |              |          |                |               | 130,207            |              |                                  |
| 499,999         | \$ 50    | 23,601,580   | \$ 2,360 | (80,000 )      | \$ (363,653 ) | \$ 86,156,658      | \$           | \$ (91,324,769 )<br>2,971,263    |
| 20,550,000      | 2,055    |              |          |                |               | 5,003,746          |              | (305,801 )                       |
|                 |          | 5,031,506    | 503      |                |               | 1,384,457          |              |                                  |
|                 |          | 2,511,833    | 251      |                |               | 1,313,519          | (1,313,770 ) |                                  |
|                 |          |              |          |                |               | 129,215            |              |                                  |
|                 |          |              |          |                |               | 374,897            |              | (231,801 )                       |
| (20,550,000 )   | (2,055 ) | 20,550,000   | 2,055    |                |               |                    |              |                                  |

|         |       |            |          |           |               |               |                 |                 |           |
|---------|-------|------------|----------|-----------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
|         |       | 4,256,756  | 426      |           |               | 1,149,574     |                 |                 |           |
| 157,202 | 16    |            |          |           |               | 64,934        |                 |                 | (115,200) |
|         |       |            |          |           |               | 293,000       | (168,000 )      |                 |           |
|         |       |            |          |           |               |               | 237,280         |                 |           |
| 657,201 | \$ 66 | 55,951,675 | \$ 5,595 | (80,000 ) | \$ (363,653 ) | \$ 95,870,000 | \$ (1,244,490 ) | \$ (89,006,308) |           |

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

**MCF CORPORATION****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY (DEFICIT) (Continued)**

| Preferred Stock |        | Common Stock |          | Treasury Stock |               | Additional<br>Paid-in<br>Capital | Deferred<br>Compensation | Accumulated<br>Deficit |
|-----------------|--------|--------------|----------|----------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Shares          | Amount | Shares       | Amount   | Shares         | Amount        |                                  |                          |                        |
| 657,201         | \$ 66  | 55,951,675   | \$ 5,595 | (80,000 )      | \$ (363,653 ) | \$ 95,870,000                    | \$ (1,244,490 )          | \$ (89,006,308 )       |
|                 |        |              |          |                |               |                                  |                          | 1,874,286              |
|                 |        | 8,528,236    | 853      |                |               | 7,681,682                        |                          |                        |
|                 |        | 1,406,110    | 140      |                |               | 2,875,071                        | (2,875,211 )             |                        |
|                 |        |              |          | 80,000         | 363,653       |                                  |                          | (230,853 )             |
|                 |        |              |          |                |               | 1,222,250                        |                          | (1,212,399 )           |
| (857,200 )      | (86 )  | 857,200      | 86       |                |               |                                  |                          |                        |
|                 |        | 1,905,406    | 191      |                |               | 449,809                          |                          |                        |
| 199,999         | 20     |              |          |                |               | 92,737                           |                          | (92,757 )              |
|                 |        |              |          |                |               | 160,084                          | (139,250 )               |                        |
|                 |        |              |          |                |               |                                  | 1,095,075                |                        |
|                 |        |              |          |                |               | 207,259                          |                          |                        |

|    |            |          |    |                |                 |                  |
|----|------------|----------|----|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| \$ | 68,648,627 | \$ 6,865 | \$ | \$ 108,558,892 | \$ (3,163,876 ) | \$ (88,668,031 ) |
|----|------------|----------|----|----------------|-----------------|------------------|

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

**MCF CORPORATION****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

|                                                                                                    | <b>Year ended December 31,</b> |              |                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
|                                                                                                    | <b>2004</b>                    | <b>2003</b>  | <b>2002</b>     |
| Cash flows from operating activities:                                                              |                                |              |                 |
| Net income (loss)                                                                                  | \$ 1,874,286                   | \$ 2,971,263 | \$ (3,404,642 ) |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities: |                                |              |                 |
| Depreciation and amortization                                                                      | 162,318                        | 77,918       | 394,188         |
| Common stock issued for services                                                                   | 215,800                        | 121,449      | 378,822         |
| Restricted stock, stock options and warrants granted or modified                                   | 1,125,760                      | 376,161      | 170,021         |
| Tax benefits from employee stock option plans                                                      | 207,259                        |              |                 |
| Amortization of discounts on convertible notes payable                                             | 95,793                         | 702,412      | 313,381         |
| Amortization of debt issuance costs                                                                | 23,340                         | 589,333      | 68,261          |
| (Gain) loss on settlement of obligations                                                           |                                | (3,088,230 ) | (572,690 )      |
| Gain on sales of equipment and fixtures                                                            |                                |              | (209,760 )      |
| Equipment and fixtures expense                                                                     | 30,398                         | 3,252        | 240,137         |
| Provision for doubtful accounts                                                                    | 21,100                         |              | 7,500           |
| Common stock received for services                                                                 | (461,933 )                     | (73,210 )    | (17,717 )       |
| Unrealized (gain) loss on securities                                                               | 29,571                         | (198,561 )   | 89,628          |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities:                                                       |                                |              |                 |
| Marketable securities owned                                                                        | (923,230 )                     | (193,714 )   | (852,399 )      |
| Restricted cash                                                                                    | (125,000 )                     | 110,240      | (610,240 )      |
| Due from clearing broker                                                                           | (12,165 )                      | (651,644 )   | (124,053 )      |
| Accounts receivable                                                                                | (1,102,257 )                   | (470,575 )   | (35,161 )       |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets                                                                  | (596,998 )                     | (198,152 )   | 134,881         |
| Accounts payable                                                                                   | 252,036                        | 67,579       | 283,226         |
| Commissions payable                                                                                | 1,834,047                      | 680,841      | 325,351         |
| Accrued liabilities                                                                                | 1,813,339                      | 757,867      | (139,234 )      |
| Due to clearing and other brokers                                                                  | (55,790 )                      | 91,445       | 63,550          |
| Assets and liabilities of discontinued operations                                                  |                                |              | 63,149          |
|                                                                                                    | 4,407,674                      | 1,675,674    | (3,433,801 )    |

Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities

Cash flows from investing activities:

|                                    |            |            |           |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Purchase of equipment and fixtures | (546,899 ) | (199,274 ) | (10,063 ) |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|

|                                              |       |  |         |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|--|---------|
| Proceeds from sale of equipment and fixtures | 2,000 |  | 210,900 |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|--|---------|

|                                               |  |  |         |
|-----------------------------------------------|--|--|---------|
| Proceeds from sale of discontinued operations |  |  | 300,000 |
|-----------------------------------------------|--|--|---------|

|                                                     |            |            |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|---------|
| Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities | (544,899 ) | (199,274 ) | 500,837 |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|---------|

Cash flows from financing activities:

|                                            |           |        |  |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------|--------|--|
| Proceeds from the issuance of common stock | 6,579,377 | 17,885 |  |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------|--------|--|

|                                                        |  |           |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------|--|
| Proceeds from the issuance of Series B preferred stock |  | 1,750,000 |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------|--|

|                                                        |  |         |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--|---------|--|
| Proceeds from the issuance of Series C preferred stock |  | 250,000 |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--|---------|--|

|                                             |  |           |  |
|---------------------------------------------|--|-----------|--|
| Proceeds from the issuance of notes payable |  | 1,000,000 |  |
|---------------------------------------------|--|-----------|--|

|                                   |  |            |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|------------|--|
| Cash used to retire notes payable |  | (500,000 ) |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|------------|--|

|                                                          |           |         |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------|--|
| Proceeds from the exercise of stock options and warrants | 1,020,158 | 845,626 |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------|--|

|                                 |            |           |  |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|--|
| Debt service principal payments | (146,155 ) | (49,330 ) |  |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|--|

|                                    |  |           |  |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------|--|
| Series A preferred stock dividends |  | (50,250 ) |  |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------|--|

|                     |  |  |           |
|---------------------|--|--|-----------|
| Debt issuance costs |  |  | (22,500 ) |
|---------------------|--|--|-----------|

|                                                     |           |           |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities | 7,453,380 | 3,263,931 | (22,500 ) |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|

|                                                  |            |           |              |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | 11,316,155 | 4,740,331 | (2,955,464 ) |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|

|                                                |           |           |           |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | 6,142,958 | 1,402,627 | 4,358,091 |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|

|                                          |               |              |              |
|------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of year | \$ 17,459,113 | \$ 6,142,958 | \$ 1,402,627 |
|------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|

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

**MCF CORPORATION****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (Continued)**

|                                                               | <b>Year ended December 31,</b> |              |             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
|                                                               | <b>2004</b>                    | <b>2003</b>  | <b>2002</b> |
| Supplementary disclosure of cash flow information:            |                                |              |             |
| Cash paid during the year:                                    |                                |              |             |
| Interest                                                      | \$ 101,613                     | \$ 360,406   | \$ 421,624  |
| Income taxes                                                  | \$ 311,928                     | \$ 4,800     | \$ 7,200    |
| Non-cash investing and financing activities:                  |                                |              |             |
| Conversion of notes payable to common stock                   | \$ 450,000                     | \$ 3,850,000 | \$          |
| Common stock issued to retire note payable                    | \$                             | \$ 400,000   | \$          |
| Issuance of restricted stock                                  | \$ 2,875,211                   | \$ 1,313,770 | \$          |
| Issuance of treasury stock                                    | \$ 230,853                     | \$           | \$          |
| Stock warrants issued to note payable investor                | \$                             | \$ 129,215   | \$          |
| Stock warrants issued to common and preferred stock investors | \$ 1,212,399                   | \$ 231,800   | \$          |
| Capitalization of interest related to debt restructuring      | \$                             | \$ 161,000   | \$          |
| Issuance of stock options with intrinsic value                | \$ 139,250                     | \$ 168,000   | \$          |
| Preferred stock dividends                                     | \$ 92,757                      | \$ 64,951    | \$ 189,486  |
| Purchase of equipment and fixtures with capital lease         | \$ 488,193                     | \$ 25,101    | \$          |
| Common stock issued to settle accrued liabilities and loans   | \$                             | \$           | \$ 683,178  |
| Conversion of preferred stock to common stock                 | \$ 86                          | \$           | \$ 150      |

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

## **MCF CORPORATION**

### **NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

#### **1. Description of Business**

MCF Corporation is a financial services holding company that provides capital markets services, including institutional sales and trading, research and investment banking, as well as asset management, wealth management and corporate and venture services through its operating subsidiaries, Merriman Curhan Ford & Co., MCF Asset Management, LLC and MCF Wealth Management, LLC. Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. is a securities broker-dealer and investment bank focused on fast growing companies and growth-oriented institutional investors. MCF Asset Management, LLC and MCF Wealth Management, LLC are two recently formed businesses that are intended to produce a fee based, recurring revenue stream to complement the cyclical nature of the investment banking and institutional sales and trading revenue businesses. Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission as a broker-dealer and is a member of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. and Securities Investor Protection Corporation.

MCF Corporation, also referred to as the Company, formerly Ratexchange Corporation, NetAmerica.com Corporation and Venture World, Ltd., is a Delaware corporation organized on May 6, 1987. In July 2000, the Company's common stock was listed on the American Stock Exchange and currently trades under the symbol MEM. The Company's corporate office is located in San Francisco, California.

In June 1999, Ratexchange 1, Inc. was acquired by the Company. It was the primary operating subsidiary engaged in the creation of liquid marketplaces for bandwidth and other telecommunications products, as well as providing trading strategies in the futures and derivatives markets. The Company went on to expand their service offerings by purchasing Xpit.com, Inc., or Xpit, in March 2001. Xpit was to enable the Company to offer trading and risk management systems to the futures industry. In April 2001, the Company formed RMG Partners Corporation, or RMG, as a wholly owned subsidiary. RMG provided risk management solutions through the use of derivative trading strategies. In October 2001, the Company sold the primary assets of Xpit. The Company sold RMG in April 2002. During 2002, the Xpit subsidiary was liquidated. During 2003 and 2004, Ratexchange 1, Inc. did not have active operations.

In December 2001, the Company acquired Instream Securities, Inc. and later changed the name of the entity to RTX Securities Corporation, then to Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. In January 2004, the Company formed MCF Asset Management, LLC as a wholly owned subsidiary.

#### **2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

##### ***Principles of Consolidation***

As of December 31, 2004 and 2003, MCF Corporation had three wholly owned U.S. subsidiaries that have been consolidated in the accompanying financial statements. The subsidiaries include Merriman Curhan Ford & Co., MCF Asset Management, LLC and Ratexchange 1, Inc. All significant inter-company accounts and transactions have been eliminated.

***Cash and Cash Equivalents***

The Company considers all highly liquid investments purchased with original maturities of ninety days or less to be cash equivalents.

***Securities Owned***

The Company follows broker-dealer accounting and as such, securities owned by the Company are carried at market value with unrealized gains and losses included in the statements of operations as a component of principal transactions revenue. The cost basis of each investment sold is specifically identified for purposes of computing realized gain and losses.

In connection with certain capital markets advisory services, the Company receives or acquires stock, stock warrants and notes receivable convertible into stock of the issuing company. Securities owned that are readily marketable are carried at quoted market prices on major exchanges. Securities that contain restrictions are stated at a discount to the value of readily marketable securities. Securities that are not readily marketable are stated at estimated market values as determined by management. Among the factors considered by management in

**MCF CORPORATION**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

determining the fair value of securities are the cost of the security, terms and liquidity, developments since the acquisition of the securities, the sales price of recently issued securities, the financial condition and operating results of the issuer, the long-term business potential of the issuer, and other factors generally pertinent to the valuation of securities. Where available, the Company uses prices from independent sources such as listed market prices or dealer quotations. The fair value of these securities is subject to a high degree of volatility and may be susceptible to significant fluctuation in the near term.

***Equipment and Fixtures***

Equipment and fixtures are reported at historical cost, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization. Depreciation and amortization are computed using the straight-line method over useful lives of three to five years. Leasehold improvements are amortized using the straight-line method over the lesser of the life of the lease or the service lives of the improvements.

***Long-Lived Assets***

The Company evaluates its long-lived assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of such assets may not be recoverable. Recoverability of assets to be held and used is measured by a comparison of the carrying amount of an asset to future net cash flows expected to be generated by the asset. When assets are considered to be impaired, the impairment to be recognized is measured as the amount by which the carrying amount of the assets exceeds the fair value of the assets. Assets to be disposed of are reported at the lower of the carrying amount or fair value less costs to sell.

***Commission and Principal Transaction Revenue***

Commission revenue includes revenue resulting from executing stock exchange-listed securities, over-the counter securities and other transactions as agent for the Company's clients. Principal transactions consist of a portion of dealer spreads attributed to the Company's securities trading activities as principal in NASDAQ-listed and other securities, and include transactions derived from activities as a market-maker. Additionally, principal transactions include gains and losses resulting from market price fluctuations that occur while holding positions in trading security inventory. Revenue generated from trading activities and related expenses are recorded on a trade date basis.

***Investment Banking Revenue***

Investment banking revenue consists of fees earned from private placements, mergers and acquisitions, management fees for underwritten offerings, financial restructurings and other advisory services provided to clients. Investment banking fees are recorded as revenue when the related service has been rendered, the client is contractually obligated to pay, and its collection is probable. Certain fees for services rendered are recognized as revenue over the service period. As co-manager for registered equity underwriting transactions, management must estimate the Company's share of transaction related expenses incurred by the lead manager in order to recognize revenue. Transaction related expenses are deducted from the underwriting fee and therefore reduces the revenue that is recognized as co-manager.

Such amounts are adjusted to reflect actual expenses in the period in which the Company receives the final settlement, typically 90 days following the closing of the transaction.

***Stock-Based Compensation***

The Company uses the intrinsic value-based method in accordance with Accounting Principles Board, or APB, Opinion No. 25, *Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees*, to account for employee stock-based compensation. Accordingly, compensation cost is recorded on the date of grant to the extent the fair value of the underlying share of common stock exceeds the exercise price for a stock option or the purchase price for a share of common stock. Such compensation cost is amortized on a straight-line basis over the vesting period of the individual award. Pursuant to Statement of Financial Accounting Standards, or SFAS, No. 123, *Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation*, the Company discloses the pro forma effect of using the fair value method of accounting for employee stock-based compensation. Stock-based awards granted to nonemployees are accounted for pursuant to the fair value method in SFAS No. 123 and Issue No. 96-18 of the Emerging Issues Task Force. The associated expense is measured and recognized by the Company over the period the services are performed by the nonemployee.

**MCF CORPORATION****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

In December 2002, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, or FASB, issued SFAS No. 148, *Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation-Transition and Disclosure*. SFAS 148 amends SFAS 123 to provide alternative methods of transition for a voluntary change to the fair value based method of accounting for stock-based employee compensation. In addition, SFAS 148 amends the disclosure requirements of SFAS 123 to require prominent disclosures in both annual and interim financial statements about the method of accounting for stock-based employee compensation and the effect of the method used on reported results. The Company adopted SFAS No. 148 during 2002.

The Company has elected to continue to account for its stock-based compensation in accordance with the provisions of APB 25 and present the pro forma disclosures required by SFAS 123 as amended by SFAS 148. Stock-based employee compensation for the three years ended December 31, 2004 was accounted for under the intrinsic value method and, therefore, no compensation expense was recognized for those stock options that had no intrinsic value at the date of grant.

If the Company were to recognize compensation expense over the relevant service period under the fair value method with respect to stock options granted for the three years ended December 31, 2004 and all prior periods, net income (loss) would have changed, resulting in pro forma net income (loss) and pro forma net income (loss) per share as presented below:

|                                                                                                   | <b>2004</b>  | <b>2003</b>   | <b>2002</b>     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Net income (loss), as reported                                                                    | \$ 1,874,286 | \$ 2,971,263  | \$ (3,404,642 ) |
| Add: Stock-based employee compensation expense included in the reported net income (loss)         | 93,078       | 139,000       | 130,208         |
| Less: Stock-based employee compensation expense determined under fair value method for all awards | (1,838,982 ) | (3,426,880 )  | (3,519,820 )    |
| Pro forma net income (loss)                                                                       | \$ 128,382   | \$ (316,617 ) | \$ (6,794,254 ) |
| Net income (loss) per share, as reported:                                                         |              |               |                 |
| Basic                                                                                             | \$ 0.03      | \$ 0.07       | \$ (0.18 )      |
| Diluted                                                                                           | \$ 0.02      | \$ 0.06       | \$ (0.18 )      |
| Net income (loss) per share, pro forma:                                                           |              |               |                 |

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|         |    |      |    |         |    |         |
|---------|----|------|----|---------|----|---------|
| Basic   | \$ | 0.00 | \$ | (0.03 ) | \$ | (0.34 ) |
| Diluted | \$ | 0.00 | \$ | (0.03 ) | \$ | (0.34 ) |

The above pro forma disclosures are not necessarily representative of the effects on reported net income or loss for future years.

## ***Income Taxes***

The Company uses the asset and liability method of accounting for income taxes. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the estimated future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. A valuation allowance is recorded to reduce deferred tax assets to an amount whose realization is more likely than not. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in the consolidated statements of operations in the period that includes the enactment date.

## ***Earnings (Loss) Per Share***

Basic earnings (loss) per share is computed by dividing net income (loss), less dividends on preferred stock, by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding. Diluted earnings per share is calculated for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003 by dividing net income less dividends on preferred stock, by the weighted average number of common shares used in the basic earnings per share calculation plus the number of common

**MCF CORPORATION**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

shares that would be issued assuming exercise or conversion of all potentially dilutive common shares outstanding. Diluted loss per share is unchanged from basic loss per share for the year ended December 31, 2002, because the addition of common shares that would be issued assuming exercise or conversion would be anti-dilutive.

***Concentrations***

Substantially all of the Company's cash and cash equivalents are held at two major U.S. financial institutions. The majority of the Company's cash equivalents consist of short-term marketable securities. Deposits held with banks may exceed the amount of insurance provided on such deposits. Generally these deposits may be redeemed upon demand.

During 2004, 2003 and 2002, one sales professional accounted for 15%, 13% and 66% of our revenue from continuing operations, respectively. During 2004, one customer accounted for 10% of our revenue while no single customer accounted for more than 10% of our revenue in 2003. During 2002, one customer accounted for 35% of our revenue from continuing operations.

***Fair Value of Financial Instruments***

The carrying amounts of the Company's financial instruments, which include securities owned, cash deposited with the Company's clearing organization, receivables, accounts payable, and other accrued expenses, approximate their fair values due to their short maturities. The fair value of the Company's long-term notes payable is estimated based on the current rates offered to the Company for debt of the same remaining maturities.

***Segment Reporting***

The Company has adopted the provisions of SFAS No. 131, *Disclosures about Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information*. SFAS No. 131 establishes annual and interim reporting standards for operating segments of a company. It also requires entity-wide disclosures about the products and services an entity provides, the material countries in

which it holds assets and reports revenue, and its major customers. The Company is not organized by multiple operating segments for the purpose of making operating decisions or assessing performance. Accordingly, the Company operates in one reportable operating segment in the United States.

### *Use of Estimates*

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates, judgments and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

### *Reclassification*

Certain prior year amounts have been reclassified to conform with current year financial statement presentation. These reclassifications had no impact on previously reported net income (loss) or total stockholders' equity.

### *Newly Issued Accounting Standards*

On December 16, 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, or FASB, issued Statement of Financial accounting Standards No.123 (revised 2004), or SFAS 123(R), Share-Based Payment, which is a revision of SFAS 123. SFAS 123(R) supersedes APB 25 and amends SFAS 95, Statement of Cash Flows. The approach to accounting for share-based payments in SFAS 123(R) is similar to the approach described in SFAS 123. However, SFAS 123(R) requires all share-based payments to employees, including grants of employee stock options, to be recognized in the financial statements based on their fair values. Pro forma disclosure is no longer an alternative to financial statement recognition for years prior to January 1, 2003. SFAS 123(R) is effective for public companies at the beginning of the first interim or annual period beginning after June 15, 2005.

## **MCF CORPORATION**

### **NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

SFAS 123(R) permits public companies to account for share-based payments using one of two methods: modified-prospective method or modified-retrospective method. Under the modified-prospective method, compensation cost is recognized beginning with the effective date (a) for all share-based payments granted after the effective date and (b) for all awards granted to employees prior to the effective date of SFAS 123(R) that remain unvested on the effective date. Under the modified-retrospective method, which includes the requirements of the modified prospective method described above, companies are permitted to restate, based on the amounts previously recognized under SFAS 123 for purposes of pro forma disclosures either (a) all prior periods presented or (b) prior interim periods of the year of adoption. The Company plans to adopt SFAS 123(R) no later than July 1, 2005, but has not yet determined what method will be used.

In January 2003, the FASB issued FASB Interpretation No. 46, or FIN 46, Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities, an Interpretation of Accounting Research Bulletin No. 51. FIN 46 requires certain variable interest entities to be consolidated by the primary beneficiary of the entity if the equity investors in the entity do not have the characteristics of a controlling financial interest or do not have sufficient equity at risk for the entity to finance its activities without additional subordinated financial support from other parties. FIN 46 is effective for all new variable interest entities created or acquired after January 31, 2003. For variable interest entities created or acquired prior to February 1, 2003, the provisions of FIN 46 must be applied for the first interim or annual period beginning after December 15, 2003. The adoption of this standard did not have a material impact on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

#### **3. Securities Owned**

The Company trades equity and debt securities for clients in a broker or dealer capacity. While trading activities are primarily generated by client order flow, the Company also takes selective proprietary positions based on expectations of future market movements and conditions. As of December 31, 2004 and 2003, fair value of marketable equity securities owned by the Company was approximately \$2,342,000 and \$609,000, respectively.

Securities owned that are not readily marketable consisted of convertible notes payable, unregistered common stock and stock warrants. As of December 31, 2004 and 2003, the discounted fair value of the securities owned that are not readily marketable was approximately \$259,000 and \$638,000, respectively, based on management estimates.

#### **4. Equipment and Fixtures**

Equipment and fixtures consisted of the following:

|                               | <b>December 31,</b> |             |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
|                               | <b>2004</b>         | <b>2003</b> |
| Computer equipment            | \$ 409,135          | \$ 149,166  |
| Furniture and equipment       | 277,680             | 76,582      |
| Software                      | 85,579              | 32,877      |
| Leasehold improvements        | 488,733             |             |
|                               | 1,261,127           | 258,625     |
| Less accumulated depreciation | (228,330 )          | (66,204 )   |
|                               | \$ 1,032,797        | \$ 192,421  |

**MCF CORPORATION****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

In 2004, the Company disposed of equipment and fixtures with a cost basis of \$1,000. In 2003, the Company retired equipment and fixtures with a cost basis and accumulated depreciation of \$249,000 that were no longer used in the Company's operations. In 2002, the Company disposed of equipment and fixtures with a cost basis of \$913,000 and accumulated depreciation of \$673,000 that was not expected to be used in the Company's operations.

**5. Notes Payable and Convertible Notes Payable**

Notes payable and convertible notes payable outstanding at December 31, 2004 and 2003 consisted of the following amounts, presented net of certain discounts:

|                               | <b>December 31,</b> |              |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
|                               | <b>2004</b>         | <b>2003</b>  |
| Convertible notes payable:    |                     |              |
| Notes issued in 2003          | \$ 166,404          | \$ 390,167   |
| Notes issued in 2001          |                     | 130,445      |
|                               | \$ 166,404          | \$ 520,612   |
| Notes payable:                |                     |              |
| Notes issued to Forsythe      | \$ 1,000,000        | \$ 1,000,000 |
| Notes issued to Donald Sledge | 321,324             | 407,370      |
|                               | \$ 1,321,324        | \$ 1,407,370 |

***Convertible Notes Payable Issued in 2003***

In April 2003, the Company completed a private placement financing that included convertible notes payable with aggregate principal of \$1,000,000, due April 2008. The notes bear interest at 3% per annum payable quarterly on January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 beginning July 1, 2003. The notes can be converted to common stock at a rate of \$0.20 per share. In connection with the private placement, the Company issued warrants to purchase 1,250,000 shares of common stock with an exercise price of \$0.30 per share and a five-year term. The convertible notes were

recorded in the statements of financial condition net of discounts resulting from the relative fair value of the stock warrants and beneficial conversion feature totaling \$258,000. The discount is being amortized over the five-year term. In October 2003, notes payable with a face amount of \$500,000 were converted under their original terms into 2,500,000 shares of common stock resulting in the accelerated amortization of discounts in the amount of \$118,000. In December 2004, notes payable with a face amount of \$300,000 were converted under their original terms into 1,500,000 shares of common stock resulting in the accelerated amortization of discounts in the amount of \$50,000.

***Convertible Notes Payable Issued in 2001***

In November and December 2001, the Company completed private offerings of convertible notes, in an aggregate principal amount of \$3.5 million, due December 31, 2011. The notes bear interest at 12% per annum payable quarterly on January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 beginning April 1, 2002. The notes may be converted into shares of the Company's common stock at the election of the holder anytime before their maturity or their prior redemption or repurchase by the Company. The conversion rate is 2,703 shares of the Company's common stock per each \$1,000 principal amount of notes. The Company has the option to redeem all or a portion of the notes that have not been previously converted subsequent to (i) the registration under the Securities Act of 1933 of the common stock underlying the notes and (ii) the common stock achieving a closing price at or above \$1.59 for 20 consecutive trading days.

In June 2003, the stockholders of the Company approved the offer to exchange the current convertible notes for Series C convertible preferred stock. During 2003, investors elected to exchange their notes with a principal amount of \$2.7 million for 10,800,000 shares of Series C preferred stock. The Series C convertible preferred stock is convertible on demand of the holder into common stock at a ratio of 1:1. The holders of the Series C preferred stock receive an annual dividend at the rate of 3.0% per annum, paid in cash and registration rights for the underlying

**MCF CORPORATION**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

common stock. During 2003, certain investors with a principal amount of \$650,000 that did not exchange their convertible notes for preferred stock converted their notes into common stock. During 2004, investors with the remaining principal amount of \$150,000 that did not exchange their convertible notes for preferred stock converted their notes into 405,406 shares of common stock. As of December 31, 2004, the convertible notes are no longer outstanding.

In connection with the initial financing transaction, the Company granted to the convertible note investors warrants to purchase a total of 1,000,000 shares of common stock at \$0.37 per share. The convertible notes were recorded in the statements of financial condition net of discounts resulting from the relative fair value of the stock warrants and beneficial conversion feature in the amount of \$242,000 and \$333,000, respectively. The discounts were being amortized over the ten-year term using the effective interest method. Amortization of discounts during 2004, 2003 and 2002 was approximately \$20,000, \$494,000 and \$57,000, respectively. Debt issuance costs amounting to \$664,000, includes the fair value of warrants issued to the placement agent to purchase a combination of the Company's convertible notes or common stock, plus stock warrants. The debt issuance costs were being amortized over a ten-year term using the straight-line method. Amortization of debt issuance costs during 2004, 2003 and 2002 was approximately \$23,000, \$589,000 and \$68,000, respectively.

***Note Payable Held by Forsythe***

In September 2001, Forsythe McArthur & Associates, or Forsythe, agreed to forego all amounts owed by the Company under a lease obligation in exchange for a convertible note payable and stock warrants. The convertible note payable issued for \$5.9 million accrued interest at 9% per annum and was due August 31, 2006. The interest was payable in cash, the Company's common stock or a combination of both at the discretion of the Company. The note was convertible into shares of common stock on election of Forsythe at August 31, 2006 with a conversion price equal to 80% of the closing market price of the common stock.

In connection with the convertible note, the Company granted to Forsythe a warrant to purchase 520,833 shares of common stock at \$0.48 per share. The convertible note was presented in the statements of financial condition net of discounts resulting from the relative fair value of the stock warrant and beneficial conversion feature. The discounts were being amortized over the five-year term using the effective interest method. Amortization of discounts during 2003 and 2002 was approximately \$60,000 and \$240,000, respectively.

In November 2002, the Company acquired from Forsythe the right to retire the convertible promissory note payable at a significant discount. The Company purchased a call option from Forsythe in exchange for 500,000 shares of the Company's common stock. In April 2003, the Company exercised its right to cancel the convertible promissory note held by Forsythe. Forsythe received the following restructured consideration in full and complete satisfaction of all obligations owed to it by the Company:

- a.  
  
\$500,000 in cash;
- b.  
  
2,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock, including demand registration rights; and
- c.  
  
a new promissory note of principal sum equal to \$1,000,000 bearing interest at 3.5% per annum payable quarterly in cash, maturing on December 31, 2005.

The fair value of the 2,000,000 shares of common stock issued was \$400,000. The new promissory note was recorded at face value while the sum of gross future contractual interest payments amounting to \$105,000 was recorded as interest payable. The total value of the consideration provided to Forsythe to retire the convertible note was \$2,005,000. The carrying value of the convertible note at the time of retirement, net of certain discounts, was \$5,093,000. The Company recorded a gain in the amount of \$3,088,000 as a result this transaction.

***Note Payable Held By Donald Sledge***

During 2001, the Company renegotiated the severance terms included in its employment agreement with Donald Sledge, the former Chairman and CEO of the Company. Upon his leaving the Company in May 2001, the Company issued to Mr. Sledge a 7% convertible note, in an aggregate principal amount of \$400,000, due May 2003.



**MCF CORPORATION**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

Interest is payable at the maturity of the two-year term. In May 2003, the Company and Mr. Sledge agreed to convert the principal and interest due at maturity into a fully amortizing note payable over five years using an effective interest rate of 4.0%. As of December 31, 2004 and 2003, the remaining principal amount of the note payable was \$321,000 and \$407,000, respectively. Mr. Sledge is a member of the Company's Board of Directors.

Interest payable in connection with the notes described above is included with accrued liabilities balance in the statements of financial condition. As of December 31, 2004 and 2003, interest payable amounted to \$35,000 and \$87,000, respectively.

**6. Stockholders' Equity**

***Preferred Stock, Series A***

In April 2001, the Company issued 2,000,000 shares of Series A convertible preferred stock at a price of \$2.19 per share in connection with the purchase of Xpit.com, Inc. The preferred stock was convertible by the holders at a ratio of 1:1 into the Company's common stock. The holders of the Series A preferred stock receive preferred stock dividends at a rate of 6% per annum. The holders of the Series A preferred stock had a liquidation preference of \$2.75 per share, plus all declared but unpaid dividends. During 2002, holders of the Series A preferred stock converted 1,500,001 shares into common stock. During 2003, the Company issued a stock dividend totaling 157,202 shares of Series A preferred stock. During 2004, the Company issued a preferred stock dividend totaling 35,135 shares of Series A preferred stock. The Company offered to certain of the holders of the Series A preferred stock an additional 26,863 shares of common stock to induce the conversion of the remaining shares of Series A preferred stock to common stock. During 2004, holders of the Series A preferred stock converted the remaining 692,336 shares into 719,199 shares of common stock. Additionally during 2004, the Company issued 138,001 shares of its common stock to certain former holders of the Series A convertible preferred stock pursuant to anti-dilution provisions in the Certificate of Designation of the Series A preferred stock.

***Preferred Stock, Series B***

In April 2003, the Company completed a private placement financing that included the issuance of 8,750,000 shares of Series B convertible preferred stock at a purchase price of \$0.20 per share. The preferred stock was convertible by the holders at a ratio of 1:1 into the Company's common stock. The holders of the Series B preferred stock received cash dividends at the rate of 3.0% per annum and registration rights for the underlying common stock. In connection with the private placement, the Company also issued warrants to purchase 2,188,000 shares of common stock with an exercise price of \$0.30 per share and a three-year term. The transaction included officers of MCF Corporation, institutions and accredited investors.

The Series B convertible preferred stock included a term that allowed the Company to induce conversion into common stock subsequent to the Company's stock price closing at or above \$0.60 for ten consecutive days. The stock price milestone was achieved during September 2003. In October 2003, the 8,750,000 shares of Series B preferred stock were converted into common stock. Additionally, the Series B stock warrants included a term requiring investors to exercise the stock warrants within 30 days of the Company's stock price closing at or above \$0.90 for ten consecutive days. The stock price milestone was achieved during September 2003 and stock warrants to purchase 1,562,500 shares issued with the Series B preferred stock were exercised during the fourth quarter of 2003.

#### ***Preferred Stock, Series C***

In April 2003, the Company completed a private placement financing that included the issuance of 1,000,000 shares of Series C convertible preferred stock at a purchase price of \$0.25 per share. The preferred stock was convertible by the holders at a ratio of 1:1 into the Company's common stock. The holders of the Series C preferred stock receive cash dividends at the rate of 3.0% per annum and registration rights for the underlying common stock. In connection with the private placement, the Company also issued warrants to purchase 250,000 shares of common stock with an exercise price of \$0.30 per share and a three-year term.

**MCF CORPORATION**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

In June 2003, the stockholders of the Company approved the offer to exchange the convertible notes payable with an aggregate principal amount of \$3.5 million issued in 2001 for Series C convertible preferred stock. Certain investors elected to exchange their notes with a principal amount of \$2.7 million for 10,800,000 shares of Series C preferred stock. Other investors, with a principal amount of \$650,000 that did not exchange their convertible notes for Series C preferred stock, converted their notes into common stock. As of December 31, 2003, the remaining convertible notes with an aggregate principal amount of \$150,000 were outstanding.

The Series C convertible preferred stock included a term that allowed the Company to induce conversion into common stock subsequent to the Company's stock price closing at or above \$0.75 for ten consecutive days.

The stock price milestone was achieved during September 2003. In October 2003, the 11,800,000 shares of Series C preferred stock were converted into common stock. Additionally, the 250,000 warrants issued in connection with the Series C convertible preferred stock included a term requiring investors to exercise the stock warrants within 30 days of the Company's stock price closing at or above \$0.90 for ten consecutive days. The stock price milestone was achieved during September 2003 and the stock warrants were exercised during the fourth quarter of 2003.

***Common Stock***

In August 2004, the Company entered into a strategic alliance with London Merchant Securities plc, or LMS. In conjunction with this alliance, LMS made a private investment of \$6,000,000 in MCF Corporation. The Company issued 4,615,385 shares of common stock to LMS at \$1.30 per share. LMS was also issued warrants to purchase an additional 1,384,616 shares of common stock at a price of \$1.48 per share. The Company registered these shares with the Securities and Exchange Commission in October 2004.

During 2004, investors of the Company's convertible notes payable issued in 2001 and 2003 converted notes payable into 405,406 and 1,500,000 shares of common stock, respectively (see Note 5). Investors also converted shares of Series A preferred stock into 719,199 shares of common stock. Additionally, the Company issued 138,001 shares of its common stock to certain former holders of the Series A convertible preferred stock pursuant to anti-dilution provisions in the Certificate of Designation of the Series A preferred stock. Common stock issued in connection with the exercise of stock options and stock warrants during 2004 amounted to 3,300,941. Finally, the Company issued 1,406,100 shares of restricted common stock to employees and members of the Company's Board of Directors, 50,000

shares to settle the Glen, Lukrich, Reichard v. MCF Corporation lawsuit and 561,910 shares in connection with the Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

As of December 31, 2003, the Company held 80,000 shares of treasury stock with a basis of \$363,661. During 2004, the 80,000 shares were issued out of treasury in connection with the settlement of the Glen, Lukrich, Reichard v. MCF Corporation lawsuit. The Company recorded a charge to accumulated deficit in the amount of \$231,000 for the difference between the fair value of the 80,000 shares on the date of issuance and the basis in the treasury stock.

During 2003, investors converted notes payable, Series B preferred stock and Series C preferred stock into 4,257,000, 8,750,000 and 11,800,000 shares of common stock, respectively. Common stock issued in connection with the exercise of stock options and stock warrants during 2003 amounted to 2,685,000. Additionally, the Company issued 2,512,000 shares of restricted common stock to employees, 2,000,000 shares to Forsythe, 251,000 shares to various consultants for services rendered and 96,000 shares in connection with the Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

During 2002, the Company issued 1,885,290 shares of common stock to Forsythe for interest expense, 449,876 shares of common stock in connection with RMG achieving specified revenue milestones (see Note 13), and 204,175 shares of common stock to employees and third parties for services rendered.

**MCF CORPORATION****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****7. Stock-Based Compensation*****Stock Options***

The 1999 Stock Option Plan, 2000 Stock Option and Incentive Plan, 2001 Stock Option and Incentive Plan and 2003 Stock Option and Incentive Plan, collectively the Option Plans, permit the Company to grant employees, outside directors, and consultants incentive stock options, nonqualified stock options or stock purchase rights to purchase shares of the Company's common stock. The Option Plans do not permit the exercise of non-vested stock options, and therefore as of December 31, 2004 and 2003 there were no shares subject to repurchase.

As of December 31, 2004, there were 29,600,000 shares authorized for issuance under the Option Plans, and 4,290,000 shares authorized for issuance outside of the Option Plans. As of December 31, 2004, 2,969,483 shares were available for future option grants under the Option Plans. There were no shares available for future option grants outside of the Options Plans.

The Company uses the intrinsic-value method in accounting for its stock-based compensation arrangements for employees, whereby compensation cost is measured to the extent that the fair value of the underlying common stock exceeds the exercise price of the stock options at the date of grant. During 2004, 2003 and 2000, the Company granted to employees stock options to purchase 825,000, 525,000 and 4,015,000 shares with intrinsic value, respectively. These amounts are being amortized on a straight-line basis over the vesting period, generally four years. Compensation expense resulting from option grants with intrinsic value amounted to \$93,000, \$139,000 and \$130,000 in 2004, 2003 and 2002, respectively. As of December 31, 2004, the unamortized expense attributed to option grants with intrinsic value was \$221,000.

A summary of stock option activity is as follows:

|                                  | <b>2004</b>     |              | <b>2003</b>     |              | <b>2002</b>     |              |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                                  | <b>Wtd-Avg</b>  |              | <b>Wtd-Avg</b>  |              | <b>Wtd-Avg</b>  |              |
|                                  | <b>Exercise</b> |              | <b>Exercise</b> |              | <b>Exercise</b> |              |
|                                  | <b>Shares</b>   | <b>Price</b> | <b>Shares</b>   | <b>Price</b> | <b>Shares</b>   | <b>Price</b> |
| Outstanding at beginning of year | 21,946,262      | \$ 0.88      | 12,662,889      | \$ 2.04      | 10,668,149      | \$ 3.63      |
| Granted                          | 1,857,500       | 1.66         | 12,515,000      | 0.44         | 6,448,104       | 0.41         |
| Exercised                        | (859,662 )      | 0.52         | (462,149 )      | 0.35         |                 |              |
| Canceled                         | (1,398,338 )    | 1.91         | (2,769,478 )    | 4.32         | (4,453,364 )    | 3.48         |
| Outstanding at end of year       | 21,545,762      | \$ 0.89      | 21,946,262      | \$ 0.88      | 12,662,889      | \$ 2.04      |

|                            |            |    |      |            |    |      |           |    |      |
|----------------------------|------------|----|------|------------|----|------|-----------|----|------|
| Exercisable at end of year | 17,192,706 | \$ | 0.88 | 14,063,894 | \$ | 0.99 | 7,980,022 | \$ | 2.70 |
|----------------------------|------------|----|------|------------|----|------|-----------|----|------|

***Restricted Stock Grants***

During 2004 and 2003, the Company granted 1,406,110 and 2,511,833 shares of restricted stock. At the date of grant, the recipient has most of the rights of a stockholder other than voting rights, subject to certain restrictions on transferability and a risk of forfeiture. Restricted shares typically vest over a three to four year period beginning on the date of grant. The Company records unearned compensation in stockholders' equity equal to the market value of the restricted shares on the date of grant and charges the unearned compensation to expense over the vesting period.

***Stock Warrants***

During 2004, 2003 and 2002, the Company issued stock warrants to third-party service providers and in connection with the settlement of contractual obligations. Stock-based awards granted to nonemployees are accounted for pursuant to the fair value method in SFAS No. 123 and EITF Issue No. 96-18. The associated expense is measured and recognized by the Company over the period the services are performed by the nonemployee. During 2004, 2003 and 2002, the expense resulting from the issuance of these stock warrants was \$10,000, \$14,000 and \$40,000, respectively.

**MCF CORPORATION****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

As discussed in Note 5 and Note 6, the Company also issued stock warrants to investors in connection with the issuance of convertible notes payable and convertible preferred stock. Such amounts were charged to expense as described in Note 5 and Note 6.

A summary of stock warrant activity is as follows:

|                                  | <b>2004</b>     |              | <b>2003</b>     |              | <b>2002</b>     |              |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                                  | <b>Wtd-Avg</b>  |              | <b>Wtd-Avg</b>  |              | <b>Wtd-Avg</b>  |              |
|                                  | <b>Exercise</b> |              | <b>Exercise</b> |              | <b>Exercise</b> |              |
|                                  | <b>Shares</b>   | <b>Price</b> | <b>Shares</b>   | <b>Price</b> | <b>Shares</b>   | <b>Price</b> |
| Outstanding at beginning of year | 7,554,203       | \$ 2.82      | 7,770,626       | \$ 5.82      | 8,054,376       | \$ 5.91      |
| Granted                          | 1,419,616       | 1.47         | 3,904,250       | 0.29         | 210,000         | 0.30         |
| Exercised                        | (1,839,833 )    | 0.57         | (2,222,500 )    | 0.31         |                 |              |
| Canceled                         | (585,000 )      | 2.77         | (1,898,173 )    | 12.86        | (493,750 )      | 5.00         |
| Outstanding at end of year       | 6,548,986       | \$ 3.16      | 7,554,203       | \$ 2.82      | 7,770,626       | \$ 5.82      |
| Exercisable at end of year       | 6,548,986       | \$ 3.16      | 6,054,203       | \$ 2.24      | 6,270,626       | \$ 5.73      |

***Stock Options and Warrants Outstanding***

Summary of the outstanding stock options and warrants issued to employees and non-employees as of December 31, 2004 were as follows:

| <b>Range of exercise prices</b> | <b>Warrants/</b> | <b>Outstanding</b> | <b>Weighted</b> | <b>Weighted</b> | <b>Exercisable</b> | <b>Warrants/</b> | <b>Weighted</b> |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
|                                 |                  | <b>Weighted</b>    |                 |                 | <b>Weighted</b>    |                  | <b>Weighted</b> |

|                      | <b>Options</b> | <b>Average</b>  | <b>Average</b>      | <b>Options</b> | <b>Average</b>  |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|
|                      |                | <b>Exercise</b> | <b>Remaining</b>    |                | <b>Exercise</b> |
|                      |                | <b>Price</b>    | <b>Contractual</b>  |                | <b>Price</b>    |
|                      |                |                 | <b>Life (years)</b> |                |                 |
| <b>Employees</b>     |                |                 |                     |                |                 |
| \$ 0.18-\$ 1.00      | 16,922,162     | \$ 0.44         | 8.0                 | 14,433,381     | \$ 0.45         |
| \$ 1.01-\$ 2.00      | 1,707,500      | \$ 1.50         | 9.1                 | 541,663        | \$ 1.59         |
| \$ 2.01-\$ 4.00      | 2,131,100      | \$ 3.05         | 6.3                 | 1,581,100      | \$ 3.14         |
| \$ 4.01-\$ 6.00      | 100,000        | \$ 5.69         | 5.5                 | 100,000        | \$ 5.69         |
| \$ 6.01-\$ 7.00      | 300,000        | \$ 7.00         | 5.1                 | 300,000        | \$ 7.00         |
| Employees            | 21,160,762     |                 |                     | 16,956,144     |                 |
| <b>Non-employees</b> |                |                 |                     |                |                 |
| \$ 0.18-\$ 1.00      | 2,589,250      | \$ 0.29         | 3.2                 | 2,440,812      | \$ 0.30         |
| \$ 1.01-\$ 2.00      | 1,394,616      | \$ 1.48         | 3.6                 | 1,394,616      | \$ 1.48         |
| \$ 2.01-\$ 4.00      | 202,000        | \$ 2.76         | 1.1                 | 202,000        | \$ 2.76         |
| \$ 4.01-\$ 6.00      | 2,348,120      | \$ 4.96         | 1.0                 | 2,348,120      | \$ 4.96         |
| \$ 6.01-\$ 7.00      |                | \$              |                     |                | \$              |
| \$14.40              | 400,000        | \$ 14.40        | 0.2                 | 400,000        | \$ 14.40        |
| Non-employees        | 6,933,986      |                 |                     | 6,785,548      |                 |
| Total                | 28,094,748     |                 |                     | 23,741,692     |                 |

The weighted average fair value of each option and warrant granted in 2004 was \$0.94 and \$1.10, respectively. The weighted average fair value of each option and warrant granted in 2003 was \$0.28 and \$0.13, respectively. The weighted average fair value of each option and warrant granted in 2002 was \$0.22 and \$0.25, respectively.

**MCF CORPORATION****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

The fair value of each option grant is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option pricing model with the following weighted average assumptions for 2004, 2003 and 2002:

|                               | <b>2004</b> | <b>2003</b> | <b>2002</b> |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Risk-free interest rate       | 2.40 %      | 1.64 %      | 2.42 %      |
| Dividend yield                |             |             |             |
| Volatility                    | 100 %       | 100 %       | 100 %       |
| Average expected term (years) | 2.0         | 2.0         | 2.0         |

The Black-Scholes option pricing model was developed for use in estimating the fair value of traded options that have no vesting restrictions and are fully transferable. In addition, option pricing models require the input of highly subjective assumptions including the expected stock price volatility. The Company uses projected volatility rates, which are based upon historical volatility rates trended into future years. The Company's employee stock options have characteristics significantly different from those of traded options, and changes in the subjective input assumptions can materially affect the fair value estimates.

**8. Employee Benefit Plans**

The Company has a 401(k) defined contribution plan. The 401(k) plan allows eligible employees to contribute up to 15% of their compensation, subject to a statutory prescribed annual limit. Employee contributions and earnings thereon vest immediately. Although the Company may make discretionary contributions to the 401(k) plan, none were made during 2004, 2003 and 2002.

In May 2002, the stockholders approved the Company's 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, or ESPP, under which 3,550,124 shares of common stock have been reserved for issuance. Eligible employees may purchase a limited number of shares of the Company's stock at 85% of the market value at certain plan-defined dates. During 2004, 2003 and 2002, there were 561,910, 96,000 and 0 shares of common stock issued under the ESPP, respectively.

**9. Income Taxes**

Income tax expense consisted of the following for the three years ended December 31, 2004:

|          | <b>2004</b> | <b>2003</b> | <b>2002</b> |
|----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Current: |             |             |             |
| Federal  | \$ 213,165  | \$ 13,816   | \$          |
| State    | 36,579      | 61,068      |             |
| Total    | \$ 249,744  | \$ 74,884   | \$          |

No provision for federal income taxes was recorded during 2002 as the Company incurred net operating losses during the period and provided a valuation allowance against the increase in its deferred tax assets.

The following table reconciles the federal statutory rate to the effective tax rate of the provision for income taxes for the three years ended December 31, 2004:

|                                                 | <b>2004</b> | <b>2003</b> | <b>2002</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Federal statutory income tax rate (benefit)     | 34 %        | 34 %        | (34 )%      |
| State income taxes                              | 2           | 2           |             |
| Gain on retirement of convertible note payable  |             | (34 )       |             |
| Permanent differences                           | 6           | 8           |             |
| Losses for which no benefit has been recognized | (30 )       | (8 )        | 34          |
| Effective tax rate                              | 12 %        | 2 %         | %           |

**MCF CORPORATION****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

The tax effect of temporary differences that give rise to significant portions of the deferred tax assets as of December 31, 2004 and 2003 are presented as follows:

|                                         | <b>December 31,</b> |                |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
|                                         | <b>2004</b>         | <b>2003</b>    |
| <b>Deferred tax assets:</b>             |                     |                |
| Net operating loss carryforwards        | \$ 20,154,588       | \$ 22,533,533  |
| Stock options and warrants for services | 11,333,120          | 11,044,115     |
| Other                                   | (193,005 )          | (44,222 )      |
| <br>Total deferred tax assets           | <br>31,294,703      | <br>33,533,426 |
| Valuation allowance                     | (31,294,703 )       | (33,533,426 )  |
| <br>Net deferred tax assets             | <br>\$              | <br>\$         |

The net change in the valuation allowance for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003 was a decrease of \$2,239,000 and \$2,996,000, respectively. The Company has established a valuation allowance against that portion of deferred tax assets where management was not able to determine that it is more likely than not that the asset will be realized.

As of December 31, 2004, the Company had federal and state operating loss carryforwards of approximately \$54,154,000 and \$29,863,000, respectively. If not earlier utilized, the federal net operating loss carryforward will expire in 2019 and the state loss carryforward will expire in 2007.

Utilization of the net operating loss carry-forwards and credits is subject to an annual limitation due to the ownership change limitations provided by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and similar state provisions. The annual limitation will result in the expiration of a portion of net operating loss carryforwards before utilization.

**10. Earnings (Loss) per Share**

The following is a reconciliation of the basic and diluted net income (loss) available to common stockholders and the number of shares used in the basic and diluted net income (loss) per common share computations for the periods presented:

|                                                                                      | <b>2004</b>  | <b>2003</b>  | <b>2002</b>     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Net income (loss)                                                                    | \$ 1,874,286 | \$ 2,971,263 | \$ (3,404,642 ) |
| Deemed dividend for issuance of preferred stock                                      |              | (537,602 )   |                 |
| Preferred stock dividends                                                            | (92,757 )    | (115,200 )   | (189,486 )      |
| Net income (loss) available to common stockholders basic                             | 1,781,529    | 2,318,461    | (3,594,128 )    |
| Interest and dividends on dilutive common shares                                     |              | 234,377      |                 |
| Net income (loss) available to common stockholders diluted                           | \$ 1,781,529 | \$ 2,552,838 | \$ (3,594,128 ) |
| Weighted-average number of common shares basic                                       | 58,578,048   | 32,501,831   | 20,303,927      |
| Assumed exercise or conversion of all potentially dilutive common shares outstanding | 19,597,073   | 12,928,561   |                 |
| Weighted-average number of common shares diluted                                     | 78,175,121   | 45,430,392   | 20,303,927      |
| Basic net income (loss) per share                                                    | \$ 0.03      | \$ 0.07      | \$ (0.18 )      |
| Diluted net income (loss) per share                                                  | \$ 0.02      | \$ 0.06      | \$ (0.18 )      |

**MCF CORPORATION****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

During 2003, the investors in the Company's Series B and Series C convertible preferred stock received detachable stock warrants. Deemed dividend for issuance of preferred stock represents the relative fair value assigned to the stock warrants together with the relative fair value of the beneficial conversion feature inherent with the convertible preferred stock. These amounts were charged to accumulated deficit during the year ended December 31, 2003. All preferred stock dividends, including the deemed dividend described above, are deducted from net income (loss) to arrive at net income (loss) available to common stockholders.

Basic earnings (loss) per share is computed by dividing net income (loss), less dividends on preferred stock, by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding, excluding unvested restricted stock. Diluted earnings per share is calculated for 2004 and 2003 by dividing net income, less dividends on preferred stock, by the weighted average number of common shares used in the basic earnings per share calculation plus the number of common shares that would be issued assuming exercise or conversion of all potentially dilutive common shares outstanding, including unvested restricted stock. Diluted loss per share is unchanged from basic loss per share for 2002 because the addition of common shares that would be issued assuming exercise or conversion would be anti-dilutive.

Shares used in the diluted net income (loss) per share computation in the above table include the dilutive impact of the Company's stock options and warrants. The impact of the Company's stock options and warrants on shares used for the diluted earnings per share computation is calculated based on the average share price of the Company's common stock for each period using the treasury stock method. Under the treasury stock method, the tax-effected proceeds that would be hypothetically received from the exercise of all stock options and warrants with exercise prices below the average share price of the Company's common stock are assumed to be used to repurchase shares of the Company's common stock. The dilutive impact of the Company's stock options was calculated using an average price of the Company's common stock of \$1.82 and \$0.55 per share for 2004 and 2003, respectively. Because the Company reported a net loss during 2002, the Company excluded the impact of all stock options and warrants in the computation of dilutive earnings per share, as their effect would be anti-dilutive.

The Company excludes all potentially dilutive securities from its diluted net income (loss) per share computation when their effect would be anti-dilutive. The following common stock equivalents were excluded from the earnings per share computation, as their inclusion would have been anti-dilutive:

| <b>2004</b> | <b>2003</b> | <b>2002</b> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 5,385,455   | 7,690,997   |             |

Stock options and warrants excluded due to the exercise price exceeding the average fair value of the Company's common stock during the period

Weighted average stock options and warrants, calculated using the treasury stock method, that were excluded due to the Company reporting a net loss during the period

17,490,127

Weighted average shares issuable upon conversion of the convertible notes payable

2,523,999

5,679,056

30,851,493

Weighted average shares issuable upon conversion of the convertible preferred stock

179,074

4,959,040

1,263,329

Total common stock equivalents excluded from diluted net income (loss) per share

8,088,528

18,329,093

49,604,949

**MCF CORPORATION****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****11. Commitments and Contingencies**

The following is a table summarizing our significant commitments as of December 31, 2004, consisting of debt service payments related to convertible and non-convertible notes payable and future minimum lease payments under all non-cancelable operating leases with initial or remaining terms in excess of one year.

|                   | <b>Notes</b>   | <b>Operating</b> | <b>Capital</b> |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
|                   | <b>Payable</b> | <b>Leases</b>    | <b>Leases</b>  |
| 2005              | \$ 1,141,775   | \$ 801,500       | \$ 195,480     |
| 2006              | 106,775        | 896,036          | 194,321        |
| 2007              | 106,775        | 770,249          | 115,487        |
| 2008              | 243,990        | 614,520          |                |
| 2009              |                | 549,310          |                |
| Thereafter        |                | 1,123,895        |                |
| Total commitments | \$ 1,599,315   | \$ 4,755,510     | \$ 505,288     |

The Company entered into a seven year lease for its new San Francisco corporate office under a noncancelable operating lease which expires in August 2011. The Company also entered into a new three year noncancelable operating lease for office space in New York. Future annual minimum lease payments related to these operating leases are included in the table above. Rent expense was approximately \$753,000, \$253,000 and \$110,000 in 2004, 2003 and 2002, respectively.

***Legal Proceedings***

**Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. v. The Seidler Companies, Inc. NASD Arbitration**

During 2004, Merriman Curhan Ford & Co, or MCF&Co., our investment bank and broker-dealer subsidiary hired a research analyst. Prior to employment with Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. the analyst was employed by The Seidler Companies, Inc., or Seidler, in a similar capacity. The analyst was employed under an employment contract that included terms which general counsel and outside counsel believe unlawfully restrict the analyst's employment activities.

In March 2004, Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. acted as co-agents for a small private placement for a client. The client was introduced to one of MCF&Co.'s investment banking managing directors. At the time of introduction, Seidler had been trying to win the investment banking business, but had failed to obtain a signed engagement letter with the client. MCF&Co. subsequently received a signed engagement letter from the client that named Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. as co-placement agent. The investment banking transaction was completed.

Thereafter, in March 2004 MCF&Co. received a cease and desist letter from attorneys representing Seidler. Seidler claims that the analyst used proprietary information in violation of his employment agreement when introducing Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. to the client. Seidler further claims that MCF&Co. used unfair business tactics to win the business. In response to the claims, MCF&Co. and the analyst filed a claim in arbitration with the NASD in June 2004. It is the Company's belief that as members of the NASD, Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. and Seidler must resolve their disputes before the NASD arbitration board. The Company alleges unfair business practice and seeks a declaration that the analyst's prior employment contract is unenforceable.

On July 16, 2004, MCF&Co. was served with a complaint from Seidler filed in the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Plaintiffs are seeking unspecified damages. MCF&Co. has successfully moved to stay the legal action. The matter is in the preliminary stages of arbitration, however, based upon the facts as the Company knows them to date, management does not believe that the outcome will have a material effect on the Company.

## **MCF CORPORATION**

### **NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

#### **Glen, Lukrich, Reichard v. MCF Corporation**

A former member of the board of directors from April 1999 to February 2000, a former independent contractor who performed the corporate controller function from December 1998 to May 2000 and a former chief executive and member of the board of directors from May 1999 to October 2000 are named plaintiffs in a complaint filed in the Superior Court of California, City and County of San Francisco on April 8, 2004 seeking unspecified damages.

The plaintiffs allege that stock option agreements given to them in May of 1999 are still valid and exercisable. The Company rejected the plaintiffs' requests to exercise their stock option grants on the basis that they expired several years ago after the plaintiffs completed their services to the Company. In November 2004, the Company and the plaintiffs signed a binding settlement agreement providing for the issuance to plaintiffs of 130,000 shares of MCF Corporation common stock.

#### **Other Matters**

Additionally, from time to time, the Company is involved as a defendant or plaintiff in various actions that arise in the ordinary course of business. The Company believes that the ultimate disposition of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

### **12. Financial Instruments, Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements and Credit Risk**

#### ***Financial Instruments***

The Company's broker-dealer entity trades securities that are primarily traded in United States markets. As of December 31, 2004 and 2003, the Company had not entered into any transactions involving financial instruments, such as financial futures, forward contracts, options, swaps or derivatives that would expose the Company to significant related off-balance-sheet risk.

In addition, the Company, from time to time, has sold securities it does not currently own in anticipation of a decline in the fair value of that security (securities sold, not yet purchased). Securities sold, not yet purchased represent obligations of the Company to deliver the specified security at the contracted price and thereby create a liability to purchase the security in the market at prevailing prices. These transactions result in off-balance sheet risk as the Company's ultimate obligation to purchase such securities may exceed the amount recognized in the consolidated statements of financial condition.

Market risk is primarily caused by movements in market prices of the Company's trading and investment account securities. The Company's trading securities and investments are also subject to interest rate volatility and possible illiquidity in markets in which the Company trades or invests. The Company seeks to control market risk through monitoring procedures. The Company's principal transactions are primarily long and short equity and debt transactions.

***Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements***

The Company was not a party to any off-balance sheet arrangements during the three years ended December 31, 2004. In particular, the Company does not have any interest in so-called limited purpose entities, which include special purpose entities and structured finance entities.

***Credit Risk***

The Company's broker-dealer subsidiary functions as a introducing broker that places and executes customer orders. The orders are then settled by an unrelated clearing organization that maintains custody of customers' securities and provides financing to customers. Through indemnification provisions in agreements with clearing organizations, customer activities may expose the Company to off-balance-sheet credit risk. Financial instruments may have to be purchased or sold at prevailing market prices in the event a customer fails to settle a trade on its original terms or in the event cash and securities in customer margin accounts are not sufficient to fully cover customer obligations. The Company seeks to control the risks associated with customer activities through customer screening and selection procedures as well as through requirements on customers to maintain margin collateral in compliance with various regulations and clearing organization policies.

**MCF CORPORATION****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****13. RMG Partners Corporation**

In 2001, the Company formed RMG Partners Corporation as a wholly owned subsidiary to provide risk management solutions through the use of derivative trading strategies. An affiliate of the principals of RMG, BL Partners, LLC, had the right to purchase the Company's interest in RMG for \$300,000. In April 2002, BL Partners, LLC exercised its right to purchase RMG in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

RMG represented a component of the Company's business. Pursuant to SFAS No. 144, *Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets*, the balances pertaining to RMG have been reclassified in the consolidated financial statements to reflect the disposition of this subsidiary. The revenue, expenses, assets and liabilities, and cash flows of these operations have been segregated in the consolidated financial statements for all periods presented and have been separately reported as discontinued operations.

Loss from discontinued operations is comprised of the following revenue and expenses:

|                                            | <b>Year Ended December 31,</b> |             |               |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
|                                            | <b>2004</b>                    | <b>2003</b> | <b>2002</b>   |
| Revenue of discontinued operations         | \$                             | \$          | \$ 729,946    |
| Expenses of discontinued operations        |                                |             | (992,789 )    |
| Interest income of discontinued operations |                                |             |               |
| Loss from discontinued operations          | \$                             | \$          | \$ (262,843 ) |

**14. Regulatory Requirements**

Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. is a broker-dealer subject to Rule 15c3-1 of the Securities and Exchange Commission, which specifies uniform minimum net capital requirements, as defined, for their registrants. As of December 31, 2004, Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. had regulatory net capital, as defined, of \$11,639,000, which exceeded the amount required by \$11,157,000. Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. is exempt from Rules 15c3-3 and 17a-13 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 because it does not carry customer accounts, nor does it hold customer securities or cash.

## **15. Related Party Transactions**

As described in Note 5, the Company issued a \$400,000 convertible note payable during 2001 to the former Chairman and CEO of the Company in connection with severance terms included in his employment agreement. In May 2003, the Company and Mr. Sledge agreed to convert the principal and interest due at maturity into a five year fully amortizing note payable. As of December 31, 2004, the remaining principal amount of the note payable was \$321,000. Mr. Sledge currently serves as a member of the Company's Board of Directors.

From time to time, officers, directors, employees and/or certain large stockholders of the Company may invest in private placements which the Company arranges and for which the Company charges investment banking fees.

In April 2003, officers, directors and employees of the Company participated as investors in the Series B preferred stock private placement financing.

## **16. Subsequent Events**

In January 2005, the Company announced that it had signed a definitive agreement to acquire Catalyst Financial Planning & Investment Management, Inc., or Catalyst, a fee-only registered investment advisor based in Oakland, California with over \$100 million of assets under management. It is expected that Catalyst will reside in a newly created wholly owned subsidiary of MCF Corporation called MCF Wealth Management, LLC. Catalyst will remain headquartered in its existing Oakland office and Madelyn Mallory, president and CEO of Catalyst, will retain that title and continue to oversee the management of the firm. The transaction is expected to close in March 2005 and is subject to certain closing conditions.

**ITEM 9.**

**CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE**

The financial statements included in this report have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent auditors, as stated in their audit report appearing herein.

During the year ended December 31, 2004 and through the date of this Annual Report on Form 10-K, there were no disagreements with Ernst & Young LLP on any matter of accounting principle or practice, financial statement disclosure, or auditing scope or procedure which, if not resolved to Ernst & Young LLP's satisfaction, would have caused them to make reference to the subject matter in connection with their report on our consolidated financial statements; and there were no reportable events as set forth in applicable SEC regulations.

**ITEM 9A.**

**CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

**Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures** We have established disclosure controls and procedures to ensure that material information relating to the Company, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to the officers who certify the Company's financial reports and to other members of senior management and the Board of Directors.

Based on their evaluation as of December 31, 2004, the principal executive officer and principal financial officer of the Company have concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) are effective.

**Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting** Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f). Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, we conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting based on the framework in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on our evaluation under the framework in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework*, our management concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2004. Our management's assessment of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2004 has been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report which is included herein.

**Changes in internal controls** No change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rules 13a-15(d) and 15d-15(d) of the Exchange Act) occurred during the quarter ended December 31, 2004, that materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

**ITEM 9B.**

**OTHER INFORMATION**

Not applicable.

**Report of Ernst & Young LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

The Board of Directors and Stockholders of

MCF Corporation and subsidiaries

We have audited management's assessment, included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting, that MCF Corporation and subsidiaries (the Company) maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2004, based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (the COSO criteria). The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on management's assessment and an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, evaluating management's assessment, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed 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. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, management's assessment that the Company maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2004, is fairly stated, in all material respects, based on the COSO criteria. Also, in our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2004, based on the COSO criteria.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated statements of financial condition of the Company as of December 31, 2004 and 2003, and the related consolidated statements of operations, stockholders' equity (deficit), and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2004 of the Company and our report dated February 11, 2005 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ ERNST & YOUNG LLP

San Francisco, California

February 11, 2005

**PART III****ITEM 10.****DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRANT**

The table below sets forth certain information concerning each of the Directors and executive officers of MCF Corporation:

| <b>Name</b>            | <b>Age</b> | <b>Position</b>                                                |
|------------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| D. Jonathan Merriman   | 44         | Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer |
| Gregory S. Curhan      | 43         | Executive Vice President                                       |
| Robert E. Ford         | 44         | President and Chief Operating Officer                          |
| John D. Hiestand       | 36         | Chief Financial Officer                                        |
| Christopher L. Aguilar | 42         | General Counsel                                                |
| Patrick H. Arbor       | 68         | Director                                                       |
| Anthony B. Helfet      |            | Director                                                       |
| Raymond J. Minehan     | 63         | Director                                                       |
| Scott Potter           | 36         | Director                                                       |
| Dennis G. Schmal       | 57         | Director                                                       |
| Donald H. Sledge       | 64         | Director                                                       |
| Ronald E. Spears       | 56         | Director                                                       |
| Steven W. Town         | 44         | Director                                                       |

*D. Jonathan Merriman* has served as our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer from February 2002. Prior to that period, Mr. Merriman was President and CEO of Ratexchange Corporation, the predecessor company to MCF Corporation. Mr. Merriman and his team engineered the transition of Ratexchange, a software trading platform company, into a full service institutional investment banking firm, MCF Corporation. From June 1998 to October 2000, Mr. Merriman was Managing Director and Head of the Equity Capital Markets Group and member of the Board of Directors at First Security Van Kasper. In this capacity, he oversaw the Research, Institutional Sales, Equity Trading, Syndicate and Derivatives Trading departments. From June 1997 to June 1998, Mr. Merriman served as Managing Director and Head of Capital Markets at The Seidler Companies in Los Angeles, where he also served on the firm's Board of Directors. Before Seidler, Mr. Merriman was Director of Equities for Dabney/Resnick/Imperial, LLC. In 1989, Mr. Merriman co-founded the hedge fund company Curhan, Merriman Capital Management, Inc., which managed money for high net worth individuals and corporations. Before Curhan, Merriman Capital

Management, Inc., he worked in the Risk Arbitrage Department at Bear Stearns & Co. as a trader. Prior to Bear Stearns, Mr. Merriman worked at Merrill Lynch as a financial analyst and as an institutional equity salesman. Mr. Merriman received his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Dartmouth College and completed coursework at New York University's Graduate School of Business. Mr. Merriman has served on the Boards of several organizations over the past decade, including Ratexchange (the predecessor of MCF Corporation) Leading Brands, Inc., Fiberstars Inc. & The San Francisco Art Institute.

*Gregory S. Curhan* has served as our Executive Vice President from January 2002 to present and served as Chief Financial Officer from January 2002 to January 2004. Previously, he served as Chief Financial Officer of WorldRes.com from May 1999 through June 2001. Prior to joining WorldRes.com, Mr. Curhan served as Director of Global Technology Research Marketing and Managing Director Specialty Technology Institutional Equity Sales at Merrill Lynch & Co. from May 1998 to May 1999. Prior to joining Merrill Lynch, Mr. Curhan was a partner in the investment banking firm of Volpe Brown Whelan & Co., serving in various capacities including Internet research analyst and Director of Equities from May 1993 to May 1998. Mr. Curhan was a founder and principal of the investment advisor Curhan, Merriman Capital Management from July 1988 through December 1992. Prior to founding Curhan, Merriman, Mr. Curhan was a Vice President institutional equity sales for Montgomery Securities from June 1985 through June 1988. From August 1983 to May 1985, Mr. Curhan was a financial analyst in the investment banking group at Merrill Lynch. Mr. Curhan earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Dartmouth College.

*Robert E. Ford* had served as President and Chief Operating Officer for MCF Corporation since February 2001. He brings 20 years of executive and operations experience to the Company. Prior to joining MCF Corporation from February 2000 to February 2001, Mr. Ford was a co-Founder and CEO of Metacat, Inc., a content management ASP that specialized in enabling supplier catalogs for Global 2000 private exchanges and eMarketplaces. From June 1996

to December 1999, he was President/COO and on the founding team of JobDirect.com, a leading resume and job matching service for university students, now a wholly-owned subsidiary of Korn Ferry International. Previously, Mr. Ford co-founded and managed an education content company from September 1994 to 1996. Prior to that, from May 1992 to August 1994, he headed up a turnaround and merger as General Manager of a 65 year-old manufacturing and distribution company. Mr. Ford started his career as VP of Business Development at Lazar Enterprises, a technology-consulting firm he helped operate from June 1989 to February 1992. He earned his Masters in International Business and Law from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in 1989 at Tufts University and a BA with high distinction from Dartmouth College in 1982.

*John D. Hiestand* joined MCF Corporation as the Controller in January 2002 and became Chief Financial Officer in January 2004. From December 2000 to November 2001, he served as the Controller of the Metro-Switching Division at CIENA Corporation. Mr. Hiestand had come to CIENA through the merger with Cyrus Systems, Inc., where he served as the Controller from March 2000 to December 2000. Prior to joining Cyrus Systems, Inc., Mr. Hiestand served as a Senior Manager in the audit practice at KPMG LLP in San Francisco. Mr. Hiestand received a Bachelor of Arts in Business from California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo in 1991, and holds the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designations.

*Christopher L. Aguilar* has served as General Counsel of MCF Corporation from March 2000 to present and serves as General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer of Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. He brings 15 years of legal and regulatory experience to the Company. From August 1995 to March 2000, Mr. Aguilar was a partner at Bradley, Curley & Asiano, a San Francisco law firm, where he represented the interests of public and private corporations, small businesses and individuals in commercial litigation. Mr. Aguilar has also worked for the San Francisco City Attorney and Alameda County District Attorney's offices. Mr. Aguilar received his juris doctorate degree from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. He also attended Oxford University as an undergraduate and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the Integral Program at St. Mary's College of California where he was included in Who's Who among American Colleges and Universities. Mr. Aguilar is presently an adjunct professor at University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

*Patrick H. Arbor* has served as a member of our Board of Director since February 2001 and has served as a member of the audit committee since April 2001. Mr. Arbor is currently Chairman of United Financial Holdings Inc., a bank holding company, and is a principal of the trading firm of Shatkin-Arbor & Co. He is a longtime member of the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT), the world's oldest derivatives exchange, serving as the organization's Chairman from 1993 to 1999. During that period, Mr. Arbor also served on the Board of Directors of the National Futures Association. Prior to that, he served as Vice Chairman of the CBOT for three years and ten years as a Director. Mr. Arbor's other exchange memberships include the Chicago Board Options Exchange, the Mid-America Commodity Exchange and the Chicago Stock Exchange. Mr. Arbor received his undergraduate degree in business and economics from Loyola University.

*Anthony B. Helfet*, a retired investment banker, has been a director since February 2004. Mr. Helfet was a Special Advisor to UBS Warburg from September 2001 through December 2001. From 1991 to August 31, 2001, Mr. Helfet was a Managing Director of Dillon, Read & Co. Inc. and its successor organization, UBS Warburg. Mr. Helfet was

also a Managing Director of the Northwest Region of Merrill Lynch Capital Markets from 1979 to 1989. Mr. Helfet received his A.B. degree from Columbia College in 1966 and his M.B.A. from the graduate school of business at Columbia University in 1972. From 1967 until 1970, Mr. Helfet served as an infantry officer in the United States Marine Corps and served in Vietnam in 1968 and 1969. Mr. Helfet serves on the Board of Directors of Layne Christensen Company and Alliance Imaging Inc.

*Raymond J. Minehan* has served as a member of our Board of Directors and as a member of our audit committee and compensation committee since August 2003. From February 2001 to February 2002, Mr. Minehan served as the Chief Financial Officer at Memestreams, Inc., a startup company that was developing information management software. From January 1997 to August 2000, he served as the Chief Administrative Officer at Sutro & Co. where he was responsible for all administrative functions including finance, management information systems, telecommunications, operations, human resources and facilities. From 1989 to 1997, he served as chief financial officer at Hambrecht & Quist, Inc. From 1972 to 1989, Mr. Minehan served as a partner with Arthur Andersen LLP. Mr. Minehan served in the United States Air Force as a navigator assigned to the Strategic Air Command as B-52 navigator/electronic warfare officer. He attained the rank of Captain. Mr. Minehan received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Finance from Golden Gate University.

*Scott Potter* became a Director of MCF Corporation in August 2004. He currently serves as a Managing Director of LMS Capital, the venture capital arm of London Merchant Securities plc (LON:LMSO), where Mr. Potter is responsible for LMS' North American Private Equity portfolio. LMS is a FTSE 250 investment company. In his 12 year Silicon Valley career, Mr. Potter has been involved in over 50 venture capital financings, 25 IPO's, and 20 M&A transactions. Prior to joining LMS, Mr. Potter held the position of Senior Vice President, Field Operations at Inktomi Corporation where he had responsibility for Inktomi's sales force, business development, consulting services, and field offices. From 1999-2002, Mr. Potter served as President and CEO of Quiver, Inc., an enterprise software company funded by some of the world's leading Venture Capital firms, including Hummer Winblad Venture Partners, El Dorado Ventures, Partech International, Weiss Peck & Greer, and LMS Capital. Under Mr. Potter's leadership, Quiver became a leading company in the Information Management space, and ultimately was acquired by Inktomi in August of 2002. Prior to his tenure at Quiver, Mr. Potter was Executive Vice President in charge of business development and corporate development at Worldres, Inc., an online travel technology company. Mr. Potter's career began as an attorney for one of Silicon Valley's leading law firms, Venture Law Group. A frequent speaker at technology industry conferences and investor forums, Mr. Potter holds a BA in Industrial Psychology from the University of California at Berkeley and a JD Degree from UC Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law.

*Dennis G. Schmal* has served as a member of our Board of Directors and as a member of our audit committee since August 2003. From February 1972 to April 1999, Mr. Schmal served as a partner in the audit practice at Arthur Andersen LLP. Mr. Schmal now performs a variety of consulting services for a number of companies. As a senior business advisor with special focus in finance, he has extensive knowledge of financial reporting and holds the CPA designation. Besides serving on the boards of two private companies, Mr. Schmal also serves on the Board of Directors for Varian Semiconductor Equipment Associates, Inc. (VSEA), a public company. Mr. Schmal attended California State University, Fresno where he received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration- Finance and Accounting Option.

*Donald H. Sledge* has served as a member of our Board of Directors from September 1999 to present and Chairman of our Board of Directors from February 2000 to June 2001. He has served as a member of the compensation committee from April 2001 to present. He also served as Chief Executive Officer from February 2000 to October 2000. From September 1999 to February of 2000 he served as President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of our subsidiary Ralexchange I, Inc. From October 2000 to October 2003, Mr. Sledge was a general partner in Fremont Communications, a venture capital fund, based in San Francisco. From January 1996 to September 1999, Mr. Sledge was Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of TeleHub Communications Corporation, a next generation ATM-based telecommunications company. From 1994 to 1995, Mr. Sledge served as President and Chief Operating Officer of WCT, a \$160-million long distance telephone company that was one of Fortune Magazine's 25 fastest growing public companies before it was acquired by Frontier Corporation. From 1993 to 1994, Mr. Sledge was head of operations for New T&T, a Hong Kong-based start-up. He was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of New Zealand Telecom International from 1991 to 1993 and a member of the executive board of TCNZ. Mr. Sledge held various other senior positions with Telecom New Zealand from 1988 until 1993 as was instrumental in leading the IPO of the company. Mr. Sledge also served four years as president and Chief Executive Officer of Pacific Telesis International. Mr. Sledge is also an owner and Board Member of DataProse, a company providing direct mail and billing statement solutions. In addition, Mr. Sledge serves on the Board of MobilePro (OTCBB:MOBL) and the Board of CasaByte, a private company providing quality of service testing for cellular networks. Mr. Sledge holds a Masters of Business Administration and Bachelor of Arts degree in industrial management from Texas Technological University.

*Ronald E. Spears* has served as a member of our Board of Directors from March 2000 to present and served as a member of the Audit Committee from April 2001 to August 2003. Since March 2002, Mr. Spears has served as President of AT&T's Signature Client Group, the sales organization that serves AT&T's largest 325 Global accounts. From October 1990 until joining AT&T in 2002, Mr. Spears served in a number of early stage ventures primarily

involved in the development and sale of technology solutions to large corporate enterprises . During this time, he served as Chief Operating Officer of e.Spire Communications, an East Coast CLEC; Chief Executive Officer of CMGI Solutions, an Internet Professional Services firm; and Chief Executive Officer of Vaultus, a wireless software company. In these roles, he led several successful equity and debt offerings for these ventures. Mr. Spears also served in various capacities at MCI Communications from 1979 to 1990; his last position was President of MCI's Midwest Division from 1984 to 1990. A pioneer of the competitive long distance industry, Mr. Spears began his career in telecommunications as a manager at AT&T Long Lines in 1978, following eight years as an officer in the United States Army. He is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, and also holds a Master's Degree in Public Service from Western Kentucky University.

*Steven W. Town* has served as a member of our Board of Directors from October 2000 to present and has served as a member of the compensation committee since April 2001. Mr. Town has served as Co-Chief Executive Officer of the Amerex Natural Gas, Amerex Power and Amerex Bandwidth, Ltd. Mr. Town began his commodities career in 1987 in the retail futures industry prior to joining the Amerex Group of Companies. He began the Amerex futures and forwards brokerage group in natural gas in 1990, in Washington D.C., and moved this unit of Amerex to Houston in 1992. During Mr. Town's tenure as Co-Chief Executive Officer, the Amerex companies have become the leading brokerage organizations in their respective industries. Amerex currently provides energy, power and bandwidth brokerage services to many of the energy companies. Mr. Town is a graduate of Oklahoma State University.

The Company has a standing audit committee whose members are Dennis G. Schmal, Raymond J. Minehan and Patrick H. Arbor.

There is no family relationship among any of the foregoing officers or between any of the foregoing executive officers and any Director of the Company.

The information set forth under the caption "Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance" is incorporated by reference to the Company's definitive 2004 Proxy Statement.

#### **Audit Committee Financial Expert**

The board of directors has determined that Dennis G. Schmal and Raymond J. Minehan are audit committee financial experts and independent as defined under applicable SEC and American Stock Exchange rules. The board's affirmative determination for Dennis G. Schmal was based, among other things, upon his 27 years at Arthur Andersen LLP, most of those years as a partner in the audit practice. The board's affirmative determination for Raymond J. Minehan was based, among other things, upon his extensive experience as chief administrative officer of Sutro & Co. and, prior to that, as chief financial officer of Hambrecht & Quist, Inc. and, prior to that, as audit partner of Arthur Andersen LLP.

#### **Financial Code of Ethics**

The Company has adopted its Finance Code of Professional Conduct, a code of ethics that applies to our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and other finance organization employees. The finance code of ethics is publicly available on our website at [www.merrimanco.com](http://www.merrimanco.com). If we make any substantive amendments to the finance code of ethics or grant any waiver, including any implicit waiver, from a provision of the code to our Chief Executive Officer or Chief Financial Officer, we will disclose the nature of such amendment or waiver on that website or in a report on Form 8-K.

**ITEM 11.**

**EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

The information is incorporated by reference to the Company's definitive 2005 Proxy Statement.

**ITEM 12.**

**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

The information is incorporated by reference to the Company's definitive 2005 Proxy Statement.

**ITEM 13.**

**CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS**

The information is incorporated by reference to the Company's definitive 2005 Proxy Statement.

**ITEM 14.**

**PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES**

The information is incorporated by reference to the Company's definitive 2005 Proxy Statement.

**PART IV**

**ITEM 15. EXHIBITS, FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES, AND REPORTS ON FORM 8-K**

(a) 1. The information required by this item is included in Item 8 of Part II of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

2. Financial Statement Schedules

The required schedules are omitted because of the absence of conditions under which they are required or because the required information is presented in the financial statements or notes thereto.

3. Exhibits

The exhibits listed in the accompanying index to exhibits are filed or incorporated by reference as part of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

(b) Reports on Form 8-K

Current Report on Form 8-K dated November 12, 2004, MCF Corporation reporting the announcement of earnings for the third quarter of 2004.

## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) 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.

### MCF CORPORATION

By: **/s/ D. JONATHAN MERRIMAN**  
**D. Jonathan Merriman,**  
**Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer**

February 14, 2005

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

| Signature                                               | Title                                                | Date              |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| /s/ D. JONATHAN MERRIMAN<br><b>D. Jonathan Merriman</b> | Chairman of the Board and<br>Chief Executive Officer | February 14, 2005 |
| /s/ JOHN D. HIESTAND<br><b>John D. Hiestand</b>         | Chief Financial Officer                              | February 14, 2005 |
| /s/ PATRICK H. ARBOR<br><b>Patrick H. Arbor</b>         | Director                                             | February 14, 2005 |

|                           |          |                   |
|---------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| /s/ ANTHONY B. HELFET     | Director | February 14, 2005 |
| <b>Anthony B. Helfet</b>  |          |                   |
| /s/ RAYMOND J. MINEHAN    | Director | February 14, 2005 |
| <b>Raymond J. Minehan</b> |          |                   |
| /s/ SCOTT POTTER          | Director | February 14, 2005 |
| <b>Scott Potter</b>       |          |                   |
| /s/ DENNIS G. SCHMAL      | Director | February 14, 2005 |
| <b>Dennis G. Schmal</b>   |          |                   |
| /s/ DONALD H. SLEDGE      | Director | February 14, 2005 |
| <b>Donald H. Sledge</b>   |          |                   |
| /s/ RONALD E. SPEARS      | Director | February 14, 2005 |
| <b>Ronald E. Spears</b>   |          |                   |
| /s/ STEVEN W. TOWN        | Director | February 14, 2005 |
| <b>Steven W. Town</b>     |          |                   |

## EXHIBIT INDEX

### Exhibit

| No.    | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.1    | Certificate of Incorporation, as amended (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to MCF's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Reg. No. 333-37004)).                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 3.3    | Amended and Restated Bylaws, as amended. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to MCF's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Reg. No. 333-53316)).                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 4.1    | Form of Convertible Subordinated Note related to MCF private financing, dated November 26, 2001 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to MCF's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001).                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 4.2    | Form of Class A Redeemable Warrant to Purchase Common Stock of MCF related to MCF Corporation private financing, dated November 26, 2001 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to MCF's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001).                                                                                                                                       |
| 10.13+ | Employment Agreement between MCF and D. Jonathan Merriman dated October 5, 2000 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.15 to MCF's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Reg. No. 333-53316)).                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 10.15+ | 1999 Stock Option Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to MCF's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (Reg. No. 333-43776)).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 10.16+ | Form of Non-Qualified, Non-Plan Stock Option Agreement dated February 24, 2000 between MCF and Phillip Rice, Nick Cioll, Paul Wescott, Ross Mayfield, Russ Matulich, Terry Ginn, Donald Sledge, Christopher Vizas, Douglas Cole, Ronald Spears and Jonathan Merriman (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to MCF's Registration Statement on Forms S-8 (Reg. No. 333-43776)). |
| 10.17+ | Schedule of non-plan option grants made under Non-Qualified, Non-Plan Stock Option Agreements to directors and executive officers (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.19 to MCF's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Reg. No. 333-53316)).                                                                                                                            |

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- 10.18+ 2000 Stock Option and Incentive Plan, as amended (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.20 to MCF's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Reg. No. 333-53316)).
- 10.23 Master Equipment Lease Agreement dated March 16, 2000 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to MCF's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Reg. No. 333-37004)).
- 10.29 Agreement between MCF and BL Partners related to RMG Partners Corporation, dated April 8, 2001 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to MCF's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2001).
- 10.30+ Offer of Employment Agreement between MCF Corporation and Robert E. Ford, dated February 19, 2001, is Exhibit 10.2 to Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2001, and is hereby incorporated by reference.
- 10.31 Ratexchange Placement Agreement with Murphy & Durieu, dated November 28, 2001, for private financing transaction (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.31 to MCF's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001).
- 10.32 Form of Placement Agent Warrant to Murphy & Durieu, dated November 28, 2001 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.32 to MCF's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001).
- 10.33 Convertible Promissory Note held by Forsythe/McArthur Associates, Inc., dated September 1, 2001, related to restructure of Master Equipment Lease Agreement that is Exhibit 10.23 to Form 10K for the year ended December 31, 2000 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.33 to MCF's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001).
- 10.34+ Employment Agreement between MCF and Gregory S. Curhan, dated January 9, 2002 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.34 to MCF's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001).
- 10.35+ Employment Agreement between MCF Corporation and Robert E. Ford, dated January 1, 2002 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.35 to MCF's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001).
- 10.37 Stock Purchase Agreement by and among MCF and InstreamSecurities, Inc, (formerly known as Spider Securities, Inc.) and Independent Advantage Financial & Insurance Services, Inc., dated December 7, 2001 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.37 to MCF's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001).

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- 10.38 Agreement to Restructure Convertible Promissory Note held by Forsythe McArthur Associates, dated November 20, 2002 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.38 to MCF's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001).
- 10.39 Securities Exchange Agreement in connection with MCF Corporation dated June 22, 2003 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to MCF's Form 8-K filed on July 3, 2003).
- 10.40 April 3, 2003 Series B Convertible Preferred Transaction: Form of Subscription Agreement and Investment Letter, Class B Warrant to purchase common stock, Certificate of Designation of Series B Convertible Preferred Stock and Registration Rights Agreement.
- 10.41 April 24, 2003 Series C Convertible Preferred Transaction: Form of Subscription Agreement and Investment Letter, Class B Warrant to purchase common stock and Registration Rights Agreement.
- 10.42 April 3, 2003, 3% Convertible Subordinated Note Transaction with Highfields entities: Form of Securities Purchase Agreement, Registration Rights Agreement, Class C Warrant to purchase common stock and 3% Convertible Subordinated Note.
- 21.1 List of Subsidiaries of MCF.
- 31.1 Certification of Principal Executive Officer Pursuant To Section 302 of The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 31.2 Certification of Principal Financial Officer Pursuant To Section 302 of The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.1 Certification of Principal Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350.

+ Represents management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.