

SKILLSOFT PUBLIC LIMITED CO

Form 10-Q

June 08, 2005

**Table of Contents**

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**  
**FORM 10-Q**

(MARK ONE)

**QUARTERLY REPORT UNDER SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

FOR THE QUARTERLY PERIOD ENDED APRIL 30, 2005

OR

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

FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_

COMMISSION FILE NUMBER 000-25674

**SKILLSOFT PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY**

(EXACT NAME OF REGISTRANT AS SPECIFIED IN ITS CHARTER)

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND  
(STATE OR OTHER JURISDICTION OF  
INCORPORATION OR ORGANIZATION)

N/A  
(I.R.S. EMPLOYER  
IDENTIFICATION NO.)

107 NORTHEASTERN BOULEVARD  
NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
(ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES)

03062  
(ZIP CODE)

REGISTRANT'S TELEPHONE NUMBER, INCLUDING AREA CODE: (603) 324-3000

Not Applicable

(FORMER NAME, FORMER ADDRESS AND FORMER FISCAL YEAR, IF CHANGED SINCE LAST REPORT)

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

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

On May 31, 2005, the registrant had outstanding 106,819,173 Ordinary Shares (issued or issuable in exchange for the registrant's outstanding American Depository Shares).

---

SKILLSOFT PLC

FORM 10-Q  
FOR THE QUARTER ENDED APRIL 30, 2005  
INDEX

	<b>PAGE NO.</b>
<b><u>PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u></b>	3
<b><u>Item 1. Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements:</u></b>	3
<b><u>Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets as of April 30, 2005 and January 31, 2005</u></b>	3
<b><u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations for the Three Months Ended April 30, 2005 and 2004</u></b>	4
<b><u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Three Months Ended April 30, 2005 and 2004</u></b>	5
<b><u>Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements</u></b>	6
<b><u>Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u></b>	15
<b><u>Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure about Market Risk</u></b>	30
<b><u>Item 4. Controls and Procedures</u></b>	31
<b><u>PART II OTHER INFORMATION</u></b>	31
<b><u>Item 1. Legal Proceedings</u></b>	31
<b><u>Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u></b>	32
<b><u>Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities</u></b>	32
<b><u>Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders</u></b>	32
<b><u>Item 5. Other Information</u></b>	32
<b><u>Item 6. Exhibits</u></b>	32
<b><u>SIGNATURE</u></b>	33
<b><u>EX-10.1 First Loan Modification Agreement</u></b>	
<b><u>EX-10.2 Second Loan Modification Agreement</u></b>	
<b><u>EX-31.1 Section 302 CEO Certification</u></b>	
<b><u>EX-31.2 Section 302 CFO Certification</u></b>	
<b><u>EX-32.1 Section 906 CEO Certification</u></b>	
<b><u>EX-32.2 Section 906 CFO Certification</u></b>	

**Table of Contents**

## PART I

## ITEM 1. CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## SKILLSOFT PLC AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS  
(UNAUDITED, IN THOUSANDS EXCEPT SHARE AND PER SHARE DATA)

	APRIL 30, 2005	JANUARY 31, 2005
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 47,698	\$ 34,906
Short-term investments	19,813	20,021
Restricted cash	983	994
Accounts receivable, net	48,491	87,030
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	22,284	22,659
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>139,269</b>	<b>165,610</b>
Property and equipment, net	8,775	9,137
Intangible assets, net	15,173	16,171
Goodwill	102,246	103,576
Long-term investments	2,590	8,943
Other assets	59	60
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 268,112</b>	<b>\$ 303,497</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 6,551	\$ 5,361
Accrued expenses	51,104	66,995
Deferred revenue	122,288	140,008
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>179,943</b>	<b>212,364</b>
Long term liabilities	5,170	6,214
Stockholders equity:		
Ordinary Shares, E0.11 par value: 250,000,000 shares authorized at April 30, 2005 and January 31, 2005, respectively; 106,794,824 and 106,207,818 shares issued and outstanding at April 30, 2005 and January 31, 2005, respectively	11,700	11,617
Additional paid-in capital	560,547	559,052
Treasury stock, at cost, 2,285,271 and 443,757 ordinary shares at April 30, 2005 and January 31, 2005, respectively	(8,686)	(2,523)
Accumulated deficit	(478,562)	(481,029)
Deferred compensation	(1,120)	(1,358)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(880)	(840)

Total stockholders' equity	82,999	84,919
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	\$ 268,112	\$ 303,497

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

**Table of Contents**

## SKILLSOFT PLC AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS  
(UNAUDITED, IN THOUSANDS EXCEPT SHARE AND PER SHARE DATA)

	<b>THREE MONTHS ENDED</b>	
	<b>April 30,</b>	
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
Revenue	\$ 53,327	\$ 52,817
Cost of revenue	5,834	5,078
Gross profit	47,493	47,739
Operating expenses:		
Research and development	9,869	9,444
Selling and marketing	24,030	24,362
General and administrative	6,276	6,054
Amortization of intangible assets and FAS 86 assets	2,246	2,422
Amortization of stock-based compensation (1)	237	348
Restructuring	703	147
Restatement:		
SEC investigation	250	324
Other professional fees		114
Total operating expenses	43,611	43,215
Operating income	3,882	4,524
Other expense, net	(110)	(179)
Interest income, net	295	123
Loss on sale of assets, net	(681)	
Income before provision for income taxes	3,386	4,468
Provision for income taxes	919	1,265
Net income	\$ 2,467	\$ 3,203
Net income per share (Note 9):		
Basic	\$ 0.02	\$ 0.03
Basic weighted average common shares outstanding	105,662,213	103,163,380
Diluted	\$ 0.02	\$ 0.03
Diluted weighted average common shares outstanding	105,877,094	110,392,610

(1) The following summarizes the departmental allocation of the stock-based compensation

**THREE MONTHS  
ENDED**

	<b>April 30,</b>	
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
Cost of revenue	\$	\$
Research and development	48	79
Selling and marketing	181	256
General and administrative	8	13
	\$ 237	\$ 348

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

**Table of Contents**

## SKILLSOFT PLC AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
(UNAUDITED, IN THOUSANDS)

	<b>THREE MONTHS ENDED APRIL 30,</b>	
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 2,467	\$ 3,203
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities -		
Stock-based compensation	237	348
Depreciation and amortization	1,226	1,293
Amortization of intangible assets and FAS 86 assets	2,246	2,422
Provision for bad debts	(226)	(62)
Loss on disposition	681	
Provision for income tax non-cash	785	1,124
Changes in current assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable, net	38,835	27,913
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	286	3,430
Accounts payable	760	(1,431)
Accrued expenses	(16,192)	(14,381)
Deferred revenue	(17,861)	(15,189)
Net cash provided by operating activities	13,244	8,670
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchases of property and equipment	(979)	(2,225)
Capitalized software development costs	(1,247)	
Purchases of investments	(3,748)	(16,726)
Maturity of investments	10,225	14,508
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	4,251	(4,443)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Exercise of stock options	242	12,452
Proceeds from employee stock purchase plan	1,336	1,675
Payments to acquire treasury stock	(6,163)	
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	(4,585)	14,127
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	(118)	(430)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	12,792	17,924
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	34,906	42,866
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$ 47,698	\$ 60,790

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





**Table of Contents**

**SKILLSOFT PLC AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(UNAUDITED)**

**1. THE COMPANY**

SkillSoft PLC, formerly known as SmartForce PLC (the Company or SkillSoft), was incorporated in Ireland on August 8, 1989. The Company is a leading provider of content resources and complementary technologies for integrated enterprise learning. On September 6, 2002, the Company completed its merger with SkillSoft Corporation (the Merger). Due to a number of factors, including composition of the board of directors, management team, and concentrated shareholder interest, all of which had SkillSoft Corporation being in a control or majority position, the Merger was accounted for as a reverse acquisition, with SkillSoft Corporation as the accounting acquirer. Accordingly, the historical financial statements of SkillSoft Corporation are the historical financial statements of the combined company, and the assets and liabilities of the Company are accounted for as required under the purchase method of accounting. The results of operations and cash flow of the former SmartForce PLC, the acquired entity for accounting purposes, are included in the financial statements of the combined company from September 6, 2002, the date on which the Merger was consummated. In connection with the Merger, the Company changed its name to SkillSoft PLC and its fiscal year end to January 31 (the fiscal year end of SkillSoft Corporation) from December 31 (the Company's historical fiscal year end).

**2. BASIS OF PRESENTATION**

The accompanying, unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements included herein have been prepared by the Company pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC). Certain information and footnote disclosures, normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States have been condensed or omitted pursuant to such SEC rules and regulations. In the opinion of management, the condensed consolidated financial statements reflect all material adjustments (consisting only of those of a normal and recurring nature) which are necessary to present fairly the consolidated financial position of the Company as of April 30, 2005, the results of its operations for the three months ended April 30, 2005 and 2004 and its cash flows for the three months ended April 30, 2005 and 2004. These condensed consolidated financial statements and notes thereto should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2005. The results of operations for the interim period are not necessarily indicative of the results of operations to be expected for the full year.

**3. CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS, RESTRICTED CASH, AND INVESTMENTS**

The Company considers all highly liquid investments with original maturities of 90 days or less at the time of purchase to be cash equivalents. At April 30, 2005 and January 31, 2005, cash equivalents consisted mainly of commercial paper, short-term notes and money market funds. The Company considers the cash held in certificates of deposit with a commercial bank to secure its line of credit to be restricted cash. The Company accounts for its investments in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 115, Accounting for Certain Investments in Debt and Equity Securities (SFAS No. 115). Under SFAS No. 115, securities that the Company does not intend to hold to maturity are reported at market value, and are classified as available-for-sale. At April 30, 2005, the Company's investments had an average maturity of approximately 143 days. These investments are classified as current assets in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets as they mature within one year.

**4. REVENUE RECOGNITION**

The Company generates revenue from the license of products and services and from providing hosting/application service provider (ASP) services.

The Company follows the provisions of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) Statement of Position (SOP) 97-2, Software Revenue Recognition as amended by SOP 98-4 and SOP 98-9 to account for revenue derived pursuant to license agreements under which customers license the Company's products and services. The pricing for the Company's courses varies based upon the number of course titles or the courseware bundle licensed by a customer, the number of users within the customer's organization and the length of the license agreement (generally one, two or three years). License agreements permit customers to exchange course titles, generally on the contract anniversary date. Additional product features, such as hosting and online mentoring services, are separately licensed for an additional fee.

**Table of Contents**

The pricing for the Company's SkillChoice multi-modal learning (SMML) licenses varies based on the choice of SMML, the content offering selected by the customer, the number of users within the customer's organization and the length of the license agreement. A SMML license provides customers access to a full range of learning products including courseware, Referenceware, simulations, mentoring and prescriptive assessment.

A Referenceware license gives users access to a full Referenceware library within one or more Referenceware collections (examples of which are; ITPro, BusinessPro, FinancePro and OfficeEssentials) from Books24x7.com, Inc. (Books). The pricing for the Company's Referenceware licenses varies based on the collections specified by a customer, the number of users within the customer's organization and the length of the license agreement.

The Company offers discounts from its ordinary pricing, and purchasers of licenses for larger numbers of courses, for larger user bases or for longer periods generally receive discounts. Generally, customers may amend their license agreements, for an additional fee, to gain access to additional courses or product lines and/or to increase the size of the user base. The Company also derives revenue from hosting fees for clients that use its solutions on an ASP basis, online mentoring services and professional services. In selected circumstances, the Company derives revenue on a pay-for-use basis under which some customers are charged based on the number of courses accessed by users. Revenue derived from pay-for-use contracts has been minimal to date.

The Company recognizes revenue ratably over the license period if the number of courses that a customer has access to is not clearly defined, available, or selected at the inception of the contract, or if the contract has additional undelivered elements for which the Company does not have vendor specific objective evidence (VSOE) of the fair value of the various elements. This may occur if the customer does not specify all licensed courses at the outset, the customer chooses to wait for future licensed courses on a when and if available basis, the customer is given exchange privileges that are exercisable other than on the contract anniversaries, or the customer licenses all courses currently available and to be developed during the term of the arrangement. Nearly all of the Company's contractual arrangements result in the recognition of revenue ratably over the license period.

The Company also derives revenue from extranet hosting/ASP services and online mentoring services. The Company recognizes revenue related to extranet hosting/ASP services and online mentoring services on a straight-line basis over the period the services are provided.

The Company generally bills the annual license fee for the first year of a multi-year license agreement in advance and license fees for subsequent years of multi-year license arrangements are billed on the anniversary date of the agreement. Occasionally, the Company bills customers on a quarterly basis. In some circumstances, the Company offers payment terms of up to six months from the initial shipment date or anniversary date for multi-year license agreements to its customers. To the extent that a customer is given extended payment terms (defined by the Company as greater than six months), revenue is recognized as cash becomes due, assuming all of the other elements of revenue recognition have been satisfied.

The Company typically recognizes revenue from resellers when both the sale to the end user has occurred and the collectibility of cash from the reseller is probable. With respect to reseller agreements with minimum commitments, the Company recognizes revenue related to the portion of the minimum commitment that exceeds the end user sales at the expiration of the commitment period provided the Company has received payment.

The Company provides professional services; including instructor led training, customized content, websites, and implementation services. The Company recognizes professional service revenue as the services are performed.

The Company records reimbursable out-of-pocket expenses in both maintenance and services revenues and as a direct cost of maintenances and services in accordance with Emerging Issues Task Force (EITF) Issue No. 01-14, Income

Statement Characterization of Reimbursements Received for Out-of-Pocket Expenses Incurred ( EITF 01-14 ). EITF 01-14 requires reimbursable out-of-pocket expenses incurred to be characterized as revenue in the income statement.

The Company records as deferred revenue amounts that have been billed in advance for products or services to be provided. Deferred revenue includes the unamortized portion of revenue associated with license fees for which the Company has received payment or for which amounts have been billed and are due for payment in 90 days or less for resellers and 180 days or less for direct customers. In addition, deferred revenue includes amounts which have been billed and not collected for which revenue is being recognized ratably over the license period.

**Table of Contents****5. ACCOUNTING FOR STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION**

The Company accounts for its stock-based employee compensation plans on the intrinsic value method under the recognition and measurement principles of Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 25, Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees (APB No. 25) and related Interpretations under APB No. 25. The Company provided pro forma disclosures only of the compensation expense determined under the fair value provisions of SFAS No. 123, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation (SFAS No. 123).

See Note 15 for a description of FASB Statement No. 123 (revised 2004), Share-Based Payment.

SFAS No. 123 requires the measurement of the fair value of stock options to employees to be included in the statements of operations or disclosed in the notes to financial statements. The Company elected the disclosure-only alternative under SFAS No. 123, which requires disclosure of the pro forma effects on earnings as if the fair-value-based method of accounting under SFAS No. 123 had been adopted, as well as certain other information. In accordance with SFAS No. 148, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation-Transition and Disclosure (SFAS No. 148), the Company has computed the pro forma disclosures required under SFAS No. 123 for options granted using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model prescribed by SFAS No. 123. The weighted average information and assumptions used for the grants were as follows:

	<b>THREE MONTHS ENDED APRIL 30,</b>	
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
Risk-free interest rates	3.97% - 4.33%	3.31%-3.89%
Expected dividend yield		
Volatility factor	76%	91%
Expected lives	7 years	7 years
Weighted average fair value of options granted	\$ 2.72	\$ 9.61
Weighted average remaining contractual life of options outstanding	6.58 years	7.55 years

Had compensation expense for its plans been determined consistent with SFAS No. 123, the Company's net income/(loss) and basic and diluted net income/(loss) per share would have been increased to the following pro forma amounts (in thousands, except per share data):

	<b>THREE MONTHS ENDED APRIL 30,</b>	
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
Net income		
As reported	\$ 2,467	\$ 3,203
Add: Stock-based compensation expense recognized under APB No. 25	237	348
Less: Total stock-based compensation expense determined under fair value based method for all awards	(4,809)	(6,233)
Pro forma net loss	\$ (2,105)	\$ (2,682)
Basic and diluted net income (loss) per share		
As reported	\$ 0.02	\$ 0.03

Pro forma net loss	\$ (0.02)	\$ (0.03)
--------------------	-----------	-----------

Because additional option grants are expected to be made in future periods, the above pro forma disclosures may not be representative of pro forma effects on results for future periods.

**Table of Contents****6. RESTRUCTURING AND OTHER NON-RECURRING CHARGES****MERGER AND EXIT COSTS**

In connection with the Merger, the Company's management approved and initiated plans prior to December 31, 2002 to restructure the operations of pre-Merger SmartForce PLC to eliminate redundant facilities and headcount, reduce cost structure and better align the Company's operating expenses with existing economic conditions. Consequently, the Company recorded \$30.3 million of costs relating to exiting activities of pre-Merger SmartForce PLC, such as severance and related benefits, costs to vacate leased facilities and other pre-Merger liabilities. These costs were accounted for under EITF 95-3, Recognition of Liabilities in Connection with Purchase Business Combinations. These costs, which were recognized as a liability assumed in the purchase business combination, were included in the allocation of the purchase price, and have increased goodwill.

The reductions in employee headcount totaled approximately 632 employees from the administrative, sales, marketing and development functions, and amounted to a charge of approximately \$14.4 million. Approximately \$12.5 million was paid out against the exit plan accrual through April 30, 2005, and the remaining amount of \$1.8 million, net of adjustments for foreign currency translation, is expected to be paid within fiscal 2006.

In connection with the exit plan, the Company decided to abandon or downsize certain leased facilities. For the year ended January 31, 2003, facilities consolidation charges of \$12.7 million, consisting of sublease losses, broker commissions and other facility costs, were recorded in connection with the downsizing and closing of sites. As part of the plan, 11 sites have been vacated and 4 sites have been downsized. To determine the sublease loss, which is the loss after the Company's cost recovery efforts from subleasing vacated space, certain assumptions were made related to the (1) time period over which the property will remain vacant, (2) sublease terms and (3) sublease rates. The lease loss is an estimate under SFAS No. 5 Accounting for Contingencies (SFAS No. 5). In the year ended January 31, 2004, the Company revised certain of its estimates made in connection with the original purchase price pertaining to unoccupied facilities under lease as a result of the Merger. This adjustment to the exit plan accrual fell within the one year purchase price allocation period prescribed by SFAS No. 141 Business Combinations (SFAS No. 141). In the fiscal year ended January 31, 2005, the Company again revised certain of its estimates made in connection with the original purchase price pertaining to unoccupied facilities under lease as a result of the Merger. This adjustment to the exit accrual fell outside the one year purchase price allocation period and was charged to restructuring which is included in the statement of operations. The net present value of the obligation under this exit plan, as adjusted, was approximately \$14.6 million.

Activity in the Company's merger and exit costs, which are included in accrued expenses (see Note 13) and long-term liabilities, was as follows (in thousands):

	<b>EMPLOYEE SEVERANCE AND RELATED COSTS</b>	<b>CLOSEDOWN OF FACILITIES</b>	<b>OTHER</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Merger and exit accrual January 31, 2005	\$ 1,955	\$ 6,552	\$ 334	\$ 8,841
Payments and other adjustments made during the three months ended April 30, 2005	(116)	(1,356)	(79)	(1,551)
Merger and exit accrual April 30, 2005	\$ 1,839	\$ 5,196	\$ 255	\$ 7,290



The Company anticipates that the remainder of the merger and exit accrual will be paid out by October 2011 as follows (in thousands):

Year ended January 31,	
2006	\$ 3,268
2007	1,374
2008	1,093
2009	816
Thereafter	739
Total	\$ 7,290

#### RESTRUCTURING, SEC INVESTIGATION AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL FEES

The Company recorded a \$14.2 million restructuring charge for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2003, which was included in the statement of operations, approximately \$10.2 million of this charge represents the compensation cost of terminated SmartForce PLC

**Table of Contents**

employees for services rendered from the date of the Merger through such employees' termination dates and certain other compensation costs to terminated and continuing employees of the Company. Also included in the \$14.2 million charge are certain other one time costs incurred by SkillSoft Corporation as a result of the Merger. These costs primarily consist of employee severance and related costs and contractual obligations. Payments made under these obligations during the years ended January 31, 2003, 2004 and 2005 aggregated approximately \$11.5 million, \$2.6 million, and \$100,000, respectively.

During the fiscal year ended January 31, 2005, the Company recorded and paid an additional \$260,000 of restructuring charges related to the further restructuring of the pre-Merger SmartForce PLC operations. These restructuring costs included additional compensation to pre-Merger SmartForce PLC employees as well as additional facilities obligations as a result of the Merger.

The Company recorded a \$13.4 million restructuring charge for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2005, which was included in the statement of operations. Approximately \$9.3 million of this charge represents contractual obligations, and included in this amount is approximately \$528,000 of merger and exit costs incurred during the fiscal year ended January 31, 2005. These costs primarily relate to facilities consolidation and the repayment of government grant obligations resulting from the restructuring. Approximately \$3.4 million represents the compensation cost of terminated employees for services rendered from the date of the restructuring through termination dates and one time severance payouts and approximately \$400,000 is related to the write-down of fixed assets rendered obsolete as a result of the restructuring activities.

The Company recorded a \$703,000 restructuring charge for the fiscal quarter ended April 30, 2005, which is included in the statement of operations, related to our retail certification business. Approximately \$350,000 of this charge represents contractual obligations, which primarily relate to the shut down of facilities resulting from the restructuring. Approximately \$353,000 represents the compensation cost of terminated employees for services rendered from the date of restructuring through termination dates and one time severance payouts.

Activity in the Company's restructuring accrual related to the Merger in fiscal 2005 and 2006 was as follows (in thousands):

	<b>EMPLOYEE SEVERANCE AND RELATED COSTS</b>	<b>CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Restructuring accrual January 31, 2005	\$ 624	\$ 8,744	\$ 9,368
Payments and write downs made during the quarter ended April 30, 2005	(577)	(2,244)	(2,821)
Restructuring charge for the quarter ended April 30, 2005	353	350	703
Restructuring provision April 30, 2005	\$ 400	\$ 6,850	\$ 7,250

Consistent with the Company's accounting policy and historical treatment regarding annual audit fees, the Company accrued the estimated audit fees related to the restatement of the historical SmartForce PLC financial statements, the acquired business, in the year ended January 31, 2003. All other costs associated with the restatement, the resulting SEC investigation, and the 2002 shareholder class action lawsuit are expensed as the work is performed. For the fiscal quarter ended April 30, 2005 and 2004, the Company recorded \$250,000 and \$324,000, respectively, in expenses

related to the ongoing SEC investigation. For the fiscal quarter ended April 30, 2004, the Company recorded \$114,000 in expense related to the re-filing of statutory tax returns as a result of the restatement of the historical SmartForce PLC financial statements.

#### 7. GOODWILL AND INTANGIBLE ASSETS

On February 1, 2002, the Company adopted SFAS No. 142, which requires companies to discontinue amortizing goodwill and certain intangible assets with indefinite useful lives and requires an annual review for impairment. The non-amortization provisions of SFAS

**Table of Contents**

No. 142 apply to goodwill and intangible assets acquired after June 30, 2001. The Company's goodwill and intangible assets relate to both the Merger and its acquisitions of Books 24x7.com, Inc (Books) and GoTrain Corp. (GoTrain), which were accounted for in accordance with the non-amortization provisions of SFAS No. 142. Therefore, there is no impact on the comparability of the accompanying condensed consolidated statements of operations as a result of discontinuing the amortization of goodwill.

Goodwill and intangible assets are as follows (in thousands):

	APRIL 30, 2005			JANUARY 31, 2005		
	GROSS CARRYING AMOUNT	ACCUMULATED AMORTIZATION	NET CARRYING AMOUNT	GROSS CARRYING AMOUNT	ACCUMULATED AMORTIZATION	NET CARRYING AMOUNT
Internally developed software/courseware	\$ 27,857	\$ 18,175	\$ 9,682	\$ 26,610	\$ 16,476	\$ 10,134
Customer contracts	13,018	8,427	4,591	13,018	7,881	5,137
Trademarks and trade name	900		900	900		900
	41,775	26,602	15,173	40,528	24,357	16,171
Goodwill	102,246		102,246	103,576		103,576
	\$ 144,021	\$ 26,602	\$ 117,419	\$ 144,104	\$ 24,357	\$ 119,747

Customer contracts are existing contracts that relate to underlying customer relationships pertaining to the services provided by the acquired company. The Company expects to amortize the fair value of customer contracts on an accelerated basis over a weighted average estimated useful life. Internally developed software/courseware relates to the Books platform, GoTrain content and platform, the SmartForce PLC content and costs incurred subsequent to technological feasibility and prior to general release for the development of SkillSoft Dialogue capitalized under FAS 86. Course content includes courses in both the business skills and information technology skills subject areas. All courseware is deployable via the Internet or corporate intranets.

The change in goodwill at April 30, 2005 from the amount recorded at January 31, 2005 was due to revisions to the purchase price accruals, collections of accounts receivable in excess of the estimated realizable value at the purchase date and the Company's utilization of net operating loss carryforwards obtained as part of the Merger.

Amortization expense for the three months ended April 30, 2005 and April 30, 2004 was as follows (in thousands):

	THREE MONTHS ENDED APRIL 30, 2005	THREE MONTHS ENDED APRIL 30, 2004
Internally developed software/courseware	\$ 1,699	\$ 1,740
Customer contracts	546	682
	\$ 2,245	\$ 2,422

Amortization expense for the next four fiscal years is expected to be as follows (in thousands):

<b>FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>AMORTIZATION EXPENSE</b>
2006	\$ 9,112
2007	5,969
2008	1,425
2009	12

The Company will be conducting its annual impairment test of goodwill in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year ending January 31, 2006.

#### 8. COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)

SFAS No. 130, Reporting Comprehensive Income, requires disclosure of all components of comprehensive income (loss) on an annual and interim basis. Comprehensive income (loss) is defined as the change in equity of a business enterprise during a period resulting from transactions, other events and circumstances related to non-owner sources. The components of accumulated comprehensive income/(loss) for the three months ended April 30, 2005 and 2004 were as follows (in thousands):

**Table of Contents**

	<b>THREE MONTHS ENDED APRIL 30,</b>	
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
Comprehensive income:		
Net income	\$ 2,467	\$ 3,203
Other comprehensive income/(loss) -		
Foreign currency adjustment	(793)	69
Unrealized holding losses	(87)	(200)
Comprehensive income	\$ 1,587	\$ 3,072

**9. NET INCOME PER SHARE**

Basic net income per share was computed using the weighted average number of shares outstanding during the period. Diluted net income per share was computed by giving effect to all dilutive potential shares outstanding. The weighted average number of shares outstanding used to compute basic net income per share and diluted net income per share was as follows:

	<b>THREE MONTHS ENDED APRIL 30,</b>	
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
Basic weighted average shares outstanding	105,662,213	103,163,380
Effect of dilutive shares outstanding	214,881	7,229,230
Weighted average common shares outstanding, as adjusted	105,877,094	110,392,610

**10. INCOME TAXES**

The Company operates as a holding company with operating subsidiaries in several countries, and each subsidiary is taxed based on the laws of the jurisdiction in which it operates.

The Company has significant net operating loss (NOL) carryforwards, some of which are subject to potential limitations based upon the change in control provisions of Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code.

The provision for income tax was approximately \$900,000 in the fiscal quarter ended April 30, 2005. Of this amount, \$785,000 relates to the utilization of acquired NOL carryforwards which do not alleviate tax burden in the statement of operations. The \$785,000 does not require cash payments to the taxing authorities. In addition, there is income generated in foreign countries, which cannot be offset through NOL carryforwards.

**11. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES**

The Company leases its facilities and certain equipment and furniture under operating lease agreements that expire at various dates through 2023. The lease agreements frequently include renewal clauses, escalation clauses and purchase provisions and require the Company to pay taxes, insurances and maintenance costs.

Future minimum lease payments under the operating lease agreements are approximately as follows (in thousands):

	Facilities	Other	Total
Twelve month period ended April 30:			
2006	\$ 5,389	\$ 413	\$ 5,802
2007	4,893	168	5,061
2008	4,632	21	4,653
2009	3,523	9	3,532
2010	1,590		1,590
Thereafter	15,243		15,243
	\$ 35,270	\$ 611	\$ 35,881

On or about February 4, 2003, the SEC informed the Company that it is the subject of a formal order of private investigation relating to its November 19, 2002 announcement that it would restate the financial statements of SmartForce PLC for the period 1999 through June 2002. The Company understands that the SEC's investigation concerns SmartForce's financial disclosure and accounting during that period, other related matters, compliance with rules governing reports required to be filed with the SEC, and the conduct of those

**Table of Contents**

responsible for such matters. On June 2, 2005, the Boston District Office of the SEC informed the Company that it had made a preliminary determination to recommend that the SEC bring a civil injunctive action against the Company. Under the SEC's rules, the Company is permitted to make a so-called Wells Submission in which the Company seeks to persuade the SEC that no such action should be commenced. The Company intends to make such a submission. The Company continues to cooperate with the SEC in this matter. At the present time the Company is unable to predict the outcome of this action and as such has not determined what, if any, impact it may have on its financial statements.

On November 18, 2004, Jody Glidden, Michael LeBlanc and Trish Glidden filed a lawsuit against the Company, David C. Drummond, Gregory M. Priest, Patrick E. Murphy and Jack Hayes in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. The plaintiffs had previously opted out of the class action settlement that received final approval from the court on September 29, 2004. The lawsuit sets forth substantially the same claims as were alleged in the class action litigation. In particular, the lawsuit alleges that the Company misrepresented or omitted to state material facts in its SEC filings and press releases regarding the Company's revenues and earnings and failed to correct such false and misleading SEC filings and press releases, which are alleged to have artificially inflated the price of the Company's ADSs in connection with its acquisition of IC Global in early 2001. The lawsuit seeks compensatory damages of approximately \$3.7 million and other unspecified damages. The Company believes that it has meritorious defenses to this lawsuit and intends to defend ourselves vigorously.

Six class action lawsuits have been filed against the Company and certain of its current and former officers and directors captioned: (1) Gianni Angeloni v. SmartForce PLC d/b/a SkillSoft, William McCabe and Greg Priest; (2) Ari R. Schloss v. SkillSoft PLC f/k/a SmartForce PLC, Gregory M. Priest, Patrick E. Murphy, David C. Drummond and William G. McCabe; (3) Joseph J. Bish v. SmartForce PLC d/b/a SkillSoft, Gregory M. Priest, William G. McCabe, David C. Drummond, John M. Grillos, John P. Hayes and Patrick E. Murphy; (4) Stacey Cohen v. SmartForce PLC d/b/a SkillSoft, William G. McCabe and Greg Priest; (5) Daniel Schmelz v. SmartForce PLC d/b/a SkillSoft, William G. McCabe and Greg Priest; and (6) John O. Donoghue v. SmartForce PLC d/b/a SkillSoft, William G. McCabe and Greg Priest. Each lawsuit was filed in the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire; the first action was filed on November 22, 2002, the second action was filed on December 4, 2002 and the third and fourth actions were filed on December 11, 2002, the fifth action was filed on December 23, 2002, and the sixth action was filed on January 16, 2003. These lawsuits allege that the Company misrepresented or omitted to state material facts in its SEC filings and press releases regarding its revenues and earnings and failed to correct such false and misleading SEC filings and press releases, which are alleged to have artificially inflated the price of the Company's ADSs. These lawsuits seek unspecified monetary damages, including punitive damages together with interest, costs, fees and expenses. These lawsuits have all been assigned to Chief Judge Paul J. Barbadoro. On March 26, 2003, Judge Barbadoro consolidated the lawsuits under the caption *In re SmartForce Securities Litigation*, Civil Action No. 02-544-B, appointed as lead plaintiffs the Teacher's Retirement System of Louisiana and the Louisiana Sheriff's Pension & Relief Fund, and approved the lead plaintiffs' choice of lead counsel and local counsel. In March 2004, the Company reached a settlement of this litigation for total settlement payments of \$30.5 million, with one-half paid in August 2004 and the remainder to be paid in August 2005. The Company is in discussions with its insurers to determine how much, if any, of this settlement amount will be paid by them. The Company has recorded the aggregate settlement as a charge in its fiscal 2004 fourth quarter; any reimbursement from its insurers will be recorded in the period in which it is finalized.

**12. DISCLOSURES ABOUT SEGMENTS OF AN ENTERPRISE**

The Company follows the provisions of SFAS No. 131, *Disclosures About Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information* (SFAS No. 131). SFAS No. 131 established standards for reporting information regarding operating segments in annual financial statements and requires selected information for those segments to be presented in interim financial reports issued to stockholders. SFAS No. 131 also established standards for related disclosures about



products and services and geographic areas. Operating segments are identified as components of an enterprise about which separate discrete financial information is available for evaluation by the chief operating decision maker, or decision-making group, in making decisions how to allocate resources and assess performance. The Company's chief operating decision makers, as defined under SFAS No. 131, are the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer. The Company views its operations and manages its business as principally two operating segments - SMML and Retail Certification. On April 29, 2005, the Company sold certain assets and transferred certain liabilities related to its Retail Certification business and incurred a \$681,000 loss on disposition.

**Table of Contents**

The following tables set forth the Company's statements of operations for the fiscal quarters ended April 30, 2005 and 2004:

	<b>Quarter Ended April 30, 2005</b>		
	<b>Retail</b>		
	<b>Multi-Modal</b>	<b>Certification</b>	<b>Combined</b>
	<b>(In thousands)</b>		
Revenue	\$ 48,050	\$ 5,277	\$ 53,327
Net income/(loss)	\$ 3,702	\$ (1,235)	\$ 2,467

	<b>Quarter Ended April 30, 2004</b>		
	<b>Retail</b>		
	<b>Multi-Modal</b>	<b>Certification</b>	<b>Combined</b>
	<b>(In thousands)</b>		
Revenue	\$ 48,233	\$ 4,584	\$ 52,817
Net income	\$ 3,106	\$ 97	\$ 3,203

The Company attributes revenues to different geographical areas on the basis of the location of the customer. Revenues by geographical area for the three month periods ended April 30, 2005 and 2004 were as follows (in thousands):

	<b>THREE MONTHS ENDED APRIL 30,</b>	
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
	Revenue:	
United States	\$ 41,971	\$ 40,922
United Kingdom	5,587	4,279
Canada	2,172	2,037
Europe, excluding UK	1,339	2,463
Australia/New Zealand	1,871	1,747
Other	387	1,369
Total revenue	\$ 53,327	\$ 52,817

Long-lived tangible assets at international facilities are not significant.

**13. ACCRUED EXPENSES**

Accrued expenses in the accompanying condensed combined balance sheets consist of the following (in thousands):

	<b>APRIL 30, 2005</b>	<b>JANUARY 31, 2005</b>
Accrued compensation and benefits	\$ 9,588	\$ 20,415
Course development fees	1,309	2,205

Professional fees	4,435	2,788
Accrued payables	771	1,798
Accrued misc. taxes	57	238
Accrued merger related costs*	4,183	5,271
Sales tax payable/VAT payable	2,694	3,864
Accrued royalties	2,645	2,422
Accrued litigation settlements	15,250	15,250
Accrued restructuring	5,619	8,005
Other accrued liabilities	4,553	4,739
Total accrued expenses	\$ 51,104	\$ 66,995

---

\* Includes \$1,705 of accrued income taxes

#### 14. LINE OF CREDIT

On July 23, 2004, the Company entered into a \$25 million two year, line of credit with a bank. Under the terms of the line of credit, the bank holds a first security interest in all domestic business assets. All borrowings under the line of credit bear interest at the bank's prime rate. The facility is subject to a commitment fee of \$50,000 to secure the line of credit and unused commitment fees of 0.125% based upon the daily average of un-advanced amounts under the revolving line of credit. The Company paid approximately \$2,900 in

**Table of Contents**

unused commitment fees for the quarter ended April 30, 2005. In addition, the line of credit contains certain financial and non-financial covenants. At January 31, 2005, the Company was unable to attain one of the financial covenants set forth in the line of credit. With a net loss of approximately \$29.1 million for the quarter ended January 31, 2005, the Company did not meet the minimum quarterly profitability of \$6.5 million for the fourth quarter. The Company was unable to meet the financial covenant due to the restructuring and impairment charges recorded in the fourth quarter. The bank agreed to amend the original loan agreement and issue a first loan modification agreement. The first loan modification agreement has been executed and the Company is currently in compliance with all covenants. Also, the line of credit provides that in the event of a Material Adverse Change (as defined in the line of credit), the lender has the ability to call amounts outstanding under the line of credit. As of April 30, 2005, there were no borrowings on the line of credit; however, the Company had an outstanding letter of credit of \$15.5 million that reduced the availability under the line of credit. Letters of credit are subject to commission fees of 0.75% as well as administrative costs. The Company did not pay any letters of credit fees for the fiscal quarter ended April 30, 2005.

**15. RECENTLY ISSUED ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS**

On December 16, 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued FASB Statement No. 123 (revised 2004), Share-Based Payment, which is a revision of FASB Statement No. 123, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation. Statement 123(R) supersedes APB Opinion No. 25, Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees, and amends FASB Statement No. 95, Statement of Cash Flows. Generally, the approach in Statement 123(R) is similar to the approach described in Statement 123. However, Statement 123(R) requires all share-based payments to employees, including grants of employee stock options, to be recognized in the income statement based on their fair values. Pro forma disclosure is no longer an alternative.

Statement 123(R) is effective for the first quarter of the first fiscal year that begins after June 15, 2005. Early adoption will be permitted in periods in which financial statements have not yet been issued. We expect to adopt Statement 123(R) on February 1, 2006.

Statement 123(R) permits public companies to adopt its requirements using one of two methods:

1. A modified prospective method in which compensation cost is recognized beginning with the effective date (a) based on the requirements of Statement 123(R) for all share-based payments granted after the effective date and (b) based on the requirements of Statement 123 for all awards granted to employees prior to the effective date of Statement 123(R) that remain unvested on the effective date.
2. A modified retrospective method which includes the requirements of the modified prospective method described above, but also permits entities to restate based on the amounts previously recognized under Statement 123 for purposes of pro forma disclosures either (a) all prior periods presented or (b) prior interim periods of the year of adoption.

We have not yet determined which method to use in adopting SFAS 123(R).

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

Any statement in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q about our future expectations, plans and prospects, including statements containing the words believes, anticipates, plans, expects, will and similar expressions, constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Actual results may differ materially from those indicated by such forward-looking statements as a result of various important

factors, including those set forth in this Item 2 under the heading Future Operating Results.

The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with our financial statements and notes appearing elsewhere in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

## OVERVIEW

We are a leading provider of content resources and complementary technologies for integrated enterprise learning. SkillChoice multi-modal learning (SMML) solutions offer powerful tools to support and enhance the speed and effectiveness of both formal and informal learning processes. SMML solutions integrate our in-depth courseware, learning management platform technology and support services to meet our customers' learning needs.

We derive revenue primarily from agreements under which customers license our products and purchase our services. The pricing for

## **Table of Contents**

our courses varies based upon the number of course titles or the courseware bundle licensed by a customer, the number of users within the customer's organization and the length of the license agreement (generally one, two or three years). Our agreements permit customers to exchange course titles, generally on the contract anniversary date. Additional services, such as hosting and online mentoring are subject to additional fees.

The pricing for our SMML licenses varies based on the choice of SMML, content offering selected by the customer, the number of users within the customer's organization and the length of the license agreement. Our SMML license provides customers access to a full range of learning products including courseware, Referenceware, simulations, mentoring and prescriptive assessment.

A Referenceware license from our subsidiary, Books24x7.com (Books), gives users access to a full Referenceware library within one or more Referenceware collections (examples of which are: ITPro, BusinessPro, FinancePro and OfficeEssentials). The pricing for our Referenceware licenses varies based on the collections specified by a customer, the number of users within the customer's organization and the length of the license agreement.

We offer discounts from our ordinary pricing in arrangements covering larger numbers of courses, for larger user bases or for longer periods. Generally, customers may amend their license agreements, for an additional fee, to gain access to additional courses or product lines and/or to increase the size of the user base. We also derive revenue from hosting fees for clients that use our solutions on an application service provider (ASP) basis, online mentoring services and professional services. In selected circumstances, we derive revenue on a pay-for-use basis under which some customers are charged based on the number of courses accessed by users. Revenue derived from pay-for-use contracts has been minimal to date.

Cost of revenue includes the cost of materials (such as storage media), packaging, shipping and handling, CD duplication, the cost of online mentoring and hosting services, royalties and certain infrastructure and occupancy expenses. We generally recognize these costs as incurred. Research and development expenses consist primarily of salaries and benefits, certain infrastructure and occupancy expenses, fees to consultants and course content development fees. We account for software development costs in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 86, Accounting for the Costs of Computer Software to be Sold, Leased or Otherwise Marketed, which requires the capitalization of certain computer software development costs incurred after technological feasibility is established. In the fiscal quarter ended April 30, 2005 we capitalized approximately \$1.2 million in software development costs. Selling and marketing expenses consist primarily of salaries, commissions and benefits, advertising and promotion, travel and certain infrastructure and occupancy expenses. General and administrative expenses consist primarily of salaries and benefits, consulting and service expenses, legal expenses, other public company costs and certain infrastructure and occupancy expenses.

Deferred compensation consists of two components: (1) the value of unvested options assumed in the Books acquisition and the Merger, and (2) the difference between the exercise or sale price of share options granted or restricted common stock sold during the year ended January 31, 2000 and the fair market value of the common stock as determined for accounting purposes. The deferred compensation is amortized over the vesting period of the underlying share option or shares.

Amortization of intangibles represents the amortization of intangible assets, such as customer value and content, from the Books acquisition, the GoTrain acquisition and the Merger, as well as amortization of those assets capitalized under FAS 86.

Restructuring primarily consists of charges associated with international restructuring activities as well as activities related to our recent content development restructure.

SEC investigation and other professional fees primarily consist of charges associated with, and as a result of, the restatement of SmartForce's financial statements for 1999, 2000, 2001 and the first two quarters of 2002, the re-filing of statutory tax returns as a result of the restatement and charges for the ongoing SEC investigation.

#### BUSINESS OUTLOOK

In the quarter ended April 30, 2005 we generated revenue of \$53.3 million, an increase compared to the quarter ended April 30, 2004, and we reported positive net earnings. However, we continue to find ourselves in a challenging business environment. The overall market adoption rate for e-learning solutions remains relatively slow and we are seeing constraints on IT spending by our current and potential customers. As a result, we are experiencing delays in customer orders and some non-renewals of contracts from existing customers. In addition, price competition in the e-learning market is having a negative impact on the revenue we are generating from the new contracts and the contract renewals we do succeed in obtaining.

## **Table of Contents**

On the positive side, our recent revenue growth and our growth prospects are strongest in our product lines focused on informal learning, such as our Books24x7 products. As a result, we have increased our research and development spending in order to invest aggressively in those areas and accelerate the time by which our planned new products will be available to our customers.

In addition, during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2005, we restructured our content development organization to more efficiently manage costs and capitalize further on the flexibility inherent in our existing outsourcing model. The goal of the restructuring is to enable us to meet our existing content production targets at a reduced cost and with greater flexibility with respect to the product offerings in which we elect to make investments. The restructuring involved the elimination of 119 jobs in Dublin, Ireland and 12 in Nashua, New Hampshire, as well as facilities consolidation in Dublin. We have shifted the remainder of our IT skills content development activities to our outsourcing suppliers, while continuing to maintain project management and quality control internally. This restructuring included a reduction of an additional 12 jobs in Nashua, New Hampshire for a rightsizing of our inside sales operation and 9 jobs in Germany related to the shutdown of our German facility. We incurred restructuring charges related to payments to terminated employees, facilities consolidation and the repayment of grants previously awarded by Irish agencies. These charges totaled approximately \$13.0 million and were incurred in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2005. We believe that the restructuring will result in content development cost savings of approximately \$5.0 million per year at current production levels, beginning in this fiscal year. This will afford us more flexibility to reinvest dollars that can be recaptured in an outsourcing model for other research and development initiatives and/or to increase the profitability of the organization.

In the quarter ended April 30, 2005, in order to more fully focus on the Multi-Modal Learning (MML) business (which includes informal learning), we sold certain assets of our retail IT certification business, SmartCertify (the Retail Certification business). The Retail Certification business was focused on direct-to-consumer business and contributed less revenue than expected. This action will allow us to fully focus our attention and resources on our core enterprise business. We will maintain a reseller arrangement with the acquiring organization, and we will also maintain the existing customer contracts and service those contracts until the contractual obligation is fulfilled. We will be recognizing revenue from the deferred revenue balance related to direct-to-consumer business over the next 18 to 24 months. Substantially all of the sales, marketing and administrative costs on a going forward basis will be eliminated.

## **CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Our significant accounting policies are more fully described in Note 2 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K as filed with the SEC on April 18, 2005. However, we believe the accounting policies described below are particularly important to the portrayal and understanding of our financial position and results of operations and require application of significant judgment by our management. In applying these policies, management uses its judgment in making certain assumptions and estimates.

### **Revenue Recognition**

We generate revenue from the license of products and services and from providing hosting/ ASP services.

We follow the provisions of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) Statement of Position (SOP) 97-2, Software Revenue Recognition, as amended by SOP 98-4 and SOP 98-9 to account for revenue derived pursuant to license agreements under which customers license our products and services. The pricing for our courses varies based upon the number of course titles or the courseware bundle licensed by a customer, the number of users within the customer's organization and the length of the license agreement (generally one, two or three years). License agreements permit customers to exchange course titles, generally on the contract anniversary date. Additional product



features, such as hosting and online mentoring services, are separately licensed for an additional fee.

The pricing for our SMML licenses varies based on the choice of SMML, the content offering selected by the customer, the number of users within the customer's organization and the length of the license agreement. A SMML license provides customers access to a full range of learning products including courseware, Referenceware, simulations, mentoring and prescriptive assessment.

A Referenceware license gives users access to a full Referenceware library within one or more Referenceware collections (examples of which are: ITPro, BusinessPro, FinancePro and OfficeEssentials) from Books. The pricing for our Referenceware licenses varies based on the collections specified by a customer, the number of users within the customer's organization and the length of the license agreement.

We offer discounts from our ordinary pricing, and purchasers of licenses for larger numbers of courses, for larger user bases or for longer periods generally receive discounts. Generally, customers may amend their license agreements, for an additional fee, to gain

**Table of Contents**

access to additional courses or product lines and/or to increase the size of the user base. We also derive revenue from hosting fees for clients that use our solutions on an ASP basis, online mentoring services and professional services. In selected circumstances, we derive revenue on a pay-for-use basis under which some customers are charged based on the number of courses accessed by users. Revenue derived from pay-for-use contracts has been minimal to date.

We recognize revenue ratably over the license period if the number of courses that a customer has access to is not clearly defined, available, or selected at the inception of the contract, or if the contract has additional undelivered elements for which we do not have vendor specific objective evidence (VSOE) of the fair value of the various elements. This may occur if the customer does not specify all licensed courses at the outset, the customer chooses to wait for future licensed courses on a when and if available basis, the customer is given exchange privileges that are exercisable other than on the contract anniversaries, or the customer licenses all courses currently available and to be developed during the term of the arrangement. Nearly all of our contractual arrangements result in the recognition of revenue ratably over the license period.

We also derive revenue from extranet hosting/ASP services and online mentoring services. We recognize revenue related to extranet hosting/ASP services and online mentoring services on a straight-line basis over the period the services are provided.

We generally bill the annual license fee for the first year of a multi-year license agreement in advance and license fees for subsequent years of multi-year license arrangements are billed on the anniversary date of the agreement. Occasionally, we bill customers on a quarterly basis. In some circumstances, we offer payment terms of up to six months from the initial shipment date or anniversary date for multi-year license agreements to our customers. To the extent that a customer is given extended payment terms (defined by us as greater than six months), revenue is recognized as cash becomes due, assuming all of the other elements of revenue recognition have been satisfied.

We typically recognize revenue from resellers when both the sale to the end user has occurred and the collectibility of cash from the reseller is probable. With respect to reseller agreements with minimum commitments, we recognize revenue related to the portion of the minimum commitment that exceeds the end user sales at the expiration of the commitment period provided we have received payment.

We provide professional services; including instructor led training, customized content, websites, and implementation services. We recognize professional service revenue as the services are performed.

We record reimbursable out-of-pocket expenses in both maintenance and services revenues and as a direct cost of maintenances and services in accordance with EITF Issue No. 01-14, Income Statement Characterization of Reimbursements Received for Out-of-Pocket Expenses Incurred ( EITF 01-14 ). EITF 01-14 requires reimbursable out-of-pocket expenses incurred to be characterized as revenue in the income statement.

We record as deferred revenue amounts that have been billed in advance for products or services to be provided. Deferred revenue includes the unamortized portion of revenue associated with license fees for which we have received payment or for which amounts have been billed and are due for payment in 90 days or less for resellers and 180 days or less for direct customers. In addition, deferred revenue includes amounts which have been billed and not collected for which revenue is being recognized ratably over the license period.

**Amortization of Intangible Assets and Impairment of Goodwill**

We record intangible assets as historical cost. We amortize our intangible assets which include customer contracts and internally developed software. We review these intangible assets at least annually to determine if any adverse conditions exist or a change in circumstances has occurred that would indicate impairment or a change in their

remaining useful life. We also review our indefinite-lived intangible assets at least annually for impairment which includes trademarks and tradenames.

We test goodwill during the fourth quarter of each year for impairment, or more frequently if certain indicators are present or changes in circumstances suggest that impairment may exist. In performing the test, we calculate the fair value of the reporting units as the present value of estimated future cash flows using a risk-adjusted discount rate. The selection and use of an appropriate discount rate requires significant management judgment with respect to revenue and expense growth rates.

#### Stock Based Compensation

We account for our stock-based employee compensation plans on the intrinsic value method under the recognition and measurement

**Table of Contents**

principles of Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 25, Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees (APB No. 25) and related Interpretations under APB No. 25. We provide pro forma disclosures only of the compensation expense determined under the fair value provisions of SFAS No. 123, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation (SFAS No. 123).

See Note 15 for a description of FASB Statement No. 123 (revised 2004), Share-Based Payment.

**Deferral of Commissions**

We employ an accounting policy consistent with guidance provided by FASB technical bulletin 90-1 and SEC staff accounting bulletin 104, related to the concept of a direct and incremental relationship between revenue and expense. As such, we defer the recognition of commission expense until such time as the revenue related to the contract for which the commission was paid is recognized.

**Restructuring Charges**

We account for our restructuring activities under guidance provided by Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 141 (SFAS 141), Business Combinations and Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 146 (SFAS 146), Accounting for Costs Associated with Exit or Disposal Activities. SFAS 141 states that after the end of the allocation period (generally one year from date of merger) an adjustment that results from a preacquisition contingency other than an income tax loss carryforward should be included in the determination of net income / (loss) in the period in which the adjustment is determined. As such, adjustments to preacquisition contingencies established at the time of the SmartForce Skillsoft merger are recorded as restructuring charges in our statement of operations. SFAS 146 states that a liability related to an exit or disposal activity should be recognized at fair value in the period in which it is incurred. As such, when we identify restructuring charges that fulfill the requirements identified in SFAS 146 as incurred, we record the charges in our statement of operations.

**Legal Contingencies**

In connection with any material legal proceedings that we may become involved in, management periodically reviews estimates of potential costs to be incurred by us in connection with the adjudication or settlement, if any, of these proceedings. These estimates are developed in consultation with our outside counsel and are based on an analysis of potential litigation outcomes and settlement strategies. In accordance with SFAS No. 5, Accounting for Contingencies, loss contingencies are accrued if, in the opinion of management, an adverse outcome is probable and such outcome can be reasonably estimated. In accordance with SFAS No. 5, gain contingencies are accrued if, in the opinion of management, a favorable outcome is probable and such outcome can be reasonably estimated. Legal costs are expensed as incurred.

**RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

	<b>QUARTER ENDED APRIL 30, PERCENT CHANGE</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE</b>	
<b>DOLLAR INCREASE/(DECREASE)</b>	<b>2004/2005</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
	<b>INCREASE/(DECREASE)</b>		

	<b>(IN THOUSANDS)</b>			
Revenue	\$ 510	1%	100%	100%
Cost of revenue	756	15%	11%	10%
Gross margin	(246)	(1%)	89%	90%
Operating expenses:				
Research and development	425	5%	19%	18%
Selling and marketing	(332)	(1%)	45%	46%
General and administrative	222	4%	12%	11%
Amortization of stock-based compensation	(111)	(32%)		1%
Amortization of intangible assets	(176)	(7%)	4%	5%
Restructuring	556	378%	1%	
Restatement:				
SEC investigation	(74)	(23%)	1%	1%
Other professional fees	(114)	(100%)		
Total operating expenses	396	1%	82%	82%
Operating income	(642)	(14%)	7%	9%
Other expense, net	(69)	(38%)		
Interest income, net	172	140%	1%	
Loss on sale of assets, net	681	100%	(1%)	
Income before provision for income taxes	(1,082)	(24%)	6%	8%
Provision for income taxes	(346)	(27%)	2%	2%
Net income	\$ (736)	(23%)	5%	6%

**Table of Contents**

## COMPARISON OF THE FISCAL QUARTERS ENDED APRIL 30, 2005 AND 2004

## REVENUE

Revenue increased \$510,000, or 1%, to \$53.3 million in the quarter ended April 30, 2005 from \$52.8 million in the quarter ended April 30, 2004. This increase was primarily due to revenue generated from new business primarily derived from our product lines focused on informal learning and an increase in revenue from our Retail Certification business due to sales to new customers as well as the full realization of the segment's subscription-based revenue recognition model. This business segment adopted subscription-based revenue recognition immediately after the Merger and generally defers revenue at the time of sale over 18 to 24 months. Our revenues related to informal learning increased in the quarter ended April 30, 2005 compared to the quarter ended April 30, 2004, and we expect revenues related to informal learning to increase for the remainder of fiscal 2006 when compared to fiscal 2005.

(IN THOUSANDS)	QUARTERS ENDED APRIL 30,		
	2005	2004	CHANGE
Revenue:			
United States	\$ 41,971	\$ 40,922	\$ 1,049
International	11,356	11,895	(539)
Total	\$ 53,327	\$ 52,817	\$ 510

Revenue increased by 3% and decreased by 5% in the United States and internationally, respectively, in the quarter ended April 30, 2005 as compared to the quarter ended April 30, 2004. The international revenue decrease was primarily due a slight decrease in new customer sales. The United States represented 79% and 77% of revenue for the quarters ended April 30, 2005 and 2004, respectively.

(IN THOUSANDS)	QUARTERS ENDED APRIL 30,		
	2005	2004	CHANGE
Revenue:			
Multi-Modal Learning	\$ 48,050	\$ 48,233	\$ (183)
Retail Certification	5,277	4,584	693
Total	\$ 53,327	\$ 52,817	\$ 510

Revenue decreased slightly in the MML segment and increased by 15% in the Retail Certification segment in the quarter ended April 30, 2005 as compared to the quarter ended April 30, 2004. We anticipate MML revenue to remain flat or slightly down in the remainder of fiscal 2006 when compared to fiscal 2005. In the quarter ended April 30, 2005, we sold certain assets related to the Retail Certification business. The sale did not have a negative impact on retail certification revenue for the quarter ended April 30, 2005, but will result in a reduction in revenue for the remainder of fiscal 2006 when compared to fiscal 2005.

We exited the fiscal year ended January 31, 2005 with noncancellable backlog of approximately \$168 million as compared to \$170 million at January 31, 2004. This amount is calculated by combining the amount of deferred revenue at our fiscal year end with the amounts to be added to deferred revenue throughout the next twelve months as a result of committed customer contracts and determining how much of these amounts are scheduled to amortize into

revenue during fiscal 2006. The amount scheduled to amortize into revenue during fiscal 2006 is disclosed as backlog as of January 31, 2005. Amounts to be added to deferred revenue during fiscal 2006 include subsequent billings for ongoing contract periods as well as billings for new or continuing contracts. Company management has included this non-GAAP disclosure due to the fact that it is directly related to our subscription based revenue recognition policy. This is a key business metric, which factors into our forecasting and planning activities and provides visibility into fiscal 2006 revenue.

#### COSTS AND EXPENSES

Cost of revenue increased \$756,000, or 15%, to \$5.8 million in the quarter ended April 30, 2005 from \$5.1 million in the quarter

**Table of Contents**

ended April 30, 2004. This increase was primarily due to a higher mix of royalty-bearing revenue as well as increased infrastructure charges incurred in connection with our efforts to consolidate hosting sites. Cost of revenue as a percentage of total revenue was 11% in the quarter ended April 30, 2005 versus 10% in the quarter ended April 30, 2004.

Research and development increased \$425,000, or 5%, to \$9.9 million in the quarter ended April 30, 2005 from \$9.4 million in the quarter ended April 30, 2004. Research and development expenses as a percentage of total revenue increased to 19% in the quarter ended April 30, 2005 from 18% in the quarter ended April 30, 2004. This increase was primarily due to incremental costs incurred to introduce the SkillSoft Dialogue product offering. We plan to incur incremental costs to pursue informal learning opportunities for the remainder of fiscal 2006.

Selling and marketing expenses decreased \$332,000, or 1%, to \$24.0 million in the quarter ended April 30, 2005 from \$24.4 million in the quarter ended April 30, 2004. Selling and marketing expenses as a percentage of total revenue decreased to 45% in the quarter ended April 30, 2005 from 46% in the quarter ended April 30, 2004. The decrease was primarily due to several annual trade show events that took place in the first quarter of fiscal 2005 but will take place in the second quarter of fiscal 2006. This was partially offset by increased costs related to bringing our virtual classroom offerings to market, expanding our distribution channels, including our new tele-sales operation, and a settlement charge associated with the amendment of Mr. Greg Priest's employment agreement. While we plan to continue investing in new distribution channels we expect that selling and marketing costs will decrease in fiscal 2006 compared to fiscal 2005 due to lower commission expense primarily related to the Retail Certification business as well as a decrease in selling and marketing costs associated with the sale of certain assets of the Retail Certification business. We expect that selling and marketing expenses as a percentage of revenue will be flat in fiscal 2006 compared to fiscal 2005.

General and administrative expenses increased \$222,000, or 4%, to \$6.3 million in the quarter ended April 30, 2005 from \$6.1 million in the quarter ended April 30, 2004. General and administrative expenses as a percentage of total revenue increased to 12% in the quarter ended April 30, 2005 from 11% in the quarter ended April 30, 2004. General and administrative expenses increased primarily due to additional compensation and benefit costs associated with an increased headcount. We anticipate that general and administrative expenses will increase in absolute dollars and as a percentage of revenue over the remainder of fiscal 2006 compared to fiscal 2005 due primarily to continued increases in the costs of operating as a public company such as costs related to compliance with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, advisory services, legal representation and insurance coverage.

Amortization of intangible assets decreased \$176,000, or 7%, to \$2.2 million in the quarter ended April 30, 2005 from \$2.4 million in the quarter ended April 30, 2004. See Note 7 of the Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Stock-based compensation expense decreased \$111,000, or 32%, to \$237,000 in the quarter ended April 30, 2005 from \$348,000 in the quarter ended April 30, 2004. The expense relates to amortization of deferred compensation resulting from the fair market value of options assumed in the Merger and the acquisition of Books.

See Business Outlook for a discussion of our restructuring activities and Note 6 for a discussion of the restatement.

**OTHER EXPENSE, NET**

Other expense in the quarter ended April 30, 2005 was \$110,000 as compared to \$179,000 in the quarter ended April 30, 2004. This change was primarily due to foreign currency fluctuations. Due to our multi-national operations, our business is subject to fluctuations based upon changes in the exchange rates between the currencies we do business in.



INTEREST INCOME, NET

Interest income, net increased to \$295,000 in the quarter ended April 30, 2005 from \$123,000 in the quarter ended April 30, 2004. This increase was primarily due to higher interest rates on our cash and cash equivalents and investments.

LOSS ON SALE OF ASSETS, NET

We recorded a loss of \$681,000 on sale of certain assets of the Retail Certification business which resulted primarily from investment banking fees and professional fees associated with the sale of certain assets of the Retail Certification business in the quarter ended April 30, 2005.

**Table of Contents**

**PROVISION FOR INCOME TAXES**

The provision for income taxes was \$900,000 and \$1.3 million in the quarters ended April 30, 2005 and 2004, respectively. The income tax provision for the quarters ended April 31, 2005 reflects management's expectation that the effective tax rate for fiscal 2005 will be approximately 27%.

**LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES**

As of April 30, 2005, our principal source of liquidity was our cash and cash equivalents and short-term investments, which totaled \$67.5 million. This compares to \$54.9 million at January 31, 2005.

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$13.2 million for the quarter ended April 30, 2005. Our net cash provided by operating activities in the quarter ended April 30, 2005 reflects primarily our net income of \$2.5 million, depreciation and amortization of \$3.5 million, a decrease in accounts receivable of \$38.8 million and an increase in accounts payable of \$0.8 million, partially offset by a decrease in accrued expenses of \$16.2 million and a decrease in deferred revenue of \$17.9 million.

Net cash provided by investing activities was \$4.3 million for the quarter ended April 30, 2005. Maturity of investments, net of purchases (short and long-term), generated a net cash inflow of approximately \$6.5 million in the quarter ended April 30, 2005. This was partially offset by purchases of capital assets and capitalized development software costs totaling approximately \$2.2 million.

Net cash used in financing activities was \$4.6 million for the quarter ended April 30, 2005. Cash was used to purchase \$6.2 million of shares on the open market under our share repurchase program. The shares are accounted for as treasury stock. This was partially offset by proceeds from the exercise of stock options and stock purchases under our 2004 Employee Share Purchase Plan of \$1.6 million.

Our working capital deficit was approximately \$40.7 million and \$46.8 million as of April 30, 2005 and January 31, 2005, respectively. The reduction in our working capital deficit in the quarter ended April 30, 2005 was primarily due to net income of \$2.5 million, \$3.5 million in depreciation and amortization and the maturity of long-term investments, net of purchases of \$6.4 million, which was partially offset by the repurchase of shares of \$6.2 million. Total assets were approximately \$268.1 million and \$303.5 million as of April 30, 2005 and January 31, 2005, respectively. As of April 30, 2005 and January 31, 2005, goodwill and separately identifiable intangible assets were \$117.4 million and \$119.7 million, respectively.

On July 23, 2004, we entered into a \$25 million two year, line of credit with a bank. Under the terms of the line of credit, the bank holds a first security interest in all domestic business assets. All borrowings under the line of credit bear interest at the bank's prime rate. The facility is subject to a commitment fee of \$50,000 to secure the line of credit and unused commitment fees of 0.125% based upon the daily average of un-advanced amounts under the revolving line of credit. We paid approximately \$2,900 in unused commitment fees for the quarter ended April 30, 2005. In addition, the line of credit contains certain financial and non-financial covenants. At January 31, 2005, we were unable to attain one of the financial covenants set forth in the line of credit. With a net loss of approximately \$29.1 million for the quarter ended January 31, 2005, we did not meet the minimum quarterly profitability of \$6.5 million for the fourth quarter. We were unable to meet the financial covenant due to the restructuring and impairment charges recorded in the fourth quarter. The bank agreed to amend the original loan agreement and issue a first loan modification agreement. The first loan modification agreement has been executed and we are currently in compliance with all covenants. Also, the line of credit provides that in the event of a Material Adverse Change (as defined in the line of credit), the lender has the ability to call amounts outstanding under the line of credit. As of April 30, 2005, there were no borrowings on the line of credit; however we had an outstanding letter of credit of

\$15.5 million that reduced the availability under the line of credit. Letters of credit are subject to commission fees of 0.75% as well as administrative costs. We did not pay any letters of credit fees for the quarter ended April 30, 2005.

As of January 31, 2005, we had U.S. federal net operating loss carryforwards (NOLs) of approximately \$342.9 million. These NOLs, which are subject to potential limitations based upon change in control provisions of Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code, are available to reduce future taxable income, if any, through 2025. We also had U.S. federal tax credit carryforwards of approximately \$3.3 million at January 31, 2005. Additionally, we had approximately \$101.5 million of net operating loss carryforwards in jurisdictions outside of the U.S. If not utilized, these carryforwards expire at various dates through the year ending January 31, 2025. Included in the \$342.9 million are approximately \$217.7 million of U.S. net operating loss carryforwards and \$365,000 of U.S. tax credit carryforwards that were acquired in the Merger and the purchase of Books. In addition, included in the \$101.5 million is approximately \$62.5 million of net operating loss carryforwards in jurisdictions outside the U.S. acquired in the Merger and the purchase of Books. We will realize the benefits of these acquired net operating losses through reductions to goodwill and non-

**Table of Contents**

goodwill intangibles during the period that the losses are utilized to reduce tax payments. Also included in the \$342.9 million at January 31, 2005, we have approximately \$27.5 million of net operating loss carryforwards in the United States resulting from disqualifying dispositions. We will realize the benefit of these losses through increases to stockholder's equity in the periods in which the losses are utilized to reduce tax payments.

We lease certain of our facilities and certain equipment and furniture under operating lease agreements that expire at various dates through 2023. Future minimum lease payments, net of estimated rentals, under these agreements are as follows (in thousands):

<b>Contractual Obligations</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Payments Due by Period</b>			
		<b>Less Than 1 Year</b>	<b>1-3 Years</b>	<b>3-5 Years</b>	<b>More Than 5 Years</b>
Operating Lease Obligations	\$35,881	\$5,802	\$9,714	\$5,122	\$15,243

We expect to continue to experience growth in capital expenditures and operating expenses, particularly in research and development, in the fiscal year ending January 31, 2006, as compared to the fiscal year ended January 31, 2005 in order to execute our business plan and achieve expected revenue growth. To the extent that our execution of the business plan results in increased sales, we expect to experience corresponding increases in deferred revenue, cash flow and prepaid expenses. In addition, we are required to make litigation settlement payments totaling \$15.25 million in the fiscal year ending January 31, 2006. We are in discussions with our insurers to determine how much, if any, of the settlement related to the 2002 securities class action lawsuits will be paid by them. Capital expenditures for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2006 are expected to be approximately \$7.0 million. We have approval of our Board of Directors and shareholders to purchase, subject to certain limitations, up to 4,714,729 of our outstanding shares (above the 2,285,271 we have already purchased through April 30, 2005) although there are limitations on our ability to purchase up to this level, which include distributable profit limitations under Irish regulations and available cash. We expect that the principal sources of funding for our operating expenses, capital expenditures, litigation settlement payments and other liquidity needs will be a combination of our available cash and cash equivalents and short-term investments (which totaled approximately \$67.5 million as of April 30, 2005), and funds generated from future cash flows. We believe our current funds and expected cash flows from operating activities will be sufficient to fund our operations for at least the next 12 months. However, there are a number of factors that may negatively impact our available sources of funds. In addition, our cash needs may increase due to factors such as unanticipated developments in our business or significant acquisitions. The amount of cash generated from operations will be dependent upon the successful execution of our business plan. Although we do not foresee the need to raise additional capital, any unanticipated economic or business events could require us to raise additional capital to support operations.

**FUTURE OPERATING RESULTS****RISKS RELATED TO LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

**IN CONNECTION WITH OUR RESTATEMENT OF THE HISTORICAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF SMARTFORCE, CLASS ACTION LAWSUITS HAVE BEEN FILED AGAINST US AND ADDITIONAL LAWSUITS MAY BE FILED, AND WE ARE THE SUBJECT OF A FORMAL ORDER OF PRIVATE INVESTIGATION ENTERED BY THE SEC.**

While preparing the closing balance sheet of SmartForce as at September 6, 2002, the date on which we closed our merger with SkillSoft Corporation, certain accounting matters were identified relating to the historical financial statements of SmartForce (which, following the Merger, are no longer our historical financial statements – see Note 1

of the Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements). On November 19, 2002, we announced our intent to restate the SmartForce financial statements for 1999, 2000, 2001 and the first two quarters of 2002. We have settled several class action lawsuits that were filed following the announcement of the restatement.

We are the subject of a formal order of private investigation entered by the SEC. We will likely incur substantial costs in connection with the SEC investigation, which could cause a diversion of management time and attention. In addition, we could be subject to substantial penalties, fines or regulatory sanctions, which could adversely affect our business.

On June 2, 2005, the Boston District Office of the SEC informed us that it had made a preliminary determination to recommend that the SEC bring a civil injunctive action against us. Under the SEC's rules, we are permitted to make a so-called Wells Submission in which we seek to persuade the SEC that no such action should be commenced. We intend to make such a submission. We continue to cooperate with the SEC in this matter. At the present time we are unable to predict the outcome of this action and as such have not determined what, if any, impact it may have on our financial statements.

**CLAIMS THAT WE INFRINGE UPON THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS OF OTHERS COULD RESULT IN COSTLY LITIGATION OR ROYALTY PAYMENTS TO THIRD PARTIES, OR REQUIRE US TO REENGINEER OR CEASE SALES OF OUR PRODUCTS OR SERVICES.**

**Table of Contents**

Third parties have in the past and could in the future claim that our current or future products infringe their intellectual property rights. Any claim, with or without merit, could result in costly litigation or require us to reengineer or cease sales of our products or services, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business. Infringement claims could also result in an injunction in the use of our products or require us to enter into royalty or licensing agreements. Licensing agreements, if required, may not be available on terms acceptable to the combined company or at all.

From time to time we learn of parties that claim broad intellectual property rights in the e-learning area that might implicate our offerings. These parties or others could initiate actions against us in the future.

**WE COULD INCUR SUBSTANTIAL COSTS RESULTING FROM PRODUCT LIABILITY CLAIMS RELATING TO OUR CUSTOMERS' USE OF OUR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES.**

Many of the business interactions supported by our products and services are critical to our customers' businesses. Any failure in a customer's business interaction or other collaborative activity caused or allegedly caused in the future by our products and services could result in a claim for substantial damages against us, regardless of our responsibility for the failure. Although we maintain general liability insurance, including coverage for errors and omissions, there can be no assurance that existing coverage will continue to be available on reasonable terms or will be available in amounts sufficient to cover one or more large claims, or that the insurer will not disclaim coverage as to any future claim.

**WE COULD BE SUBJECTED TO LEGAL ACTIONS BASED UPON THE CONTENT WE OBTAIN FROM THIRD PARTIES OVER WHOM WE EXERT LIMITED CONTROL.**

It is possible that we could become subject to legal actions based upon claims that our course content infringes the rights of others or is erroneous. Any such claims, with or without merit, could subject us to costly litigation and the diversion of our financial resources and management personnel. The risk of such claims is exacerbated by the fact that our course content is provided by third parties over whom we exert limited control. Further, if those claims are successful, we may be required to alter the content, pay financial damages or obtain content from others.

**RISKS RELATED TO THE OPERATION OF OUR BUSINESS**

**SOME OF OUR INTERNATIONAL SUBSIDIARIES HAVE NOT COMPLIED WITH REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO THEIR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND TAX RETURNS.**

We operate our business in various foreign countries through subsidiaries organized in those countries. Due to our restatement of the historical SmartForce financial statements, some of our subsidiaries have not filed their audited statutory financial statements and have been delayed in filing their tax returns in their respective jurisdictions. As a result, some of these foreign subsidiaries may be subject to regulatory restrictions, penalties and fines and additional taxes.

**WE HAVE EXPERIENCED NET LOSSES IN THE PAST, AND WE MAY BE UNABLE TO MAINTAIN PROFITABILITY.**

We recorded a net loss of \$284 million for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2003, \$113.3 million for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2004 and \$20.1 million for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2005. We achieved profitability in the first quarter of the fiscal year ending January 31, 2006. However, we cannot guarantee that our combined business will sustain profitability in any future period.

OUR QUARTERLY OPERATING RESULTS MAY FLUCTUATE SIGNIFICANTLY. THIS LIMITS YOUR ABILITY TO EVALUATE HISTORICAL FINANCIAL RESULTS AND INCREASES THE LIKELIHOOD THAT OUR RESULTS WILL FALL BELOW MARKET ANALYSTS' EXPECTATIONS, WHICH COULD CAUSE THE PRICE OF OUR ADS TO DROP RAPIDLY AND SEVERELY.

We have in the past experienced fluctuations in our quarterly operating results, and we anticipate that these fluctuations will continue. As a result, we believe that our quarterly revenue, expenses and operating results are likely to vary significantly in the future. If in some future quarters our results of operations are below the expectations of public market analysts and investors, this could have a severe adverse effect on the market price of our ADSs.

Our operating results have historically fluctuated, and our operating results may in the future continue to fluctuate, as a result of

**Table of Contents**

factors, which include (without limitation):

the size and timing of new/renewal agreements and upgrades;

royalty rates;

the announcement, introduction and acceptance of new products, product enhancements and technologies by us and our competitors;

the mix of sales between our field sales force, our other direct sales channels and our telesales channels;

general conditions in the U.S. or the international economy;

the loss of significant customers;

delays in availability of new products;

product or service quality problems;

seasonality due to the budget and purchasing cycles of our customers, we expect our revenue and operating results will generally be strongest in the second half of our fiscal year and weakest in the first half of our fiscal year;

the spending patterns of our customers;

litigation costs and expenses, including the costs related to the restatement of the SmartForce financial statements;

non-recurring charges related to acquisitions;

growing competition that may result in price reductions; and

currency fluctuations.

Most of our expenses, such as rent and most employee compensation, do not vary directly with revenue and are difficult to adjust in the short-term. As a result, if revenue for a particular quarter is below our expectations, we could not proportionately reduce operating expenses for that quarter. Any such revenue shortfall would, therefore, have a disproportionate effect on our expected operating results for that quarter.

**DEMAND FOR OUR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES MAY BE ESPECIALLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO ADVERSE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.**

Our business and financial performance may be damaged by adverse financial conditions affecting our target customers or by a general weakening of the economy. Companies may not view training products and services as critical to the success of their businesses. If these companies experience disappointing operating results, whether as a result of adverse economic conditions, competitive issues or other factors, they may decrease or forego education and training expenditures before limiting their other expenditures or in conjunction with lowering other expenses.

**INCREASED COMPETITION MAY RESULT IN DECREASED DEMAND FOR OUR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES, WHICH MAY RESULT IN REDUCED REVENUES AND GROSS PROFITS AND LOSS OF**



MARKET SHARE.

The market for corporate education and training solutions is highly fragmented and competitive. We expect the market to become increasingly competitive due to the lack of significant barriers to entry. In addition to increased competition from new companies entering into the market, established companies are entering into the market through acquisitions of smaller companies, which directly compete with us, and this trend is expected to continue. We may also face competition from publishing companies and vendors of application software, including those vendors with whom we have formed development and marketing alliances.

**Table of Contents**

Our primary sources of direct competition are:

third-party suppliers of instructor-led information technology, business, management and professional skills education and training;

suppliers of computer-based training and e-learning solutions;

internal education and training departments of potential customers; and

value-added resellers and network integrators.

Growing competition may result in price reductions, reduced revenue and gross profits and loss of market share, any one of which would have a material adverse effect on our business. Many of our current and potential competitors have substantially greater financial, technical, sales, marketing and other resources, as well as greater name recognition, and we expect to face increasing price pressures from competitors as managers demand more value for their training budgets. Accordingly, we may be unable to provide e-learning solutions that compare favorably with new instructor-led techniques, other interactive training software or new e-learning solutions.

**WE RELY ON A LIMITED NUMBER OF THIRD PARTIES TO PROVIDE US WITH EDUCATIONAL CONTENT FOR OUR COURSES AND REFERENCEWARE, AND OUR ALLIANCES WITH THESE THIRD PARTIES MAY BE TERMINATED OR FAIL TO MEET OUR REQUIREMENTS.**

We rely on a limited number of independent third parties to provide us with the educational content for a majority of our courses based on learning objectives and specific instructional design templates that we provide to them. We do not have exclusive arrangements or long-term contracts with any of these content providers. If one or more of our third party content providers were to stop working with us, we would have to rely on other parties to develop our course content. In addition, these providers may fail to develop new courses or existing courses on a timely basis. We cannot predict whether new content or enhancements would be available from reliable alternative sources on reasonable terms. In addition, Books relies on third party publishers to provide all of the content incorporated into its Referenceware products. If one or more of these publishers were to terminate their license with us, we may not be able to find substitute publishers for such content. In addition, we may be forced to pay increased royalties to these publishers to continue our licenses with them.

In the event that we are unable to maintain or expand our current development alliances or enter into new development alliances, our operating results and financial condition could be materially adversely affected. Furthermore, we will be required to pay royalties to some of our development partners on products developed with them, which could reduce our gross margins. We expect that cost of revenues may fluctuate from period to period in the future based upon many factors, including the revenue mix and the timing of expenses associated with development alliances. In addition, the collaborative nature of the development process under these alliances may result in longer development times and less control over the timing of product introductions than for e-learning offerings developed solely by us. Our strategic alliance partners may from time to time renegotiate the terms of their agreements with us, which could result in changes to the royalty or other arrangements, adversely affecting our results of operations.

The independent third party strategic partners we rely on for educational content and product marketing may compete with us, harming our results of operations. Our agreements with these third parties generally do not restrict them from developing courses on similar topics for our competitors or from competing directly with us. As a result, our competitors may be able to duplicate some of our course content and gain a competitive advantage.

**OUR SUCCESS DEPENDS ON OUR ABILITY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE RAPIDLY CHANGING MARKET.**

The market for education and training software is characterized by rapidly changing technology, evolving industry standards, changes in customer requirements and preferences and frequent introductions of new products and services embodying new technologies. New methods of providing interactive education in a technology-based format are being developed and offered in the marketplace, including intranet and Internet offerings. In addition, multimedia and other product functionality features are being added to educational software. Our future success will depend upon the extent to which we are able to develop and implement products which address these emerging market requirements in a cost effective and timely basis. Product development is risky because it is difficult to foresee developments in technology, coordinate technical personnel and identify and eliminate design flaws. Any significant delay in releasing new products could have a material adverse effect on the ultimate success of our products and could

**Table of Contents**

reduce sales of predecessor products. We may not be successful in introducing new products on a timely basis. In addition, new products introduced by us may fail to achieve a significant degree of market acceptance or, once accepted, may fail to sustain viability in the market for any significant period. If we are unsuccessful in addressing the changing needs of the marketplace due to resource, technological or other constraints, or in anticipating and responding adequately to changes in customers' software technology and preferences, our business and results of operations would be materially adversely affected. We, along with the rest of the industry, face a challenging and competitive market for IT spending that has resulted in reduced contract value for our formal learning product lines. This pricing pressure is having a negative impact on revenue for these product lines and may have a continued or increased adverse impact in the future.

**THE E-LEARNING MARKET IS A DEVELOPING MARKET, AND OUR BUSINESS WILL SUFFER IF E-LEARNING IS NOT WIDELY ACCEPTED.**

The market for e-learning is a new and emerging market. Corporate training and education have historically been conducted primarily through classroom instruction and have traditionally been performed by a company's internal personnel. Many companies have invested heavily in their current training solutions. Although technology-based training applications have been available for several years, they currently account for only a small portion of the overall training market.

Accordingly, our future success will depend upon the extent to which companies adopt technology-based solutions for their training activities, and the extent to which companies utilize the services or purchase products of third-party providers. Many companies that have already invested substantial resources in traditional methods of corporate training may be reluctant to adopt a new strategy that may compete with their existing investments. Even if companies implement technology-based training or e-learning solutions, they may still choose to design, develop, deliver or manage all or part of their education and training internally. If technology-based learning does not become widespread, or if companies do not use the products and services of third parties to develop, deliver or manage their training needs, then our products and service may not achieve commercial success.

**THE SUCCESS OF OUR E-LEARNING STRATEGY DEPENDS ON THE RELIABILITY AND CONSISTENT PERFORMANCE OF OUR INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND INTERNET INFRASTRUCTURE.**

The success of our e-learning strategy is highly dependent on the consistent performance of our information systems and Internet infrastructure. If our Web site fails for any reason or if it experiences any unscheduled downtimes, even for only a short period, our business and reputation could be materially harmed. We have in the past experienced performance problems and unscheduled downtime, and these problems could recur. We currently rely on third parties for proper functioning of computer infrastructure, delivery of our e-learning applications and the performance of our destination site. Our systems and operations could be damaged or interrupted by fire, flood, power loss, telecommunications failure, break-ins, earthquake, financial patterns of hosting providers and similar events. Any system failures could adversely affect customer usage of our solutions and user traffic results in any future quarters, which could adversely affect our revenues and operating results and harm our reputation with corporate customers, subscribers and commerce partners. Accordingly, the satisfactory performance, reliability and availability of our Web site and computer infrastructure is critical to our reputation and ability to attract and retain corporate customers, subscribers and commerce partners. We cannot accurately project the rate or timing of any increases in traffic to our Web site and, therefore, the integration and timing of any upgrades or enhancements required to facilitate any significant traffic increase to the Web site are uncertain. We have in the past experienced difficulties in upgrading our Web site infrastructure to handle increased traffic, and these difficulties could recur. The failure to expand and upgrade our Web site or any system error, failure or extended down time could materially harm our business, reputation, financial condition or results of operations.

BECAUSE MANY USERS OF OUR E-LEARNING SOLUTIONS WILL ACCESS THEM OVER THE INTERNET, FACTORS ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE USE OF THE INTERNET OR OUR CUSTOMERS NETWORKING INFRASTRUCTURES COULD HARM OUR BUSINESS.

Many of our customer s users access our e-learning solutions over the Internet or through our customers internal networks. Any factors that adversely affect Internet usage could disrupt the ability of those users to access our e-learning solutions, which would adversely affect customer satisfaction and therefore our business.

For example, our ability to increase the effectiveness and scope of our services to customers is ultimately limited by the speed and reliability of both the Internet and our customers internal networks. Consequently, the emergence and growth of the market for our products and services depends upon the improvements being made to the entire Internet as well as to our individual customers networking infrastructures to alleviate overloading and congestion. If these improvements are not made, and the quality of networks

**Table of Contents**

degrades, the ability of our customers to use our products and services will be hindered and our revenues may suffer.

Additionally, a requirement for the continued growth of accessing e-learning solutions over the Internet is the secure transmission of confidential information over public networks. Failure to prevent security breaches into our products or our customers' networks, or well-publicized security breaches affecting the Internet in general could significantly harm our growth and revenue. Advances in computer capabilities, new discoveries in the field of cryptography or other developments may result in a compromise of technology we use to protect content and transactions, our products or our customers' proprietary information in our databases. Anyone who is able to circumvent our security measures could misappropriate proprietary and confidential information or could cause interruptions in our operations. We may be required to expend significant capital and other resources to protect against such security breaches or to address problems caused by security breaches. The privacy of users may also deter people from using the Internet to conduct transactions that involve transmitting confidential information.

**OUR RESTRUCTURING PLANS MAY BE INEFFECTIVE OR MAY LIMIT OUR ABILITY TO COMPETE.**

Since the Merger, we have recorded an aggregate of \$31.4 million in merger and exit costs and an aggregate of \$30.1 million of restructuring charges. There are several risks inherent in these efforts to transition to a new cost structure. These include the risk that we will not be successful in restoring profitability, and hence we may have to undertake further restructuring initiatives that would entail additional charges and create additional risks. In addition, there is the risk that cost-cutting initiatives will impair our ability to effectively develop and market products and remain competitive. Each of the above measures could have long-term effects on our business by reducing our pool of talent, decreasing or slowing improvements in our products, making it more difficult for us to respond to customers, limiting our ability to increase production quickly if and when the demand for our products increases and limiting our ability to hire and retain key personnel. These circumstances could cause our earnings to be lower than they otherwise might be.

**WE DEPEND ON A FEW KEY PERSONNEL TO MANAGE AND OPERATE THE BUSINESS AND MUST BE ABLE TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN HIGHLY QUALIFIED EMPLOYEES.**

Our success is largely dependent on the personal efforts and abilities of our senior management. Failure to retain these executives, or the loss of certain additional senior management personnel or other key employees, could have a material adverse effect on our business and future prospects. We are also dependent on the continued service of our key sales, content development and operational personnel and on our ability to attract, train, motivate and retain highly qualified employees. In addition, we depend on writers, programmers, Web designers and graphic artists. We may be unsuccessful in attracting, training, retaining or motivating key personnel. In particular, the negative consequences (including litigation) of having to restate SmartForce's historical financial statements, uncertainties surrounding the Merger, and our recent adverse operating results and stock price performance could create uncertainties that materially and adversely affect our ability to attract and retain key personnel. The inability to hire, train and retain qualified personnel or the loss of the services of key personnel could have a material adverse effect upon our business, new product development efforts and future business prospects.

**CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING STANDARDS REGARDING STOCK OPTION PLANS COULD LIMIT THE DESIRABILITY OF GRANTING STOCK OPTIONS, WHICH COULD HARM OUR ABILITY TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN EMPLOYEES, AND COULD ALSO REDUCE OUR PROFITABILITY.**

The Financial Accounting Standards Board has determined to require all companies to treat the value of stock options granted to employees as an expense commencing in our first quarter of fiscal 2007. This change will require companies to record a compensation expense equal to the value of each stock option granted. This expense will be spread over the vesting period of the stock option. Due to the fact that we will be required to expense stock option

grants, it could reduce the attractiveness of granting stock options because the additional expense associated with these grants would reduce our profitability. However, stock options are an important employee recruitment and retention tool, and we may not be able to attract and retain key personnel if we reduce the scope of our employee stock option program. Accordingly, either our profitability, or our ability to use stock options as an employee recruitment and retention tool would be adversely impacted.

**OUR BUSINESS IS SUBJECT TO CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS THAT COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR OPERATING RESULTS.**

Due to our multinational operations, our operating results are subject to fluctuations based upon changes in the exchange rates between the currencies in which revenues are collected or expenses are paid. In particular, the value of the U.S. dollar against the euro

**Table of Contents**

and related currencies will impact our operating results. Our expenses will not necessarily be incurred in the currency in which revenue is generated, and, as a result, we will be required from time to time to convert currencies to meet our obligations. These currency conversions are subject to exchange rate fluctuations, and changes to the value of the euro, pound sterling and other currencies relative to the U.S. dollar could adversely affect our business and results of operations.

**WE MAY BE UNABLE TO PROTECT OUR PROPRIETARY RIGHTS. UNAUTHORIZED USE OF OUR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY MAY RESULT IN DEVELOPMENT OF PRODUCTS OR SERVICES THAT COMPETE WITH OURS.**

Our success depends to a degree upon the protection of our rights in intellectual property. We rely upon a combination of patent, copyright, and trademark laws to protect our proprietary rights. We have also entered into, and will continue to enter into, confidentiality agreements with our employees, consultants and third parties to seek to limit and protect the distribution of confidential information. However, we have not signed protective agreements in every case.

Although we have taken steps to protect our proprietary rights, these steps may be inadequate. Existing patent, copyright, and trademark laws offer only limited protection. Moreover, the laws of other countries in which we market our products may afford little or no effective protection of our intellectual property. Additionally, unauthorized parties may copy aspects of our products, services or technology or obtain and use information that we regard as proprietary. Other parties may also breach protective contracts we have executed or will in the future execute. We may not become aware of, or have adequate remedies in the event of, a breach. Litigation may be necessary in the future to enforce or to determine the validity and scope of our intellectual property rights or to determine the validity and scope of the proprietary rights of others. Even if we were to prevail, such litigation could result in substantial costs and diversion of management and technical resources.

**OUR NON-U.S. OPERATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO RISKS WHICH COULD NEGATIVELY IMPACT OUR FUTURE OPERATING RESULTS.**

We expect that international operations will continue to account for a significant portion of our revenues. Operations outside of the United States are subject to inherent risks, including:

- difficulties or delays in developing and supporting non-English language versions of our products and services;
- political and economic conditions in various jurisdictions;
- difficulties in staffing and managing foreign subsidiary operations;
- longer sales cycles and account receivable payment cycles;
- multiple, conflicting and changing governmental laws and regulations;
- foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations;
- protectionist laws and business practices that may favor local competitors;
- difficulties in finding and managing local resellers;
- potential adverse tax consequences; and



the absence or significant lack of legal protection for intellectual property rights.

Any of these factors could have a material adverse effect on our future operations outside of the United States, which could negatively impact our future operating results.

**THE MARKET PRICE OF OUR ADSs MAY FLUCTUATE AND MAY NOT BE SUSTAINABLE.**

The market price of our ADSs has fluctuated significantly since our initial public offering and is likely to continue to be volatile. In addition, in recent years the stock market in general, and the market for shares of technology stocks in particular, have experienced

**Table of Contents**

extreme price and volume fluctuations, which have often been unrelated to the operating performance of affected companies. The market price of our ADSs may continue to experience significant fluctuations in the future, including fluctuations that are unrelated to our performance. As a result of these fluctuations in the price of our ADSs, it is difficult to predict what the price of our ADSs will be at any point in the future, and you may not be able to sell your ADSs at or above the price that you paid for them.

**OUR SALES CYCLE MAY MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO PREDICT OUR OPERATING RESULTS.**

The period between our initial contact with a potential customer and the purchase of our products (not including SmartCertify) by that customer typically ranges from three to twelve months or more. Factors that contribute to our long sales cycle, include:

our need to educate potential customers about the benefits of our products;

competitive evaluations by customers;

the customers' internal budgeting and approval processes;

the fact that many customers view training products as discretionary spending, rather than purchases essential to their business; and

the fact that we target large companies, which often take longer to make purchasing decisions due to the size and complexity of the enterprise.

These long sales cycles make it difficult to predict the quarter in which sales may occur. Delays in sales could cause significant variability in our revenues and operating results for any particular period.

**OUR BUSINESS COULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED IF OUR PRODUCTS CONTAIN ERRORS.**

Software products as complex as ours contain known and undetected errors or bugs that result in product failures. The existence of bugs could result in loss of or delay in revenues, loss of market share, diversion of product development resources, injury to reputation or damage to efforts to build brand awareness, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results and financial condition.

**ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK**

As of April 30, 2005, we did not use derivative financial instruments for speculative or trading purposes.

**INTEREST RATE RISK**

Our general investing policy is to limit the risk of principal loss and to ensure the safety of invested funds by limiting market and credit risk. We currently use a registered investment manager to place our investments in highly liquid money market accounts and government-backed securities. All highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less are considered to be cash equivalents. Interest income is sensitive to changes in the general level of U.S. interest rates. Based on the short-term nature of our investments, we have concluded that there is no significant market risk exposure.

**FOREIGN CURRENCY RISK**

Due to our multinational operations, our business is subject to fluctuations based upon changes in the exchange rates between the currencies in which we collect revenues or pay expenses and the U.S. dollar. Our expenses are not necessarily incurred in the currency in which revenue is generated, and, as a result, we are required from time to time to convert currencies to meet our obligations. These currency conversions are subject to exchange rate fluctuations, in particular changes to the value of the euro, Canadian dollar, Australian dollar, New Zealand dollar, Singapore dollar, and pound sterling relative to the U.S. dollar, which could adversely affect our business and the results of operations.

**Table of Contents**

**ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

Our management, with the participation of our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures as of April 30, 2005. The term "disclosure controls and procedures," as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"), means controls and other procedures of a company that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by a company in the reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms. Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by a company in the reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to the company's management, including its principal executive and principal financial officers, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. Our management recognizes that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving their objectives and management necessarily applies its judgment in evaluating the cost-benefit relationship of possible controls and procedures. Based on the evaluation of our disclosure controls and procedures as of April 30, 2005, our chief executive officer and chief financial officer concluded that, as of such date, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at the reasonable assurance level.

No change in our internal control over financial reporting occurred during the fiscal quarter ended April 30, 2005 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

**PART II**

**ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

**SEC INVESTIGATION**

On or about February 4, 2003, the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC) informed us that we are the subject of a formal order of private investigation relating to our November 19, 2002 announcement that we would restate the financial statements of SmartForce PLC for the period 1999 through June 2002. We understand that the SEC's investigation concerns SmartForce's financial disclosure and accounting during that period, other related matters, compliance with rules governing reports required to be filed with the SEC, and the conduct of those responsible for such matters. On June 2, 2005, the Boston District Office of the SEC informed us that it had made a preliminary determination to recommend that the SEC bring a civil injunctive action against us. Under the SEC's rules, we are permitted to make a so-called Wells Submission in which we seek to persuade the SEC that no such action should be commenced. We intend to make such a submission. We continue to cooperate with the SEC in this matter. At the present time we are unable to predict the outcome of this action and as such have not determined what, if any, impact it may have on our financial statements.

**LAWSUITS**

On November 18, 2004, Jody Glidden, Michael LeBlanc and Trish Glidden filed a lawsuit against the Company, David C. Drummond, Gregory M. Priest, Patrick E. Murphy and Jack Hayes in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. The plaintiffs had previously opted out of the class action settlement that received final approval from the court on September 29, 2004. The lawsuit sets forth substantially the same claims as were alleged in the class action litigation. In particular, the lawsuit alleges that the Company misrepresented or omitted to state material facts in its SEC filings and press releases regarding the Company's revenues and earnings and failed to

correct such false and misleading SEC filings and press releases, which are alleged to have artificially inflated the price of the Company's ADSs in connection with its acquisition of IC Global in early 2001. The lawsuit seeks compensatory damages of approximately \$3.7 million and other unspecified damages. We believe that we have meritorious defenses to this lawsuit and intend to defend ourselves vigorously.

We are not a party to any other material legal proceedings.

**Table of Contents**

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

<b>Period</b>	<b>(a) Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased (1)</b>	<b>(b) Average Price Paid per Share (or Unit) \$</b>	<b>(c) Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs (2)</b>	<b>(d) Maximum Number (or Approximate Dollar Value) of Shares (or Units) that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs</b>
2/01/05-2/28/05				6,556,243
3/01/05-3/31/05				6,556,243
04/01/05-04/30/05	1,841,514	3.35	1,841,514	4,714,729
Total:	1,841,514	\$ 3.35	1,841,514	4,714,729

(1) To date, we repurchased an aggregate of 2,285,271 ADSs pursuant to the repurchase program that we publicly announced on September 27, 2004 (the Program).

(2) Our Board of Directors approved the repurchase by us of up to an aggregate of 7,000,000 ADSs at a per share purchase price which complies with the requirements of Rule 10b-18 pursuant to the Program. Unless terminated earlier by resolution of our Board of Directors, the Program will expire on March 24, 2006 or when we have repurchased all shares authorized for repurchase thereunder.

## ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES

Not applicable.

## ITEM 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS

Not applicable.

## ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION

Not applicable.

## ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

See the Exhibit Index attached hereto.



**Table of Contents**

SIGNATURE

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

SKILLSOFT PUBLIC LIMITED  
COMPANY

Date: June 8, 2005

By: /s/ Thomas J. McDonald  
Thomas J. McDonald  
Chief Financial Officer

33

---



**Table of Contents**

EXHIBIT INDEX

- 10.1 First Loan Modification Agreement, dated as of April 11, 2005, by and among Silicon Valley Bank, Skillsoft Corporation, SmartCertify Direct Inc. and Books 24x7.com, Inc.
- 10.2 Second Loan Modification Agreement, dated as of April 25, 2005, by and among Skillsoft Corporation, SmartCertify Direct Inc. and Books 24x7.com, Inc.
- 31.1 Certification of the Company's CEO pursuant to Rule 13a-14 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
- 31.2 Certification of the Company's CFO pursuant to Rule 13a-14 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
- 32.1 Certification of the Company's CEO pursuant to 18 U.S.C. section 1350, as adopted pursuant to section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.2 Certification of the Company's CFO pursuant to 18 U.S.C. section 1350, as adopted pursuant to section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.