

BEL FUSE INC /NJ
Form 10-Q
November 06, 2017

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q
(MARK ONE)

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT
OF 1934
For the Quarterly Period Ended September 30, 2017

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 No. 0-11676

BEL FUSE INC.
206 Van Vorst Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302
(201) 432-0463

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

NEW JERSEY 22-1463699
(State of incorporation) (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

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

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

Indicate by checkmark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer, smaller reporting company and emerging growth company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

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

company []

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. []

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

Title of Each Class	Number of Shares of Common Stock Outstanding as of November 1, 2017
Class A Common Stock (\$0.10 par value)	2,174,912
Class B Common Stock (\$0.10 par value)	9,858,802

BEL FUSE INC.

INDEX

	Page
Part I	<u>Financial Information</u>
Item 1.	<u>Financial Statements (unaudited)</u> 2
	<u>Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016 (unaudited)</u> 2
	<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations for the Three and Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 (unaudited)</u> 3
	<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss) for the Three and Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 (unaudited)</u> 4
	<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 (unaudited)</u> 5
	<u>Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (unaudited)</u> 6 - 14
Item 2.	<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u> 15 - 21
Item 3.	<u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u> 21
Item 4.	<u>Controls and Procedures</u> 21
Part II	<u>Other Information</u>
Item 1.	<u>Legal Proceedings</u> 21
Item 1A.	<u>Risk Factors</u> 21
Item 2.	<u>Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u> 22
Item 6.	<u>Exhibits</u> 23
	<u>Signatures</u> 24

[Return to Index](#)

CAUTIONARY NOTICE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

The terms the "Company," "Bel," "we," "us," and "our" as used in this report refer to Bel Fuse Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries unless otherwise specified.

The Company's consolidated operating results are affected by a wide variety of factors that could materially and adversely affect revenues and profitability, including the risk factors described in Item 1A of our 2016 Annual Report on Form 10-K. As a result of these and other factors, the Company may experience material fluctuations in future operating results on a quarterly or annual basis, which could materially and adversely affect its business, consolidated financial condition, operating results, and common stock prices. Furthermore, this document and other documents filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") contain certain forward-looking statements under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 ("Forward-Looking Statements") with respect to the business of the Company. Forward-Looking Statements are necessarily subject to risks and uncertainties, many of which are outside our control, that could cause actual results to differ materially from these statements. Forward-Looking Statements can be identified by such words as "anticipates," "believes," "plan," "assumes," "could," "should," "estimates," "expects," "intends," "potential," "seek," "predict," "may," "will" and similar references to future periods. All statements other than statements of historical facts included in this report regarding our strategies, prospects, financial condition, operations, costs, plans and objectives are Forward-Looking Statements. These Forward-Looking Statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties, including those detailed in Item 1A of our 2016 Annual Report on Form 10-K, which could cause actual results to differ materially from these Forward-Looking Statements. The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly release the results of any revisions to these Forward-Looking Statements which may be necessary to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. Any Forward-Looking Statement made by the Company is based only on information currently available to us and speaks only as of the date on which it is made.

Return to Index

PART I. Financial Information

Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited)

BEL FUSE INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
 (in thousands, except share and per share data)
 (unaudited)

	September 30, 2017	December 31, 2016
ASSETS		
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 62,106	\$ 73,411
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$1,689 in 2017 and \$1,781 in 2016	83,643	74,416
Inventories	104,522	98,871
Other current assets	9,231	8,744
Total current assets	259,502	255,442
Property, plant and equipment, net	43,664	48,755
Intangible assets, net	70,886	74,828
Goodwill	20,028	17,951
Deferred income taxes	6,511	3,410
Other assets	27,897	26,354
Total assets	\$ 428,488	\$ 426,740
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 45,493	\$ 47,235
Accrued expenses	29,816	31,549
Current portion of long-term debt	15,551	11,395
Other current liabilities	6,751	2,148
Total current liabilities	97,611	92,327
Long-term Liabilities:		
Long-term debt	105,479	129,850
Liability for uncertain tax positions	27,540	27,458
Minimum pension obligation and unfunded pension liability	17,770	16,900
Deferred income taxes	1,670	1,460
Other liabilities	323	311
Total liabilities	250,393	268,306
Commitments and contingencies		
Stockholders' Equity:		
Preferred stock, no par value, 1,000,000 shares authorized; none issued	-	-
Class A common stock, par value \$.10 per share, 10,000,000 shares		

Edgar Filing: BEL FUSE INC /NJ - Form 10-Q

authorized; 2,174,912 shares outstanding at each date (net of 1,072,769 treasury shares)	217	217
Class B common stock, par value \$.10 per share, 30,000,000 shares authorized; shares outstanding: 9,860,802 in 2017 and 9,851,652 in 2016 (net of 3,218,307 treasury shares)	986	985
Additional paid-in capital	27,856	27,242
Retained earnings	169,402	161,287
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(20,366)	(31,297)
Total stockholders' equity	178,095	158,434
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 428,488	\$ 426,740

See accompanying notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

2

Return to Index

BEL FUSE INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
 (in thousands, except per share data)
 (unaudited)

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30,		September 30,	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
Net sales	\$126,386	\$128,809	\$371,671	\$381,614
Cost of sales	98,769	102,234	291,729	306,273
Gross profit	27,617	26,575	79,942	75,341
Selling, general and administrative expenses	20,903	19,385	63,858	55,006
Impairment of goodwill and other intangible assets	-	-	-	105,972
Loss (gain) on disposal of property, plant and equipment	182	(2,099)	283	(2,083)
Restructuring charges (credits)	-	(20)	171	581
Income (loss) from operations	6,532	9,309	15,630	(84,135)
Interest expense	(1,466)	(1,538)	(4,476)	(5,243)
Interest income and other, net	18	243	65	466
Earnings (loss) before provision for (benefit from) income taxes	5,084	8,014	11,219	(88,912)
Provision for (benefit from) income taxes	60	(1,696)	2,329	(20,701)
Net earnings (loss) available to common stockholders	\$5,024	\$9,710	\$8,890	\$(68,211)
Net earnings (loss) per common share:				
Class A common share - basic and diluted	\$0.40	\$0.78	\$0.69	\$(5.52)
Class B common share - basic and diluted	\$0.42	\$0.82	\$0.75	\$(5.78)
Weighted-average number of shares outstanding:				
Class A common share - basic and diluted	2,175	2,175	2,175	2,175
Class B common share - basic and diluted	9,864	9,760	9,856	9,730
Dividends paid per common share:				
Class A common share	\$0.06	\$0.06	\$0.18	\$0.18
Class B common share	\$0.07	\$0.07	\$0.21	\$0.21

See accompanying notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

Return to Index

BEL FUSE INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)
 (dollars in thousands)
 (unaudited)

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2017		2016		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017		2016	
Net earnings (loss) available to common stockholders	\$5,024	\$9,710	\$8,890	\$(68,211)				
Other comprehensive income (loss):								
Currency translation adjustment, net of taxes of \$101 in the three months ended September 30, 2017, \$(111) in the three months ended September 30, 2016, \$285 in the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and \$(456) in the nine months ended September 30, 2016	3,476	(156)	11,047	(3,199)				
Unrealized gains (losses) on marketable securities arising during the period, net of taxes of \$(21) in the three months ended September 30, 2017, \$15 in the three months ended September 30, 2016, \$(191) in the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and \$74 in the nine months ended September 30, 2016	(33)	14	(300)	112				
Change in unfunded SERP liability, net of taxes of \$32 in the three months ended September 30, 2017, \$32 in the three months ended September 30, 2016, \$97 in the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and \$136 in the nine months ended September 30, 2016	61	65	184	566				
Other comprehensive income (loss)	3,504	(77)	10,931	(2,521)				
Comprehensive income (loss)	\$8,528	\$9,633	\$19,821	\$(70,732)				

See accompanying notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

[Return to Index](#)

BEL FUSE INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
 (dollars in thousands)
 (unaudited)

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2017	2016
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net earnings (loss)	\$8,890	\$(68,211)
Adjustments to reconcile net earnings (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	15,712	16,370
Stock-based compensation	2,310	2,039
Impairment of goodwill and other intangible assets	-	105,972
Amortization of deferred financing costs	993	1,467
Deferred income taxes	(3,072)	(8,115)
Net unrealized losses (gains) on foreign currency revaluation	2,679	(366)
Loss (gain) on sale/disposal of property, plant and equipment	283	(2,025)
Other, net	1,265	364
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable, net	(7,913)	1,785
Inventories	(3,306)	1,312
Account payable	(3,563)	(2,730)
Accrued expenses	(2,031)	(3,508)
Other operating assets/liabilities, net	1,949	(17,564)
Net cash provided by operating activities	14,196	26,790
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchases of property, plant and equipment	(3,756)	(5,590)
Proceeds from disposal/sale of property, plant and equipment	10	2,129
Purchase of company-owned life insurance (COLI)	-	(2,164)
Sale of SERP investments	-	2,164
Net cash used in investing activities	(3,746)	(3,461)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Repayments of long-term debt	(25,208)	(37,577)
Dividends paid to common stockholders	(2,347)	(2,314)
Payment of deferred financing costs	-	(718)
Borrowings under revolving credit line	6,000	-
Repayments of revolving credit line	(2,000)	-
Reduction in notes payable	(55)	(115)
Net cash used in financing activities	(23,610)	(40,724)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	1,855	(630)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(11,305)	(18,025)

Edgar Filing: BEL FUSE INC /NJ - Form 10-Q

Cash and cash equivalents - beginning of period	73,411	85,040
Cash and cash equivalents - end of period	\$62,106	\$67,015

Supplementary information:

Cash paid during the period for:

Income tax payments, net of refunds received	\$1,688	\$1,459
Interest payments	\$3,471	\$3,776

See accompanying notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

Return to Index

BEL FUSE INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION AND ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The condensed consolidated balance sheets, statements of operations, comprehensive income (loss) and cash flows for the periods presented herein have been prepared by the Company and are unaudited. In the opinion of management, all adjustments (consisting solely of normal recurring adjustments) necessary to present fairly the consolidated financial position, results of operations and cash flows for all periods presented have been made. The results for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the full year. These condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and footnotes thereto included in the Bel Fuse Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016.

Certain information and footnote disclosures required under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("U.S. GAAP") have been condensed or omitted from the following condensed consolidated financial statements pursuant to the rules and regulations, including the interim reporting requirements, of the SEC. The preparation of condensed consolidated financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts and the disclosure of contingent amounts in our condensed consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

The Company's significant accounting policies are summarized in Note 1 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016. There were no significant changes to these accounting policies during the nine months ended September 30, 2017.

All amounts included in the tables to these notes to condensed consolidated financial statements, except per share amounts, are in thousands.

Recently Adopted Accounting Standards

In March 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-09, Compensation – Stock Compensation (Topic 718): Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting, to simplify the accounting for share-based payment transactions including the income tax consequences, classification of awards as either equity or liabilities and classification on the statements of cash flows. Under the new guidance, all excess tax benefits and tax deficiencies (including tax benefits of dividends on share-based payment awards) should be recognized as income tax expense or benefit on the statements of operations. Under current GAAP, excess tax benefits are recognized in additional paid-in capital while tax deficiencies are recognized either as an offset to accumulated excess tax benefits, if any, or on the statements of operations. The Company adopted this guidance effective January 1, 2017. Certain provisions required retrospective/modified retrospective transition while others were applied prospectively. In accordance with this guidance, the Company reclassified \$1.7 million of cumulative excess tax benefits from additional paid-in capital to retained earnings within the equity section of the condensed consolidated balance sheet as of January 1, 2017. The Company has elected to continue its method of estimating forfeitures in determining its stock-based compensation expense throughout the year. The adoption of this guidance did not have a material impact on the Company's condensed consolidated financial statements.

In July 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-11, Simplifying the Measurement of Inventory, which requires entities to measure most inventory at the lower of cost and net realizable value, thereby simplifying the current guidance under which an entity must measure inventory at the lower of cost or market. The update is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2016, and interim periods therein. We adopted this guidance on January 1, 2017. The adoption of this guidance did not have a material impact on the Company's condensed consolidated financial

statements.

In August 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-15, Presentation of Financial Statements – Going Concern (Subtopic - 205-40) ("ASU 2014-15"). This ASU requires management to evaluate whether it is probable that known conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, would raise substantial doubt about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are issued. If such conditions or events are identified, the standard requires management's mitigation plans to alleviate the doubt or a statement of the substantial doubt about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern to be disclosed in the financial statements. The amendments in ASU 2014-15 are effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2016. We adopted this amendment on December 31, 2016. The adoption of ASU 2014-15 did not have a material impact on the financial statements.

Accounting Standards Issued But Not Yet Adopted

In October 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-16, Income Taxes (Topic 740): Intra-Entity Transfers of Assets Other Than Inventory. Current U.S. GAAP prohibits the recognition of current and deferred income taxes for intra-entity asset transfer until the asset has been sold to an outside party. The new guidance eliminates the exception and requires an entity to recognize the income tax consequences of an intra-entity transfer of an asset other than inventory when the transfer occurs. This accounting guidance is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017, including interim reporting periods within those annual reporting periods, and should be applied on a modified retrospective basis through a cumulative-effect adjustment directly to retained earnings as of the beginning of the period of adoption. This guidance is not expected to have a material impact on our condensed consolidated financial statements.

Return to Index

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-02, Leases (Topic 842), to provide a new comprehensive model for lease accounting. Under this guidance, lessees and lessors should apply a "right-of-use" model in accounting for all leases (including subleases) and eliminate the concept of operating leases and off-balance sheet leases. Recognition, measurement and presentation of expenses will depend on classification as a finance or operating lease. Similar modifications have been made to lessor accounting in-line with revenue recognition guidance. This guidance is effective for annual periods and interim periods within those annual periods beginning after December 15, 2018. The amendments also require certain quantitative and qualitative disclosures about leasing arrangements. Early adoption is permitted. The updated guidance requires a modified retrospective adoption. We are currently in the process of evaluating this new standard update.

In January 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-01, Financial Instruments-Overall (Subtopic 825-10): Recognition and Measurement of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities. This guidance primarily affects the accounting for equity investments, financial liabilities under the fair value option, and the presentation and disclosure requirements for financial instruments. Under the new guidance, entities will be required to measure certain equity investments at fair value and recognize any changes in fair value in net earnings, unless the investments qualify for the new practicability exception. The new standard is effective for fiscal years, including interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2017. We are currently evaluating the impact of adopting this new standard.

In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU No. 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606) ("ASU 2014-09"), which amends the existing accounting standards for revenue recognition. ASU 2014-09 is based on principles that govern the recognition of revenue at an amount an entity expects to be entitled when products are transferred to customers. Subsequently, the FASB issued several other updates related to revenue recognition (collectively with ASU 2014-09, the "new revenue standards").

The Company is still in the process of evaluating the financial statement impacts of the new revenue standards. While we have not yet quantified the related impacts, we have completed our initial assessment and anticipate changes with respect to the timing of revenue recognition for certain custom products that have no alternative use for which the Company is entitled to payment as production progresses, as well as the timing of revenue recognition in arrangements for which the customer takes the Company's products from a facility holding consignment inventory. The Company may also see a change related to estimation of variable consideration, among other areas. The Company is also in the process of reviewing its current systems, internal controls and processes, and evaluating any necessary changes to support the implementation of the new revenue standards, which we expect to implement by the end of 2017.

The new revenue standards become effective for the Company in the first quarter of fiscal year 2018. We have elected to use the modified retrospective approach to adopting the new revenue standards where we recognize the cumulative effect of initially applying the new revenue standards as an adjustment to the opening balance of retained earnings.

In preparation for adoption of the new guidance, we have reviewed representative samples of contracts and other forms of agreements with customers globally and have evaluated the provisions under the five-step model specified by the new revenue standards. In addition, we continue to monitor additional interpretive guidance related to the new revenue standards as it becomes available, as well as comparing our conclusions on specific interpretative issues to other peers in our industry, to the extent that such information is available.

In January 2017, the FASB issued ASU 2017-01, Business Combinations (Topic 805): Clarifying the Definition of a Business ("ASU 2017-01"), to clarify the definition of a business with the objective of adding guidance to assist entities with evaluating whether transactions should be accounted for as acquisitions (or disposals) of assets or businesses. The definition of a business affects many areas of accounting including acquisitions, disposals, goodwill and consolidation. ASU 2017-01 provides a framework that gives entities a basis for making reasonable judgments

about whether a transaction involves an asset or a business. The Company is required to adopt ASU 2017-01 for periods beginning after December 15, 2017, including interim periods, and the guidance is to be applied on a prospective basis. Early application is permitted for transactions for which the acquisition date occurs before the issuance date or effective date of the amendments, only when the transaction has not been reported in financial statements that have been issued.

In January 2017, the FASB issued ASU 2017-04, Intangibles-Goodwill and Other (Topic 350): Simplifying the Test for Goodwill Impairment ("ASU 2017-04"). ASU 2017-04 simplifies how an entity is required to test goodwill for impairment by eliminating Step 2 from the goodwill impairment test. Early adoption is permitted for interim and annual goodwill impairment tests performed on testing dates after January 1, 2017. The Company is required to adopt ASU 2017-04 for its annual or any interim goodwill impairment tests for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2019, and the guidance is to be applied on a prospective basis.

Return to Index

In March 2017, the FASB issued ASU 2017-07, Compensation – Retirement Benefits (Topic 715): Improving the Presentation of Net Periodic Pension Cost and Net Periodic Postretirement Benefit Cost ("ASU 2017-07"). This guidance requires that an employer disaggregate the service cost component from the other components of net benefit cost. ASU 2017-07 also provides explicit guidance on how to present the service cost component and the other components of net benefit cost in the income statement and allow only the service cost component of net benefit cost to be eligible for capitalization. This guidance is effective for periods beginning after December 15, 2017, including interim periods. Certain of the provisions within this guidance will be applied on a retrospective basis, while other aspects will be applied on a prospective basis, in accordance with ASU 2017-07.

In May 2017, the FASB issued ASU 2017-09, Compensation – Stock Compensation (Topic 718): Scope of Modification Accounting ("ASU 2017-09"). This update provides guidance about which changes to the terms or conditions of a share-based payment require an entity to apply modification accounting in Topic 718. This guidance is effective for annual periods, and interim periods within those annual periods, beginning after December 15, 2017. Early adoption is permitted. The amendments in this update will be applied prospectively to any awards modified on or after the adoption date.

2. EARNINGS (LOSS) PER SHARE

The following table sets forth the calculation of basic and diluted net earnings (loss) per common share under the two-class method for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016:

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2017		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2016	
Numerator:				
Net earnings (loss)	\$5,024	\$9,710	\$8,890	\$(68,211)
Less dividends declared:				
Class A	131	131	392	392
Class B	691	683	2,079	2,044
Undistributed earnings (loss)	\$4,202	\$8,896	\$6,419	\$(70,647)
Undistributed earnings (loss) allocation - basic and diluted:				
Class A undistributed earnings (loss)	\$729	\$1,557	\$1,115	\$(12,400)
Class B undistributed earnings (loss)	3,473	7,339	5,304	(58,247)
Total undistributed earnings (loss)	\$4,202	\$8,896	\$6,419	\$(70,647)
Net earnings (loss) allocation - basic and diluted:				
Class A net earnings (loss)	\$860	\$1,688	\$1,507	\$(12,008)
Class B net earnings (loss)	4,164	8,022	7,383	(56,203)
Net earnings (loss)	\$5,024	\$9,710	\$8,890	\$(68,211)
Denominator:				
Weighted-average shares outstanding:				
Class A - basic and diluted	2,175	2,175	2,175	2,175
Class B - basic and diluted	9,864	9,760	9,856	9,730

Net earnings (loss) per share:				
Class A - basic and diluted	\$0.40	\$0.78	\$0.69	\$(5.52)
Class B - basic and diluted	\$0.42	\$0.82	\$0.75	\$(5.78)

3. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Fair value is defined as an exit price, representing the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants based upon the best use of the asset or liability at the measurement date. Entities are required to use a fair value hierarchy which maximizes the use of observable inputs and minimizes the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. There are three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair value:

8

Return to Index

Level 1 – Observable inputs such as quoted market prices in active markets;

Level 2 – Inputs other than quoted prices in active markets that are either directly or indirectly observable; and

Level 3 – Unobservable inputs about which little or no market data exists, therefore requiring an entity to develop its own assumptions.

As of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, the Company held certain financial assets that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis. These consisted of securities that are among the Company's investments in a rabbi trust which are intended to fund the Company's Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan ("SERP") obligations. The securities that are held in the rabbi trust are categorized as available-for-sale securities and are included as other assets in the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheets at September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016. The gross unrealized gains associated with the investment securities held in the rabbi trust were \$0.2 million and \$0.7 million at September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively. Such unrealized gains are included, net of tax, in accumulated other comprehensive loss.

As of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, our available-for-sale securities, which primarily consist of investments held in a rabbi trust of \$1.5 million and \$1.7 million, respectively, are measured at fair value using quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1) inputs. The Company does not have any financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis categorized as Level 3, and there were no transfers in or out of Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3 during the nine months ended September 30, 2017 or September 30, 2016. There were no changes to the Company's valuation techniques used to measure asset fair values on a recurring or nonrecurring basis during the nine months ended September 30, 2017.

There were no financial assets accounted for at fair value on a nonrecurring basis as of September 30, 2017 or December 31, 2016.

The Company has other financial instruments, such as cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, restricted cash, accounts payable, accrued expenses and notes payable, which are not measured at fair value on a recurring basis but are recorded at amounts that approximate fair value due to their liquid or short-term nature. The fair value of the Company's long-term debt is estimated using a discounted cash flow method based on interest rates that are currently available for debt issuances with similar terms and maturities. At September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, the estimated fair value of total debt was \$122.7 million and \$144.3 million, respectively, compared to a carrying amount of \$121.0 million and \$141.2 million, respectively. The Company did not have any other financial liabilities within the scope of the fair value disclosure requirements as of September 30, 2017.

Nonfinancial assets and liabilities, such as goodwill, indefinite-lived intangible assets and long-lived assets, are accounted for at fair value on a nonrecurring basis. These items are tested for impairment upon the occurrence of a triggering event or in the case of goodwill, on at least an annual basis. During the first quarter of 2016, management determined that sufficient indicators of potential impairment existed to require an interim goodwill impairment analysis for all of the Company's reporting units. These indicators included the recent business performance of those reporting units, combined with the long-term market conditions and business trends within the reporting units. As a result, the Company recorded non-cash goodwill and other intangible assets impairment charges totaling \$106.0 million during the first half of 2016. There were no triggering events that occurred during the nine months ended September 30, 2017 that would warrant interim impairment testing.

4. INVENTORIES

The components of inventories are as follows:

	September 30, 2017	December 31, 2016
Raw materials	\$ 43,008	\$ 43,376
Work in progress	19,356	18,008
Finished goods	42,158	37,487
Inventories	\$ 104,522	\$ 98,871

[Return to Index](#)

5. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Property, plant and equipment consist of the following:

	September 30, 2017	December 31, 2016
Land	\$2,256	\$2,234
Buildings and improvements	30,867	30,061
Machinery and equipment	117,523	113,780
Construction in progress	1,593	3,029
	152,239	149,104
Accumulated depreciation	(108,575)	(100,349)
Property, plant and equipment, net	\$43,664	\$48,755

Depreciation expense for the three months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 was \$3.6 million and \$3.7 million, respectively. Depreciation expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 was \$10.6 million and \$11.1 million, respectively.

6. ACCRUED EXPENSES

Accrued expenses consist of the following:

	September 30, 2017	December 31, 2016
Sales commissions	\$ 2,404	\$ 2,066
Subcontracting labor	1,437	1,370
Salaries, bonuses and related benefits	16,522	17,587
Warranty accrual	2,043	2,718
Other	7,410	7,808
	\$ 29,816	\$ 31,549

A tabular presentation of the activity within the warranty accrual account for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 is presented below:

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2017	2016
Balance, January 1	\$2,718	\$3,659
Charges and costs accrued	211	142
Adjustments related to pre-existing warranties (including changes in estimates)	(779)	(981)
Less repair costs incurred	(173)	(433)
Currency translation	66	(18)

Balance, September 30	\$2,043	\$2,369
-----------------------	---------	---------

7. DEBT

The Company has a Credit and Security Agreement (as amended, the "CSA") consisting of (i) a term loan, with outstanding borrowings of \$118.6 million and \$143.8 million at September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively and (ii) a \$50 million revolving credit facility ("Revolver"), with \$4.0 million and \$0 outstanding borrowings at September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively. At September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, the carrying value of the debt on the condensed consolidated balance sheet is reflected net of deferred financing costs of \$1.6 million and \$2.6 million, respectively.

The weighted-average interest rate in effect was 3.25% at September 30, 2017 and 3.06% at December 31, 2016 and consisted of LIBOR plus the Company's credit spread, as determined per the terms of the CSA. The Company incurred \$1.5 million of interest expense during each of the three months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, and \$4.5 million and \$5.2 million of interest expense during the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

Return to Index

The CSA contains customary representations and warranties, covenants and events of default and financial covenants that measure (i) the ratio of the Company's total funded indebtedness, on a consolidated basis, to the amount of the Company's consolidated EBITDA, as defined, ("Leverage Ratio") and (ii) the ratio of the amount of the Company's consolidated EBITDA to the Company's consolidated fixed charges. If an event of default occurs, the lenders under the CSA would be entitled to take various actions, including the acceleration of amounts due thereunder and all actions permitted to be taken by a secured creditor. At September 30, 2017, the Company was in compliance with its debt covenants, including its most restrictive covenant, the Leverage Ratio.

8. INCOME TAXES

The Company and its subsidiaries file income tax returns in the U.S. federal jurisdiction and various states and foreign jurisdictions. The Company is no longer subject to U.S. federal examinations by tax authorities for years before 2013 and for state examinations before 2010. Regarding foreign subsidiaries, the Company is no longer subject to examination by tax authorities for years before 2006 in Asia and generally 2009 in Europe.

As a result of the expiration of the statute of limitations for specific jurisdictions, it is reasonably possible that the related unrecognized benefits for tax positions taken regarding previously filed tax returns may change materially from those recorded as liabilities for uncertain tax positions in the Company's condensed consolidated financial statements at September 30, 2017. The Company's liabilities for uncertain tax positions totaled \$30.0 million and \$27.8 million at September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively, of which \$2.5 million and \$0.4 million, respectively, is included in other current liabilities. These amounts, if recognized, would reduce the Company's effective tax rate. As of September 30, 2017, \$0.4 million of the Company's liabilities for uncertain tax positions was reversed and approximately \$2.5 million are expected to be reversed during the next twelve months by way of expiration of the related statute of limitations.

In connection with the acquisition of the Power-One Power Solutions business ("Power Solutions") from ABB Ltd. ("ABB") in 2014, the Company assumed a liability for additional uncertain tax positions related to various tax matters for the years 2007 through 2013. From the date of acquisition through September 30, 2017, the Company has recorded \$5.0 million of interest and penalties pertaining to this issue, of which \$2.6 million was reversed during 2016 in relation to the settlement of the exposure. The Company will continue to accrue approximately \$0.7 million annually until the issues are resolved.

The Company's policy is to recognize interest and penalties related to uncertain tax positions as a component of the current provision for income taxes. During the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, the Company recognized \$0.6 million and \$0.8 million, respectively, in interest and penalties in the condensed consolidated statements of operations. During the nine months ended September 30, 2016, the Company recognized a benefit of \$3.1 million for the reversal of such interest and penalties. There were no reversals of interest or penalties in the three or nine months ended September 30, 2017. The Company has approximately \$2.8 million and \$2.2 million, accrued for the payment of such interest and penalties at September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively, which is included in both other current liabilities and liability for uncertain tax positions in the condensed consolidated balance sheets.

The Company continues to monitor proposed legislation affecting the taxation of transfers of U.S. intangible property and other potential tax law changes.

9. RETIREMENT FUND AND PROFIT SHARING PLAN

The Company maintains the Bel Fuse Inc. Employees' Savings Plan, a defined contribution plan that is intended to meet the applicable requirements for tax-qualification under sections 401(a) and (k) of the Internal Revenue Code of

1986, as amended (the "Code"). The expense for the three months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 amounted to \$0.3 million in both periods. The expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 amounted to \$0.9 million and \$0.8 million, respectively. As of September 30, 2017, the plan owned 46,504 and 144,362 shares of Bel Fuse Inc. Class A and Class B common stock, respectively. Effective January 1, 2017, the Company's matching contribution will be made in the form of Bel Fuse Inc. Class A common stock. During 2016, the employer match was made in cash.

The Company's subsidiaries in Asia have a retirement fund covering substantially all of their Hong Kong based full-time employees. The expense for the three months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 amounted to \$0.1 million in both periods. The expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 amounted to \$0.3 million and \$0.2 million, respectively. As of September 30, 2017, the plan owned 3,323 and 17,342 shares of Bel Fuse Inc. Class A and Class B common stock, respectively.

Return to Index

The Company maintains a SERP, which is designed to provide a limited group of key management and other key employees of the Company with supplemental retirement and death benefits. As discussed in Note 3 above, the Company has investments in a rabbi trust which are intended to fund the obligations of the SERP. The SERP expense for the periods and amounts presented below is allocated between cost of sales and selling, general and administrative expense in the condensed consolidated statements of operations based upon the classification of plan participants.

The components of SERP expense are as follows:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
Service cost	\$175	\$148	\$525	\$445
Interest cost	168	165	505	494
Net amortization	94	98	281	293
Net periodic benefit cost	\$437	\$411	\$1,311	\$1,232

The following amounts are recognized net of tax in accumulated other comprehensive loss:

	September 30, 2017	December 31, 2016
Prior service cost	\$ 996	\$ 1,172
Net loss	2,865	2,970
	\$ 3,861	\$ 4,142

10. ACCUMULATED OTHER COMPREHENSIVE LOSS

The components of accumulated other comprehensive loss at September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016 are summarized below:

	September 30, 2017	December 31, 2016
Foreign currency translation adjustment, net of taxes of (\$699) at September 30, 2017 and (\$984) at December 31, 2016	\$(17,929)	\$(28,976)
Unrealized holding gains on available-for-sale securities, net of taxes of \$71 at September 30, 2017 and \$263 at December 31, 2016	124	424
Unfunded SERP liability, net of taxes of (\$1,300) at September 30, 2017 and (\$1,398) at December 31, 2016	(2,561)	(2,745)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	\$(20,366)	\$(31,297)

Return to Index

Changes in accumulated other comprehensive loss by component during the nine months ended September 30, 2017 are as follows. All amounts are net of tax.

	Foreign Currency Translation Adjustment	Unrealized Holding Gains on Available-for- Sale Securities	Unfunded SERP Liability	Total
Balance at January 1, 2017	\$ (28,976)	\$ 424	\$ (2,745)	\$ (31,297)
Other comprehensive income before reclassifications	11,047	(300)	1	10,748
Amount reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive loss	-	-	183	(a) 183
Net current period other comprehensive income	11,047	(300)	184	10,931
Balance at September 30, 2017	\$ (17,929)	\$ 124	\$ (2,561)	\$ (20,366)

(a) This reclassification relates to the amortization of prior service costs and gains/losses associated with the Company's SERP plan.

This expense is allocated between cost of sales and selling, general and administrative expense based upon the employment classification of the plan participants.

11. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Legal Proceedings

The Company is party to a number of legal actions and claims, none of which individually or in the aggregate, in the opinion of management, are expected to have a material adverse effect on the Company's consolidated results of operations or financial position.

In connection with the acquisition of Power Solutions, there is an ongoing claim by the Arezzo Revenue Agency in Italy concerning certain tax matters related to what was then Power-One Asia Pacific Electronics Shenzhen Co. Ltd. (now Bel Power Solutions Asia Pacific Electronics Shenzhen Co. Ltd, or "BPS China") for the years 2004 to 2006. In September 2012, the Tax Court of Arezzo ruled in favor of BPS China and cancelled the claim. In February 2013, the Arezzo Revenue Agency filed an appeal of the Tax Court's ruling. The hearing of the appeal was held on October 2, 2014. On October 13, 2014, BPS China was informed of the Regional Tax Commission of Florence ruling which was in favor of the Arezzo Revenue Agency and against BPS China. An appeal was filed on July 18, 2015 before the Regional Tax Commission of Florence and rejected. On December 5, 2016, the Arezzo Revenue Agency filed an appeal with the Supreme Court and BPS China filed a counter-appeal on January 4, 2017. The Supreme Court has yet to render its judgment. The estimated liability related to this matter is approximately \$12.0 million and has been included as a liability for uncertain tax positions on the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. As Bel is fully indemnified in this matter per the terms of the stock purchase agreement with ABB, a corresponding other asset for indemnification is also included in other assets on the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheets at

September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016.

In 2015, the Company was provided notice of a potential patent infringement claim by Setec Netzwerke AG ("Setec"), a German company, for the alleged infringement of their patent EP 306 934 B1. Setec subsequently filed a lawsuit against the Company and three of its subsidiaries in Dusseldorf, Germany on January 29, 2016 for patent infringement. The Company filed its defense to Setec's complaint and a nullity lawsuit against Setec's patent on August 31, 2016. The Court hearing on infringement took place on March 23, 2017. Upon hearing argument from both parties, the Court issued a decision on April 6, 2017 staying the infringement case pending resolution of the nullity lawsuit. The nullity lawsuit is currently pending before the Patent Court in Munich, Germany. The Company does not have enough information at this time in order to make any further conclusions or assessments as to infringement or any potential damages.

The Company is not a party to any other legal proceeding, the adverse outcome of which is likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company's consolidated financial condition or results of operations.

12. SEGMENTS

The Company operates in one industry with three reportable operating segments, which are geographic in nature. The segments consist of North America, Asia and Europe. The primary criteria by which financial performance is evaluated and resources are allocated are net sales and income from operations. The following is a summary of key financial data:

13

Return to Index

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
Net Sales to External Customers:				
North America	\$59,537	\$63,305	\$184,873	\$196,955
Asia	45,919	47,188	127,801	126,673
Europe	20,930	18,316	58,997	57,986
	\$126,386	\$128,809	\$371,671	\$381,614
Net Sales:				
North America	\$62,348	\$66,503	\$193,473	\$206,232
Asia	66,534	71,334	193,364	197,952
Europe	23,633	21,417	67,434	67,222
Less intercompany net sales	(26,129)	(30,445)	(82,600)	(89,792)
	\$126,386	\$128,809	\$371,671	\$381,614
Income (Loss) from Operations:				
North America	\$104	\$693	\$1,781	\$(41,103)
Asia	5,408	8,332	11,759	(25,026)
Europe	1,020	284	2,090	(18,006)
	\$6,532	\$9,309	\$15,630	\$(84,135)

Net Sales – Segment net sales are attributed to individual segments based on the geographic source of the billing for such customer sales. Intercompany sales include finished products manufactured in foreign countries which are then transferred to the United States and Europe for sale; finished goods manufactured in the United States which are transferred to Europe and Asia for sale; and semi-finished components manufactured in the United States which are sold to Asia for further processing.

Income from operations represents net sales less operating costs and expenses and does not include any amounts related to intercompany transactions.

The following items are included in the segment data presented above:

Impairment Charges – The Company recorded a \$106.0 million non-cash impairment charge related to its goodwill and trademarks during the first half of 2016. Of this charge, \$44.0 million was recorded in the Company's North America operating segment, \$41.7 million was recorded in its Asia operating segment and \$20.3 million was recorded in its Europe operating segment.

13. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

In connection with its acquisition of Power Solutions, the Company acquired a 49% interest in a joint venture in the People's Republic of China ("PRC"). The joint venture may purchase raw components and other goods from the Company and may sell finished goods to the Company as well as to other third parties. The Company did not purchase any inventory from the joint venture during the three or nine months ended September 30, 2017 or 2016. At September 30, 2017, the Company owed the joint venture approximately \$0.5 million, which is included in accounts payable on the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheet. Subsequent to September 30, 2017, the Company divested its 49% interest in the joint venture in exchange for an extinguishment of the accounts payable balance of \$0.5 million. As the interest in the joint venture had a carrying value of zero, a \$0.5 million gain was recorded within cost of sales during the third quarter of 2017 related to this divestiture.

[Return to Index](#)

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

The information in this Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations ("MD&A") should be read in conjunction with the Company's condensed consolidated financial statements and the related notes set forth in Item 1 of Part I of this quarterly report on Form 10-Q, our MD&A set forth in Item 7 of Part II of our 2016 Annual Report on Form 10-K and our consolidated financial statements and related notes set forth in Item 8 of Part II of our 2016 Annual Report on Form 10-K. See Part II, Item 1A, "Risk Factors," below and "Cautionary Notice Regarding Forward-Looking Information," above, and the information referenced therein, for a description of risks that we face and important factors that we believe could cause actual results to differ materially from those in our forward-looking statements. All amounts and percentages are approximate due to rounding and all dollars are in millions, except per share amounts or where otherwise noted. When we cross-reference to a "Note," we are referring to our "Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements," unless the context indicates otherwise. All amounts noted within the tables are in thousands and amounts and percentages are approximate due to rounding.

Overview

Our Company

We design, manufacture and market a broad array of products that power, protect and connect electronic circuits. These products are primarily used in the networking, telecommunications, computing, military, aerospace, transportation and broadcasting industries. Bel's portfolio of products also finds application in the automotive, medical and consumer electronics markets.

We operate through three geographic segments: North America, Asia and Europe. In the nine months ended September 30, 2017, 50% of the Company's revenues were derived from North America, 34% from Asia and 16% from its Europe operating segment. By product group, 35% of sales for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 related to the Company's connectivity solutions products, 32% in power solutions and protection products and 33% in magnetic products.

Our operating expenses are driven principally by the cost of labor where the factories that Bel uses are located, the cost of the materials that we use and our ability to effectively and efficiently manage overhead costs. As labor and material costs vary by product line and region, any significant shift in product mix can have an associated impact on our costs of sales. Costs are recorded as incurred for all products manufactured. Such amounts are determined based upon the estimated stage of production and include labor cost and fringes and related allocations of factory overhead. Our products are manufactured at various facilities in the U.S., Mexico, Dominican Republic, England, Czech Republic, Slovakia and the PRC.

In the PRC, where we generally enter into processing arrangements with several independent third-party contractors and also have our own manufacturing facilities, the availability of labor is cyclical and is significantly affected by the migration of workers in relation to the annual Lunar New Year holiday as well as economic conditions in the PRC. In addition, we have little visibility into the ordering habits of our customers and we can be subjected to large and unpredictable variations in demand for our products. Accordingly, we must continually recruit and train new workers to replace those lost to attrition each year and be able to address peaks in demand that may occur from time to time. These recruiting and training efforts and related inefficiencies, and overtime required in order to meet demand, can add volatility to the costs incurred by us for labor in the PRC.

Key Factors Affecting our Business

The Company believes the key factors affecting Bel's results for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017 and/or future results include the following:

Revenues – The Company's revenues for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017 declined by \$2.4 million (or 1.9%) and \$9.9 million (or 2.6%), respectively, from the comparable periods of 2016. The majority of this decrease was seen within the Power Solutions business (acquired in 2014), specifically related to its sales of Network Power Systems (NPS) products. The Company divested the NPS business in 2015 and was continuing to provide product to the buyer under a 2-year manufacturing services agreement which is winding down. The decline in sales related to the NPS product line accounted for \$2.1 million of the year-over-year decline for the third quarter of 2017, and \$7.2 million of the year-over-year decline for the nine-month period.

Product Mix – Material and labor costs vary by product line and any significant shift in product mix between higher- and lower-margin product lines will have a corresponding impact on the Company's gross margin percentage. In general, our connectivity products have the highest contribution margins, our magnetic products are less profitable than the connectivity products and our power products are on the lower end of our profit margin range. Fluctuations in sales volume among our product groups will have a corresponding impact on Bel's profit margins.

Return to Index

Restructuring – By the end of the third quarter of 2017, we implemented headcount reduction measures which will result in annualized cost savings of approximately \$1.0 million. We anticipate these savings to be realized beginning in the first quarter of 2018. Any further actions implemented may result in restructuring costs being incurred in future quarters.

Impact of Foreign Currency – Since we are a U.S. domiciled company, we translate our foreign currency-denominated financial results into U.S. dollars. Due to the changes in the value of foreign currencies relative to the U.S. dollar, translating our financial results and the revaluation of certain intercompany transactions to and from foreign currencies to U.S. dollars may result in a favorable or unfavorable impact to our condensed consolidated statements of operations and cash flows. The Company monitors changes in foreign currencies and implements pricing actions to help mitigate the impact that changes in foreign currencies may have on its operating results. See Selling, General and Administrative Expense below for further details.

Enterprise Resource Planning ("ERP") System Implementation – We are currently engaged in a multi-year process of conforming the majority of our operations onto one global ERP system. We currently estimate total costs related to this implementation to be between \$4 million to \$5 million. During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017, the Company incurred consulting costs in connection with this implementation of \$0.4 million and \$1.5 million, respectively, which are included in SG&A in the condensed consolidated statements of operations. We anticipate future expenses of approximately \$0.5 million per quarter through the end of 2018, and at a reduced level in 2019. See "Liquidity and Capital Resources" below for further information.

Effective Tax Rate – The Company's effective tax rate will fluctuate based on the geographic segment in which our pretax profits are earned. Of the geographic segments in which we operate, the U.S. has the highest tax rates; Europe's tax rates are generally lower than U.S. tax rates; and Asia has the lowest tax rates of the Company's three geographical segments.

While third quarter sales were down 1.9% from the same quarter of 2016, we continue to see a positive book-to-bill ratio for our power and connectivity products. Demand within our Connectivity Solutions business remains strong, largely driven by activity within our military-aerospace accounts and through our distribution partners. Our Power Solutions and Protection business has shown progress in recent quarters with design wins in the areas of e-Mobility, industrial and datacenter applications, which will help to mitigate the declines we've seen with lower spending from some of our traditional networking customers. Until our top line sales show a steady upward trend, we will continue to assess the cost structure of the overall business to keep our fixed costs as efficient as possible.

Summary by Operating Segment

Net sales to external customers by operating segment for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 were as follows:

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended					
	September 30,		September 30,					
	2017	2016	2017	2016				
North America	\$59,537	47 %	\$63,305	49 %	\$184,873	50 %	\$196,955	52 %
Asia	45,919	36 %	47,188	37 %	127,801	34 %	126,673	33 %
Europe	20,930	17 %	18,316	14 %	58,997	16 %	57,986	15 %
	\$126,386	100 %	\$128,809	100 %	\$371,671	100 %	\$381,614	100 %

The decline in North America sales noted above was primarily due to a reduction in Power Solutions sales in North America of \$4.6 million during the three months ended September 30, 2017 and of \$10.3 million during the nine

months ended September 30, 2017 as compared to the same periods of 2016. North America segment sales were also impacted by a decline in sales of our modular plugs and cable assemblies within our Stewart Connector business where two major customers merged and in-sourced much of these products. This resulted in lower sales of \$1.3 million during the three months ended September 30, 2017 and of \$5.3 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2017 as compared to the same periods of 2016. The increase in sales in Asia noted in the table above for the nine-month period was primarily driven by increased demand for our ICM products which are manufactured in that region. See Net Sales, Magnetic Solutions, below. The decline for the three-month period resulted from lower sales of our custom module and DC-DC products, offset in part by the increase in ICM sales. The year-over-year sales growth in our Europe segment was led by our Bel Power Europe group in Italy, which we acquired in 2012, as they have been successful in penetrating the marine and industrial markets in Europe with their AC-DC power products.

Net sales and income from operations by operating segment for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 were as follows. Segment net sales are attributed to individual segments based on the geographic source of the billing for customer sales.

Return to Index

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
Total segment sales:				
North America	\$62,348	\$66,503	\$193,473	\$206,232
Asia	66,534	71,334	193,364	197,952
Europe	23,633	21,417	67,434	67,222
Total segment sales	152,515	159,254	454,271	471,406
Reconciling item:				
Intersegment sales	(26,129)	(30,445)	(82,600)	(89,792)
Net sales	\$126,386	\$128,809	\$371,671	\$381,614
Income from operations:				
North America	\$104	\$693	\$1,781	\$(41,103)
Asia	5,408	8,332	11,759	(25,026)
Europe	1,020	284	2,090	(18,006)
	\$6,532	\$9,309	\$15,630	\$(84,135)

The non-cash impairment charge recorded during the first half of 2016 related to goodwill and other intangible assets impacted all of the Company's operating segments in the nine-month period ended September 30, 2016. See Note 12, Segments, for the allocation of this charge by operating segment. Excluding this impairment charge, income from operations by operating segment for the nine months ended September 30, 2016 was \$2.9 million for North America, \$16.6 million for Asia and \$2.3 million for Europe.

Excluding the impairment charge, income from operations in North America decreased by \$1.1 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2017 as compared to the same period of 2016 primarily due to a \$3.4 million reduction of value-added tax (VAT) expenses as discussed in the Selling, General and Administrative Expense section below during the 2016 period, which did not occur in 2017. This was partially offset by lower incentive compensation recorded in North America in the nine months ended September 30, 2017 as compared to the same period of 2016. Excluding the impairment charge, Asia operating income was \$4.8 million lower in the nine months ended September 30, 2017 largely due to a \$1.8 million reduction of VAT expenses in Asia recorded during the nine months ended September 30, 2016, which did not occur in 2017, coupled with lower segment sales in Asia in 2017. The slight decline in Europe operating income during the nine months ended September 30, 2017 as compared to the same period of 2016 was primarily due to an unfavorable variance in foreign currency exchange (a loss of \$2.3 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2017 as compared to a loss of \$0.2 million in the same period of 2016 within the Europe segment), largely offset by margin improvement on flat sales.

Net Sales

The Company's net sales by major product line for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 were as follows:

	Three Months Ended September 30,				Nine Months Ended September 30,			
	2017		2016		2017		2016	
Magnetic solutions	\$44,002	35 %	\$41,449	32 %	\$122,468	33 %	\$116,285	31 %
Connectivity solutions	42,837	34 %	41,666	32 %	128,350	35 %	130,009	34 %
Power solutions and protection	39,547	31 %	45,694	36 %	120,853	32 %	135,320	35 %

\$126,386 100% \$128,809 100% \$371,671 100% \$381,614 100%

Magnetic Solutions:

Demand for our ICM/TRP products remained strong in the third quarter of 2017 for both our established 1-gig and 10-gig ICMs as well as our recently released multi-gig variants. During the second and third quarters of 2017, we benefited from a majority of the share of a new product introduction at one of our large OEM customers, which accounted for the majority of the year-over-year increase noted above for the nine-month period.

Return to Index

Power Solutions and Protection:

The decline in power solutions and protection products during the third quarter of 2017 as compared to the same quarter of 2016 was primarily attributable to a \$4.6 million reduction in Power Solutions sales. Sales within the Power Solutions business continue to be challenged as spending levels within our networking and storage customers have declined, while recent project wins in the areas of e-Mobility and datacenters are not yet in full production. This business was also impacted by the phase-out of revenue associated with its NPS product line (sold in 2015), as we transition off of a 2-year manufacturing services agreement. The year-over-year decline was partially offset by a \$1.7 million increase in sales of our AC/DC converter products at our Bel Power Europe group in Italy (acquired in 2012) and higher circuit protection product sales of \$0.2 million in the third quarter of 2017 as compared to the third quarter of 2016.

Connectivity Solutions:

Sales of our connectivity solutions products were strong in the third quarter of 2017, led by increased activity within key military-aerospace programs. Within our distribution channel, sales of connectivity products continued to have year-over-year growth into the third quarter. These gains in the third quarter were partially offset by lower demand for plugs and structured cabling within our Stewart Connector business where two of our major customers merged and in-sourced much of these products.

Cost of Sales

Cost of sales as a percentage of net sales for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 consisted of the following:

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2017		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2016	
Material costs	38.2%	42.1%	39.7%	41.8%
Labor costs	11.0%	10.3%	10.4%	10.3%
Research and development expenses	5.4 %	5.1 %	5.5 %	5.2 %
Other expenses	23.5%	21.9%	22.9%	23.0%
Total cost of sales	78.1%	79.4%	78.5%	80.3%

Material costs as a percentage of sales were lower during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017 as compared to the same period of 2016, primarily due to the decline in sales within our power solutions and protection group, as those products carry a higher material content than our other product lines.

Labor costs as a percentage of sales increased during both the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017 as compared to the same periods of 2016 primarily due to the increase in sales of our labor-intensive magnetic products.

Included in cost of sales is research and development ("R&D") expense of \$6.9 million and \$6.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively, and \$20.3 million and \$19.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

The other expenses noted in the table above include fixed cost items such as support labor and fringe expense, depreciation and amortization expense, and facility costs (rent, utilities, insurance). In total, these other expenses increased by \$1.6 million during the third quarter of 2017 due to higher tooling, repairs and maintenance and overhead costs during the 2017 period. For the nine-month period, these other expenses decreased by \$2.4 million year-over-year due to a \$2.0 million decrease in support labor and fringe expense and an \$0.8 million reduction in depreciation and amortization expense, partially offset by a \$0.9 million increase in tooling and other overhead costs.

Return to IndexSelling, General and Administrative Expense ("SG&A")

SG&A expense increased \$1.5 million and \$8.9 million during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017, respectively, as compared with the same periods of 2016. These increases consisted of the following:

	Increase (Decrease) Compared to Same Period of 2016	
	Three Months Ended September 30, 2017	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017
VAT expenses	\$-	\$ 5,155
Legal and professional fees	612	789
Sales commissions, advertising and other selling costs	519	148
Net foreign currency exchange gains/losses	357	3,045
ERP system implementation consulting costs	395	1,483
Salaries and fringe benefits	39	(1,336)
Other	(404)	(432)
Total increase	\$1,518	\$ 8,852

The variance in VAT expenses related to settlement of a tax liability which was originally recorded during the acquisition of the Power Solutions business. This acquired operating tax exposure was settled in full by the end of the second quarter of 2016, resulting in a reversal of these amounts in SG&A.

Legal and professional fees increased year-over-year during both the three- and nine-month periods due to a shift in timing of work related to our annual audit, and incremental consulting costs incurred in connection with the implementation of the new revenue recognition standard (see Note 1, Basis of Presentation and Accounting Policies). Sales commissions and other selling costs increased during both period presented due to the shift in mix of products sold, as higher commissions are incurred on our connectivity sales as compared to sales of our power products. The unfavorable variance in net foreign currency exchange noted above was primarily due to the translation of intercompany balances between U.S. and foreign subsidiaries. For further information related to our ERP system implementation consulting costs, see the Liquidity and Capital Resources section below. Salaries and fringe benefits were lower during the nine-month period of 2017 due to lower compensation costs recorded during the first and second quarters of 2017 as compared to the same periods of 2016, and cost savings realized from recent restructuring efforts.

Impairment of Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

The Company recorded a \$106.0 million non-cash impairment charge related to its goodwill and trademarks during the nine months ended September 30, 2016. The impairment charge did not impact our cash expenditures, liquidity, financial performance, compliance with our debt covenants or affect the ongoing business.

Loss (Gain) on Disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment

In July 2016, the Company closed on the sale of a property in Hong Kong which had a net book value of less than \$0.1 million. The consideration received related to this sale was \$2.1 million. The Company recorded a gain on sale

related to this property of \$2.1 million during the third quarter of 2016.

Provision (Benefit) for Income Taxes

The Company's effective tax rate will fluctuate based on the geographic segment in which the pretax profits are earned. Of the geographic segments in which the Company operates, the U.S. has the highest tax rates; Europe's tax rates are generally lower than U.S. tax rates; and Asia has the lowest tax rates of the Company's three geographical segments.

The provision (benefit) for income taxes for the three months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 was less than \$0.1 million and (\$1.7) million, respectively. The Company's earnings (loss) before provision (benefit) for income taxes for the three months ended September 30, 2017 were approximately \$2.9 million lower than the same period in 2016, primarily attributable to a decrease in the Asia segment income. The Company's effective tax rate was 1.2% and (21.2%) for the three month periods ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively. The change in the effective tax rate during the three months ended September 30, 2017 compared to the same period in 2016 was primarily attributable to increased foreign taxes due to the reversal of valuation allowances relating to net operating loss carryforwards in 2016, as well as an increase in taxes related to uncertain tax positions.

The provision (benefit) for income taxes for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 was \$2.3 million and (\$20.7) million, respectively. The Company's earnings (loss) before benefit for income taxes for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 were approximately \$100.1 million higher than the same period in 2016, primarily attributable to the \$106.0 million impairment of the goodwill and intangible assets during the nine months ended September 30, 2016. The Company's effective tax rate was 20.8% and 23.3% for the nine month periods ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively. The change in the effective tax rate during the nine months ended September 30, 2017 as compared to the same period of 2016, is primarily attributable to the tax effect related to the impairment of the goodwill and intangible assets, as well as the settlement of the liability for uncertain tax positions in 2016. Additionally, the increase in the effective tax rate for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 as compared to the same period in 2016, is attributable to U.S. and foreign taxes accrued for gains recognized on a Bel Fuse legal entity restructuring transaction.

Return to Index

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Our primary sources of cash are the collection of trade receivables generated from the sales of our products and services to our customers and amounts available under our existing lines of credit, including our credit facility. Our primary uses of cash are payments for operating expenses, investments in working capital, capital expenditures, interest, taxes, dividends, debt obligations and other long-term liabilities. We believe that our current liquidity position and future cash flows from operations will enable us to fund our operations in the next twelve months.

Cash and cash equivalents held by foreign subsidiaries of the Company amounted to \$54.6 million at September 30, 2017 and \$61.1 million at December 31, 2016 (representing 88% and 83%, respectively, of total cash and cash equivalents at each period-end). Management's intention is to permanently reinvest the earnings of its foreign subsidiaries and there are no current plans that would indicate a need to repatriate those earnings to fund the Company's U.S. operations. In the event foreign earnings were needed to fund the Company's U.S. operations and were repatriated by way of a taxable distribution, the Company would be required to accrue and pay U.S. taxes to repatriate these funds.

Cash and cash equivalents, marketable securities and accounts receivable comprised approximately 34.0% of the Company's total assets at September 30, 2017 and 34.6% of total assets at December 31, 2016. The Company's current ratio (i.e., the ratio of current assets to current liabilities) was 2.7 to 1 at September 30, 2017 and 2.8 to 1 at December 31, 2016.

On September 19, 2014, the Company entered into a senior Credit and Security Agreement ("CSA") (see Note 7, Debt, for additional details). The CSA, as amended, contains customary representations and warranties, covenants and events of default and financial covenants that measure (i) the ratio of the Company's total funded indebtedness, on a consolidated basis, to the amount of the Company's consolidated EBITDA, as defined ("Leverage Ratio"), and (ii) the ratio of the amount of the Company's consolidated EBITDA to the Company's consolidated fixed charges. If an event of default occurs, the lenders under the CSA would be entitled to take various actions, including the acceleration of amounts due thereunder and all actions permitted to be taken by a secured creditor.

At September 30, 2017, the Company was in compliance with its debt covenants, including its most restrictive covenant, the Leverage Ratio. The unused credit available under the credit facility at September 30, 2017 was \$46.0 million, of which we had the ability to borrow \$29.6 million without violating our Leverage Ratio covenant based on the Company's existing consolidated EBITDA.

We are currently engaged in a multi-year process of conforming the majority of our operations onto one global ERP system. The ERP is designed to improve the efficiency of our supply chain and financial transaction processes, accurately maintain our books and records, and provide information important to the operation of the business to our management team. The implementation of the ERP is being conducted by business unit on a three phase approach through 2019. We currently estimate total costs related to this implementation to be between \$4 million to \$5 million. During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017, the Company incurred consulting costs in connection with this implementation of \$0.4 million and \$1.5 million, respectively, which are included in SG&A in the condensed consolidated statements of operations. We anticipate future expenses of approximately \$0.5 million per quarter through the end of 2018, and at a reduced level in 2019. Upon completion of the implementation of the new ERP, we anticipate lower maintenance and lower external information and technology support fees resulting in annual savings of approximately \$2 million. The preceding sentence represents a Forward-Looking Statement. See "Cautionary Notice Regarding Forward-Looking Statements."

Cash Flows

During the nine months ended September 30, 2017, the Company's cash and cash equivalents decreased by \$11.3 million primarily due to the following factors:

- purchases of property, plant and equipment of \$3.8 million;
- dividend payments of \$2.3 million; and
- repayments of long-term debt of \$25.2 million; partially offset by
- net cash provided by operating activities of \$14.2 million; and
- net borrowings under our revolving credit line of \$4.0 million

During the nine months ended September 30, 2017, accounts receivable increased by \$7.9 million primarily due to higher sales volume in the third quarter of 2017 as compared to the fourth quarter of 2016. Days sales outstanding (DSO) increased to 60 days at September 30, 2017 from 54 days at December 31, 2016, primary due the extension of credit terms with one of our large customers, as well as the increase in revenue (and resulting accounts receivable balance) in our Asia segment where DSO tends to be higher as compared to our other geographic segments. Inventory levels were up by \$3.3 million at September 30, 2017 compared to December 31, 2016 as work in progress and finished goods balances increased from year-end levels to accommodate the increase in demand for our products in 2017.

Return to Index

Critical Accounting Policies

Management's discussion and analysis of Bel's financial condition and results of operations are based upon the Company's condensed consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP. The preparation of these financial statements requires the Company to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses, and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. On an on-going basis, the Company evaluates its estimates, including those related to product returns, bad debts, inventories, goodwill, intangible assets, investments, warranties, SERP expense, income taxes and contingencies and litigation. The Company bases its estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

The discussion of new financial accounting standards applicable to the Company is incorporated herein by reference to Note 1 to the Company's Financial Statements, "Basis of Presentation and Accounting Policies," included in Part I, Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

The Company is exposed to market risk primarily from changes in foreign currency exchange rates and changes in interest rates associated with its long-term debt. There have not been any material changes with regard to market risk during the nine months ended September 30, 2017. Refer to Item 7A, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 for further discussion of market risks.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Disclosure controls and procedures: As of the end of the period covered by this report, the Company carried out an evaluation, with the participation of the Company's management, including the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Vice President of Finance, of the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures pursuant to Securities Exchange Act Rule 13a-15. Based on that evaluation, the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Vice President of Finance concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the end of the period covered by this report.

Changes in internal controls over financial reporting: There has not been any change in the Company's internal controls over financial reporting during the three months ended September 30, 2017 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

PART II. Other Information

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

The information called for by this Item is incorporated herein by reference to Note 11 of the Company's Financial Statements, under "Legal Proceedings", as set forth in Part I, Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. We are also involved in various other legal actions incidental to our business. We believe, after consulting with counsel, that the disposition of these other legal proceedings and matters will not have a material effect on our condensed consolidated financial condition or results of operations.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

See Part I, Item 1A, "Risk Factors," of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016. Except as required by the federal securities law, we undertake no obligation to update or revise any risk factor, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

21

Return to IndexItem 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the Company's purchase of shares of its Class A Common Stock during each calendar month in the quarter ended September 30, 2017:

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plan
July 1 - July 31, 2017	-	\$ -	-	-
August 1 - August 31, 2017	-	-	-	-
September 1 - September 30, 2017	4,109	24.70	4,109	20,173
Total	4,109	\$ 24.70	4,109	20,173

Pursuant to the Bel Fuse Inc. Employees' Savings Plan (the "Employees' Savings Plan"), the Company makes matching contributions of pre-tax elective deferral contributions made by associates. Effective for matching contributions made for years after 2016, the Employees' Savings Plan provides for matching contributions to be invested in shares of the Company's Class A Common Stock. The trustees of the Employees' Savings Plan adopted a "10b5-1 Plan," in accordance with guidelines specified by Rule 10b5-1 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, to make open market purchases of shares of Class A Common Stock with such matching contributions. The purchases in the table above were made under the 10b5-1 Plan. The maximum dollar amount for cumulative purchases under the 10b5-1 Plan during the plan period (September 14, 2017 to February 15, 2018) will not exceed \$650,000. The September 30, 2017 closing price was used to calculate the Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet be Purchased Under the Plan.

Return to Index

Item 6.
Exhibits

(a) Exhibits:

- 31.1* Certification of the President and Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
- 31.2* Certification of the Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.1** Certification of the President and Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.2** Certification of the Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 101.INS* XBRL Instance Document
- 101.SCH* XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
- 101.CAL* XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
- 101.DEF* XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document
- 101.LAB* XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
- 101.PRE* XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document

* Filed herewith.

** Submitted herewith.

23

[Return to Index](#)

SIGNATURES

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

BEL FUSE INC.

November 6, 2017

By: /s/ Daniel Bernstein
Daniel Bernstein
President and Chief Executive Officer

By: /s/ Craig Brosious
Craig Brosious
Vice President of Finance and Secretary
(Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)